




## Green Lake County Farm Bureau

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**Gale Wiersma**  
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**Tom Gustafson, District Manager** - (920) 420-1106

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Be Farm Bureau Proud

Take advantage of every opportunity you have to invite your friends and neighbors to join the Farm Bureau. As a thank you for membership workers, there are many incentives for signing up new Farm Bureau members:

- **\$20** for each new member signed.
- **2x4:** Sign up two new members by **April 1** and you will be awarded with Farm Bureau work gloves.
- **5x5:** Sign up five new members by **May 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest.
- **8x8:** Sign up eight new members by **August 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau farm sign.



For more information on membership, contact county membership chair Joe Wollinger at 920.296.9291.

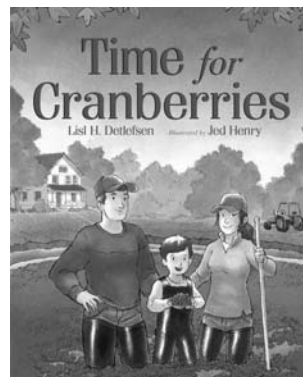
## T-Shirt Sale Supports Farm Bureau



The Green Lake County Farm Bureau is selling t-shirts. The shirts will be red. Proceeds from the t-shirt sales will help fund future county programs and activities. Sizes medium to 4XL are still available. Cost is \$18.

If you are interested, please contact District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or bhibicki@wfbf.com.  
**Order yours today!**

## Agriculture Essay Contest Deadline is April 1



ing 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. All 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**.

The essay contest coincides with the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2017 book of the year: "Time for Cranberries" by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic will allow students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will be

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are being encouraged to participate in the Wisconsin Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement: 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin dur-

forwarded on 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 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by 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).



# COUNTYnews

GREEN LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Green Lake County Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy at WFBF Annual Meeting



Delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 97th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on Monday, 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 located on the DNR website, establishing warning areas when wolf packs are involved and providing instant email notification of all incidents.

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.



Green Lake Farm Bureau members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 3-5 in Wisconsin Dells: (L-R) Jason Digman, Dave Wilke, Jen Digman and Joe Wollinger. Dave, Jen and Joe served as Green Lake County Farm Bureau delegates.

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 were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its convention in January.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm families and other individuals who support agriculture. Made up of 61 county Farm Bureaus, it represents farms of all sizes, commodities and management styles.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau president Dave Wilke addressed delegates during the resolutions session at the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 5.

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## President's Report



Happy new year, Green Lake County Farm Bureau members.

The new year has brought us some strange weather, but what is 'normal' anymore?

Since I last reported to you at the Green Lake County Farm Bureau annual meeting, Jen Digman, Joe Wollinger and myself were delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. The events of that weekend were

a little different for me this year, as I was a judge for the YFA Discussion Meet. 27 young farmer and agriculturist members from all parts of Wisconsin met at the Kalahari Resorts for competition at the state level.

These young people all have a common ag background, some working on the farm while others working in ag related fields. The talent that these people brought about various ag-related subjects was amazing. They didn't know what subject was to be discussed until the introduction and then had 30 minutes

to debate the subject. The competing members of the panel made it a difficult job to judge. In August, District 5 holds a district-wide Discussion Meet in Green Lake. I encourage you or any young member you know to attend or participate.

We also had two outstanding speakers at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The first, Vance Crowe, director of millennial engagement at Monsanto, talked about his time in the Peace Corps in Kenya. He told us how important it is to him to be relaying information through social media, about the importance of science and facts and about GMOs, to feed a growing world population. Vance feels he's making real inroads with millennials about today's modern farming.

Our other outstanding speaker was Aaron Thomas, a high school principal and football coach from a small town in Iowa. Getting young people to believe in themselves and how adversity can give you strength. Between Aaron and his father, Ed Thomas, they have sent many young men to college and professional football by teaching life skills, not just football.

We also attended other workshops and had a great WFBF Annual Meeting.

Green Lake County Farm Bureau sponsored local FFA students to attend the FFA Farm Forum, where they learned about Farm Bureau and ag-related careers.

Once again, I would like to personally invite you to Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8**. It's an event-filled day of learning of the upcoming legislative issues and meeting one-on-one with Representative Joan Ballweg and Senator Luther Olsen. Please RSVP to either Becky or myself to reserve a spot at Ag Day at the Capitol. Carpooling will be set up ahead of time.

Finally, I look forward to seeing you and your family on **Wednesday, March 29**, at the Farm Bureau booth at the WPS Farm Show in Oshkosh. We will be sponsoring a door prize and looking to recruit new members. If you know of anyone interested in joining Farm Bureau, please contact me or any board member.

Just remember: Spring isn't far away. Stay safe and have a great 2017.

**David Wilke**  
Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

## District Director Report



District Director Kevin Krentz led the district caucus meeting at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

*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 be 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 perpetu-

ally short of hard working people that 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're 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 Leadership institute, Ag day at the Capitol, Leader trips to DC, young farmer programs, and Ag in the Classroom programs, we continue to give opportunities to our members to 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 Board Director

## Green Lake County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship



The Green Lake County Farm Bureau is offering up to two, \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

### Application Deadline

- Must be postmarked on or before **May 1**.

### Selection Criteria

- Student must be a high school senior who plans to continue their education with a two- or four-year course of study.
- Student's planning to pursue an education in an agriculture related field, will receive first consideration.
- Student or student's parents must have a mem-

bership in Green Lake County Farm Bureau.

- Student and parents must work four hours each at the Green Lake County Farm Bureau Fair Food Stand. This will include both the year the student graduates from high school and the first year of college.

### Selection Committee

Green Lake County Farm Bureau scholarship selection committee (women's committee).

### Scholarship Amount

- A \$500 check to be awarded to students after they have completed their first semester of technical school or college and have sent Green Lake County Farm Bureau their grades.
- Two, \$500 scholarships will be available.

For more information or to request an application contact Yolanda Wolszyn at 920.748.7303

## Save the Date: Green Lake County Fair

Plan to attend the Green Lake County Junior Free Fair on **August 3-6** in Green Lake.

While at the fair, remember to stop at the Farm Bureau food stand building and help support the Green Lake County Farm Bureau's programs and activities.



## Graff Graduates from WFBF Leadership Institute

Green Lake County Farm Bureau member Matt Graff graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute program at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

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



# 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).

# Green Lake County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, David Wilke	920.748.3580
Vice President, Joe Wollinger	920.296.9291
Secretary/Treasurer, Arden Patchett	920.294.3149
YFA Chair, Kim Dehn	608.558.8483
Women's Chair, Jen Digman	920.767.2111
Promotion and Education, Alena Graff	920.324.4617
Director, Pete Badtke	920.748.9506
Director, Dave Gneiser	920.369.6314
Director, Jim Hebbe	920.229.5602
Director, Darwin Kelm	920.398.3358
Director, Steve Kutz	920.295.6737
Director, Duwayne Lohrey	920.398.2063
Director, Allan Weckwerth	920.295.4057

Green Lake County Farm Bureau	888.644.8366
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki	866.355.2029

# District 5 Holds Leader Meeting

Over 30 members from multiple counties attended the District 5 Leaders meeting on February 7 at the Pizza Ranch in Fond du Lac. The event was hosted by District 5 Board of Director Representative Kevin Krentz.

Presenters included Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege. Bob discussed a variety of topics related to Farm Bureau membership. Attendees learned why maintaining a strong is vital to the future success of the organization, who should be involved in the county membership process, how to develop a prospect membership list and when to conduct a county membership program.

Executive Director of Governmental Relations Paul Zimmerman also presented at the meeting. He discussed current legislative issues facing the agricultural industry and how county Farm Bureaus can become more active in local issues.



# Farm Bureau Sponsors Key Award



(L-R) Dave Wilke, Green Lake County Farm Bureau president; McKenna Newton, Cole Chapman, Briann Egan and County Board Supervisor Harley Reabe.

The Wisconsin 4-H Key Award Program recognizes a select group of 4-H participants who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club and community.

This is the 42<sup>nd</sup> year in which the 4-H Key Awards are being sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, including its partners Rural Mutual Insurance, GROW-MARK and Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

In Green Lake County, the Farm Bureau gives each recipient a \$25 cash award. These year's recipients included: McKenna Newton, Cole Chapman and Briann Egan.

# Plan to Attend WPS Farm Show

Plan to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> annual WPS Farm Show on **March 28-30** at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh. Stop at the Farm Bureau booth (booth number 6571) in hanger D. Visit with Farm Bureau volunteers and learn more about Farm Bureau programs and member benefits.



# Upcoming Events

- March**
- 8 Ag Day at the Capitol
  - 10-11 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit
  - 28-30 WPS Farm Show
  - 31 Early bird membership deadline
- April**
- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay contest deadline
- May**
- 1 Green Lake County Farm Bureau scholarship application due
- August**
- 3-6 Green Lake County Fair
- October**
- 3 Green Lake County annual meeting, American Legion Hall, Green Lake