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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Skid Steer Challenge a Success at County Fair

Iowa County Farm Bureau hosted the first-ever Skid Steer Challenge at the Iowa County Fair. The challenge took place on Sunday of the fair in front of the grandstand and turned out to be a real hit.

The obstacle course was borrowed from Lafayette County and the skid steers were donated by Farmers Implement Store of Mineral Point, Ritchie's Implement of Cobb, Hennessey Implement of Dodgeville and Heisner Family Dairy.

Thank you to the implement dealers, participants, spectators and Farm Bureau members who helped make the event a great success. We hope to bring the event back next year and provide fun entertainment for the whole family.



County YFA Update By Jackie McCarville, Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA Representative



The Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA members had a busy year. We hosted the annual hayride, toured Darlington Ridge Farms with Lafayette County YFA members, had a game night and card party, attended a Madison Mallards baseball game, hosted a District 3 awards work night and assisted with Farmers Appreciation Day, Iowa County Fair Skid Steer Challenge and library and classroom visits.

During the annual meeting we had a silent auction to generate funds for the YFA program. Typically, the funds raised are donated back to the community. Last year, we donated \$200 to the Iowa County Food Pantry and



300 farm animal books to the families of newborns at Upland Hills Health.

We appreciate the support of those who purchased an item at the silent auction and plan to use the funds to again purchase farming and agriculture related books for the birthing unit at Upland Hills Health.

The WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be here before we know it. Many of our members plan to attend the conference on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Every year, Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsors several first time attendees to attend the conference. We are fortunate to have Iowa County members, Kayla Anderson, Sean Brown and Matt Yorke selected for this sponsorship. Becky Hasburgh will also be representing Iowa County in the Discussion Meet.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know. Thank you to those who attended one or more YFA events this year. We hope to see you at this upcoming year's events.





COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Iowa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



The Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting was on September 22 at the Walker House in Mineral Point. The evening started with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed

resolutions. Iowa County members passed six resolutions, including the following:

County

- We support promoting bicycle safety within the county through rules and regulations of bike events.

State

- We support access to rural internet services in the fastest, most energy efficient, secure, dependable and safest method. We support expanded cellular and broadband telecommunications coverage for rural areas.

- We support the elimination of the farmland preservation section in the policy book on page 9, 18-31.

Federal

- We support revamping the formulas used in the dairy margin protection for calculating feed cost and margin over feed cost to more accurately reflect profit ability at the farm level.
- We support increased funding and expanded accessibility of the Livestock Gross Margin Dairy (LGMD) insurance.
- We support the implementation of a dairy farmer funded self-help plan using cull cows to stabilize the dairy industry for dairy farmers, processors and consumers to maintain an adequate supply.



These will be forwarded to the state Policy Development Committee for consideration for the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Thank you to those who attended the annual meeting, we look forward to seeing more of you there next year.

Farm Bureau in Action



The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 23 in Lancaster. There were six contestants including: front row (L-R) Amber Berning, Lafayette County; Kayla Anderson, Iowa County; and Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; back row (L-R) Josh Bailie, Grant County; Dan Frank, Grant County; and Andrew DalSanto, Grant County. Josh, Becky and Andrew will compete in the Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference.



Lafayette County Farm Bureau held the 2nd Annual Golf Outing on August 26 at the Darlington Country Club. Farm Bureau members Justin Doyle, Livia Doyle, Melissa Doyle and Megan Yager represented Iowa County. Thank you to the area businesses that sponsored and participated in the outing.



On August 17, Iowa County Farm Bureau members met to discuss policy development and create resolutions to be voted on at the annual meeting. The policy development process is unique to Farm Bureau. As a grassroots organization, every aspect of policy begins at the county level and proceeds from there. Whether you have an issue to discuss or want to see how the process works, we encourage members to get involved and attend policy development meetings.



Iowa County Farm Bureau played a large role in planning the 31st Annual Farmers Appreciation Day. Whether it was walking in the parade, conducting the live auction, volunteering in the ag education area or supervising the pedal tractor track, Farm Bureau members helped make the event a great success. Thanks to all who attended and supported the event!



In July, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted District 3 YFA members for an evening of fun on the farm. Members and their families enjoyed a picnic dinner, hayride, outdoor games and a tour of Majestic View Dairy.

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President's Message



word of the agriculture. A few of the most recent highlights and happenings include:

Iowa County Fair Skid Steer Challenge

We received a lot of positive feedback as the hosts of the first-ever Iowa County Fair Skid Steer Challenge. On September 4, more than 20 participants manned skid steers of their choice to demonstrate their skills. Drivers in the 18-35 and 36 plus categories navigated an obstacle course full of different chal-

lenges and barriers. Ultimately, Iowa County Farm Bureau was the winner as we picked up a new member and got our name out.

Our only financial contribution was the cash prizes that we awarded. Iowa County Farm Bureau members worked hard to organize and have a successful event. The Iowa County Fair board asked us to host this event again next year so be thinking of new and challenging tasks.

Iowa County Farm Bureau Building

At the beginning of 2016, the board of directors spent time evaluating the sustainability of the Farm Bureau building. As a result, we looked at increasing rent nominally to lower the amount of money we lose each year. In 2015, we experienced a net loss of approximately \$4,000. The board members asked for an annual increase of \$1,500 among the four tenants.

Three of the tenants were willing to work with us on the

increase. Unfortunately, one tenant was unable to meet our request and decided not to renew the lease. At this time, we have rental space available in the basement and main level. Please contact me if you know of someone looking for space.

Iowa County Farm Bureau Membership

Our membership year was a success. We met the early bird deadline, earning a \$1,000 bonus, as well as having a total and voting membership gain. Of course, we are always happy to have new members, so please remember to share the benefits of being a Farm Bureau member with neighbors and the local businesses that you support.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to upholding the mission and values of Iowa County Farm Bureau. We are looking forward to another great year.

Adam Heisner

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

YFA Fly-In: An Opportunity of a Lifetime

By Becky Hasburgh



In early June, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with 35 Young Farmer and Agriculturalist (YFA) members from around Wisconsin. The YFA Fly-In is designed to put real farmers and agriculturalists in the room with our congressional representatives.

Attending this event was a very rewarding experience for me. I traveled to the USDA and American Farm Bureau Federation offices to learn more about various agricultural related issues, including the agricultural economy and trade, GMO labeling and immigration reform.

Along with a few other individuals from our Congressional District, I met with Congressman Mark Pocan's senior legislative assistant, Sydney Terry. The group also met with Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin to discuss some of these issues.

In addition to lobbying at the Capitol, we visited sev-

eral important and historical sites, including: the Arlington National Cemetery, Supreme Court, New Zealand Embassy, many of the Smithsonian museums and of course, lots of national monuments.

We also toured George Washington's farmstead, Mount Vernon, before flying home.

The best part about the trip was meeting individuals from around the state who are involved in agriculture. It was an amazing experience and I encourage others to participate in YFA contests in order to qualify for the trip.

For more information about the contests and how to get involved, please contact me or District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle.



District 3 Members Named YFA Achievement Award Finalists



I'm proud to be involved with a group of people who are so committed to agriculture and the connections and relationships you make with them.

Alex Bringe
Vernon County
YFA member

Alex Bringe is a member of Vernon County Farm Bureau. Alex is a beef and grain farmer from Viroqua. He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from the UW-Platteville. He continued his education at Western Techni-

cal College in its farm business management program. His lifelong interest in agriculture and politics led him to Farm Bureau. He is the Vernon County YFA chair and also serves as the pork chop fundraiser coordinator. He attended the YFA leadership trip to Washington, D.C., and the WFBF Annual Meeting as a county delegate. He also is a graduate of the WFBF Institute.



It's a great feeling to belong to an organization that understands our struggles and shares the same beliefs to unite us and make us stronger.

Chad & Katrina Gleason
Lafayette County
YFA members



raises about 400 calves per year from local dairy farmers. The family grows and harvests their own feed on 80 acres of owned and 60 acres of rented land. Chad is a former director for the Lafayette County Farm Bureau. He enjoys farm-related activities and spending time with others who share his passion for agriculture. Katrina home schools their children and manages the books for the farm. She enjoys cooking, working with the family's horses and spending time with family and friends.

Chad and Katrina Gleason are fourth generation farmers, north of Shullsburg in Lafayette County. They have three children Cassidy, Gage and Kinsey. They specialize in dairy beef, and raise bottle fed calves to finished steers. The family

District Director Update



Well another season is quickly coming to a close, the crop season as well as the election season. The county annual meetings signal the hectic fall harvest is around the corner and the race to get everything harvested before the weather challenges us more than usual.

This also is the time of the year when we begin to reflect and evaluate the past year's successes and where we could stand a little

improvement. Did we pick the right seed varieties and fertilizer recommendations? Did our conservation plan meet expectations given the record rainfall events many of us endured?

Your Farm Bureau reflects and evaluates the past year successes and challenges, too.

Farm Bureau membership continues to grow despite the changing farm landscape. More than ever, farmers realize the importance of their membership in a professional organization. Our challenge will always be to understand we are a general-purpose organization with diverse interests and viewpoints.

Last December, Farm Bureau delegates voted to create the Promotion and Education Committee to further our outreach and communication to those whose lives are directly, as well as indirectly, affected by agriculture. Our challenge – while everyone eats, there seems to be a growing number of people who think there is only one way of thinking about our food supply.

Organic versus conventional, big versus small, GMO versus non-GMO are conversations we all have had, but we need to understand it serves no purpose. We are blessed to live in a world where we have choices and better yet ... respecting other's choices.

There will be a plethora of issues awaiting the new President and Congress as well as the state legislature in the new year. Issues that continue to need attention include: waters of the U.S., trade, immigration, transportation infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and many more.

Your Farm Bureau will be presenting our positions of interest.

Dick Gorder

WFBF District 3 Director



District Promotion and Education Update

By **Nicole Adrian**, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



In August, the Promotions and Education Committee officially kicked off the 'Playbook.' The 'Playbook' is a resource found on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau website (wfbf.com) that is full of helpful information for members to use when planning county and district events, programs and activities.

Program areas featured in the 'Playbook' include: Ag in the Classroom, Consumer Outreach, Education and Ag Promotion, Fundraising, Member Development and Policy and Development Implementation.

If you want to add a play, you can download the form from the website and submit it to Deb Raemisch. The next update will be done on **December 15**. Please contact me with questions regarding the 'Playbook.'

The 2015-2016 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. To go with the theme of the book, the essay topic is 'Tell us about cran-

berry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations.

Iowa County contest entries are due by **April 1, 2017**. Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. More information regarding the contest can be found by visiting the Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held in Madison on **March 10-11, 2017**. Workshops and activities are planned for both days. For more information, watch the *Rural Route* or visit www.wiagwomenssummit.com.

Thank you to everyone for the help and support during my six years of serving on the Women's Committee and Promotion and Education Committee. I enjoyed visiting each county during annual meetings and the fall workshops. I look forward to seeing you at the WFBF Annual Meeting on **December 3-5** in Wisconsin Dells.

Buster the Bull Calf is One of a Kind

By **Tammy Wiedenbeck**, Grant County Farm Bureau Member



When I was no older than three or four years old, I can remember the first time that my brother brought a red and white spotted calf up to the farmhouse. The excitement sparked in my eyes as my love for cattle took off that very day.

About 20 years later, our local veterinarian ended up diagnosing one of our Angus cows with cancer. We were fortunate, however, to save the

bull calf that she had carried full term. From day one, we were the first living beings that the calf saw and we took on the role of raising him.

My nephews and niece, all wanting to help in the responsibility of feeding our new pet, decided to name the calf Buster. For those who have been in the industry for a while, know that beef bottle calves are usually pretty tame, but not to the point where they think they are one of us. Well Buster does.

Buster started following us around like a little puppy dog, bouncing around whenever we came outside to play with him or do chores. I took him out of his pen to be the highlight of my Farm Bureau and Christmas card photo shoots. When put with other cattle, Buster didn't bond well and would prefer to be by us when given the chance. I thought to myself, "This is the calmest calf I have ever see on our farm. How would anyone look at this calf and not fall in love with him?"

With the Grant County Fair coming up, I decided to ask around to see if it would be possible to give rides to kids on Buster. After many weeks of my question going unanswered, I got the exciting news in August that Buster could go to the fair. My goal was to not only educate fairgoers about the beef industry, but to also spark the interest of youth in livestock and agriculture, just as my brother had done for me so many years ago.



Although I was slightly nervous about putting a saddle on a 600-pound calf and leading him around, he ended up being a hit at the Grant County Farm Bureau Ag Tent! There were children gathering around him before we were even set-up at the booth. Many pictures were taken and smiles were shared amongst the kids and their families with Buster. Many said, "I've never even ridden a horse before, let alone calf."

I hope that the memories the kids made that weekend with Buster will be something that they remember for years to come. He was definitely a special gift to our farm and we hope he will return next year at the Grant County Fair, so be sure to keep your calendars marked to come and visit!

Plan to Attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

Women from the agriculture community are encouraged to attend the annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Marriott West in Middleton, which is presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and UW-Extension.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agricul-

ture community.

Join us at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit on **March 10-11, 2017**. Registration for the 2017 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be available later in the year.

For more information, visit <https://wiagwomenssummit.com>.



Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Ag Promotions Chair, Kayla Anderson	608.574.6462

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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



So long, farewell. Definitely a bittersweet moment as we write our last newsletter article. Maybe we will have more free time or time to spend with the family. But, sadly, as we wrap up our tenure as the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist representatives and YFA

Chair, we are thinking about the opportunities that we had and the many things we are going to miss. County annual meetings, 5th Tuesday Potlucks and Discussion Meets are a few things that we enjoyed.

We watched the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau grow and flourish as its own organization within the ag community. We've helped members apply for awards and fill out applications for the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Awards.

During our role, we attended conferences and conventions throughout the U.S., which was truly an amazing experience when it was below zero at home and we walked on green grass in Florida. We have always felt welcomed in every District 3 county and appreciated meeting everyone and learning about each county's traditions.

Our district is in good hands as we pass the baton to Tammy Wiedenbeck. She has new goals, dreams and ideas to share. We will miss you and can't wait to see you again.

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives

2017 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Iowa County Farm Bureau has money available to sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 17-18, 2017**, at Hotel Meed in Wisconsin Rapids.

The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore topics and learn outside their comfort zone.

If you or an FFA student you know want to attend, please contact president Adam Heisner by **January 5, 2017**.