



Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Linda Schopen - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Local FFA Chapters Attend FFA Farm Forum

Cambridge, Lake Mills, Palmyra-Eagle and Watertown FFA members were among the more than 160 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 20-21.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, advocating for agriculture, leadership and more.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 43rd year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



Watertown FFA chapter:
Brittany Rennhack.



Cambridge FFA chapter: (L-R) Leif Evenson, Anna Hinchley, Sarah Schuster and Kendra Spier.



Lake Mills FFA chapter: (L-R) Arora Westenberg, Victor Michel and Carley Krull.



Palmyra-Eagle FFA chapter: (L-R) Jackie Sturm, Ryan Isaacsen and Gabrielle Peardon.

Making a Difference for the Ronald McDonald House



Farm Bureau members made sandwiches for 50 people, provided string cheese, veggies, fruit, juice and snacks at the Ronald McDonald House.

On April 18, District 1 Farm Bureau members served brunch and made sandwiches for the lunch-to-go program at the Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald McDonald House is a place for families to stay while their children are being treated at a local hospital.

The Ronald McDonald House has been renovated and is a beautiful place to visit.



Members of Jefferson, Racine and Waukesha County Farm Bureaus helped pack lunches.



JUNE 2015

COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Jefferson County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

On March 11, Jefferson County Farm Bureau members traveled to the Capitol to meet with legislators for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Ag Day at the Capitol.

Members had an opportunity to get some updates on key issues that will be part of the next legislative session related to high capacity wells, wolf hunting, implements of husbandry, the state budget, labeling of GMOs and animal welfare.

Attendees also listened to Governor Scott Walker. After the briefing, members walked to the Capitol and met with representatives.

Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Whether or not you attended Ag Day at the Capitol, it is important for all of us to raise our voices on issues. Take time to become familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Jefferson County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm.

Remember when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau members who attended were Steve Knoebel, Sue Marx, Tony and Karen Schadt. Thank you for raising your voice for agriculture!



Sue Marx, Steve Knoebel, Karen and Tony Schadt briefed the legislators.

Successful Fourth Grade Farm Tour at the Kutz Dairy Farm

Another successful fourth grade farm tour was hosted at the Kutz Dairy farm on May 6.

The fourth grade farm tour is organized by the Jefferson County Agribusiness Club and the Jefferson FFA.

Nearly 820 students, parents and faculty attended the tour. Lunch was served thanks to the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Thanks to Kutz Dairy LLC for opening their farm again this year for the 22nd annual fourth grade farm tour!



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District 1 Update



focus on getting out into your counties and grow that membership.

Here we are in the midst of another growing season. So far the weather has been good, a little dry to begin with but I know that the northern counties of District 1 are happy to see this for one year.

Talking about growing, we all need to remember that your Farm Bureau is a great membership organization.

This is why we need to

We have different reports and databases that we can involve and find those prospective members. And then all we need is a plan to meet those prospective members and ask them to join a great agricultural organization.

We talk about our and your involvement at Ag Day at the Capitol. It is that contact with your legislatures that keeps agriculture in the fore front in Madison. We need to have that relationship with our representatives so that they know they can rely on someone in their area to talk to about those issues.

This year we will have two opportunities to go to Washington, D.C., and interact with our federal representatives. In June, the Board of Directors along with the 2014 Leadership Institute class will meet with AFBF and then walk to Capitol Hill to talk about the points that are most valuable to Wisconsin

agriculture. I would imagine trade, taxes and immigration may be on the forefront.

In September, we will be in Washington, D.C., with two leader representatives from each District to visit an Embassy to see what matters to other countries that trade and interact with the U.S.

Again we will venture to Capitol Hill and lobby for the needs of Wisconsin agriculture.

Have a happy summer and remember "Life is simpler when you plow around the stump".

Dave Daniels
District 1 Director

St. Bernard's Catholic School Students Top County Agriculture Essay Contest



Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom essay coordinator Patti Hurtgen presented Nolan Schopp his certificate.

Jefferson County had 162 essays submitted, the most in District 1's eight-counties. This year the winning essay was from fourth grader Nolan Schopp of St. Bernard's Catholic School in Watertown. This is his winning essay:

Why are bees important to Wisconsin Agriculture?

Did you know that one-third of the human diet is derived from pollinated plants? Bees are responsible for 80 percent of the plant population. Here in Wisconsin, bees play an important role. Bees pollinate crops like apples, cranberries and cherries. Bees also help people with gardens in their backyard by pollinating plants like beans, cucumbers, tomatoes and pumpkins. In their spare time, bees also make sweet delicious honey.

Bees are good pollinators for several reasons. They have hairy bodies that trap pollen and carry it from flower to flower. They need larger quantities of nectar and pollen to take care of their young so they visit flowers often to obtain food. If bees did not pollinate these flowers there would be a larger loss of crops. For example, Wisconsin apple growers would lose as much as 80 percent of their crop if there were not any bees.

In my garden, I would not have the healthy food choices that I do if it weren't for bees. I like eating watermelon, peas, carrots, beans and cucumbers from my garden. I also grow pumpkins for Halloween. Bees make honey because it is high in energy and helps them put

nutrients back in their bodies. They need energy to fly many places. Bees collect nectar and store it in their hive. The nectar concentrates into honey. Bees fly about 55,000 miles to make one pound of honey.

Bees are very important. They provide many people with food. The next time you see a bee, don't squish him. Thank him for pollinating all of the plants that provide good, healthy food.

On April 22, Patti Hurtgen, Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom essay coordinator thanked the students at St. Bernard's Catholic School in Watertown for submitting essays. Nolan Schopp read his essay to the class and was presented with his certificate and check. She also has a surprise for Nolan and his classmates. For writing the county's winning essay, Nolan received an ice cream sundae party for his entire class.

The students enjoyed ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings in celebration along with Nolan's teacher, Mrs. Debra Ruddell. Her students had a presentation earlier this spring about bees and the new technology instructor worked with students to download the resources available from the Ag in the Classroom brochure.



Asha Kratzer received the second place essay award. She is pictured with her teacher Mrs. Anderson.

Second place honors went to Asha Kratzer, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Julie Anderson's class at St. Henry's School in Watertown.

Ag in the Classroom volunteer, Daphne Holterman presented Asha with her certificate and check on April 29. Holterman was a guest speaker for Mrs. Anderson's class and she spoke on the various ways farmers recycle and

reuse products to keep agriculture sustainable.



Mrs. Debra Ruddell's fourth grade class at St. Bernard's Catholic School in Watertown (standing, L-R) Joshua Mitchell, Isaac Sellnow, Brett Stas, Nolan Schopp (winning essay writer), Abby Walsh, Payton Roets and Nathan Walter; (kneeling, L-R) Cole Bergdorf, Bohdi Degrandt, Yadira Rojano and Cianna Boettcher; (front, L-R) Lucy Spende and Olivia Osorio-Vega.

The third place essay winner was Sara Neary, who is a student in Ms. Victoria Toebe's fifth grade class at Johnson Creek Elementary School. She also received a certificate and cash prize.

All teachers in the county whose classes submitted essays received \$30 gift cards to Nasco, which was provided by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau. Participating schools include Cambridge Elementary School; Johnson Creek Elementary; Ixonia Elementary School; St. Bernard's Catholic School in Watertown; St. Henry's School in Watertown, St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School in Fort Atkinson and St. Peter's Lutheran School in Helenville.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. It provides many opportunities to educate youth about agriculture. Locally, fourth grade classes get to visit farms throughout the spring, second grade students in the county are treated to "A Day without Agriculture" presentation by Ag in the Classroom volunteers.

Dairy Promotion Funding Available for Jefferson County

Jefferson County Farm Bureau receives support from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board to help promote the dairy industry.

Farm Bureau administers funding for Jefferson County area 4-H, FFA, dairy farms or others to conduct promotional events in support of the dairy industry. Money is available on a first come, first served basis.

For an application, please contact Melissa Gross at 920.988.7583 or mgross43@yahoo.com or visit wfbf.com/countyfarm-bureaus/jefferson and click on the Jefferson County Dairy Promotion Program.



Annual Meeting Date Set

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting date has been set for **September 27**, at the Platt-deutscher.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with further details as the meeting date approaches.



There are great opportunities for YFA members in Jefferson County to participate in district and state events. Remember that these activities are available to voting members ages 18-35.

The District 1 Discussion Meet has been set for **Tuesday, August 18**, at Roden Echo Valley, 5545 County Road Y, West Bend.

The farm tour will be at 6 p.m. with the Discussion Meet starting at 7 p.m. Snacks will be available afterwards.

The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build crucial skills in young, active farmers and agriculturalists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

This year's topic is: How can we influence state and local policy that more effectively balances the social and economic interests of farmers and ranchers versus burdensome federal regulation?

Achievement Award. The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved



Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the organization. Applications are due **July 1**.

Excellence in Agriculture. The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award

Program is designed as an opportunity for YFA members, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to earn recognition.

Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations, i.e., civic, service and community.

The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who do not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk. Applications are due **July 1**.

If you are a YFA member and are interested in participating in these activities, please contact Peter Muth, District 1 YFA Chair, at 262.689.2536.

On January 31, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau held a Super Bowl dairy promotion at Festival Foods in Fort Atkinson.



Pictured (L-R) Clarissa Gross, Rock Lake Troopers 4-H; Emma and Hannah Lemke, Stone School 4-H Club.

Members of area 4-H clubs helped promote Wisconsin dairy. Shoppers were given free sour cream or cream cheese with a like purchase.

The 4-H members put a football themed dairy fact label on each free container of sour cream and package of cream cheese. They also handed out recipe and dairy brochures for the shoppers and dairy coloring books, tattoos, cow pencils and milk magnets for the children. Also, kids in the Tot Spot area were given a plastic cup filled with dairy promotion items.

The board of directors is looking for applications for its annual Service of Agriculture Award.



Applications will be accepted
until the **August 15**.

Announcement and presentation of this award will be held at the annual Jefferson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in September.

For an applications, visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson or contact Melissa Gross at 920.988.7583 or mgross43@yahoo.com.

The service award recognizes an outstanding individual or group who has exhibited leadership in the promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County.

Date: Saturday, July 18
Cost: \$20 per person, includes winery
tour, lunch and bus

If interested in attending, please contact Mary Mess at 920.261.0735.

All members are welcome!

SAVE the DATE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS – Saturday, July 18	
9:30 a.m.	Meet at Highway 43/Highway C Park and Ride - DOT lot 45-20, Cedarburg. Group will leave by bus at 9:45 a.m.
10:30 a.m.	Take a tour of the Cedar Creek Winery in Cedarburg. Wine tasting included.
12:30 p.m.	Visit the Roden family farm. Eat lunch.
1:30 p.m.	Explore Lizard Mound County Park. Stop at the Cedar Valley Cheese Store and hike Lion's Den Gorge Nature Preserve.
3:30 p.m.	Return to Park and Ride

President, Randy Mitchell	414.899.4822
Vice President, Anthony Schadt	920.261.8478
Secretary-Treasurer, Melissa Gross	920.988.7583
Women's Chair, Mary Mess	920.261.0735
YFA Chair, Lindsay Knoebel	920.988.1428

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WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen	262.522.8620

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The District 1 Policy Development meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, August 4**, at The Machine Shed, N14 W24145 Tower Place, in Pewaukee.



For more information, please contact Patti Roden at proden@wfbf.com.

The Jefferson County Fair is July 8-12 and the fair is how we support our scholarship program.

Gather some friends and sign up to work at the fair. Shifts are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 to 6 p.m. or 6 to 10 p.m. We will work with your schedule if you can only work a two-hour shift.

Please call Mary Mess at 920.248.1967 to schedule your preferred time. We look forward to hearing from you. Many hands make the work load a lot lighter, thank you in advance for your help.

Congratulations to our three scholarship winners:

- **Amber Ziebell**, daughter of Jeff Ziebell and Juanita Sell of Johnson Creek, graduating from Lake Mills High School and planning to attend Globe University with a major in vet tech.
- **Haylee Erb**, daughter of David and Rebecca Erb of Johnson Creek, graduating from Lake Mills and is undecided on a school or a major.
- **Amanda Strauss**, daughter of Bruce and Tammy Strauss of Lake Mills, graduating from Lakeside Lutheran High School and is attending UW-Platteville majoring in animal science.



Congratulations! Best of luck in your future!