



## Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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contact your local Rural Mutual agent.*

**Rural Mutual Agents in Fond du Lac County:**

<b>Brian Greenman</b> (920) 921-4158	<b>Linda Phillips</b> (920) 251-9573	<b>Jolene Szucs</b> (920) 924-3995
<b>Mike Immel</b> (920) 924-6751	<b>Randy Polakoski</b> (920) 602-1018	<b>Ella Tokarski</b> (715) 252-7424
<b>Steven Johnston</b> (920) 410-1777	<b>Tom Gustafson, District Manager -</b> (920) 420-1106	

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## AFB Foundation is Creating a Foundation Outreach Team

You can help others learn what the AFB Foundation has to offer by presenting at regional and state events. Outreach team members will receive advance notice on grants and new materials, be featured in new resources, have opportunities to pilot new programs and influence the development of new resources.

For more information, visit [www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team](http://www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team).



## Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Join us for Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8** at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

### Schedule of events

- 11 a.m. - Registration
- 11:30 a.m. - Opening program
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings
- 3 p.m. - Leave for the Capitol visits

Early registration deadline is **March 1**, \$25 per person; \$30 after deadline and at the door. Don't miss the opportunity to speak with your local legislators about issues affecting you and your farm.



# Summit 2017

*Save the Date!*  
**March 10-11, 2017**

Madison Marriott West, Middleton



#WAWS17  
WiAgWomensSummit.com

## Greenfield Recognized as Top Membership Worker



Trayton Greenfield was recognized as the top WFBF membership worker at the WFBF Annual Meeting. He signed 40 new members and has signed a lifetime total of 2,149 members. Pictured: (L-R) District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki, Trayton Greenfield and WFBF President Jim Holte.

## Ag in the Classroom Matching Grants Available

Ag in the Classroom will award up to \$500 to groups sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. Projects considered for grants must be targeted to grades pre-K through 12 and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture. Applicants must have a matching source for their project equal to the amount of the Ag in the Classroom grant. The application deadline for this grant is **March 1**.

For more information, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or contact Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.



# COUNTYnews

FOND DU LAC COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Report
- Christmas Party
- Policy Set
- District Director Report

- 3** Scholarship Available
- Pizza Sale
- Member Benefits
- Board Contacts

## YFA Members Celebrate a Successful YFA Conference By Mike Leahy, Fond du Lac County YFA Chair



Fond du Lac County YFA members who attended the YFA Conference include: (L-R) Anthony Schmitz, Crystal Pollack, Matt Krentz, Lauryn Krentz, Derek Pluim, Mike Leahy, Jenny Leahy, Sara Bertram, Mark Bertram and Kevin Giebel. Not in the photo: Chris and Kelly Pollack.

The YFA Conference is a wonderful opportunity for the younger generation of the Farm Bureau to network with others from around the state and to hone the skills that they will need to be successful.

The passion for agriculture could be felt throughout the crowd that assembled in the Wisconsin Dells on December 2-4.

Attending this year's conference were 11 YFA members and one Collegiate Farm Bureau member. Five YFA members attended the conference for the first time.

*"First, we truly appreciate the county supporting us attending the YFA Conference. It was our first time going and we weren't sure what to expect. We left with many new friends, a lot of useful information and the know how to take steps in getting more involved. We look forward to next year and hope to continue building on those relationships and knowledge gained."* -- Sara Bertram, first-time YFA Conference attendee



District 5 YFA Committee Member Amanda Knoch (right) recognizes Fond du Lac County YFA member Jenny Leahy for participating in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet contest.

Lauryn Krentz and Jenny Leahy competed in the Discussion Meet. They discussed topics that dealt with immigration reform, natural resources, big data and food labels.

*"This year was my first time competing in the Discussion Meet on a local and statewide level. The local competition was a great starting point. I had no real background of the competition going in, but the experience itself and the feedback from the judges and other attendees really helped me to better understand the goals of the Discussion Meet. Competing at the state level was very eye opening. Though I still have a little way to go to make it to the final rounds, I learned a lot about the topics and how Farm Bureau can work to resolve those issues. I'm hoping to have the opportunity to compete again next year now that I have more experience under my belt. Thank you to those who encouraged me to participate and who helped me along the way. It really was a fantastic experience."* -- Lauryn Krentz, Discussion Meet participant

*"Competitions like the Discussion Meet are a great way to meet others who are passionate about agriculture and to learn more about the issues facing agriculture."* -- Jenny Leahy, Discussion Meet participant

Fond du Lac County possesses a great deal of young talent and conferences such as the YFA Conference help ensure that we will have a bright future.

Thank you to those who helped make this opportunity possible.



Lauryn Krentz (left) was also recognized for representing the county in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet Contest.

## President's Report



The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau board of directors approved to proceed forward with the sale of the Farm Bureau building at 343 North Peters Avenue. The building was sold at the end of the year. The new mailing address is: P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.

If you have any questions, please contact myself at 920.979.2400 or District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com or 920.517.2445.

Thank you for your support of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau.

Sincerely,

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

## Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Christmas Party



More than 50 people attended the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Christmas party on December 20 at the Pizza Ranch in Fond du Lac.

Rural Mutual Insurance agency manager Tom Gustafson gave an update on the new Rural Mutual Insurance dividend program that will be offered in 2017 and an upcoming farm safety work-



shop for members.

The county board members recognized retiring office secretary Linda Jahn for her years of service.

The Fond du Lac Farm Bureau Board of Directors want to wish you a safe and prosperous new year.

## Delegates Set Policy for 2017 at WFBF Annual Meeting



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau members who served as delegates included: (L-R) front, Tim Haack, Reuben Hopp and Richard Julka; back, Roger Grade, John Ruedinger, Earl Sippel, Mike Leahy, Jim Kelroy, Dale Theel and Chris Pollack.

Delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization on December 5.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2017. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

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.

Delegates supported disclosure of wolf incidents on farms in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The public information should be



Fond du Lac County YFA Chair Mike Leahy (right) at the resolutions meeting held at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

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 cells per milliliter.
- 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.

The federal resolutions will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual convention next month.

## District Director Report



District 5 Director Kevin Krentz led the district caucus meeting during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

*Always have your elevator speech ready.*

Everyone has heard this saying, meaning always be ready to speak with someone on a topic. For farmers, it's about always being ready to engage someone about your farm and what you do.

Consumers want to feel comfortable where their food comes from and is the practice the best for the animals and the environment. A major part of engagement is listening to their questions. Listen and then share with them your passion for farming the way you do. Most consumers do not want you to change your farming practices, they simply want to understand why you do things differently than your grandfather did.

You may also have the opportunity to speak with elected officials. Many times, this will be a very short meeting. Stay on topic and share how particular policy affects your farm. This allows them to use your story to help persuade their colleagues as they develop the law.

I also want to encourage you to run

for an office. Many local boards are perpetually short of hard working people who understand the infrastructure and environment around them. If that is not possible, invite them to your farm to help them understand what you do and what your farm means to your community.

Talking to the media or going to schools are other ways to engage consumers on a broader scale. This may be well planned or at short notice. Either way people need to feel your passion as you care for your cattle, your crops, the environment and the people that you feed.

There are many ways to engage the public. Whether you are talking to media, schools, individuals or government officials, Farm Bureau has the resources to help you be successful with your elevator speech.

Farm Bureau continues to work for you. Through WFBF Institute, Ag Day at the Capitol, leader trips to Washington, D.C., Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs and Ag in the Classroom programs, we continue to provide opportunities to our members so that you can share your stories and your passion for agriculture with people around you.

Remember, always be positive. With current low commodity prices that is tough. But remember tough times don't last, tough people do!

God bless and have a prosperous new year!

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Director

## 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

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

## 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 the applicant's parents must be current Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member or members.

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](mailto:rhibicki@wfbf.com).



## 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-Chairs, Sarah Beuer	920.898.1462
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	<a href="mailto:Leahymichaelg@hotmail.com">Leahymichaelg@hotmail.com</a>
	920.517.6241
Jenny Leahy	<a href="mailto:Leahyj87@gmail.com">Leahyj87@gmail.com</a>
	920.979-3213
Lauryn Krenz	<a href="mailto:Lvanderwerff@vitaplus.com">Lvanderwerff@vitaplus.com</a>
	262.210.7694
Christine Duscheck	<a href="mailto:Duscheck2009@hotmail.com">Duscheck2009@hotmail.com</a>
	920.960.0577
Kevin Giebel	<a href="mailto:Giebelkj@yahoo.com">Giebelkj@yahoo.com</a>
	920.979.7957
Liz Koeck	<a href="mailto:Elizabethans@gmail.com">Elizabethans@gmail.com</a>
	920.267.0338

Attention YFA members: For more information on the county YFA program, please contact one of the county YFA committee members.

## Welcome Farm Bureau Members

George Aalsma, Adam Averbeck, Angela Benike, Bruce Bille, James Bos, Andrew Bruno, Jeremy Burmeister, Gary Drews, Mark Homan, Christian Johnson, Amber Keifenheim, Jeffrey Kohlmann, Andrew McCarty, Elmer Mirtz, Justin Mulder, Sharon Oelke, Michael Patin, Gary Pruess, Todd Rosenstiel, Timothy Schoenborn, Jerrod Steffes, Kim Supple, Jennifer Thurk, Andrew Walsh, Randal Walsh and Dustin Wiedmeyer. ®

## Upcoming Events

### March

- 8 Ag Day at the Capitol
- 10-11 Ag Women's Summit, Middleton
- 15 Fond du Lac County Scholarship application due

### April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest deadline