



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Fond du Lac County:

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Mike Immel (920) 924-6751	Deanna Kosowski (920) 322-9733	

Tom Gustafson, District Manager (920) 420-1106

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Register For Ag Women's Summit



The sixth annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is set for **March 4-5** at the Madison Marriot West in Middleton.

Registration for the women's event is open and available online. Register by the **February 3** early bird deadline to save \$25. The final registration deadline is **February 26**.

The summit will kick off with the announcement of the 2016 AgVocate of the Year. The award recognizes a Wisconsin ag woman who has gone above and beyond to tell the story of Wisconsin agriculture with those around her. Sponsoring the award is Wisconsin agriculture broadcaster Pam Jahnke, the Fabulous Farm Babe.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is planned by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and the UW-Extension.

The agenda, registration details and hotel information are available at www.wiagwomenssummit.com.

Plan to Attend the 2016 WPS Farm Show

The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau is teaming up with Waushara, Green Lake, Winnebago and Outagamie County Farm Bureaus to sponsor a booth at the WPS Farm Show on **March 29-31** at the EAA grounds in Oshkosh.

Waushara County Farm Bureau will be working the booth on March 30 from 8 a.m. to noon. If you plan to attend the show, please visit the Farm Bureau booth, which will be in Hanger D.



Alto Farm Bureau Holds Annual Christmas Party



Fond du Lac YFA committee member Christine Duscheck and her children Haley and Jason visited with Santa at the Alto Farm Bureau Christmas party on December 17.

Fond du Lac Farm Bureau Membership Workers Recognized



Chris Pollack, Trayton Greenfield and Reuben Hopp each signed at least five new voting members and were recognized at the Producer Club luncheon.



Trayton Greenfield was recognized as the top membership worker signing 54 new members. Trayton is pictured with WFBF President Jim Holte.



COUNTYnews

FOND DU LAC COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference a Success!

More than 520 YFA members attended the WFBF YFA Conference on December 4-6 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Fond du Lac County YFA members who attended include: Chris Pollack, Kelly Pollack, Crystal Pollack, Grant Wilson, Janet Clark, Travis Clark, Christine Duscheck, Joe Duscheck, John Van Ruiswijk, Liz

Koeck, Kevin Giebel, Nate Zimdars, Greg Zimdars, Mike Leahy, Valarie Kramer, Cortney McCourt, Katie Bock and Tony Schmitz.

Fond du Lac County also was recognized for having the top YFA program in the state.



More than 15 members from Fond du Lac County attended the YFA Conference held December 4-6 in Wisconsin Dells.



Members of the Fond du Lac County YFA committee competed in the WFBF trivia contest.



Collegiate Farm Bureau member Val Kramer contemplated the next move during a game of giant Jenga.



Fond du Lac County YFA member Mike Leahy competed in the YFA Discussion Meet contest at the WFBF YFA Conference.



Nate Zimdars competed in the YFA Discussion Meet.



Nate Zimdars (left) was a top four finalist in the YFA Discussion Meet.

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Clark Graduates from Institute Program



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member Janet Clark graduated from the WFBF leadership Institute Program during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau leadership Institute is a year-long premiere leadership training course at a graduate level whose mission is to produce strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.

The training focuses on personal growth and development, public speaking, working effectively with media, creativity training, understanding the role and functions of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, working with government at the local, state and national levels, bridging the generational divide among volunteers, consideration of national and international agricultural issues and completion of a Farm Bureau personal development leadership plan.

Calendar

January

27 Ag Day at the Capitol

March

4-5 Ag Women's Summit,
Middleton
15 Fond du Lac Farm Bureau
County Scholarship Deadline

April

1 Deadline for Ag in the
Classroom Essay Contest

Fond du Lac County Dairy Farmers Win Farm Bureau's Achievement Award



Chris and Kelly Pollack of Ripon were named the 2015 WFBF Achievement Award Winners. Pictured (L-R) WFBF President Jim Holte, Chris and Kelly Pollack, Rural Mutual Insurance CEO Peter Pelizza and Growmark, Inc., board member Kevin Malchine.

Fond du Lac County dairy farmers, Chris and Kelly Pollack, received the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Achievement Award at the 96th WFBF Annual Meeting on December 6.

The Pollacks farm with his parents near Ripon, and they milk about 150 cows, crop 650 acres and have heifer and calf facilities. Chris attended the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course before returning to Pollack-Vu Dairy LLC. He is involved with the Fond du Lac County YFA program, Ripon FFA Alumni and coaches the Fond du Lac County dairy judging team.

Kelly (Sime) Pollack grew up on a dairy farm near Stoughton in Dane County. She earned degrees in dairy science and life sciences communication from the UW-Madison. She worked as a district coordinator for WFBF and at Filament Marketing in Madison.

Married in 2015, they are graduates of the WFBF Institute leadership training course.

Farm Bureau's Achievement Award is a contest that awards farmers between the ages of 18 and 35, who have excelled in their farming career, understand current issues affecting agriculture and have shown leadership and involvement in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations. In 2013, Chris Pollack won the Discussion Meet and in 2014, he was a top four finalist at the American Farm Bureau's national Discussion Meet. In 2015, Chris participated in the American Farm Bureau's Partners in Agricultural Leadership honors program along with nine other young leaders. PAL is designed to help agricultural leaders accelerate their leadership abilities and solidify their roles as advocates for agriculture.

The Pollacks will compete in the national Achievement Award at the 97th American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida. They also qualify to attend a trip to Washington, D.C., in 2016. Chris will be a guest at next year's WFBF YFA Conference and of GROWMARK, Inc., during its annual meeting in August.

Fabick Cat provided 40 hours use of a skid-steer loader and Rural Mutual Insurance Company provided a free financial plan to the Achievement Award winner.

Ten Serve as Fond du Lac County Delegates to WFBF Annual Meeting



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting were: front (L-R) Tim Haack, Richard Julka and Reuben Hoppe; back (L-R) Chris Pollack, John Ruedinger, Roger Grade, Jim Kelroy, Mark Diederichs, Janet Clark and Earl Sipple.

Delegates at the 96th WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 7.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Recognizing the need to increase funds to provide adequate roads and bridges in rural Wisconsin, delegates voted to consider a combination of gasoline taxes, vehicle registration fees, farm truck registration fees and environmental fees, as well as the establishment of local sales taxes, tolling and new vehicle taxes. Delegates support the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes.

Delegates supported certified third-party audits of farms for animal care practices and land conservation practices to ensure market access and instill consumer confidence. Delegates emphasized that third-party audit information collected becomes the sole proprietary property of the farmer and audit information should be released only as aggregated data.

In regards to labeling, delegates advised that the term 'milk' should not be used to label and describe food

products that are derived from vegetative plants and trees. Recognizing the importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates support farmer-led soil and water quality initiatives.

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

- Support classifying skid steers as agricultural equipment, as well as construction. We also support training and safety programs-certification for youth similar to All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Utility-Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Certification and Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Certification programs.
- Support maintaining the necropsy services and employing a state licensed veterinarian in the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Barron.
- Support using technology to monitor wildlife abatement traps and to assess crop damage.
- Support the state's adverse possession law as it historically existed.
- Oppose towns and counties imposing stricter requirements for nutrient management regulations than state standards without relevant scientific research.
- Propose that when engineering a road the state and local governments should install culverts to assist in transporting manure to reduce traffic on roads.
- Support the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's procedures for testing and license renewal of the pesticide certification and training program.



District 5 board member Kevin Krentz led the District caucus.

On the federal level, delegates opposed the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule to shorten the permit certification timeline for pesticide applicator licensing and increase testing standards to make it more difficult for a farmer to obtain a pesticide applicator license. This resolution was forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual meeting.

District Coordinator's Report



As I write this, it's less than 24 hours since I've returned from the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, which was held December 4-7 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

As a District Coordinator, this is always a highlight of my Farm Bureau year. It's an opportunity to connect with Farm Bureau friends who I see once a year, a time to meet new members and a chance to see dedicated county Farm Bureau members from the district recognized for their service.

District 5 highlights:

- More than 95 of the 520 YFA members who attended the YFA Conference were from District 5.
- Fond du Lac County was recognized as the Top County YFA program in the state for the second year in a row.
- YFA members Michael Leahy, Lynn Dickman and Nate Zimdars competed in the YFA Discussion Meet.
- Nate Zimdars was named a Top Four Finalist in the Discussion Meet.
- Fond du Lac YFA members Chris and Kelly Pollack won the YFA Achievement Award.
- Marquette County YFA member Brad Kolpin was a Top Four Finalist in the Achievement Award.
- Ten members were recognized as part of the Producer Club, which recognizes members who sign at least five new members.
- Long-time membership worker Trayton Greenfield was recognized as the state's top membership worker; he signed 54 new members!
- Marquette County president Al Klapoetke was also recognized as a Top 10 membership worker.

I work with members from the seven counties in District 5 including Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago. It's rewarding to see members get recognized at the state level. As we ring in 2016, it's a great to not only reflect on these accomplishments, but also to look at what the district will accomplish.

Farm Bureau offers a variety of activities for members to promote agriculture within their county, whether it's through Ag in the Classroom, a beef promotion event, helping at the fair booth, a variety of YFA activities, attending Ag Day at the Capitol or getting involved in the legislative activities or attending the county annual meeting. The dedication from our members is what allowed the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation to become the largest and most effective farm organization in the state! Thank you for your support of our organization!

Becky Hibicki
WFBF District 5 Coordinator

Fond du Lac County Young Farmer and Agriculturist

Pizza Sale First come, first serve. Order your pizzas now before they run out!

Back by popular demand, Fond du Lac County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members will be selling pizzas! They are made fresh with the finest ingredients from local cheese and supply companies. Order extra to keep on hand for a fast meal, snack or unexpected guests. **Pizzas will be available after February 27.**

This copy is for your records
Combo _____ Sausage _____ Pepperoni _____ Cheese _____ Supreme _____
Total # of pizzas ordered _____ Total Due \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA. Thank you for supporting Fond du lac agriculture! For more information, contact Fond du Lac County YFA chair Chris Pollack at 920.858.3548.

Detach here _____

Farm Bureau Copy – Detach and mail this portion with check to:
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA, N7204 Pollack Road Ripon, WI 54971

Quantity	Pizza	Price/Pizza	Total Price
	12" Combo (Cheese, Sausage & Pepperoni)	\$5.50	
	12" Sausage	\$5.50	
	12" Pepperoni	\$5.50	
	12" Cheese	\$5.50	

Order any 4 pizzas of the above for \$20!

Also offering a supreme pizza for \$7 (Order 3 supreme pizzas for \$20).
The supreme pizza includes: pepperoni, sausage, onions and mushrooms.
Quantity _____ Price _____

Grand Total _____

Your Name _____ Phone # _____

Get a Farm Bureau Pizza Cutter!

Place an order of \$100 and get a free pizza cutter. Pizzas are four for \$20 and supreme pizzas are three for \$20 so mix and match to get to \$100!

Pizza cutters also are available for purchase for \$5 per cutter.



2016 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Under Way

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students. Each year the topic has lesson plans, activities and resources that teachers and home school parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

The 2015-2016 topic is ‘Tell us about making maple syrup in Wisconsin.’ The contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs also are encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.

- The essay must be between 100- to 300-words in length.
- Essays will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.
- Essays must include: student’s name, grade level, parents’ names, teacher’s name and email address, school name, address and phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entries must be postmarked by **April 1** and sent to Mary Runge, N4334 Pine Road, Eden, WI 53019-1203.

For more information, please contact Mary at 920.477.4804.



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Julka 920.979.2400
Vice President, Reuben Hopp 920.324.3843
Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Haack 920.251.7583

Women’s Co-Chair, Sarah Beuer 920.898.1462
Women’s Co-Chair, Mary Runge 920.477.4804
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Director, Dale Theel 920.923.4737
Director, Earl Van Ruiswijk 920.921.7665

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau 866.666.8016
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.361.7380
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029

No Spring Commodity Sale!

The record breaking heat and devastating tree killing citrus disease ‘Greening’ has diminished the Florida citrus crop. Therefore there will be no spring citrus sale this year.

Orange juice is available for sale at the office. If interested in purchasing, please contact Linda Jahn at 920.979.0807. Please call before stopping at the office.

We’re on Facebook!

The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau is on Facebook. Be sure to ‘like’ our page to get the latest updates on what’s happening in the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau!

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau will award one \$500 higher education scholarship to a graduating high school senior enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college. All majors will be considered; however, preference will be given to those applicants studying agriculture.

The applicant or parents must be a current Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member. The selected recipient must mail their first semester grades and proof of re-enrollment before the check will be mailed. Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 15** and mailed to: Becky Hibicki, District 5 Coordinator, N8977 State Road 44, Ripon, WI 54971.

For more information or to request an application, please contact Becky Hibicki at rhibicki@wfbf.com.