

Iowa County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

County YFA Update

The Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist program donated 300 books to the Upland Hills birthing unit to give as gifts to families with newborn babies. I, along with Justin Doyle, Melissa Doyle and Megan Yager, delivered the boxes of books in early November. Money raised at the county annual meeting's silent auction was used to purchase the books. The books were well received and much appreciated by the staff of Upland Hills.



In December, 18 YFA members from Iowa County attended the state YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Those in attendance had the opportunity to meet other young agriculturalists and attend a variety of breakout sessions, award presentations, and evening entertainment.

It was a great networking event and learning experience. If you haven't taken the opportunity to attend the Conference, I encourage you to think about going this year.

We are in the works of planning YFA events and activities for the year. I am hoping to schedule another farm tour, our annual hayride and some other events yet to be determined. If you have any ideas, please feel free to send them my way. Hope to see you at a Farm Bureau event soon!

Jackie McCarville
Iowa County YFA Representative

Farm Bureau in Action



The District 3 Fall Women's Summit was hosted by Iowa County this year. Those in attendance 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 Wednesday, January 27 in Madison. Iowa County members Brianna Berget, Dan Adams, Adam Heisner, Dr. Kevin Johnson DMV, Kyle Levetzow and John and Nancy Meyers attended. Members gathered at the Monona Terrace for a meal and issues briefing before heading to the Capitol to meet and discuss current agriculture issues with Rep. Todd Novak and Sen. Howard Marklein.



District 3 was well represented in the WFBF Producer Club. Membership workers who signed up five or more new members were recognized during the Producer Club Luncheon held at the 2015 WFBF Annual Meeting. Iowa County's Laura Daniels was among the members recognized.



Iowa County Farm Bureau president, Adam Heisner, attended the Council of Presidents meeting on January 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Adam met other presidents and vice presidents from around the state and heard from a variety of speakers, including Craig Culver, founder and chair of Culver's restaurants.



COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Highlights



The 96th WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 5–7 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Iowa County Farm Bureau members (L-R) John Meyers, Dick Cates, Laura Daniels, Adam Heisner and Dan Adams served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's 2016 legislative agenda.



Nearly 45 YFA members from District 3 attended the 2015 YFA Conference that is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members were busy networking, attending breakout sessions and learning more Farm Bureau opportunities, all while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resort.



Iowa County had two teams participate in this year's Fun'd the Foundation Trivia Contest. Participants answered questions about current events, history, geography, music, sports, Farm Bureau and more. The contest raised \$1,800, which will be used by the WFB Foundation to help fund agricultural education and leadership programs.



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Justin Doyle and Jared Leonard participated in the Cornhole Tournament that was held on the Friday night of the YFA Conference. The team represented Iowa County well and took home the second place. Twenty-two teams participated, raising \$440 for the WFB Foundation.



Members of all ages enjoyed hearing from 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. Iowa County members (L-R) Melissa Doyle, Lara Daentl and Livia Daentl took the opportunity to get a photo with the brothers during the meet and greet session afterwards.

President's Message



Ag Day at the Capitol gave us in agriculture the opportunity to showcase our talents. The annual event allowed farmers and agriculturists to gather, meet and share our message with our elected officials.

Iowa County was well represented with seven members, including three first-time attendees. Iowa County Farm

Bureau pays all expenses for attendees and we welcome additional participation. Please consider attending this event next year; it's so important to share our message.

The day before Ag Day, I participated in the Council of Presidents meeting. Among the sessions offered was a discussion about effective committee structure. Our county provides many opportunities to become involved in committee work. We continuously welcome participation in our committees, and are willing to provide information about becoming involved in Iowa County Farm Bureau committees at any time.

We are looking for a member to chair the Promotion and Education committee. This member will receive support in understanding how the committee works, as well as be a voting member of the Iowa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Please contact me, or any director, for more information.

Best wishes for a safe spring!

Adam Heisner

Iowa 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 Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



Hi Everyone!

After taking some time off after the birth of our second son, I'm happy to be once again serving as the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. I enjoy sharing the true and inspiring story of Wisconsin agriculture to children of all ages!

Their natural inquisitive nature serves as a wonderful platform to promote and educate today's growing world of agriculture.

If you, or anyone you know, have ideas or planned events with children and want to sneak in some agriculture learning, please do not hesitate to contact me! I'm happy to help brainstorm ideas, put together lessons or lead activities.

As in years past, we encourage all fourth and fifth grade students to participate in Farm Bureau's annual 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.' Iowa County contest entries are due by **April 1**. This contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

During the past decade, WFBF has offered a variety of hard cover children's books for sale through the state's Ag in the Classroom program. These books are appropriate for elementary-age children and accurately portray modern agriculture

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, 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 all the new things happening around us. One new and exciting adventure is the Promotion and Education Committee. The long-time Women's Committee recently changed to the Promotion and Education Committee. With this change, there are many new ideas and opportuni-

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

I want to thank everyone who came to 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 would like to participate in the contest, more information can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you that the 2016 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is fast approaching. If you have never 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!

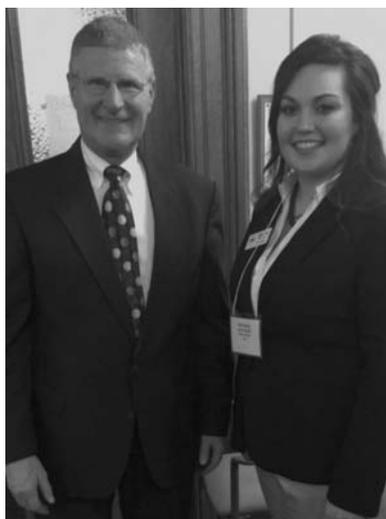
Nicole Adrian

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

New Member Spotlight: Meet Brianna Berget

Agricultural Background:

I grew up raising and showing livestock. My family and I traveled showing on the local, state and national levels. My excitement to share my passion for agriculture with the public grew once I began high school. I served as a Mineral Point FFA officer for two years, as the reporter and vice president. I also was involved in 4-H and served on the 4-H youth fair board.



Brianna, pictured with Senator Howard Marklein, at Ag Day at the Capitol.

students the opportunity to travel and network with industry people, competitively against other students. I joined PAS last January, and since have run for state office at our fall conference and was elected president.

Internship Plans: I am still participating in last summer's internship at the Lafayette County FSA office as a temporary program technician. This summer, I will be joining Hartung Brothers, Inc., with their traveling crew as dispatcher. I will be in Uvelde, TX, from mid-May to June and Bowling Green, OH, from July to mid-August.

Future Aspirations: After graduating from SWTC, I plan to attend UW-Platteville to pursue my bachelor's degree or enter the work force in retail agribusiness and sales (grain elevator, sales, etc.). The options are still wide open.

I am Farm Bureau proud because...we are the voice of the present and future generations of agriculturists. Being a part of the Farm Bureau organization is a way to be a united voice to stand for what we believe in as farmers and proud advocates.

Red or green tractors? Whatever is most suitable for the job.

Favorite ice cream flavor? I'm a rebel and mix one scoop chocolate with one scoop strawberry!

College: I am enrolled at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (SWTC).

Major: Agribusiness science technology, second year student.

PAS Involvement: Post-Secondary Agricultural Students (PAS) is an organization at two-year institutions offering

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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 in Wisconsin Dells



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

We recently 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.

This February we'll be participating in the District 3 YFA Chili and Grilled Cheese Cook-Off, AFBF YF&R Conference and speaking at 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 chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C., or Phoenix, Arizona, next January! For more information on the YFA program, visit wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program.

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

Derek and Charisse Orth

District 3 YFA Representatives