

# **Dunn County Farm Bureau**

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**Ken Truax - District Manager**  
(715) 514-4477

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix Summer Member Appreciation Picnic Scheduled

**When:** Thursday, July 14

- Social Hour at 6 p.m.
- Dinner at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Eric Turner Farm, W4210 850<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spring Valley

**Menu:** Hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, milk, lemonade, water and utensils will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair.

There will be yard games and family fun for everyone. We hope to see you there!

For more information or to RSVP by **July 8** (appreciated but not required), please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com).



## Local Chapters Attend FFA Farm Forum



**Sam Retz from the  
Boyceville FFA Chapter  
attended.**

'Amplify. Boost your Impact' was the theme of the 2016 Wisconsin Farm Bureau FFA Farm Forum. FFA students from the Boyceville and Colfax FFA Chapter were among the more than 200 high school students who attended the event in Wisconsin Rapids on February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

FFA members attended workshops about post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 44<sup>th</sup> year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



**Students from the Colfax FFA Chapter were excited to attend the FFA Farm Forum: (L-R) Brielle Bjork, Jezz Tweed, Abbagail Schotter and Abby Suvada.**

## Local Farmers. Local Food. Local Families.



It's almost Dunn County Fair time. Dunn County Farm Bureau members will serve local food at the food stand and we need your help.

Your time at the food stand is an opportunity for you to meet friends and make new ones while giving back to Dunn County. It also will score you a free meal following your shift.

**The Dunn County  
Fair is July 27-31.**

Please consider volunteering to enjoy the fun at the food stand. You do not need to be a Farm Bureau member to help and you can ask a friend to join you. If you want to volunteer, please contact Dale and Cindy Quilling at 715.235.2213 or Lynn Klatt at 715.235.0718.

Many hands make light work. Thank you for your help. Hope to see you there.

## Welcome New Farm Bureau Members!

Scott Anderson, Jennifer Balk\*, Nathan Clark\*, Nicki Clark\*, Gary Cormican\*, Barb Cormican\*, Downing Tractor Parts\*, Kevin Eggink\*, Courtney Fregine\*, Kyle Gilles, Jennifer Hayes, Jeffrey S Hoff\*, Cheri Larson, Robert Moen, Anton P Olson\*, Jerod Olson, Matt Sivertson\*, Luke Sivertson\*, Steven Smith, Barry A Smith\*, Adam Stallman\*, Anthony Swanson, Richard Tews and Paul Werner.

*\*Denote Voting Membership*

Raymond Dreger



# COUNTYnews

DUNN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Dunn County Farmers Advocate for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol

Farmers and agriculturists of all ages, from around the state and representing commodities came together in Madison on January 27 to bring a voice for agriculture to the Capitol.

Members of Dunn County Farm Bureau, along with nearly 400 farmers and members attended Ag Day at the Capitol at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from around the state convening to learn more about issues in agriculture as well as meet with their state representatives.

Attendees listened to Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Ben Brancel who spoke about the importance of Wisconsin's more than \$88 billion agriculture industry and how important it is to bring the positive message of agriculture to legislators.

Members also listened to Jordan Lamb, an attorney with Dewitt Ross and Stevens, who spoke to the group about high capacity wells and Bob Welch from The Welch Group, Inc., who presented the Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program.

In addition, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Governmental Relations team of Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed attendees about topics in agriculture including UW-Extension, transportation funding and updates to implements of husbandry.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace Convention Center, members walked to the Capitol to raise their voices for agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Whether or not you attended Ag Day at the Capitol, it is important for us to raise our voices on topics that are important to us.

Take time to become familiar with a topic that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Dunn County and share your views on topics and how they affect your farm. Remember, when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support.

It is important to have farmers be a voice for Wisconsin agriculture.



Dunn County Farm Bureau members who attended the Ag Day at the Capitol were: (L-R) Shawn Styer, Scott Anderson, Cindy Bourget, Mary Prestrud, Marv Prestrud, Connie Anderson, Debbie Sharp, Geri Wolfe, Cletus Wolfe, Doug Clark, Larry Schlough, Kayla Pagenkopf, Laverne Ausman, Carl Casper, Kay Gilbertson, Kevin Gilbertson and Sharon Schaefer.

## Members Inspired at Ag Women's Summit

By Kayla Pagenkopf

My second year going to the Women's Ag Summit was excellent. I looked forward to it all year and it exceeded my expectations. Getting to be a part of a community of women and seeing friends who love the same things in life was rewarding.

I enjoyed the workshops and learned some new things including: farm succession and legacy, a new understanding of ag economics and price cycles and talking about GMOs. We also listened to author Jerry Apps who urged us to write everyday and to share our agricultural experiences with our family and the world.

Most of all, I enjoyed the camaraderie of the women attendees. We had a fun casino night and I learned I like playing blackjack. Especially when it's for fun and I don't have my own money at risk. After many laughs and a great weekend, it was over and I'm anxiously waiting for next the next Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.

Ladies, I urge you to join us next year!



Women from District 9 had a great time at the Ag Women's Summit: front (L-R) Eva Curtis, Kayla Pagenkopf, Laura Benitz and Monica Krings; back (L-R) Betsy Patterson, Ronna Wood, Katie Kracht, Geri Wolfe and Amber Cordes.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Message
  - FFA Farm Forum
  - YFA Farm Tours
  - Scholarship Recipients
  - Time to Choose
- 3** Essay Contest Winner
  - Appreciation Picnic
  - Annual Meeting Date
  - District Director's Report
  - Board Contacts

### Find Your Name and Win!

Members, look for your name in the image shown below and win \$10.00 to be put towards next year's membership dues. All you have to do is read your newsletter, search for the image, and if your name appears, you have 30 days to contact Marv Prestrud at 715.418.1990 to let him know you have found your name! Good Luck!

For Example:

## President's Message



air and water. A humbling responsibility.

During the winter months, members were involved with Ag in the Classroom events in several schools throughout the

Spring has come to Dunn County once again and those of us involved with agriculture have another opportunity to do some of our most important work.

Growing crops for livestock, people, fiber and energy. Our challenge is to do this while being good to the soil,

county. This year, they focused on maple syrup production, an example of the diversity of agriculture in Dunn county. Thank you to those involved in this work.

We also received several scholarship applications. The selection committee met and selected the winners.

Members are planning for the food stand at the Dunn County Fair. Volunteers are needed to help with the stand during the fair. It is a great opportunity to serve the Dunn County Farm Bureau and have fun meeting and working with the good people of the county.

There also are volunteer opportunities for Farm City Day at Alfalawn Farms this **September 10**. This event is held every year and rotated among Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn Counties. It is a great opportunity to show off agriculture to our city friends.

I encourage county Farm Bureau members to reap the rewards of being involved in Farm Bureau locally and being Farm Bureau proud.

**Marv Prestrud**

Dunn County Farm Bureau President

Jean Stewart

## Dunn County Farm Bureau Selects Scholarship Recipients



tion plans, community and school activities and a letter of recommendation.

Congratulations to the 2016 scholarship recipients! We wish you the best of luck in your endeavors. The scholarship recipients are:

**Jenna Beyrer** - Jenna is the daughter of Tony Beyrer and Jodi Klinger and a senior at Boyceville High School. She plans to attend Chippewa Valley Technical College to earn a liberal arts degree and then transfer to UW-River Falls to earn a bachelor's degree. Jenna is active in volleyball, basketball, softball, dance, FFA, junior achievement, yearbook club and ag techniques.

**Brooke Brantner** - Brooke is a senior at Menomonie High School and daughter of

Four students received the Dunn County Farm Bureau \$250 scholarship. The applicants completed an application including educa-

Steve and Sara Brantner. She plans to attend UW-River Falls for pre-veterinary science and then transfer to UW-Madison for her graduate program. She wants to become an embryo transfer specialist. Brooke also plans to run for State FFA office and is involved in FFA, Orchestra, 4-H dairy judging and in Link Leader to help incoming freshman adjust to high school.

**Dana Jensen** - Dana is a senior at Menomonie High School and the son of Gregg and Becky Jensen. He will attend Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College to be an ag power and equipment technician. Dana is involved in football, track, 4-H and FFA. He is serving as FFA chapter vice president.

**Abby Lorenz** - Abby is a senior at Boyceville High School and daughter of Wayne and Debbie Lorenz. She will attend Viterbo University for nursing. Abby is involved in FFA, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, student council, track and field, volleyball, Science Olympiad, Dunn Counties Discovering Leadership and National Honor Society.

## Making Time to CHOOSE to Lead

By Leslie Svacina, St. Croix County Farm Bureau board member and member of the 2016 WFBF Institute.



I don't have enough time. I'm not experienced enough. I'm too young. I'm too old. I'm not a typical farmer. There are dozens of reasons that could be given for not stepping in a leadership

role in agriculture or our communities.

I've been thinking about what it takes to be a leader ever since I drove three-and-a-half-hours home from the first Farm Bureau leadership Institute in Madison. Vince Lombardi once said, "Leaders are made, not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

This quote sheds light on a myth that only certain people are destined to be leaders; however, leaders come from different backgrounds and demonstrate strong character, while using skills and talents to benefit their communities. Leaders recognize and step-up to opportunities when asked or on their own initiative. Either way, it's a CHOICE.

Similar to many in agriculture, I'm busy. I have a son, a job off of the farm and manage a growing farm. Through life experiences, I recognize the importance of taking care of oneself and family. As members of Farm Bureau and ag organizations, we need to choose to step up and take a leadership role. Find the right fit and what works with your situation. Say yes and do it well.

Just like our day-to-day work, we also need to find ways to grow as a leader, developing personal skills and challenging our views and perspectives on life. I made the choice to purposefully grow as a leader through the WFBF Institute.

During our first session, we learned about ourselves, evaluating who we are as leaders, understanding our personality types and intellectual intelligence and building and practicing speaking skills. The best part has been getting to know my classmates. We come from different places in life.

Fellow agriculturalists, here is my challenge to you: CHOOSE to make the time to step up as a leader in your community and consider adding the WFBF Institute to your development to do list.

The WFBF Institute develops strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. As an Institute member you will participate in engaging and interactive sessions where you will develop your personal leadership skills, dive into your creative side, advocate for agriculture and learn more about Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process. Become a member of the 2017 WFBF Institute!

For more information, visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/leadership-training-institute](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/leadership-training-institute). Applications are due **August 15**.

## District 9 YFA Outing with Minnesota YF&R

More than 50 young farmers from Minnesota and Wisconsin Farm Bureau toured a water buffalo farm and a kidney bean farm on March 12 to learn about agriculture in northwestern Wisconsin.

The group toured the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company in Chippewa Falls and had dinner at the Fill Inn Station Restaurant and Saloon.



District 9 YFA members joined Young Farmers and Ranchers from Minnesota Farm Bureau for a day of networking and tours.



## I'm attending! Will you?

Join us for the 2016 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells!

Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for **FREE**! You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. **BUT HURRY!** This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application at <http://bit.ly/YFAConference2016>

### Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend!

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.

(Limit one award per family and you must be present at Friday night's banquet to qualify.)

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner Announced



Ag in the Classroom coordinator Kay Gilbertson (left) and Mike Proft (right) presented Lauren Garnett with a prize and certificate for submitting the winning essay.

Lauren Garnett, a fifth grade student from Elk Mound and daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Garnett, is the winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

Lauren's winning essay:

### Maple Syrup

*Do you wonder how that morning breakfast maple syrup was made? Well, it's a good thing you are reading this because I will tell you.*

*First off you will need a nice big maple tree. It can't be too small or you'll kill the little tree. It will need to be a nice healthy tree about 10-inches wide. One*

*that either has never been tapped or one that only has about one or two taps from past years. Once you find the perfect tree you will need a drill to drill a hole. The hole needs to be 7/16 of an inch wide and 3 inches deep.*

*Now you will need a spile and a bucket. Use a hammer to tap the spile into the hole and then use the bag or bucket and hang it on the spile. Soon a*

*watery substance will start coming out. That is the sap! It looks watery because it is 98 percent water and 2 percent sugar.*

*Now in the warming house! When the sap is in the bucket you bring it to the evaporator pan. This is the stage where you cook the maple syrup. But first you might want to use a hydrometer to check the sugar content. Now back to the cooking. You need to cook the syrup at about 215 degrees Fahrenheit.*

*The heat from the stove causes some of the water in the syrup to become steam. There is a vent in the warming house that lets the steam out. Which lets water out of the sap. It is then syrup consistency! It needs to be filtered for any bad things in the sap! Now you can bottle it and enjoy your breakfast syrup!*

## District Director Message



Farmers are the eternal optimists. That is evident each spring as our fields come to life and we make the investment

of crop inputs again. I hope this spring has been a great start to your crop year.

Each year we are reminded of the importance of asking our friends and neighbors to join us as members of Farm Bureau. This year, many took part in the 'I'll Get Two' effort to gain new members. We are off to a great membership year thanks to the work of volunteers.

Please plan to attend county Farm Bureau events during the year. They are the backbone of efforts to support programs like 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom and our Young Farmer Program. They all contribute to making agriculture stronger.

The resolutions process will be here before we know it, and your voice is important. The resulting policy will guide our actions through the year as we represent farmers across the state.

### Jim Holte

WFBF President and District 9 Director

## Dunn County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Marv Prestrud	715.418.1990
Vice President, Kevin Gilbertson	715.879.5472
Secretary/Treasurer, Darryl Kovacik	715.643.5433
Women's Chair, Mary Prestrud	715.418.1991
YFA Chair, Jerica Meyer	715.225.6981

Director, John Ausman	715.879.5352
Director, Carl Casper	715.235.3323
Director, Doug Clark	715.556.8888
Director, Brian Douglas	715.308.2249
Director, Tim Jackson	715.308.6295
Director, John Kovacik	715.643.5433
Director, Franklin Retz	715.643.2353
Director, Jesse Singerhouse	715.664.8295
Director Geri Wolfe	715.962.3809

Dunn County Farm Bureau	877.457.8897
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 Promotion and Education Rep., Amber Cordes	715.357.3444
District 9 YFA Rep., Cindy Bourget	715.505.7676
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

## Annual Meeting Date Set

**When:** Tuesday, September 27

**Where:** Dean & Sue's Bar and Grill  
Come celebrate with Dunn County Farm Bureau and network and discuss policy at the Dunn County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Watch your mail this summer for your invitation.

## Dunn County Offers YFA Members Opportunities with Contests

There are great opportunities for YFA members in Dunn County to participate in district and state events. These activities are available to voting members ages 18-35.

The Discussion meet is at 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday, August 4**, at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie. The Achievement Award is for an individual or couple involved in production agriculture and the Excellence in Agriculture is designed for YFA members while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau. Applications for both awards are due **July 1**.

For more information, contact District 9 YFA Chair Cindy Bourget at 715.505.7676 or cindy.m.bourget@gmail.com.

## Upcoming Events

### June

4 Dunn County Dairy Breakfast – Val-O-Mo Farm, Steve Weinzirl Family

### July

1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due  
14 Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix County Picnic  
13-17 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls  
19-21 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Walworth County  
20-24 St. Croix County Fair  
20-24 Barron County Fair  
27-31 Dunn County Fair  
27-31 Polk County Fair

### August

4 Policy Development Meetings and YFA Discussion Meet  
4-7 Rusk County Fair  
11-14 Pierce County Fair  
15 2017 WFBF Leadership Institute applications due  
15 YFA Conference Sponsorship forms due  
18-21 Sawyer County Fair

### September

12 Wisconsin Ag Open  
9-10 Chippewa Valley Farm City Day – Alfalawn Farm, Menomonie  
10 Second Annual Farmer Frolic 5K Run/Walk, Chippewa Valley Farm City Day  
27 Dunn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

### District 9 Policy Development Meetings

2016

District 9 Policy Development meetings:

**Thursday, August 4**

11:30 am	Tee Away Golf Course 1401 E 11th St N Ladysmith, WI 54848
7:30 pm	Stout Ale House Banquet Center 1501 N Broadway St; #1500 Menomonie, WI 54751

**What issues are important to you?  
Please plan on attending and let your voice be heard!**

**\*\*The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet will precede the Policy Development meeting at the Stout Ale House beginning at 6:30 pm\*\***

For directions, questions or to RSVP, contact Katie Mattison, District 9 Coordinator at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com.