



## Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Linda Schopen, District Manager - (920) 723-5108

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## You're Invited To Our Farm!

By Patti Roden, District 1 Coordinator

For me, summer means picnics, dairy breakfasts and county fairs! This summer is going to be particularly busy for my family. On Saturday, June 25, we are hosting the Ozaukee County Breakfast on the Farm at our farm (Roden Echo Valley, LLC).



Patti and her cows. Meet them on June 25.

I would like to personally invite you to come to our farm for breakfast on June 25, from 7-11 a.m. I get to eat on the farm each and every day, but for you, this might be a once-in-a-lifetime experience. On the menu is pancakes, eggs, milk and cheese. In addition, ice cream with strawberries or chocolate will be available! Yes, ice cream for breakfast! I can think of no better way to start the day than with so many delicious and nutritious dairy products.

Farming for us is a family affair. We work and spend time together every day of the year on the farm, but on June 25 we get to share our family's tradition with yours. We know this event draws many families and for that reason we have some great family-friendly events lined up.

The fan-favorite ice cream eating contest will be happening again this year. I have been the emcee for this event for the past couple years and it's always great to see so many kids, teenagers and adults participate in this contest. Watch our Facebook page (facebook.com/OzaukeeCountyBreakfast) as the date gets closer for details on what time the contest will take place. It's a contest you won't want to miss out on, even just watching is entertaining.

Other fun activities that will take place at the farm that morning include a kid zone area (get ready to meet our donkey), kiddie barrel rides, face painting, milk a cow, wagon rides, free samples of new dairy products and much more!

June Dairy Month started in 1937 as a way to promote drinking milk and has been celebrated annually ever since. We are proud to be the hosts of this year's Ozaukee County Breakfast to continue the tradition of celebrating dairy in June. We hope that you come and visit the farm on June 25 so we can share how your dairy products get from the farm to your table.

Can't make it on June 25? Here is a website dedicated to finding your local dairy breakfasts held throughout Wisconsin. Check out [dairydaysofsummer.com](http://dairydaysofsummer.com) for a complete list of events that are happening to celebrate June Dairy Month. (In addition, the website offers some new delicious recipes that you must taste test... trust me!)

Be sure to get your local dairy breakfast and county fair on the calendar, they offer a lot of great opportunities to learn about agriculture, meet a farmer and let's be honest... taste some great food!

Feel free to follow our farm Facebook page ([facebook.com/RodenEchoValley](http://facebook.com/RodenEchoValley)) prior to the breakfast and reach out to us with any dairy questions you have.

Congratulations to all these hard-working students and best of luck in the fall.

## Scholarship Winners Announced

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the following scholarship winners:



- **Taylor Chwala**, Jefferson High School, son of Jeremy and Michele Chwala. He will be attending UW-Platteville to major in animal science.
- **Summer Keske**, Palmyra High School, daughter of Keith and Lindsay Keske. She will be attending UW-Madison to major in genetics.
- **Austin Kind**, Fort Atkinson High School, son of Jeff and Debbie Kind. He will be attending MATC then transferring to a UW school for biology, environmental science or sports medicine.
- **Elizabeth Knoebel**, Jefferson High School, daughter of Steve and Jody Knoebel. She will be attending UW-River Falls to major in animal science.
- **Carly Krull**, Lake Mills High School; daughter of Cindy Krull-Begeman and the late Brian Krull. She will be attending Iowa State to major in animal science or ag education.
- **John Troiola**, Palmyra High School, son of Jean Reith. He will be attending UW-Madison or UW-Platteville to major in dairy science.

Congratulations to all these hard-working students and best of luck in the fall.



# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Local FFA Members Attend Farm Forum

Jefferson County FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

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

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Jonathan Eckelberg, digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Ethan Giebel, director of education at Cooperative Network.

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 44<sup>th</sup> year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



Waterloo FFA chapter (L-R) Dyllon Palmer and Daniel Mankowski. The students were sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.



Lake Mills FFA chapter (L-R) Nycole Garman, Emily Anderson, Kiley Eck, Alexis Schultz and Katrina Kube. The students were sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.



Nick Voigt of the Lakeside Lutheran FFA chapter.



Watertown FFA chapter (L-R) Matthew Schadt, Dawson Nickels, Chandler Zweig and Alec Winkelman.



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## Ag Day at the Capitol Brings Members to Madison

Jefferson County members attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27. Members in attendance included Steve and Dawn Jones, Eugene Mess and Christy Strobel.

They enjoyed a delicious lunch at noon followed by the Legislative Briefing. Guest speaker Ben Brancel, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, commented that Wisconsin is ranked tenth in the country for international trade of agricultural products. Ben pointed out two bills of importance: Farmer Led Watershed Initiative and the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan in which the state is undergoing a process to develop a state voluntary pollinator protection plan



Members of Jefferson County Farm Bureau (L-R) Dawn Jones, Steve Jones and Eugene Mess listened to discussion.

for residents interested in pollinator health, habitat and conservation.

Other issues that were discussed

1. Ag Chemical Cleanup Program
2. Minimum Mark Up Law
3. Right of Way in Roundabouts
4. Piping of Manure Along Right of Way
5. High Capacity Wells
6. State Transportation Funds

Following the remarks, members went to the Capitol to share comments and concerns with legislators.



Jefferson and Walworth members met with legislators to discuss important issues.

## Nurture Your Leadership Skills By Dave Daniels, District 1 Director

Spring has come and summer is right around the corner. Hopefully the planting season has been kind to you and now it is time to nurture those seedlings. These seedlings need the farmers help in fertilizing at the right time, suppressing weed pressure and scouting for insect and disease stress.

The board of directors did a bit of nurturing in April. The 2015 leadership Institute class joined the Board on a trip to Washington, D.C. We attended a fast pace meeting with American Farm Bureau staff who covered the legislation actions and policies that are facing the American farmer.

USDA representatives discussed how the government agencies have programs in place that will directly affect rural America and how we can more efficiently carry on our business.

We also visited the New Zealand embassy to give them a taste



Members of the 2015 Institute class visited with House Speaker Paul Ryan while in Washington, D.C. in April.

of how other countries look at our agriculture sector and how it interacts with theirs. Now that is fertilizing your mind in a short 24-hour time frame.

The next step was to help them understand how to interact all

this information to our legislative representatives in D.C. and the consumers in Wisconsin and across the country. This is a small part of the leadership Institute program.

This program is highly-regarded around the state as an elitist teaching tool for future leaders. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to offer this to its members and there will be another class graduating at the end of this year and this summer, members are asked to apply for the 2017 class.

Please think about what you can do for your organization by nurturing your leadership skills and developing them to the next level for your community.

Summer is a grand season, enjoy the long days and nurture those crops for a bountiful harvest.

## Go-Karting Fun!



YFA members from Waukesha and Jefferson counties had a blast go-karting on Saturday, March 26 at Veloce in Pewaukee.



Jefferson County YFA members posed for a photo.

## Farm Technology Days Approaching



WISCONSIN FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS 2016 will be held in Walworth County, July 19- 21. Volunteers are needed on the Field Demonstration Committee to drive tractors pulling the trams and spotters on the trams to help folks on and off of the

tram. Please contact Kathy Baumeister (kathybaumeister@gmail.com) or Russ Weis (rdweis@wi.rr.com) to volunteer. Volunteers are also needed on other committees.

Farm Technology Days provides a great opportunity to showcase the latest innovations in agriculture, so be sure to attend the show.

## Annual Meeting Date Set

The 2016 Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting date has been set for Sunday, September 25, at the Platt-deutscher in Watertown.

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

## Membership Goal Achieved!

With the help of our membership workers, we reached our goal of **40 new voting members** by March 31 to receive **kudos** \$1,000 from Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Thank you to all the great volunteers in Jefferson County for making this possible – Melissa Gross, Steve Jones, Lindsay Knoebel, Steve Knoebel, Eugene Mess, Randy Mitchell, John Morris, Dan Poulson and Roger Zimmerman.

In addition, huge congratulations to Lindsay Knoebel and Roger Zimmerman who signed more than five new members. They will receive a Farm Bureau Proud jacket at the county annual meeting in September.

## Dairy Promotion Funding Available

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. An application can be obtained by contacting Melissa Gross at mgross43@yahoo.com or 920.988.7583 or by going on the website at wfbf.com/county-farmbureaus/jefferson and clicking on the link Jefferson County Dairy Promotion Program.

## 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.



## Discussion Meet Set for August 24

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 24

**TIME:** Arrive at 6:30 p.m.,  
Discussion Meet at 7 p.m.,  
cookout afterwards

**LOCATION:** Jelli's Market (N5648 S. Farmington Road, Helenville)

**TOPIC:** 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?

Contact Jefferson County YFA chair Lindsay Knoebel (Lindsay.knoebel@gmail.com or 920.988.1428) if you are interested in participating or attending this fun event.



## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
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  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
  - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial** .....
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
  - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection** .....
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
  - Accidental Death Policy

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## St. Paul's Lutheran School Student Tops County Agriculture Essay Contest

The Ag in the Classroom program sponsors an essay contest each year for fourth and fifth grade students in Wisconsin. Jefferson County selects the top three essays and submits the winning entry to the district competition, where the district winner then advances to the state level. The 2016 topic was "Tell

us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin." Two hundred three essays were submitted in Jefferson County, the most in the eight-county District 1. This year the winning essay was from fourth-grader Alice Korth of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson. Here is her winning essay:

### Making Maple Syrup

My grandpa has made maple syrup since he was 12 years old. He used a cake pan that his dad gave him to cook down the sap. The first year he got one cup of syrup. It takes 40 cups of sap to make one cup of syrup. He cooked this over a fire outside.

First you have to find good maple trees. You drill a hole in the tree then you tap a spout with a hammer. Next you hang a two and one-half gallon bucket on the hanger and the sap starts to come out of the tree. The weather has to be sunny during the day, above freezing and at night it has to freeze.

We collect the sap every day. My grandpa taps about 40 trees. Some good trees have two taps.

Then we empty the buckets into five-gallon pails. Next we strain the sap into a milk can. On a good day we get six to seven cans of sap. Each milk can holds 40 quarts of sap.

The sugar pan is three feet by five feet and can hold a lot of sap. We make a big fire under the pan and the sap starts to cook, it steams off the water. We boil it for several hours everyday. It takes a long time to evaporate the water. One milk can evaporates down to one quart of syrup.

We cook for several days and usually get about 60 quarts. We love to taste it as it gets closer to being syrup. The air smells so good. It is our family tradition.

On the afternoon of May 5, Patti Hurtgen, Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom essay coordinator thanked the students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson for submitting essays. Alice Korth read her essay to the class and was presented with her certificate and check. Patti also had a surprise for Alice and her classmates. For writing the county's winning essay, Alice received an ice cream sundae party for her entire class. The students enjoyed ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings in celebration along with Alice's teacher, Mrs. Becky Graumann and principal Mr. Billy Hinz.



Mrs. Becky Graumann's fourth grade class at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson

Second place honors went to Beau Zubke, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Debra Ruddell's class at St. Bernard's Catholic School in Watertown. Ag in the Classroom volunteer, Daphne Holterman presented Beau with his certificate and check. The third place essay winner was Briana Moreno, who is also a student in Mrs. Ruddell's fourth grade class at St. Bernard's. She also received a certificate and cash prize.

All teachers in the county whose classes submitted essays received \$30 gift cards to Nasco, 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 Catholic School in Watertown and St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School in Fort Atkinson.

Ag in the Classroom is a Farm Bureau program. It provides many opportunities to educate youth about agriculture. Several fourth grade classes participated in the 'Fourth Grade Farm Tour' last week at Kutz Dairy in Jefferson. Throughout the spring, second grade students in the county are treated to 'A Day without Agriculture' presentation by the Ag in the Classroom volunteers.

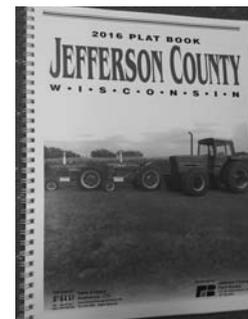
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Director, Steve Knoebel	920.988.4866
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Director, Carrie Mess	920.988.7384
Director, Eugene Mess	920.265.9871
Director, John Morris	920.262.9490
Director, Howard Poulson	262.495.2439
Director, Adam Walter	920.988.4516
Director, Roger Zimmerman	920.390.0657

Jefferson County Farm Bureau	877.432.9480
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen	920.723.5108

For more details on upcoming YFA events 'Like' Jefferson County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook, and visit the website [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson).

## 2016 Plat Books Available



Plat books have arrived. Contact Tony Schadt if you are interested in getting a NEW 2016 Jefferson County Plat Book.

The cost to Farm Bureau members is \$15, non-members is \$30.

Tony Schadt  
414.573.5382  
[schadtak@jefnet.com](mailto:schadtak@jefnet.com)

## It's Cream Puff Season!

**HELP WANTED:** In the cream puff stand at the Jefferson County Fair. The fair is from July 6-10. Shifts are four hours; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. If the shift times don't work into your schedule, we can work something out.

Please consider volunteering in the fair food stand, this is how we fund our scholarships. If interested, please call Mary Beth Mess at 920.248.1967. Thank you in advance for helping. Many hands make light work.



## District 1 Policy Development Meeting

The District 1 Policy Development meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 13**.

The social begins at 6:15 p.m., with a buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting from 7-9 p.m. It will be held at The Machine Shed (N14 W24145 Tower Place, Pewaukee, WI 53072).

*If you want more information about the policy development meeting contact Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).*

**SAVE** the **DATE**