

Grant County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau in Action



District 3 was well represented in the WFBF Producer Club. Membership workers who signed five or more new members were recognized during the Producer Club luncheon held during the WFBF Annual Meeting. Grant County's Nicole Adrian, Sarah Johnsen, Derek Orth and Christina Winch were among the members recognized.

The District 3 Fall Women's Summit was hosted by Iowa County this year. Those who attended had a great time learning more about Ag in the Classroom activities and sharing ideas across counties. The day concluded with a fun and creative craft project.



Ag Day at the Capitol was held on January 27 in Madison. Grant County members Nicole Adrian, Jackie Bevan, Larry Jerrett, Sarah Johnsen, Allen Johnson, Derek and Charisse Orth, Tammy Wiedenbeck and Peter Winch attended. Members gathered at the Monona Terrace Convention Center for lunch and an issues briefing before walking to the Capitol to meet and discuss agriculture issues with Representative Travis Tranel and Senator Howard Marklein.

Grant County Farm Bureau president Peter Winch and vice president Allen Johnson attended the Council of Presidents meeting on January 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. They met with other presidents and vice presidents from around the state and listened to a variety of speakers including Craig Culver, the founder and chair of Culver's restaurants.



COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2015 WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



The 96th WFBF Annual Meeting was held December 5-7 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Grant County Farm Bureau members (L-R) Derek Orth, Larry Jerrett, Jennifer Digman, Christina and Peter Winch, Allen Johnson, Richard Johnson and Nicole Adrian served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's legislative agenda for 2016.



Nearly 45 YFA members from District 3 attended the YFA Conference that was held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members networked, attended breakout sessions and learned more about Farm Bureau opportunities while enjoying the Kalahari Resorts. Grant County was well represented: Tammy Weidenbeck (left) competed for the Excellence in Ag Award, Kory Stalsberg (middle) participated in the Discussion Meet and Derek and Charisse Orth (right) fulfilled their responsibilities as the District 3 YFA Committee Representatives.



Joe Hillby and Josh Kuenster participated in the cornhole tournament and won first prize.



Members of all ages enjoyed listening to the Peterson Farm Brothers during Saturday's afternoon session of the YFA Conference. The brothers shared behind the scenes details about their parody music videos and talked about the importance of advocating for agriculture. Several Grant County members got a photo with the brothers during the meet and greet session.



The Grant County women's committee was recognized during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 President's Message

- District Director Update
- YFA Update
- Brag About Ag
- National Ag Day

3 Promotion and Education

- Scholarships Offered
- Ag in the Classroom
- YFA Update
- Board Contacts

President's Message



Sometimes it's hard to get my thoughts corralled like cattle and put down on paper.

Since my last article, I attended the new presidents training hosted by the

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. The training covered lots of things important to Farm Bureau, from how to conduct proper meetings to getting the most out of committees. There were about 15 presidents who participated in the training, a mixture of new and old.

A speaker from the American Farm Bureau Federation talked about generational differences and how to get members of different ages to work together.

Other events that I attended were the Council of Presidents meeting and Ag Day at the Capitol. The Council of Presidents meeting took place the day before Ag Day at the Capitol, and served as training and opportunity to learn more about Farm Bureau. During an open forum we asked the district directors questions. We also listened to Craig Culver, founder of Culver's restaurants, tell his story.

During Ag Day at the Capitol, we enjoyed lunch and then were briefed for our meetings with our senators and representatives. Many items were brought forward and WFBF's views were reinforced. After the briefing, we walked to the Capitol and met with Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel. They seemed very open to talk about the issues we brought forward.

Attending Ag Day and meeting with our representatives really shows how the grassroots of Farm Bureau works. Resolutions are brought forward by the counties during policy develop-

ment meetings and voted on at county annual meetings.

The resolutions that pass are sent to the state and reviewed by the Policy Development Committee. Some resolutions are approved and submitted to the voting delegates to be discussed and voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The resolutions that pass at the WFBF Annual Meeting are included in the WFBF Policy Book. These policies guide WFBF's legislative agenda and are used when members, directors or staff meet with legislators. I encourage anyone interested in policy development and legislative issues to attend Ag Day at the Capitol. The Grant County Farm Bureau will cover expenses for up to 10 people to attend. Thank you and have a safe spring.

Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

District Director Update



Perspective

Heading to Orlando for the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention, I became acutely aware of perspective. The perspective of both time and space.

As I left Wisconsin, it was very foggy and visibility was less than a half mile. In a matter of a few minutes of take-off we were above the fog and the sun was shining brightly. A few hours later, I landed in Florida and the dreary weather of Wisconsin was quickly becoming a distant memory.

While I flew above the clouds with the sun streaming in the windows I realized how, in a manner of time and space, my perspective changed.

Some days it is difficult to see through the fog.

I realize going into this coming year there is a lot of uncertainty and questions about markets and margins. I know the profitability of corn, soybeans and milk this next year is not going to be what we have been fortunate to experience during the past couple of years.

I know that government oversight and regulations continue to challenge us. Further, I know there is a continuing and concerted effort by those who do not understand agriculture wanting to dictate how we farm.

Some days it seems to be more than I can manage and yet I know that's why I'm a Farm Bureau member. On any given day Farm Bureau is working on the very issues that challenge my farm's livelihood, thus allowing me to focus on my farm's needs.

It is important to keep things in perspective and have a profound understanding of what I can and cannot control. For almost a century now, Farm Bureau has been around in good times and challenging times as the voice of agriculture.

As the fog of uncertainty confronts us, be certain you don't overlook the importance and value of your Farm Bureau membership.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Dick Gorder

WFBF District 3 Director

County YFA Update



We have not had a YFA event since the last newsletter, so I want to take a moment to tell you why I love being Grant County's YFA chair and some of my goals for the year.

I joined the Grant County Farm Bureau and our county board of directors as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair about four years ago. At that time I didn't really know much about Farm Bureau.

Since then, I learned how Farm Bureau truly does represent farmers on a local, state and national level. Over the years, I have attended many seminars where our Farm Bureau governmental relations staff has spoke.

As I listen to them talk about the current legislation that they are fighting for or against (because, we, the farmers voted on it) I think to myself, thank God we have people out there doing this job for us because I don't know any farmers who have the time and energy to keep

knocking on the doors at the Capitol, and could make the same impact that they are.

The problem is, I think there are a lot of young farmers who are where I was four years ago. They don't know what our government is doing, and maybe they don't care, but they definitely aren't doing anything about it. My goal is to get more young farmers involved in Farm Bureau, and to open their eyes to the importance of what this grassroots organization does.

I believe a good way to get the attention of young farmers is to host fun social and networking events. Any reason to get off the farm, right? I try to organize at least four events every year. Past events have included trap shooting, touring a local farm, attending a Fighting Saints hockey game, and catching a baseball game. These events provide an opportunity for members to get to know other young farmers from our county.

Going forward, I hope to take that goal one step further and incorporate education into the Grant County YFA program. If you have suggestions on a fun activity, a way to educate or know some young farmers who want to join Farm Bureau, please contact me.

Sarah Johnsen

Grant County YFA Representative

Brag About Ag

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau will host Brag About Ag on **Thursday, March 10**, at the Pioneer Farm Agriculture Technology Center.

A farm tour will start at 4 p.m., followed by a light supper at 5 p.m. and a panel of speakers from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

For more information, please contact District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle.



Preparing for National Ag Day

March 15 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and others across America gather to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural community gather to promote American agriculture. A few generations ago, most Americans were involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is not the case.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in spreading the word. For more information and additional resources, please visit wfbf.com/programmevents/nationalagday.

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For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District Promotion and Education Update



As we start a new year, we are reminded of the new things happening around us.

One new and exciting adventure is the Promotion and Education Committee. The long-time Women's Committee changed to the Promotion and Education Committee.

With this change, there are many new ideas and opportu-

nities that have been brought forward. I know some counties still have the women's program and we are not asking counties to change it. This will just give county Farm Bureaus more tools to use to strengthen their programs. When new information arrives, I will pass it along.

Thank you to those who attended the District 3 Fall Women's Summit. We had a great turnout and a lot of fun painting and learning more about Ag in the Classroom.

This year's essay contest topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' If you know of a fourth or fifth grade student who wants to participate in the essay contest, more information can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Lastly, I want to remind you that the 2016 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is fast approaching. If you haven't attended, I encourage you to do so. It is a wonderful networking event for women who share the same passion for agriculture.

I hope everyone has a great year and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Farm Bureau event.

Nicole Adrian
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Rep.

Grant County Offers Scholarships

This year, the Grant County Farm Bureau will award two, \$250 scholarships. Applications must be postmarked by **April 26**. If you have questions or want to request an application, please contact Charisse Orth at 608.778.8101.



General requirements:

1. Open to area high school seniors residing in Grant County. Preference will be given to students pursuing a post-secondary education in an agricultural field.
2. The applicant or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a Grant County Farm Bureau member.
3. To apply, please include your name, parents' names, address, high school name, post-secondary institution you will be attending, area of agriculture you plan to pursue and the following:
 - Copy of your high school transcript.
 - Listing of extra- or intra-curricular activities, accomplishments, awards and leadership activities.
 - Listing of community leadership activities (4-H, church, etc.).
 - A personal letter telling about yourself, what your career goals are and how your education will help you achieve them. Plus any information the selection committee should take into consideration when reviewing your application.
 - Three letters of recommendation. One from a high school principal or guidance counselor and two from other non-relative adults or community leaders.

Winners will be notified after **May 1**. Please send application and required materials to: Grant County Farm Bureau, c/o Charisse Orth, P.O. Box 124, Stitzer, WI 53825.

County Ag in the Classroom Update

Essay season is here again! We encourage fourth and fifth grade students to participate in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest.

Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that can be used to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. This year's topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' This contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Grant County Farm Bureau has several resources available to assist in the learning and exploration of this year's topic. The 2016 Book of the Year, *Sugarbush Spring* by Marsha Wilson Chall, is the perfect way to teach students about the production of maple syrup and help students get started on the essay topic.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Grant County contest entries are due by **April 1**. Mail essays to:

Grant County Farm Bureau
c/o Charisse Orth
P.O. Box 124
Stitzer, WI 53825



Grant County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Peter Winch 608.822.7806
Vice President, Allen Johnson 608.348.7144
Secretary/Treasurer, Jaclyn Bevan 608.732.4251
Women's Co-Chair, June Johnson 608.348.7144
Women's Co-Chair, Charisse Orth 608.778.9049
YFA Chair, Sarah Johnsen 608.723.2110

Director, Matt Adrian 608.348.2391
Director, Josh Bailie 608.778.4498
Director, Jennifer Digman 608.744.3357
Director, Jason Heberlein 608.778.7485
Director, Larry Jerrett 608.723.2395
Director, Richard Johnson 608.348.7144
Director, Derek Orth 608.778.9049
Director, Jackie Seelow 608.632.1714

Grant County Farm Bureau 888.644.8368
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle 866.355.7343
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424
RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson 608.935.9500

District YFA Update

Winter One-derland!

We hope you are all surviving winter! Our daughter, Zeeva, turned ONE in January, and it certainly has been a one-derland for us!



Between her and Farm Bureau, we've been on our toes since the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

One more thing that changed is that Charisse and I are not only the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) representatives, but I also am serving as state YFA Committee Chair. This brings a whole new list of opportunities to our life.

We attended the AFBF Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida, the Young Leader Conference in Illinois and Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison, just to name a few.

In February, we participated in the District 3 YFA Chili and Grilled Cheese Cook-Off, AFBF YF&R Conference and the FFA Farm Forum.

Do you know a young individual or couple that excels in production agriculture? Encourage them to fill out the Achievement Award application. How about a young leader who promotes education or goes out of their way to help others? The Excellence in Agriculture award may be perfect for them. Both awards have cash prizes and the opportunity to win a trip to Washington, D.C., or Phoenix, Arizona, next January.

Just think, if you are ready for winter to be over, next time we write, we will be planting corn and cutting hay!

For more information on the YFA program, visit wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program.

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives