

# Green Lake County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Florida Fruit Arrives By Yolanda Woloszyn, Events Coordinator



Farm Bureau volunteers helped unload pallets of fruit for the winter commodity sale held in December.

eton area; and my husband Dave, who helped sort the fruit.

This year a lot of the fruit was spoiled. I replaced some of the fruit with the extra fruit I ordered, but not all of it could be replaced. Florida Farm Bureau will be sending Green Lake County Farm Bureau a rebate for the spoiled fruit and I will then have the Madison office send out those rebate checks. You should be receiving your rebate soon. I hope that this has not inconvenienced you in any way. Thank you for being a loyal customer.

According to the Florida Farm Bureau, Florida's fruit have been hit with record breaking heat and a divesting tree killing citrus disease called 'Greening' it has diminished their Florida citrus crop to the point that they are opting out of offering a spring sale to Wisconsin Farm Bureaus. Even though we have never participated in the spring sale, it might affect our sale this year in December.

The Green Lake County Farm Bureau fruit from Florida arrived on December 8.

Thank you to Dave Wilke for providing a nice warm shop to unload the fruit; Jason Digman and Justin Goehring for unloading the fruit; the board members that helped with pickup and delivery: Dave Gneiser, Jim Hebbe, Darwin Kelm and Arden Patchett; Chuck Grotzke, who delivers our biggest order, along with many others in the Princ-

## Plan to Attend the 2015 WPS Farm Show

Once again the Green Lake County Farm Bureau is teaming up with Fond du Lac, Waushara, 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.

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



## Membership Incentives Announced

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining Farm Bureau?

Feel good about helping your organization grow and get a chance to win some great prizes, too.

The 'I'll Get Two' campaign is designed to encourage members to make a commitment to sign up at least two new Farm Bureau members by the end of **March 2016** by making a pledge.



## We're on Facebook!

The Green Lake County Farm Bureau YFA is on Facebook. Be sure to 'like' our page to get the latest updates on what is happening in the Green Lake County Farm Bureau!





# COUNTYnews

GREEN LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference a Success!



Green Lake County Farm Bureau members participated in the trivia contest.

More than 1,100 members attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held on December 4-7 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The Green Lake County Farm Bureau members who attended were: Dave and Terri Wilke, Dave and Bonnie Gneiser, Joe and Christy Wollinger, Kim and Mitch Dehn, Bill and Heather Hersbst, Matt and Donna Graff, Brenden Graff, Alena Graff, Wyatt Berg, Andrew Fredrick and Bill Jones.



Bill Jones (second from left) received the Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship to attend the WFBF YFA Conference.

## Green Lake County Members Serve as Delegates at WFBF Annual Meeting



Green Lake County Farm Bureau members who served as delegates were: (L-R) Dave Wilke, Dave Gneiser and Joe Wollinger.

Delegates at the 96<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting 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 importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates support farmer-led soil and water quality initiatives. Delegates 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 (i.e., UAVs and electronic trap monitors) in order to monitor wildlife abatement traps and to assess crop damage.
- Support the adverse possession law as it has 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 level of 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 5 caucus session.

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 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.



Dave Wilke addressed delegates during the resolutions meeting.

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.

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.



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## President's Message



Greetings, Green Lake County Farm Bureau members!

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and that your new year is off to a great start. January is always a good time to reflect on successes of the Green Lake County Farm Bureau.

Policy development has always been a top priority in the county. I want to thank Allan Weckwerth for serving as the county's policy development chair. Below is a list of the county resolutions that were sent to the WFBF Policy Development Committee:

1. We support a 5 cent per gallon increase in the fuel tax.  
*Adopted as 2016 Policy*
2. We support a 2.5 percent increase in vehicle registration for the purchase of new vehicles.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy*
3. We support a wheel tax, only if the money raised goes back to the local municipality.
4. We urge the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to be more fiscally responsible with all road projects.
5. We support increase funding to help farmer-led conservation efforts.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy*
6. We support the use of funding from point source polluters to help non-point source polluters.
7. We support working toward unified industry standards when implementing third-party audits.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy*
8. We support vomatoxin standards for all buyers of grain and vomatoxin levels should be included on each weight slip. Grain needs to be tested before the grain is unloaded.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy*
9. We support recycling efforts to include agricultural plastics, such as silage bags and net wrap.
10. We support uniform lightening and slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign requirements for horse.

11. We support the term 'milk' should be not allowed to describe food products derived from plants and trees.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy – Forwarded to AFBF for consideration*
12. We support DATCP's procedures for testing and license renewal for the Pesticide Certification and Training Program.  
*Adopted as WFBF 2016 Policy – Forwarded to AFBF for consideration*

Our county also is focused on developing our Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education committees. The women's committee continues to conduct Ag in the Classroom presentations to fourth graders and the essay contest.

New this year, the county formed a promotion and education committee that focuses on presentations for second and third graders. The committee also is working with the county 4-H program. The county Farm Bureau developed the Promotion and Education Committee as a way to increase agricultural promotion to students and consumers who are removed from production agriculture. Alena Graff is the chair of the promotion and education committee and Jen Digman is the new county women's committee chair.

Kim Dehn is the new county YFA chair. The committee organized a bowling and pizza event with Marquette County on January 30 and is organizing other activities for YFA members.

So, as you can see the Green Lake County Farm Bureau continues to be active in a variety of activities. I want to thank you for your support of the Farm Bureau. Your membership counts! Our membership committee works to sign new members and promote our organization.

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a Farm Bureau membership, I encourage you to ask them to join or contact me so someone from the committee can make the contact. Thank you!

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

## Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Alena Graff

On December 18, three members of the promotion and education committee made presentations to 25 students at the Princeton Elementary school.

We made crayons from the soybean science kit and homemade ice cream. The students loved that we were teaching them about soybeans and loved making ice cream. The

teachers invited us to come back to do more activities.

On February 6, the committee will demonstrate how to make crayons, candles and ice cream at the Green Lake County 4-H Super Saturday.

If you have questions or if you want to volunteer, please contact me at 920.219.1989. Thank you.



On December 18, the Green Lake County Promotion and Education committee made soy crayons with second graders at Princeton Elementary School.

## 'Picture This' in Green Lake County

Do you have a photo that you have taken at your farm or somewhere in the county? We want to see them!

Submit your photos to District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki at [rhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:rhibicki@wfbf.com). Your photo might be featured in the next edition of the Green Lake County Farm Bureau newsletter...or maybe even the *Rural Route!*



## Member Benefit: Caterpillar, Inc.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Caterpillar, Inc., announced a partnership that will provide members up to \$2,000 in purchase incentives. In addition, Caterpillar plans to support Farm Bureau programs and coordinate with Farm Bureau on other efforts.

Eligible equipment includes Cat skid steer loaders, compact and multi-terrain loaders, wheel loaders, telehandlers, backhoe loaders, hydraulic excavators and track-type tractors.

A range of incentives are offered:

- Small Wheel Loaders: \$2,000
- Compact Wheel Loaders: \$1,000
- Small Dozers: \$1,000
- Backhoe Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Compact Track Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Multi Terrain Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Skid Steer Loaders: \$500-\$1,000
- Telehandlers: \$500-\$1,000
- Mini Hydraulic Excavators: \$250-\$500

The Farm Bureau Member benefit discount on Cat machines can be combined with any retail discounts,

promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers, with the exception of other membership purchase incentives. All Wisconsin Farm Bureau members are eligible.

Discounts cannot be applied to past purchases. Members must provide a valid member verification certificate to the Cat dealer at the time of purchase to receive the discount. Download certificates at [www.fbadvantage.com/cat](http://www.fbadvantage.com/cat).

For more information, call Farm Bureau at 800.261.3276.



## Women's Committee Offers Scholarship

The Green Lake County Women's committee is offering a scholarship to a graduating high school senior.

Applicants must be a high school senior who plans to continue their education with a two- or four-year course of study. Students planning to pursue an education in an agriculture-related field will be given preference.

Applicant or applicant's parents must hold a current

Green Lake County Farm Bureau membership. Application deadline is **May 2**.

For more information or to request an application, please contact Green Lake County Farm Bureau women's committee chair Jen Digman at 608.732.3223.



## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - Caterpillar (NEW)
  - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
  - Grainger
  - Polaris
  - Office Depot

- Communication** .....
- AgriVisor
  - The Country Today
- Insurance** .....
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
- AAA
  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - 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).

## 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 a great opportunity to connect with old Farm Bureau friends I see only once a year, a time to meet new Farm Bureau members and a chance to see many dedicated county Farm Bureau members from the district being recognized for their service to our organization!

I'd like to take the opportunity to share a few of these highlights with you:

- More than 95 of the 520 YFA members attending 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 in 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.

As a District Coordinator I have the unique opportunity to work all year long with members from the seven counties in District 5 (Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago). It's very rewarding to see so many members in our district get recognized on a state level.

With the start of 2016, it's a great opportunity to not only reflect on these accomplishments, but also begin looking 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 and getting involved in the legislative activities or our organization or attending the county annual meeting.

The dedication from our members is what has 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  
920.517.2445 or [bhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com)

## Register for the 2016 Wisconsin 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 premier women's event is now open and available online. Register by the **February 3** early bird deadline to save \$25 on the conference fee. 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 event's opening session will include a multi-generation panel of women in agriculture discussing important topics to women and the agriculture community, moderated by NBC15 news reporter, Amy Pflugshaupt.

Closing keynote speaker Jerry Apps will engage attendees through his story telling and share tips on how to capture personal farm family stories.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is an event 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](http://www.wiagwomenssummit.com).



## 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 608.732.3223  
Promotion & Education, Alena Graff 920.324.4617

Director, Pete Badtke 920.748.9506  
Director, Dave Gneiser 920.369.6314  
Director, Matt Graff 920.517.1279  
Director, Jim Hebbe 920.229.5602  
Director, Darwin Kelm 920.398.3358  
Director, Steve Kutz 920.295.6737  
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

## The 2016 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Is Here!

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students.



Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that teachers and home school parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. The 2015-16 topic is 'Tell us about making maple syrup in Wisconsin.' This year's contest will be 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 (using common MS Word 'word count' methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parents' name, 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.



### Entry deadline-Postmarked by April 1

For more information, please call 608.828.5644.