



## Eau Claire County Farm Bureau

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Ken Truax, District Manager - (715) 797-1769

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Eau Claire Farm Bureau to Work at Country Jam

By Lisa Pettis



Mark your calendars. The Eau Claire County Farm Bureau will once again be working at Country Jam on **July 21-23**. This is our fundraiser for the year.

We need volunteers to help with V.I.P. security. If you have six or eight hours, come and join fellow Farm Bureau country music enthusiasts for one to three days of awesome music.

Headliners include Jason Aldean, Jake Owen, Florida Georgia Line, The Band Perry and Colt Ford, just to name a few, and of course Country Jam's favorite LoCash Cowboys.

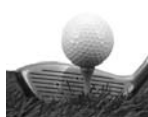
For more information or if you want to volunteer, please contact Lisa Marie at 715.533.4459.

## Register Now for the Wisconsin Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 12**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells. The event supports the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to expand agricultural leadership, 4-H, FFA, agricultural literacy efforts, other education, youth and leadership programs.

Registration includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, gift bag, food and beverages, golf contests, mulligan sales and door prizes.

For more information, visit  
[wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open](http://wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open).



## District 4 Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting

You are invited to the District 4 Discussion Meet and Policy Development meeting at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 12**, at the Taylor Community Center, 420 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. It is suggested that contestants arrive at 6:45 p.m.

The topic that will be discussed is: **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?**


For more information, please visit  
[bit.ly/WIYFAContests](http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests).

The foundation of Farm Bureau is that it's policy is developed at the county level. To facilitate this, Farm Bureau members from across District 4 come together to discuss issues related and affecting agriculture.

The policy development meeting will start at 8 p.m., but everyone is encouraged to arrive at 7 p.m. to watch the YFA Discussion Meet.

This year, the areas of specific interest this year are: animal husbandry, atrazine, broadband Internet, fence law and wetlands.

While these five issues will be discussed, any concerns or interests can be discussed.



### District 4 Discussion Meet

**Tuesday, July 12**

7:00 pm  
District Policy  
Development Meeting to  
follow

Taylor Community Center

For more information contact District 4 YFA Rep. Derek Husmoen at 608.863.0105 or [dhusmoen@gmail.com](mailto:dhusmoen@gmail.com) or District 4 Coordinator Steve Boe at 866.355.7344 or [sboe@wfbf.com](mailto:sboe@wfbf.com)

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.



JULY 2016

# COUNTYnews

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Eau Claire Student Wins District 4 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



Manz Elementary student Bennett Kohlepp won the District 4 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Pictured is Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom intern Alison Wedig, parents Trevor and Stephanie Kohlhepp, Bennett Kohlhepp, Eau Claire County Farm Bureau director Jane Mueller and Bennett's teacher Tracey Tumaniec.



## Growing, Sharing our Voices By Cassie Olson, Dairy Star

Just short of a year ago, I submitted a membership application to join the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF). As a new Farm Bureau member, my understanding of the organization was limited, but in the 10 months of my membership, I have come to better understand the vast spectrum of opportunity this organization has to offer.

With active sites in all 50 states, the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) mission is: AFBF is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. With the slogan: The Voice of Agriculture, AFBF has a positive reputation to live up to.

As my membership has evolved, I am fortunate to experience a great array of opportunities. From an agricultural tour of Trempealeau County with other women in my district, to the state Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Conference or visiting with state legislatures during Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison, if there is one thing that this organization has taught me, it's that, as farmers and agriculturists, we have a voice and it is vital that we share it.

If you turn on the market report or look at your milk check, it is no secret that we are in some tight times. During my travels with *Dairy Star*, I often receive off-record remarks about this particular challenge among others. While I practice discretion by keeping these individual thoughts and concerns confidential, they often resonate with me and help me shape my own vision of the industry that we work in. Farm Bureau is the way I have shared my vision for dairy and agriculture with others.

Recently, I was in Washington, D.C., with fellow YFA members to share our stories and voices on national and international levels. We were briefed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited with the New Zealand Embassy and met with members of Congress. To say that I was honored to have this opportunity is a great understatement.



As we celebrate June Dairy Month, the importance of finding our voice continues to grow. It's not just about sharing our farm stories with consumers or promoting the consumption of our product, it's about sharing our livelihood with those who represent us. Get to know your government officials whether at the local, state or national level, and share your story with them, too.

Just as importantly, get involved in an activity or organization that connects you to others in your profession. For me, Farm Bureau is where I found that connection, but there are many other groups that can give you similar opportunities. While it isn't feasible for every farmer to take a week off the farm to meet with members of Congress, it is important to tell your story. You never know who might hear your story during a meeting and have an impact on.

The successes, struggles, concerns and beliefs of the farmers who I am fortunate to work with are always on my mind. They continue to shape my view of agriculture in the world and motivate me to share my voice when I am able. I have been blessed to find an outlet to share my voice; never be afraid to grow and share yours.

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## President's Perspective



These days, it's hard not to hear about the upcoming presidential election on a daily basis. Wow! What a whirlwind of turmoil we have gotten ourselves into.

After a series of recent events in my life, I got to thinking about our country's situation, the past and our future.

First, the observance of Memorial Day got me thinking of the brave men and women who served and continue to serve in our military. I thought about their sacrifice for the preservation of freedom for all Americans. Some even gave the supreme sacrifice so that you and I could live happily in the land of the free.

I thought about the World War II veterans from the greatest generation. Then I wondered how great my generation is and how great America is. One of the presidential candidates says that he will make America great, again. When did America stop being great? What is it that makes America great? Then it dawned on me. We the people, make America great. You and I. We each have responsibilities to do our part to serve our country.

Second, I watched a Civil War movie and during the movie they kept saying the United States ARE. Now days we say the United States IS. They were referring to the power given to each individual state. Then I thought where does that power come from, and where did some of it go.

The answer is the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Our founding fathers thought long and hard how to draft this document to give the people the power to be free. During the movie, the one soldier asked the other why he was fighting. He simply stated, I fight for the right to be free. How true it is. That power comes directly from the grassroots. From farmers like you and I. From towns and counties like ours.

Third, Leslie and Heidi just returned home from Heidi's eighth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. They told me about the neat memorials and museums that they visited. That made me think of our rich history of carving this country out of the wilderness by farmers like my ancestors and yours. A lot of blood, sweat and tears.

Heidi also mentioned their visit to the Capitol, the place where three branches of government check and balance each other to hold true to the Constitution.

After stewing about my thoughts, I realized what we, WE the people must do. We must remain free and powerful. We must

use our Constitution and Bill of Rights as they are written and intended. The way our founding fathers designed it. The way our soldiers died to protect. The way our ancestors worked tirelessly to build. The rights granted in the Constitution are rights for everyone. The power and freedom is yours and mine, and that is why we must work to preserve it.

We cannot become lazy and let it slip away. We must keep the power local in our schools, towns, counties and states. We must hold true to morals and values, the common thread that guided the greatest generation to their service. We must serve. Each in our own way. We must stand up for what we believe in. We must witness and tell our story. Then, we must plant this seed in our next generation. We must water, fertilize and cultivate this seed. Remember, you reap what you sow. We need that next generation to continue the fight. This is what will keep America great and give us a bright future.

Remember to exercise your right to vote this fall. Vote for what is right for you, your family and for your farm and business. Hold true to the word and your morals and values and always remember, only the chosen few are blessed with the opportunity to feed and clothe the world.

**Steve Strey**  
Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President

## District Board Report



Where will it stop? Let me once again say, "the consumer is not always right, someone just does a better job convincing them what is good or bad."

My wife Noel loved to watch the hit TV series *Mad Men*, a show that followed the lead character through the evolution

of advertising in the decades following World War II. Watching this show with Noel gave me a real appreciation for the power of advertising and its ability to influence mass numbers of people.

Recently, those of us who have dairy farms have been notified that we will lose two management tools, tail docking and the use of Posilac. Both of these are on the way out because the consumer demands it.

Recently, I was visiting with another farmer who quered, "The price of milk should go up when guys can't use Posilac?" Well, perhaps the price might go up a little when the average 8 to 10 pounds of milk gained by Posilac is gone; however, rest assured when I asked if there would be a premium for Posilac-free milk the consumer demands the answers was no.

Now, the interesting part after my friend, who has several hundred cows in a robot system, mentioned the price increase through loss of Posilac. I asked, "what's next, when someone can no longer advertise *bst*-free what will they use to distinguish their product while inadvertently disparaging others? Will they now add antibiotic free, pasture fed, hand rubbed, snuggled, raised in the family home with the family? What's next?"

I continued and asked what he would do if the consumer demanded pasture fed dairy cows? My friend said, "I can't graze with my robot system." Then I decided to consume a large amount of beer, not get excited and have fun at the party.

The next morning my headaches started not just from the beer but unbelievably I received a Facebook post from another friend who grew up on a dairy farm but hasn't had contact with dairy cows for more than 30 or 40 years and remembered the 'good old days.' She posted a photo of some cattle on pasture with the tag 'look at these happy cows grazing.' Now, she had no idea about the conversation that I had the night before so I found it ironic that this happened and I was left wondering if I was one of the prophets.

In the case of tail docking, I keep hearing that there is no science to support the practice, on the other hand with *bst* there is plenty of science to show that there is no difference in the milk produced. Science or not, I guess we have a new manager on our farms called the consumer whether knowledgeable or not will now be able to dictate how we farm unless we stop the madness and figure this out.

Well, I think that I will start to market my own arsenic-free milk so that I can differentiate and capture market share. Good news, if the thing takes off everyone will have to be arsenic free, which will be fine as there is no such thing as arsenic milk.

I don't have the answers but invite you to share your thought's at [braggfam@triwest.net](mailto:braggfam@triwest.net).

As always, 'enough is too much.'

**Joe Bragger**  
District 4 WFBF Director

## We're Growing Leaders.

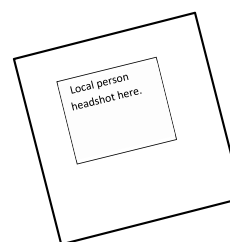
Be a member of the 2017 Leadership Institute



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute develops strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders of all ages and experience. 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.

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/WFBFInstitute>. You won't regret this rewarding experience!

Applications are due August 15, 2016.



## 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.)

## 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
- Polaris
- Office Depot

### Communication .....

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

### Insurance .....

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

### Travel .....

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

### Financial .....

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

### Protection .....

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

**For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).**

## District 4 Farm Bureau Members Tour John Deere Combine Factory

By Derek Husmoe, District 4 YFA Representative



On February 29, 60 District 4 Farm Bureau members traveled to Moline, Illinois, to tour the John Deere Harvester Works facility where combines and headers are manufactured.

After picking up people at Centerville and Onalaska, the tour bus departed for the 3.5 hour trip. It was a nice, sunny day

with clear roads and just outside of Moline, we stopped for lunch at Pizza Ranch.

Upon arriving at the factory, we watched a short introduction video about the history of the facility. For the tour, we rode around the factory in groups on a train of wagons pulled by a garden tractor. The tour guide communicated to us through a headset that we each wore, so it was easy to hear what they were saying over the noise in some areas of the factory.

It should be noted that the tour guides at the Harvester Works facility were retired workers, many who had worked 20 to 30 year or more, so they knew what they were talking about.

The 90-minute tour took us around the facility; from where the raw steel comes in and parts are bent, shaped and stamped to the massive series of paint tanks where every part is dipped to the assembly area where the combines are put together, first started and drove off the assembly line.



Along the tour, there were several stops where we could get out and take an up-close look at certain aspects, like the paint process. Every combine that rolls out of the factory is already sold. After the tour, we looked in the gift store and climbed in and looked at a combine on the show room floor. After a group photo, we boarded the bus.

Thank you to those who were on tour. The annual bus tour would not have been possible without the generous support of Tractor Central, who sponsored the bus. Finding sponsors for these trips helps keep the cost per person at a minimum.

We are open to suggestions for future bus trips. Whether it's feedback about the distance that you are willing to travel, types of industry that you want to see or places to tour, we welcome your input. Please contact me at 608.863.0105 if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions.

## Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

Now that the implements of husbandry (IOH) trilogy is complete, but so many questions still remain, there has been discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book. This book will encompass aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin highlighting both state and federal laws.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the UW-Extension are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF is rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media. These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

Even though you may know these laws, it's our hope that you share them via social media to reach and educate a much



wider audience. More importantly, any feedback that you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book. For example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or ag commercial motor vehicle (Ag-CMV) in a no-passing zone?

For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit [facebook.com/WIFarmBureau](http://facebook.com/WIFarmBureau).

## Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steven Strey	715.597.6096
Vice President, Lisa Pettis	715.533.4459
Secretary/Treasurer, Jane Mueller	715.878.4058
Women's Chair, Lisa Pettis	715.533.4459
YFA Chair, Alex Patten	715.703.0767

Director, Brandon Boettcher	715.597.5004
Director, Chad Dobberstein	715.878.9534
Director, Tami Geske	715.877.2603
Director, Alvin Kohlhepp	715.874.6024
Director, Matthew Krenz	715.877.3413
Director, Patrick Schaffer	715.878.9082
Director, Devin Schlewitz	715.877.3403

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau	888.644.8329
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 P&E Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Derek Husmoe	608.863.0105
District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

## Farm Facts Brochure is Available

Did you know that agriculture contributes 413,000 jobs to Wisconsin's economy or 11.9 percent of total employment?

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2016 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure. The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and it's interactive.

To order the brochure, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) and use the resource form.



## Farm Technology Days in July

Wisconsin's premier farm event is July 19-21 in Walworth County. Volunteers are needed for the Field Demonstration Committee to drive tractors, pull the trams and be spotters on the trams to help visitors on and off vehicles.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Baumeister at [kathybaumeister@gmail.com](mailto:kathybaumeister@gmail.com) or Russ Weis at [rdweis@wi.rr.com](http://rdweis@wi.rr.com).

Farm Technology Days provides a great opportunity to showcase the latest innovations in agriculture, so be sure to attend the show.

For more information, visit [www.wifarmtechnologydays.com/walworth](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com/walworth).

