

Iowa County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124



For information about home or auto insurance,
contact your local Rural Mutual agent.
Rural Mutual Agents in Iowa County:
Debra Young **Deneen Doll**
(608) 935-2769 (608) 623-2882

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Join Us at Farmers Appreciation Day

Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 31st year on **Sunday, July 10**. In partnership with the Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce and other members of the community, Iowa County Farm Bureau is proud to help organize and sponsor the event.



A variety of activities are planned, starting with a fun run/walk, live band and fireworks on **Saturday, July 9**. Sunday will kick off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, an auction, displays and food at Harris Park.

The Dodgeville Kiwanis members will serve steak sandwiches grilled by the Iowa County Cattlemen's Association while the ladies of Upland Hills Health Auxiliary will have a variety of pies for dessert.

There will be several activities for children and plenty of fun for people of all ages.

Farmers Appreciation Day has truly become a community tradition in Iowa County. Not only does the event show our appreciation for farmers and agricultural businesses, but it also serves as an excellent opportunity to promote and educate the general public about agriculture. Please join us during this special celebration of agriculture.

For more information and a detailed schedule of the event, please visit www.farmersappreciationday.com.

Farm Bureau Skidsteer Challenge New to Iowa County Fair



The Iowa County Fair is **September 1-5** and new to the fair scene will be a Skidsteer Challenge sponsored by the Iowa County Farm Bureau. The challenge will start at noon on **Sunday, September 4**, in front of the grandstand.

We hope the event will draw a good crowd and provide some fun entertainment for the whole family.

More information will be provided in local media outlets and on the Iowa County Fair website closer to the time of the event.

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

Now that the implements of husbandry (IOH) trilogy is complete, but so many questions still remain, there has been discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book. This book will encompass aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin highlighting both state and federal laws.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the UW-Extension are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF is rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media. These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

Even though you may know these laws, it's our hope that you share them via social media to reach and educate a much



wider audience. More importantly, any feedback that you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book. For example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or ag commercial motor vehicle (Ag-CMV) in a no-passing zone?

For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.



COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Farm Bureau in Action



Iowa-Grant fourth grade students visited the Leix Family Dairy Farm to learn about agriculture and where their food comes from. It was organized by the Cobb Busy Badgers 4-H Club and made possible through a memorial donation to promote agriculture to youth in honor of Glen Gard. Iowa County Farm Bureau sponsored the event with hopes that it becomes an annual event. Head coach of the Wisconsin men's basketball team Greg Gard stopped by with his mother, Connie, to greet students and show support.



Ag Day on Campus was hosted by the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville on April 21. Students who walked by the west lawn during the afternoon enjoyed a walking taco and other delicious Wisconsin-made snacks, participated in sheep shearing demonstrations, got to pet farm animals and learned more about agriculture. Students and organizations from the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture joined together to promote and spread the word about agriculture.



The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville finished the school year with a celebration for the graduating members and elections of officers. Serving as the 2016-2017 officers: Lara Daentl, president; Sarah Shimshack, vice president; Ben Roys, secretary; Erin Marchant, treasurer; Amanda Stingle, Ag in the Classroom coordinator; Heidi Kaestner, Ag Day on Campus coordinator; Chad Bruss, director at large; and Dayna Anderson, historian.



In April, the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee invited members from Districts 1, 2 and 3 to a 'meeting of the minds.' Members talked about county activities and events, shared their experiences, brainstormed new ideas and discussed programs and resources available for counties to educate and promote agriculture.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Message
- County YFA Update
- District Director's Update
- Pick Up Some Syrup Today
- Discussion Meet

- 3** Ag in the Classroom Update
- District YFA Update
- Board Contacts

Policy Development Meeting Set

Mark your calendar for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting on **Wednesday, August 17**, at 7 p.m. The event will be held at Iowa County Health and Human Services in Dodgeville. A catered meal featuring pulled pork and beef brisket from Bob's Bitchin' BBQ will be provided.

Some of the items that will be discussed are:

- animal husbandry
- atrazine
- rural broadband
- Wisconsin fence law
- wetlands



For more information about these topics, please visit wfbf.com/governmentrelations/policydevelopment.



Save the Date – County Annual Meeting

The Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 22**, at 7 p.m. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Watch your mailbox for a postcard with additional meeting details and RSVP information.

President's Message



How time flies. Seems like a few days ago we were wishing that spring was here. There is no doubt the summer months will quickly pass, but there are important events to keep in mind.

Tri-County Meeting: Our June board meeting will be held in conjunction with Lafayette and Grant counties. This gives us an opportunity to discuss relevant issues within our area. It's also

a chance to discuss ideas and possible changes to the state policy. Having this forum can lead to success when introducing new policy. Please contact a board member with your ideas.

Policy Development Meeting: On **Wednesday, August 17**, members are invited to be part of our most important process. Policy development is unique to our organization. Many other groups try to have an impact in Madison and Washington D.C., yet few are able to form the relationships we do with our elected officials. Every aspect of our policy begins at the county level in our grassroots organization. Whether you have an issue to discuss or want to see how the process works, we

encourage you to attend.

Farmers Appreciation Day: On **Sunday, July 10**, there is another way to work for agriculture. We have become a partner in organizing and providing great volunteers to help make sure this event will continue to share our passion for agriculture with others. Volunteer if you can, come for lunch if you are in the area and enjoy a day with your family celebrating and promoting agriculture.

Adam Heisner

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

Iowa County's Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members have a great time when we get together.

This winter, we held a card and game night that many attended. In April, we teamed up with Lafayette County and the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville for a tour of Darlington Ridge Farms. Managing partners Jim and Katie DiGangi shared the ins and outs of what is involved with milking 2,600 cows and harvesting feed from 2,000 acres of corn and alfalfa. Everyone enjoyed the tour and learned a lot.

Next on the calendar is our annual outing to Madison for a Mallards game. These YFA events and others are a lot of fun and a great way to get to know other members better. If you haven't attended any events yet, I encourage you to do so. Most event invites are through email or Facebook. Please be sure



we have your most updated email address and 'Like' the Iowa County Farm Bureau and YFAs Facebook page.

Jackie McCarville

Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA Representative



District Director's Update



Yogi Berra once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again."

During the last year, I've been in Washington, D.C., four times advocating for issues that affect agriculture. The issues haven't changed much in the last year or for the last six years to be honest.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) continues to potentially haunt agriculture. More than six years ago, Senator Russ Feingold, tried to change the definition of navigable waters in the Clean Water Act of Waters of the United States.

This action would have given the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corp of Engineers legal oversight and authority over all waters with broad interpretation.

Senator Feingold lost his bid for reelection and those of us in agriculture breathe a sigh of relief thinking maybe this onerous federal overreach of water jurisdiction was finished.

Without missing a beat, the current administration of the EPA took up the WOTUS rule (less a legislative directive) and made it even more restrictive, potentially needing permits for spray-

ing, fertilizing and possible manure applications.

This past year, our Senators could not agree on the legislative fix to the EPA overreach, so the American Farm Bureau and other farm organizations filed suit against the agency for overstepping their authority.

Currently, the EPA's ability to enforce the rule has been held up in the courts, as higher courts will ultimately decide whether the federal government (EPA and Army Corp of Engineers) can circumvent state governments jurisdiction.

Immigration and genetically modified organisms (GMO) labeling are issues that seem to be meeting the same fate. Congress can't seem to find common ground other than to agree not to agree on important issues that affect our everyday lives.

Yogi Berra also said, "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might get there."

I will be going back out to Washington, D.C., in the near future. I will let you know when or if Congress figures out where they are going.

Dick Gorder

WFBF District 3 Director

Pick Up Some Syrup Today

By Elizabeth Dunn

Do you want some of the most outstanding maple syrup you can find in America? Your pancakes will be number one! Then come to Wisconsin. Wisconsin ranks fourth in the nation for maple syrup production. These farmers work super hard to get you the sweet sugar you love just from an ordinary maple tree! In fact, I have one in my yard! Let's find out how they make this delicious treat.

First, farmers have to find the healthiest maple trees they can find in the area. They patiently wait until the nights are below freezing and the days are above freezing. That's the temperature for tapping, folks! Then, the farmers drill a hole in a maple tree, at a slightly upward angle, and tap a spout into the tree. There can be one to three spouts per tree. For the next few days the sap will drip into a bucket. If it's a good tree, the sap runs two drops to the heartbeat. Farmers want the most sap they can get. Only forty gallons of sap makes one gallon of syrup. That is a lot of sap needed for just a small amount of syrup!

When the bucket is full, farmers take the sweet sap to the sugar house where it will be boiled to 219 degrees! After all of this boiling, much of the water will be evaporated. It feels like a sauna inside that sugar house! While boiling, the bottles are being cleaned and labeled. They look flawless after their bath! Finally, the syrup is put into the bottles to be sold. The line to buy that fresh maple syrup is growing and growing! So support the farmers, and pick up some pure maple syrup today!



District 3 Discussion Meet

Tuesday, August 23

7:30 pm Dinner
\$5/person
8:00 pm Discussion

Grant County Farm Bureau
Office, Lancaster

For more information contact District 3 YFA Reps
Derek & Charisse Orth at 608.778.9049 or
derekjsejers@gmail.com or
District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle at
866.355.7343 or mdoyle@wfbf.com

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.

Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Update By Livia Doyle, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

It's been a busy spring for the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom program! Farm Bureau members have been out and about during the last few months spreading the good word of agriculture to youth of all ages. Check out all the good that has happened in our area.

In early spring, Iowa County Farm Bureau purchased several copies of WFBF's Book of the Year *Sugarbush Spring* and donated them to area school libraries. Iowa County Farm Bureau members traveled to each of the schools where many met with fourth grade students, read the book and promoted Wisconsin's maple syrup industry.

Students learned about the production process of maple syrup and tasted the difference between real and artificial syrup. This served as a wonderful way to introduce the annual essay contest to students.

In early April, we received 103 essays from area students writing about maple syrup. The Iowa County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner was Elizabeth Dunn, daughter of Aaron and Monica Dunn of Mineral Point. She is a fourth grade student at Mineral Point Elementary. She wrote her essay in the form of an advertisement. Her creative style shines throughout her writing.

Like in years past, we participated in two presentations at the Mineral Point Public Library. One presentation was geared towards children from two to five with a focus on learning about the different types of animals you might find on a farm and how products end up in the local grocery stores or on the kitchen table at mealtime. Students enjoyed the stories, activities and treats that were sent home with them.

The second presentation was during the library's after school program and it was about pizza. Students in grades third

through fifth learned about the different ingredients that are used in making pizza.

Then they made individual pizzas using English muffins and other pizza ingredients.

Lastly, students planted pizza gardens that included parsley, basil, oregano, green peppers and onions. The seed cups went home with each student as well as additional pizza information and activities.

We also had several farm tours around the area. The Ag in the Classroom program provided materials and activities. Pecatonica preschoolers toured the Gilbertson Farm of Hollandale and fourth grade student from Iowa-Grant toured the Leix Farm in Montfort.

As I recap the many events that have transpired during the last few months, I am amazed by the volunteers who have taken time to promote agriculture. The amount of learning that has taken place from each of these worthwhile events is nothing short of amazing.

For more information or if you are interested in using Ag in the Classroom materials or need planning assistance, please contact me at 608.574.9253 or doylelivia@gmail.com.



Elizabeth Dunn's winning essay is on page 2.



Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Adam Heisner 608.574.0408
 Vice President, Justin Doyle 608.574.9882
 Secretary-Treasurer, Dan Adams 608.623.2135
 YFA Chair, Jackie McCarville 608.604.0321
 AITC Coordinator, Livia Doyle 608.574.9253

Director, Ross Blotz 608.574.6129
 Director, Bob Daentl 608.623.2731
 Director, Laura Daniels 608.513.0210
 Director, Krista Dolan 608.574.4565
 Director, Ryan Dolan 608.574.6280
 Director, Donald Ley 608.935.5036
 Director, Matt Limmex 608.588.7216
 Director, John Meyers 608.924.4746
 Director, Megan Yager 608.574.4028

Iowa County Farm Bureau 888.644.8363
 District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle 866.355.7343
 WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424

District YFA Update



Hello! As we wrap up our tenure as District 3 Representatives on the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee, we want to update you on competitions and events that will be held during the next few months.

Just around the corner, **July 1** is the deadline for Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture applications. All YFA members are eligible for one of the awards.

Mark your calendar for the District 3 Discussion Meet on **August 23** at the Grant County Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. Do you like discussing agriculture with others? Please join us. We also welcome an audience to support our contestants and give feedback.

The district contest question is **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.**

In early June, I joined a group of YFA members as they traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn, meet with representatives and tour our nation's Capital. The group was made up of state finalists from each of the three YFA contests along with YFA leaders from around the state. I encourage you to participate in a YFA contest if you're interested in attending this trip in the future.

Lastly, as we prepare to retire from the state committee, we are looking for an individual or a couple to be our successor. If you have a passion for agriculture and want to be active in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau at the state level, please ask how you can apply for this position. Have a fantastic summer!

Derek and Charisse Orth
 District 3 YFA Representatives