



Calumet County Farm Bureau

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Randy Pingel (920) 464-1000	Pat Truttmann (920) 464-1000

John Quirk, District Manager - (608) 957-5509

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Calumet County Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Members of Calumet County Farm Bureau attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 8. They joined more than 500 members from around the state who were first updated on legislative issues facing agriculture currently.

Issues ranged from high capacity well legislation, agricultural provisions in the budget for cost-sharing nonpoint source abatement projects and other land and water conservation activities performed by counties and producer-led watershed grants.

Transportation was another hot topic, talking to legislators about increased rural road funding. No tax or fee increases were offered to increase transportation fund revenues. The Governor is proposing \$500 million in bonding resulting in debt service payments approaching 25 percent on the transportation fund.

Industrial Hemp also came into conversation. LRB-1117 and LRB-2273 (authored by Rep. Jesse Kremer/Sen. Patrick Testin) were introduced on Friday, March 10. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized states to set up pilot and research programs for growing, harvesting and marketing industrial hemp. Thirty-one states currently have some sort of authorized program. As a former leading producer, Wisconsin has a deep and rich history with hemp. Formerly we had about 10 processing plants in the state. The last one in the entire country, near Waupun, closed in 1958. The industrial hemp bill will once again allow the legal planting, harvesting and marketing of hemp via a DATCP licensing program.

Next Ag Day at the Capitol will be in January of 2018. If you haven't had a chance to attend, please consider making it a point to join us in 2018 to have your voices heard.



Attending Ag Day from Calumet County were Joe and Rosie Lisowe and Carley Blado.



Joe and Rosie Lisowe talk with Representative Jesse Kremer on issues facing agriculture today.

District Membership Incentives

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining Farm Bureau? Feel good about helping your organization grow and get a chance to win some great prizes.

For each voting member you sign up before **May 1**, you will receive an entry for the grand prize of \$300 towards Green Bay Packer tickets.



Drawings will be held at the first county board meeting in the district after each deadline.

2016 Outstanding Service Award

Congratulations to Tom Young, the 2016 Outstanding Service Award winner. Sean Vanderheiden presented Tom with this award on March 7 at the annual Holstein Breeders Banquet in Brillion. Congratulations Tom and keep up the good work.





COUNTYnews

CALUMET COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Calumet County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

Delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 97th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 5.

Recognizing the importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates opposed any type of blanket regulation that would encompass the entire state because of the variations in karst types throughout Wisconsin. Regulations should be specific to the unique areas affected.

Delegates displayed frustration with the current federal Dairy Margin Protection Program. After considerable in-depth discussion, they concluded the need for an improved program leading up to the 2018 Farm Bill.

Delegates supported an increase in the overall appropriation for the broadband grant program. They supported improving and upgrading the strength and reliability of coverage to enable efficient use of technology in farming practices in rural areas.

In regards to livestock and animal welfare, delegates supported farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for their farm.

They also supported more education for consumers on the merits

of common animal husbandry practices. In addition, delegates supported the use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to:

- Support the state's livestock premise registration program.
- Support the state's fence law.
- Support a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed.
- Support the inclusion of wild parsnip on the state's noxious weed list.
- Support funding for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count limit to 400,000.
- The use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.
- Farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for the farm.
- Requiring Congressional approval of any new federal regulation before final implementation.

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The Calumet County Board of Directors donated a beautiful metal snowman sculpture to the WFBF Foundation silent auction.



From left to right, Carley Blado, Eugene Hansen and Lyle Ott.



Great turnout from Calumet County for the YFA Conference in December.

Rural Mutual Insurance Announces New Farm Dividend Program

Rural Mutual Insurance Company, premier insurance provider for Wisconsin families, businesses and farms, announces a new dividend program that enables the company to use its financial success to reward farm policyholders for their loyalty to Rural Mutual and commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

The Rural Mutual Farm Dividend Program is the first of its kind in the area and will return up to 5 percent of farm policyholders' annual earned premium.

Starting in 2017, Rural Mutual farm policyholders may qualify for the Dividend Program if their farm policy has been in force with Rural Mutual for more than one year and is in effect at the end of the year for which the dividend is declared.

Dividend calculations will be based on the financial results of Rural Mutual Insurance Company and its farm product during a three-year period.

If dividends are earned, a check will be mailed or delivered by your Rural Mutual agent shortly after the farm policy renews in the subsequent calendar year. Dividends are not guaranteed

and are authorized solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To learn more about Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Farm Dividend Program, contact your local Rural Mutual agent or visit www.ruralins.com/farm-dividend.



FFA Farm Forum held in Wisconsin Rapids



Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids, February 17-18.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau takes pride in hosting this special event with the FFA to help develop our next generation of agriculture leaders," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Mark Holley, Sunrise 7 Meteorologist and Chris and Amy Blakeney, owners of Amazing Grace Family Farm.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of



High school juniors from Brillion and New Holstein High School attended the FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.

FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 45th year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

YFA Discussion Meet Contestants

District 6 had three very qualified contestants who participated in the discussion meet. This year's district topic was **'Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food.'**

The three contestants were Sean Vanderheiden from Calumet County, Mandi Ramsburg from Brown County and John Lyons from Manitowoc County. These three contestants were selected and competed at the YFA Conference.



Sean Vanderheiden competed in the first round of the Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

District YFA Green Bay Gamblers Game and Pizza Outing



This year's YFA Gamblers outing took place on February 18. About 120 YFA members had a blast at the game and enjoyed pizza after at the Green Bay Distillery.

The Green Bay Gamblers became the Green Bay Cheese complete with a cheese eating contest between periods.

Are you interested in more YFA events? To find out what is happening next in Calumet County, please contact Calumet County YFA chair Kristin Birschbach at 920.948.5435.



Tractor Rollbar Rebates Available

Tractor overturns are the leading cause of farm-related deaths. That's why it's so important that each tractor have a rollover protective structure (ROPS).

The Wisconsin ROPS Rebate Program reimburses owners up to 70 percent (maximum of \$865) toward the total cost of purchasing, shipping and installing individual ROPS. Wisconsin tractor owners can apply for a ROPS via the hotline, 877.767.7748 or www.ropsr4u.com.



The National Farm Medicine Center runs the program through the Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation. It is made possible through philanthropic support from the Auction of Champions.

For more information, call Barbara Marlena at the National Farm Medicine Center, 715.389.1519.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto • General Motors Discount Health • ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card • Life Line (NEW) Supplies and Products • Case IH • Caterpillar • FS-GROWMARK Patronage • Grainger • Office Depot	Communication • AgriVisor • The Country Today Insurance • Rural Mutual Insurance Company • Farm Bureau Financial Services Travel • AAA • AVIS Car Rental Discount Program • Budget (NEW) • Choice Hotels International, Inc. • Wyndham Hotel Group	Financial • AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program • Farm Bureau Bank Protection • \$500 Reward Protection Program • Accidental Death Policy
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For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District 6 YFA Plans Bus Tour



Join us for our second bus tour around the fantastic agricultural stops in District 6.

Join District 6 Farm Bureau members as we board the bus for three spectacular agricultural tours from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **Friday, April 21**. The bus will leave from the park and ride on Highway 151 in Manitowoc.

First stop: Natural Beauty Greenhouse in Denmark. Natural Beauty is a socially and environmentally conscious greenhouse, leading the way to a greener and more colorful world. They grow a wide range of plants, including young plants for other greenhouses and finished plants for retailers, locally and across the country. Natural Beauty produces more than 100 million finished and young plants annually for customers throughout the U.S.

Second stop: Pagel's Ponderosa in Kewaunee. Under the care of 100 employees, they milk 5,000 cows in two barns and 8,300 acres are cropped annually. They put up 100,000 tons of feed for silage. Pagel's bed with Bio Solids from their Methane Digester. Other comforts include foot wash, shower areas just before milking and a special birthing area. Lunch will be provided.

Third stop: VonStiehl Winery in Algoma. The Schmiling brothers who grew up in von Stiehl Winery, now own and operate it. The older brother, Aric, uses the most modern equipment known to winemaking as he artfully crafts fine wines. The younger brother Brad, likes romance and history and manages the business. The Civil War-era building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features a tasting room, a 10,000-square foot production facility, three Civil war era underground limestone tunnels and a spacious outdoor terrace with Lake Michigan views. Von Stiehl's 30 plus grape and fruit wine recipes use top quality ingredients from local fruit (Door County cherries), as well as West Coast-grown grapes (Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon). Tasting will conclude our tour.

Space is limited so reserve your space by contacting or texting District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 920.253.5303 or bsalm@wfbf.com.



Upcoming Events

April 21	YFA Ag Bus Tour
May 5	5x5 Membership Rally deadline
July 1	YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due

Are You Farm Bureau Proud?

If you are Farm Bureau Proud, you want to share that excitement with your friends and neighbors.

- **5x5:** Sign up 5 new members by **May 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest.
- **8x8:** Sign up 8 new members by **August 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau farm sign.

For more information, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 866.355.7345 or bsalm@wfbf.com.



Calumet County Farm Bureau Contacts:

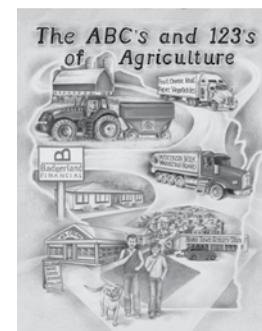
President, Carley Blado	920.418.2226
Vice President, Jim Petrie	920.418.0274
Secretary/Treasurer, Tiffany Schneider	262.689.7837
Promotion and Education, Anne Huebner	920.209.0799
YFA Chair, Kristin Birschbach	920.948.5435
Director, Greg Bohman	920.470.1762
Director, Ben Dietzen	920.378.4247
Director, Clara Hedrich	920.849.2926
Director, Bob Huebner	920.209.0799
Director, Joe Lisowe	920.418.1966
Director, Sean VanderHeiden	920.418.4292

Calumet County Farm Bureau	888.644.8356
WFBF Board Director, Rosie Lisowe	920.849.4413
District 6 Coordinator, Becky Salm	920.693.8467
RMIC District Manager, John Quirk	920.893.1811

facebook

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming Calumet County Farm Bureau events by liking us on Facebook!

Attention Teachers

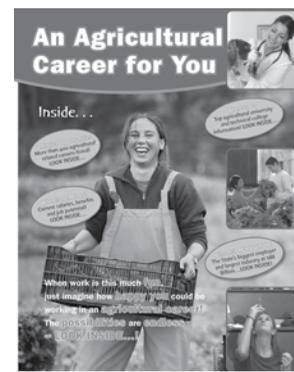


Ag in the Classroom has FREE resources available that you may find beneficial in your classrooms.

- Pre K-K students: "ABC's and 123's of Agriculture."
- Fourth grade students: "This Business Called Agriculture."
- Middle-high school students: "An Agricultural Career for You."

You can order any of these resources, and more, at wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has a lot of free online and printed resources available, we hope you will be able to use them in your classroom.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Calumet County, agriculture accounts for \$1.5 billion in economic activity and contributes \$318 million to the county's total income.