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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Green County Farm Bureau Meets at Sugar River Pizza

By Alissa Grenawalt, Ag Promotions Chair

The Green County Farm Bureau Board held their January meeting at Sugar River Pizza in New Glarus.

The board learned about the history behind the family-owned restaurant and how the business has expanded with a newly opened location in Verona.

The board enjoyed pizza while learning and reporting on events that took place such as the WFBF Annual Meeting and AFBF Annual Convention, which president Jeff Ditzenberger attended.

The board also finalized plans for the 2016 Ag in the Classroom essay contest along with sponsorships and awards. They made plans



Green County Farm Bureau changes their meeting location on a monthly basis to support local businesses in Green County. The January meeting was held at Sugar River Pizza in New Glarus.

for the 2016 Golf Outing on **June 17** in New Glarus and finalized a date for the Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **September 27** at Peppercorn Banquets.

Green County Cheese Days

Be sure to join us for the 2016 Cheese Days Festival on September 16-18. Green County Farm Bureau will host the Family Farm Adventure tent where festival attendees can learn more about Green County and Wisconsin agriculture. More details will be shared as we get closer to the event.

For more information, please visit www.cheesedays.com.



Green County Tours the Monroe Clinic Hospital

The Green County Farm Bureau board members toured the Monroe Clinic Hospital before their February board meeting.

Monroe Clinic Hospital is the main campus for Monroe Clinic. As a multi-specialty health care center, Monroe Clinic offers technologically advanced care from more than 120 medical providers. The new facility, built in 2012, is impressive and welcoming the moment you walk in the door.

For more information, visit www.monroeclinic.org.



Green County Breakfast on the Farm is May 28

When: Saturday, May 28, 6:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Hosts: Wayne and Tammy Jeglum and family, N8879 Sunnyside Road, Blanchardville

Menu: Scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese, homemade coffee cakes, milk, coffee and orange juice

Donation

- Adults - \$6
- Children 6-10 - \$4
- Children 5 and under - FREE

Enjoy an arts and crafts fair, farm equipment display, petting zoo and educational stations. Entertainment by John Komperda and Donna Watts.



MAY 2016

COUNTYnews

GREEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Green County Farm Bureau Members Attend the Ag Women's Summit

By Devan Brugger, Green County Board Director



Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit was a great opportunity to get out of the office. I had the opportunity to see many familiar faces and make friends with new ones. I thoroughly enjoyed my time and gained a lot of insight throughout the day.

A highlight for me was Kim Bremmer's presentation, OMG, GMOs. I found it very informational and it made me feel more prepared to discuss GMOs with

peers in the future – a topic I wasn't comfortable discussing previously.

Overall, it was a great conference hosted by the of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Badgerland Financial and UW Extension.

I was honored to be part of a great group of women who are leading the way in agriculture. I hope to attend again next year!



Wanted: District 2 YFA Contest Applicants

We Want You! Apply by July 1

Excellence in Agriculture



The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

Achievement Award



The Achievement Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

The YFA Program is funded by for Farming's Future (WFB Foundation)

Get your application here: bit.ly/WIYFAContests

Local contact information here:

District 2 Leaders Meeting By Arch Morton

The 2016 District 2 Leaders Meeting was held on February 8 at the WFBF office in Madison.

Members of the six county Farm Bureaus in District 2 were invited and more than 30 participated.

WFBF Director of Member Relations Bob Leege and Robin Kinney of AFBF gave a presentation on 'Finding and Engaging New Members.'

WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development Wendy Kannel discussed 'Who's Going to Fill Your Shoes? Succession planning in your county Farm Bureau.'

A membership panel included Cal Dalton (Columbia County), Jeff Ditzenberger (Green County) and John Gerbitz (Rock County). They talked about membership success in their counties.

There was great interaction throughout the evening. I want to thank Insight FS for the pizza, our presenters, panel and participants. It was an interesting and fun event!



More than 30 county Farm Bureau leaders participated in the District 2 Leaders Meeting held on February 8.



Green County Farm Bureau leaders Alissa Grenawalt and Jeff Ditzenberger enjoyed county discussion about membership and succession planning during the District 2 Leaders Meeting.

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A Message from the President...



It's hard to believe that we are at the point of the year when spring planting is on everyone's minds, and all of the great things that go along with it.

The beautiful reawakening of Mother Nature's amazing canvas, longer days, green grass, baby animals and beautiful flowers. I love this time of year, but this year it's

not beautiful because of something I've watched unfold for a while now, and will address in a little bit, but first I have an announcement that some of you may not have heard.

After 13 years, this will be my last year as president of the Green County Farm Bureau and my last year on the board. It's been an amazing ride, and I can never thank this county and area enough for the opportunity and things that I have done. The ship is in good hands and we have a succession plan in place. I remember hearing that a good leader knows when it's time to follow. Thank you to the board, amazing community and organization for your support and faith in me.

As I said, there is something that is making spring not as beautiful as usual for me. Many people know that I was a Facebook and social media addict, and with the things I have had going on in my life, I have taken a bit of a break. One thing that I notice when I check in, is the amount of hatred

and animosity towards our fellow man about something that is very important to our society, but has become a arena of nastiness and mockery. It's called politics.

I never cared what party one belonged to, and I like listening to good debate, but watching the comments and the hurtful things that are on Facebook, makes me sad. I wonder what they say in person. I've seen posts about going to a rally for a candidate and then read comments from people about how they can't believe how stupid they are to support that candidate. They even go as far as to say that they won't support their business, if they happen to be a business owner.

Seriously? As a veteran, I am proud to have defended the Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression but not at the expense of hurting others. It is possible to disagree with someone and not call them names. The things we are teaching our children are not good, and it's a form of bullying. It NEEDS. TO. STOP.

We call ourselves the land of opportunity and freedom and I think that it's time to start living up to that again. It says on the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Well folks, a lot of those tired huddled masses are here in our own house, and we need to start helping them. We also need to hold our government officials accountable and take the time to talk to them. We need to be nicer to each other or agree to disagree.

Stop the hatred and animosity.

I can't imagine what other countries think of our political circus and how we react. If we want to be the greatest nation in the world, we need to roll up our sleeves, get our hands dirty and start helping each other. Say hi to a stranger, pay it forward and buy someone's coffee; hug your kids and family and tell them everyday that you love them. Shut your phone off for a few hours and have a real conversation. You will be surprised at the difference it will make. I know, I've done it, and it's amazing.

I hope to see you at the amazing events that we have including, Breakfast on the Farm and the Green County Fair, Angels Among Us Suicide Awareness Run/Walk, Green County Ag Open, Dairy Days, annual meeting and Cheese Days.

On the road, watch for farmers getting to and from the fields and I urge you to use all five fingers when you pass them.

It's been a pleasure to serve as president and I look forward to seeing you. As always, if you have questions about where your food comes from and how they do it, call me and I will get you in touch with a farmer. They truly are America's bread and butter. God bless and be safe.

Jeff Ditzenberger
Green County Farm Bureau President

Fourth Annual Farm Bureau 5K Run/Walk

When: Saturday, June 11.

Time: 6:30 a.m. Registration and packet pick up.
7:30 a.m. 5K Run/Walk start time.

Where: Rock County Dairy Breakfast
Roger Rebout and Sons Farms
5606 W. Mineral Point Road, Janesville.

Why: The Farm Bureau 5K Run/Walk was created to connect the community with Farm Bureau members in a welcoming, fun and fit environment. This activity allows our community to learn more about agriculture and Farm Bureau opportunities.



District 2 Youth Ag Summit

By Andrea Brossard



Students enjoyed a hands-on biotechnology workshop.



Students learned about landscape architecture from Chris Sina, landscape architect at The Bruce Company.

The March kick-off was another successful District 2 Youth Ag Summit. The Youth Ag Summit was created and executed with the purpose of introducing high school students to a wide-variety of careers in the agriculture industry that are outside of the traditional production agriculture career choices.

Our committee planned an excellent event that was held in Madison at the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center Institute, a segment of Promega.

More than 50 students listened to speakers on occupations such as landscape architectures, nutrition sales and service, student and adult teaching, as well as the future of seed genetics and precision farming. Their day capped-off with a hands-on laboratory training session.

Thank you to the speakers in making this another successful District 2 Youth Ag Summit: Christopher Sina, landscape architect-account manager, The Bruce Company; Bob Hagenow, sales manager, Vita Plus Corporation; Ben Huber, energy sales manager, southern Wisconsin, Insight FS; Barbara Bielec, K-12 program director, BioPharmaceutical Technology Center; and Liz Henry, chief marketing officer and co-owner of J. Henry & Sons.

District 2 YFA Discussion Meet: Compete with the Best

Where: Badgerland Financial, 2600 Jenny Wren Trail, Sun Prairie.

When: Thursday, August 25.

- 5:30 p.m. Registration.
- 6:00 p.m. Light refreshments served during history of Badgerland Financial and Farm Credit's 100th anniversary by Rochelle Schnadt.
- 7:00 p.m. Discussion Meet; competitors and supporters...all are welcome!



Discussion Meet Question: Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?

RSVP to District 2 YFA Representative Alison Kepner at 608.354.9232 or Alison.Kepner@badgerlandfinancial.com.

We're Growing Leaders.

Be a member of the 2017 Leadership Institute



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute develops strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders of all ages and experience. As an Institute member you will participate in engaging and interactive sessions where you will develop your personal leadership skills, dive into your creative side, advocate for agriculture and learn more about Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/WFBFInstitute>. You won't regret this rewarding experience!

Applications are due August 15, 2016.



District 2 Director Report



Hello District 2 Farm Bureau members! I encourage you to attend the events and activities that are held in your county and throughout District 2.

During the past few months, I had the pleasure of participating in many of these events including the District 2 Youth Ag

Summit, the Dane County Winter Meeting, Rock County YFA's Wine Tasting and the Dodge County Fish Fry.

During the second week of April, the WFBF Board of Directors was in Washington, D.C., with this past year's WFBF Leadership Institute graduates. We received briefings at the

USDA and AFBF before our congressional visits. Of the 14 members in the 2015 Institute Class, six were selected from District 2. They include Jayne Dalton (Columbia County), Kelsi Mayer (Green County), Sarah Sacker (Green County), Erin Daluge (Rock County), Hannah Gerbitz Barthels (Rock County) and Taylor Schuetz (Rock County).

Congratulations to them on their achievements as leaders and on a great job representing Wisconsin agriculture and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau! I hope you are having a safe and successful spring!

Arch Morton, Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

Start your Father's Day Weekend Off by Golfing in the Ag Open!

GREEN COUNTY AG OPEN

Four-person scramble golf tournament sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau



JOIN US!

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

EDELWEISS CHALET COUNTRY CLUB

Edelweiss Rd. | New Glarus, WI

COST: \$75

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE:

60" 1,000 PIXEL LED SMART TV

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM – REGISTRATION

9:30 AM – SHOTGUN START

1:30 PM – LUNCH

2 PM – POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Green County Farm Bureau members will discuss agricultural issues of concern in order to devise ways, or policies, to resolve these issues. The results will be discussed and voted on at the county annual meeting in September. If you plan to only attend this meeting, the meal cost is \$10.

HOLE SPONSORSHIPS

Platinum - \$400

Mentioned on radio, newsletter and sign at the hole

Gold - \$200

Mentioned in newsletter and sign at the hole

Silver - \$100

Mentioned in newsletter and sign at the hole

Bronze - \$50

Sign at the hole

SIGN UP YOUR TEAM OF FOUR TODAY!

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

_____ **Are you a Farm Bureau member? Yes ___ No ___**

Team members

1. _____ **3.** _____

2. _____ **4.** _____



***Proceeds will help fund youth programs**

Mail entry by Friday, June 10 to:

Ken Schlapbach | W1941 County Rd. F | Albany, WI 53502

Questions?

Contact Ken Schlapbach | 608-293-0361 | klschlapbach@yahoo.com

Green County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Co-YFA Chair, Justin Monson 608.558.3807
Co-YFA Chair, Sarah Sacker 608.214.1650

Director, Devan Brugger 608.558.2646
Director, John Dieckhoff 608.897.3637
Director, Ben Huber 608.323.0061
Director, Kelsi Mayer 608.290.5855
Director, Ken Schlapbach 608.293.0361
Director, Cal Wasserstrass 608.293.1346
Director, Dustin Williams 608.391.0238

Green County Farm Bureau 877.483.5481
WFBF Board Director, Arch Morton, Jr. 608.931.0558
District 2 Coordinator, Amy Blakeney 866.355.7342
RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson 608.828.5734

Policy Development Meeting

Green County Farm Bureau will host the annual Policy Development Meeting in conjunction with the Green County Ag Open. Green County Farm Bureau members will discuss agricultural issues of concern in order to devise ways or policies to resolve these issues. The results will be discussed and voted on at the county annual meeting in September.

Where: Edelweiss Chalet Country Club, W4764 Edelweiss Road, New Glarus.

When: Friday, June 17.

• 1:30 p.m. - Lunch.

• 2:00 p.m. - Policy Development Meeting.

Cost: \$10



Green County Annual Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Where: PepperCorn Banquets, 1417 Mansion Drive, Monroe

The Green County Farm Bureau is proud to welcome and announce that Pam Jahnke, aka The Fabulous Farm Babe, will be the guest speaker for Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting on September 27 at PepperCorn Banquets and Catering.

Pam brings years of wit, knowledge, a get-er-done attitude and a background of agricultural second to none. Make sure you RSVP early to attend this event, which is also President Ditzenberger's retirement after 13 years.

It's bound to be a good time!



Welcome NEW Members!

Melissa Adams, Caleb Ahrens, Bryanna Bauman, Katlyn Devoe, Samantha Devoe, Daniel Douglas, Tyler Engen, James Frankowski, Ashlee Glowacki, Green County Exchange LLC, David Grenawalt, Berit Harpstrite-Nielsen, Nate Hartman, Brian Klahn, Jeremy Krull, Michael Landon, Kendra Lenz, Michael McCullough, Ron Richard, Mitchell Riese, Kevin Riese, Jeremy Sager, Nick Schleim, Megan Starr, Ralph Whitney, Andrea Wilson, Ivan Zettle, Tess Zettle, Tony Zguaggen and Travis Zuber.