



## Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau

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<b>Steven Johnston</b> (920) 410-1777	<b>Tom Gustafson, District Manager -</b> (920) 420-1106	

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### YFA Committee Update By Mike Leahy, YFA Chair

The Fond du Lac County YFA will have our pizza fundraiser again this year, which is the main source of YFA support in two areas. It helps our YFA members attend leadership and development activities in the county and district.

These activities are invaluable as these members take on more responsibilities within our county Farm Bureau.

The pizza sale also is the main source of revenue for the string cheese that we hand out at parades during the summer. Last year we handed out more than 4,000 pieces of string cheese.

The American Farm Bureau Federation has found that the average person in America is three generations removed from a farm. It is so important for us to try to bridge the urban--rural divide. Being visible in these parades and handing out a healthy snack is a great first step. We want to do more.

We hope those of you who have supported us will do so again. Those of you who haven't, please give us a chance. These pizzas are made by county YFA members using locally-sourced ingredients.

On behalf of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA committee, thank you.

### Register For the WFBF Annual Meeting Today



### Agriculture Essay Contest Deadline is April 1

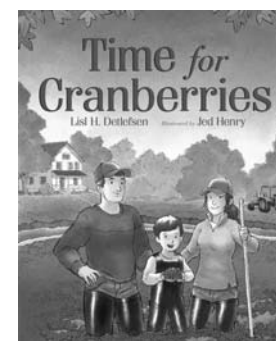


Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in the Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. Contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org). Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1**. Please mail essays to: Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau women's committee chair Mary Runge, N4334 Pine Road, Eden WI 53019-1203.

The essay contest coincides with the Ag in the Classroom 2017 Book of the Year, *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic allows students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will be forwarded to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A state winner will



be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Promotion and Education Committee.

As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation.

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest. The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the WFBF in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

For essay contest information and rules, and more about Ag in the Classroom, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).



NOVEMBER 2016

# COUNTYnews

FOND DU LAC COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## County Celebrates Membership Success



Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege (right) presented Trayton Greenfield with a Farm Bureau Proud jacket at the county's annual meeting for his work in signing Farm Bureau members.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's membership year-end was September 30.

Fond du Lac County ended the year with 939 voting members and 1,818 total members. The county reached a gain in total members.

Congratulations to the following volunteer membership workers who helped the county reach its membership goals:

### Trayton Greenfield

- 38 members signed

### Rueben Hopp

- 5 members signed

### Steve Sabel

- 2 members signed

### Chris Pollack

- 2 member signed

### Linda Jahn

- 1 member signed



Membership worker Rueben Hopp (right) also received a jacket for signing Farm Bureau members.

Thank you to those who worked hard to sign new Farm Bureau members!

## YFA Members Gather for Picnic



YFA members from throughout District 5 gathered for a picnic and canoeing on August 28 near Princeton.

On August 28, more than 15 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from District 5 met at Mekan River Outfitters in Princeton for a picnic and canoeing.

The YFA program offers many social events for YFA members to connect and network.



If you are interested in getting involved in the YFA program or have ideas for future YFA events and programs, please contact District 5 YFA Representative Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091.

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## Fond du Lac Board Member Selected for 2017 Farm Bureau Institute

Fond du Lac County board member Reuben Hopp of Waupun was one of fifteen emerging agricultural leaders who was selected to participate in the WFBF Institute. The year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said Wendy Kannel, Farm Bureau's Director of Training and Leadership Development. "The Institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

Members of the 2017 Institute class include: Peter Badtke, Ripon; Sean Beres,

Waukesha; Shane Goplin, Osseo; Jack Herricks, Cashton; Tina Holst, Chilton; Reuben Hopp, Waupun; Paul Jarvis, Wautoma; James Juedes, Ringle; Hallie Metcalf, Janesville; Carmen Montgomery, Argyle; Cassie Olson, Black River Falls; Julie Orth, Lancaster; Heidi Pettis, Clintonville; Jessica Stemper, Manitowoc; and Becky Wellnitz, Brodhead.

The Institute consists of five multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on issues important to agriculture, development of leadership and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau and governmental leaders and staff at the state and national levels and networking with other participants.

The first session begins in January and

focuses on public speaking, etiquette, emotional intelligence and personality types. Subsequent sessions focus on media and advocacy training, running effective meetings, the structure and function of Farm Bureau, being a creative leader, the workings of local and state government and future national and international ag issues.

The class capstone event is a joint trip with the WFBF Board of Directors to Washington, D.C., in April of 2018.

Farm Bureau members who are interested in applying for 2018 WFBF Institute class may contact Wendy Kannel at 608.828.5719 or [wkannel@wfbf.com](mailto:wkannel@wfbf.com).



## Message from the President



I want to take time to reflect on this past year serving as your county Farm Bureau president, and highlight several of the programs and activities that the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau conducted throughout the year. Before I begin, however, I want to thank my board of directors. Our county Farm Bureau is run by a dedicated volunteers who meet

regularly each month and are committed to conducting programs and activities that support the agricultural community in our county.

The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau is dedicated to supporting the agricultural youth in the county. This year the board made a donation to the Friends of 4-H endowment fund, and made donations to several of the FFA chapters for their day on the farm events.

Aaron VanRuiswyk, a graduate of Waupun High School, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. The board also made its annual contribution of \$1,000 to support the county Ag Ambassador program, which incorporates several of the Ag in the Classroom resources from the WFBF. We donated \$1,000 for the county fair premiums for youth exhibitors.

Our Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program continues to grow. Chris Pollack stepped down as the county YFA chair and is serving as a board of director for the Town of Metomen. Mike Leahy and Liz Koeck are the new co-chairs of the committee.

The committee continues to have a successful pizza-making

fundraiser each year and conducts a variety of other programs throughout the year.

The county also continues to be involved in the legislative process. Several members attended the Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison last January.

In February, WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development Wendy Kannel conducted a training session for board members.

In March, the Farm Bureau board of directors, the YFA committee and Rural Mutual Insurance had booths at the Ag Showcase event in Fond du Lac, where members interacted with families and taught the importance of agriculture.

The county also had some very successful fundraisers throughout the year that helped fund our program of works. I want to thank everyone who volunteered at our fair food stand and the brat sale at Brandon Meats.

And, finally as many of you know there is one member who dedicates many hours to membership work in the county. I think many of you know I'm referring to Trayton Greenfield. Maintaining and increasing membership is vital to insure that Farm Bureau continues to be strong organization. The county worked hard and achieved a total gain in membership by our September 30 membership year-end.

It's good to focus on these successes, but as the leader of this organization, it is also important to look at the long-term future success of the organization. Therefore, more than a year ago, I appointed a long-range planning committee. This committee consists of Mark Diederichs as chair and committee members include: Janet Clark, Roger Grade, Reuben

Hopp, Elmer Held, Earl Sippel and Tim Haack. I want to thank them for the time they have put into this committee. The committee met several times to put together the recommended changes to the county by-laws that members approved at our annual meeting. This committee also helped navigate the process of selling the building.

As many of you know our long-time secretary Linda Jahn will retire at the end of the year. After a lot of research and discussion this committee made the recommendation to the board to go ahead with the sale of the Farm Bureau building. Today, out of the 61 counties Farm Bureaus in the state only a small handful of counties still own their own building. With Linda no longer working in the office, it is not financially smart to continue owning a building. The board approved the committee's recommendation to sell the building and the building is for sale.

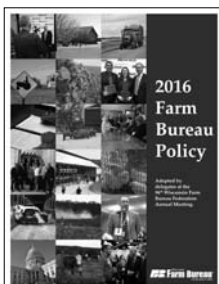
I know change isn't easy and selling our building is certainly a change for the county; however, please be assured that the board has not taken this decision lightly. I'm confident that their decision to pursue the sale of the building is in the best interest of the county.

So as you can see the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau had a successful year promoting agricultural to the youth in the county, through our political involvement, our fair food stand and our membership efforts. In the coming year, I hope our Farm Bureau can continue to grow and develop each of these programs. Thank you.

Kind regards,

**Richard Julka**  
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

## Grassroots in Action: Farm Bureau Members Approve Resolutions



The following resolutions were approved at the Fond du Lac County annual meeting on September 19.

The resolutions will be reviewed by the WFBF Policy Development Committee.

The following members were elected to serve as

delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December: Richard Julka, Reuben Hopp, Dale Theel, John Reudinger, Mark Diederichs, Roger Grade, Earl Sip-

pel, Steve Sabel, Chris Pollack and Mike Leahy.

1. We support a collaborate effort with industry partners in development of best farming practices.
2. We support a precise and straight forward process backed by science for the replacement of chemical prohibition.
3. We support the availability and expansion of all technology in rural areas that makes internet access more affordable and accessible.
4. We support policy to require livestock owners to be responsible for maintaining fence to contain their livestock except when both property owners have livestock sharing a property boarder.

## YFA Members Compete in Discussion Meet

The District 5 Discussion Meet was on August 29 at Christianos in Green Lake.

Five YFA members competed in the contest and discussed the following question: **Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?**

Sally Turpin, Jenny Leahy and Lauryn Krentz qualified to represent the county at Discussion Meet at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

For more information about the Discussion Meet, visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program/yfa-contests/discussion-meet-2](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program/yfa-contests/discussion-meet-2).



Five YFA members competed in the District 5 Discussion Meet held August 29 in Green Lake. Contestants were: (L-R) Lynn Dickman, Waushara County; Jonathan Weishaar, Marquette County; Sally Turpin, Juneau; and Lauryn Krentz and Jenny Leahy, Fond du Lac County.

## Linda Jahn Tells Members Thank You

Retiring county financial secretary Linda Jahn was recognized for her years of service at the Fond du Lac County annual meeting. She received the Fond du Lac County Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award.

A note of thanks from Linda:

*As my retirement gets closer and closer, I want to thank God and the people of Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau that made the last 20 plus years one of the most amazing adventures that I have ever had or could have ever asked for.*

*There were so many things about this job that I loved but the thing that I loved the most were the people I worked with, the friends I made and most of them (I hope) are for a lifetime, the down-to-earth type of organization Farm Bureau is and the kindness and understanding I was shown in my career with Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau.*

*As with all jobs there were a few trials but I always had the strong support of a good board of directors that got me through. Farm Bureau is definitely all about the American farmer, family and friends. Thank you all for many good years and memories. Please stay in touch!*

**Note to members:** Linda will be officially retiring at the end of the year. If you have questions, please contact District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or [hbibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:hbibicki@wfbf.com).



District Director's Report



Greetings! As you may know Farm Bureau may mean something different to many different people. It is my goal to have Wisconsin Farm Bureau positioned to help members and county Farm Bureaus be successful in the many different areas.

Our governmental relations team is dedicated to carrying out the policy of our members. We have to credit our grassroots policy development process in creating a comprehensive ag policy. Our governmental relations department also is critical in helping connect members with their legislatures. Having legislatures hear how particular laws may affect farmers is crucial.

The public relations team produces the communications with our members and helps promote agriculture with consumers. This includes the *Rural Route*, the county newsletters, *Ag Newswire* and social media posts and blogs. I encourage everyone to include their email on the membership form. Having members email addresses helps in timely communications and in the efficiencies of the organization.

The member relations department is our biggest. They continue to look for benefit programs that will help Farm Bureau members. These include Polaris, GM, hotel discounts and many others. I encourage you to look at [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) for more info.

A major part of the member relations team is the county service program including the district coordinators. They accomplish the administrative tasks of counties, bringing a higher level of professionalism to the organization and allowing the county to focus on other goals.

The member relations department also includes other programs. Along with helping administer the promotions and education committee and Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, they also develop one of the premier leadership programs in the country, the leadership Institute.

Along with many other people on staff, Farm Bureau continues to help put our members on a path to success. The Board of Directors continue to look for efficiencies and opportunities in the organization along with taking on challenges as they arise.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who dedicates their time to this organization. Farm Bureau would not be what it is without the many volunteer leaders. As we look back on our successes we also need to note there are many challenges ahead.

I look forward to working with you to create another successful Farm Bureau year next year.

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Board Director

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. Please return order form by February 10.

**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 YFA chair Mike Leahy at [leahymichaelg@hotmail.com](mailto:leahymichaelg@hotmail.com) or 920.517.6241.

Detach here \_\_\_\_\_

**Farm Bureau Copy – Detach and mail this portion with check to:**  
**Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA, Mike Leahy, N4413 Radio Road, Brandon WI 53919-9728.**

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 three supreme pizzas for \$20).  
*The supreme pizza includes: pepperoni, sausage, onions and mushrooms.*  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Price \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Promotion & Education Co-Chair, Sarah Beuer 920.898.1462  
Promotion & Education Co-Chair, Mary Runge 920.477.4804  
YFA Chair, Mike Leahy 920.346.5115

Director, Mark G. Diederichs 920.375.0197  
Director, Roger L. Grade 920.922.5553  
Director, Elmer H. Held 920.583.3084  
Director, William Herbst 608.732.5622  
Director, Mark D. Horsch 920.898.5412  
Director, Ralph Janzer 920.477.3912  
Director, Randy Julka 902.872.2246  
Director, Jim Kelroy 920.923.2227  
Director, Eugene Lammers 920.346.2661  
Director, William Maedke 920.477.2806  
Director, Chris Pollack 920.858.3548  
Director, John Ruedinger 920.922.9899  
Director, Steve Sabel 920.795.4075  
Director, Earl Sipple 920.999.5756  
Director, Mike Stelsel 920.346.5541  
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  
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson 920.420.1106

Fond du Lac County YFA Committee

Mike Leahy [Leahymichaelg@hotmail.com](mailto:Leahymichaelg@hotmail.com)  
920.517.6241  
Jenny Leahy [Leahyj87@gmail.com](mailto:Leahyj87@gmail.com)  
920.979-3213  
Lauryn Krenz [Lvanderwerff@vitaplus.com](mailto:Lvanderwerff@vitaplus.com)  
262.210.7694  
Christine Duschek [Duschek2009@hotmail.com](mailto:Duschek2009@hotmail.com)  
920.960.0577  
Kevin Giebel [Giebelkj@yahoo.com](mailto:Giebelkj@yahoo.com)  
920.979.7957  
Liz Koeck [Elizabethans@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabethans@gmail.com)  
920.267.0338  
Attention YFA members: For more information on the county YFA program, please contact one of the county YFA committee members.



2016-2017 Fond du Lac County board of directors: front row (L-R) Trayton Greenfield, membership chair; Tim Haack, Earl Sipple, Richard Julka, Reuben Hopp and Elmer Held; back row (L-R) Mary Runge, Chris Pollack, Steve Sabel, Mike Leahy, John Ruedinger, William Maedke, Jim Kelroy, Roger Grade, Dale Theel, Mark Horsch, Ralph Janzer and Mark Diederichs. Not in the photo: Earl VanRuiswijk, Eugene Lamers, Bill Herbst, Randy Julka and Mike Stelsel.