

# Juneau County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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For information about our farm safety campaign, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Juneau County:

**Clint Baurichter (608) 847-5552**

David Meihak - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Attention County YFA Members!

The Juneau YFA committee is working with neighboring counties to organize a summer picnic and canoeing event.

This will be a great opportunity to learn more about opportunities in Farm Bureau, network

with other YFA members and have some summer fun!

For more information, contact District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or [bhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com).



Come spend the afternoon with other YFA members from the district! This is a great opportunity to network with other YFA members, learn more about Farm Bureau and enjoy the summer. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

**When:** Sunday, August 23

**Where:** Mekan River Outfitters

**Time:** Picnic - Noon-1 p.m.

W720 State Road 23

Canoeing - 1-3 p.m.

Princeton, WI 54968

**Cost:** Picnic meal is free. Cost of canoeing rental is on your own. For more information, visit [mekanriveroutfitters.com](http://mekanriveroutfitters.com).

RSVP by August 19 to District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 | [bhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com).

### Plan to Attend the District Women's Fall Summit

**When:** Saturday, October 3

**9:30-10:30 a.m.** - Culter Cranberry Farm Tour, N11569 County Road H, Necedah; 9 miles west of Necedah on Highway 21, then turn north (right) on Highway H and go 3.5 miles to the farm.

**11:30 a.m.** - Lunch at Reel Inn Restaurant, Necedah

**Cost:** \$10 per person

For more information, please contact Tonra Degner at 608.553.1256.



### Buy Some Pie at the Juneau County Fair

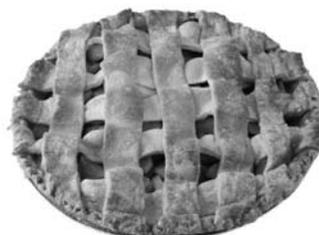
The Juneau County Fair is scheduled for **August 16-23** in Mauston.

Once again the Juneau County Farm Bureau will be selling pie in the commercial building.

Make sure to stop at our booth, visit with our members and of course enjoy some homemade pie!

Our pie sale helps fund our county Ag in the Classroom program.

Thank you in advance for your support!





# COUNTYnews

JUNEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Juneau County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners

This year 150 essays were received. Haley Osborne's essay was sent to the district competition. The other winners are as follows.

### Trophy winners:

Haley Osborne, Grayside Elementary, Mauston  
 Miranda Berghorn, Wonewoc Center  
 Paige Lowery, Necedah  
 Kayela Kent, Grayside

### Honorable Mention Winners:

Gracey Thums, Wonewoc Center  
 Emily Falkowski, New Lisbon  
 Anna Kudik, St. Pat's, Mauston

These seven students will be invited to read their essays at the Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting on September 24 at the Elroy Legion Hall in Elroy.

### Haley Osborne's essay Bees Help Our Agriculture

*I was walking down the sidewalk and I saw a bee. Someone said, "Kill it." No don't kill it! Bees are good to Wisconsin.*

*To start with, bees help to spread pollen. If we didn't have bees we wouldn't have fruits or veggies. Did you know in Wisconsin that there are more than 500 types of bees? When bees go collect pollen from flowers they help the plants grow. When bees find a big flower patch they go back to the hive and they dance to let other bees know where it is.*

*Second, bees help us make money by spreading pollen to crops, fruits, veggies and other foods. So when bees collect pollen it help us make more money.*

*Third, bees also use the honey to help them so they can stay alive longer and feed their larvae. Our agriculture is important to bees because if we don't have crops and food we could not have bees and bees help us eat healthy for they help our fruit and veggies. When we first started to grow plants and crops the bees will start coming and collecting pollen before winter, and the bee keepers will collect the honey in the hive, so we can have honey.*

*Now that I know more about bees, I know not to be afraid anymore and not to hurt them. Buzz... Buzz... Buzz.*

*Paige Lowery's and Kayela Kent's essays are on page 3*



A total of 2,853 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Frontier Servco FS and We Energies.

Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced. The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry, agriculture.

Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses.

The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

### Miranda Berghorn's essay Bees Are Important to Wisconsin Agriculture

*Bees are important to Wisconsin agriculture because they make it so many plants and animals can live. Bees pollinate many foods like onions, celery, beets and strawberries. Bees also pollinate flowers that some animals live on and they are roses, tulips, daises, camellias, forget-me-nots, apple blossoms, poppies and peach blossoms. Bees pollinate crops that humans and animals eat such as corn, green beans, tomatoes and wheat.*

*There are three different types of bees there is a drone bee, queen bee and the worker bee. They all play an important role in the hive. The drone bees are the only males in the hive and they also mate with the queen. The queen bee is the mother of most or all bees in the hive. Also, the queen bee lays the eggs that become larva so the bees don't become extinct. The worker bees gather pollen to spread out to plants in need. Worker bees nurse the larva so it can grow big and strong and live like all of their ancestors.*

*A bee and its hive need each other. I found out that bees build their hives in trees or in logs. Bees also work for about two weeks to make their hive. Bees use wax to build hives and the bees make the wax inside their bodies. Bees shape wax cells into rows of cells that make honeycomb. Guard bees protect the hive and they sting enemies that try to get into the hive to steal honey. In hot weather bees quickly fan their wings to cool down the hive. That is why bees are important to Wisconsin agriculture.*



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## District Director Report



Why are you a member of Farm Bureau? Farm Bureau means many things to different people.

This is important not only for your own success but in how you communicate with volunteer leaders and new members. Sustainability is key to any organization. Finding and keeping strategic people is an intricate part of the success of Farm Bureau.

Many people join because of our relationship with Rural Mutual Insurance or the member benefits Farm Bureau offers. But others join and find success in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program and the leadership programs Farm Bureau offers.

If you talk to members, they express the need for socialization. Many find meeting and networking with other like-minded people is important to their own leadership successes. Many

members also understand the value of Farm Bureau being a collective voice for the members.

As you know Wisconsin's largest ag organization means different things to everyone. As we work with other volunteers or approach new members it is important to realize what drives them. We also need to communicate why we are members in order to build relationships and make county Farm Bureaus thrive.

Membership is key to a growing organization. I want to thank everyone who has asked someone to join Farm Bureau. It helps in your leadership and in the continual transition of a prosperous Farm Bureau. Keep up the good work!

Have a blessed and safe growing season!

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Board Director

## Meet Your District YFA Reps: Amanda and Josh Knoch



### Why did you decide to apply to be the District 5 YFA representatives?

In June of 2014, Josh and I attended the Washington, D.C., fly-in and we saw a glimpse of the importance of Farm Bureau on the national level. This was a great experience for us as it opened our eyes to what we can do on a local and state level to help Farm Bureau succeed. This made me want to become more involved in Farm Bureau at the state level to bring the local, state and national levels closer.

### What is one of your goals as the District 5 YFA Representatives?

My goal as district representative is to work with counties to become active participants in the state competitions and to work to bring attention to the District 5 YFA program.

### What advice do you have for other YFA members who want to be more involved in Farm Bureau?

My advice for anyone interested in getting more involved is to contact your county YFA chair to learn about events, activities and opportunities that are hosted in your district or county. This will help you learn what you enjoy about Farm Bureau the most and continue to help build and improve the event, activity or opportunity.

### Anything else you want readers to know?

I look forward to working with members and I'm excited to see all of the counties and their YFA programs flourish during the coming years. If you have questions or concerns do not hesitate to call or send me an email. I look forward to working with a great district!

### Tell us about yourself including background, jobs, where you live, family and hobbies.

My name is Amanda Knoch and my husband's is Josh. We live just north of Westfield. I'm a farm insurance underwriter and my husband Josh works on our family's farm in northern Marquette County. We crop 1,300 acres and milk 300 cows. Josh and I have been married for two years and had a little farmer boy in June. Josh also is an emergency medical technician and fireman. During the summer we enjoy gardening and canning.

### How long have you been a Farm Bureau member?

Officially I have been a member of Farm Bureau for six years; however, unofficially I have been in Farm Bureau since birth because my parents were members and we were at the Farm Bureau events throughout the county.

### Why did you first join Farm Bureau?

I first joined Farm Bureau because my brother was the county president and I wanted to attend a meeting to see what it was like on the adult level instead of just being the helper for the adult members. Little did I know that I would be elected to the board that first night.

## Save the Date – County Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting at 8 p.m. on **Thursday, September 24**, at the Elroy Legion Hall in Elroy.

Make sure to watch your mailbox for the postcard with more information on the county annual meeting.

SAVE the  
DATE

## District 5 Discussion Meet Scheduled for August 24

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held at **7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 24**, at the Marquette County UW-Extension Building in Montello. The cost for the meal is **\$12**.

For more information, please contact District YFA Representative Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091.

### Discussion Meet Questions for 2015

1. How should Farm Bureau protect and encourage producers' ability to use new technology? How can Farm Bureau work with government and the public to ensure public acceptance while encouraging innovation?
2. Should we draft policy to protect livestock producers from false accusations regarding animal welfare? What could it look like?
3. How do we balance agriculture's water needs with maintaining vibrant communities? How do historical water rights influence this discussion?

4. How do we get the public to support right-to-farm laws? Should these laws be determined on the state or the federal level?

5. 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?

**The District 5 Discussion Meet question will be #5.**



## Applicants Sought for Ag Literacy Teaching Award

Do you know a teacher who does a great job teaching agriculture? If so, encourage them to complete an application for the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program's Outstanding Teacher Award.

Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) recognizes a Wisconsin teacher or a teaching team for achievements in teaching students the importance of agriculture while integrating agricultural concepts across a curriculum.

Certified teachers integrating agricultural concepts into non-agricultural curricula in the pre-K through high school levels are eligible to apply.

Certified agriculture education instructors are not eligible.

Learning activities may include understand-

ing agriculture's impact, our national heritage, the environment, national security and the economy. Innovative and interdisciplinary programs are encouraged.

The state winner(s) will receive a plaque and a \$500 towards the 2016 National AIRC Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. They will also represent Wisconsin as the nominee for the Excellence in Teaching about Agriculture Award Program presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program.

Applications are available from the Wisconsin AIRC website and are due postmarked by **October 15**.

Teachers can download the form, complete the information and return four copies to **Wisconsin Farm Bureau, PO Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705**.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

### Auto

- General Motors Discount

### Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Stroke Detection Plus

### Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Polaris
- Office Depot

### Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

### Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

### Travel

- AAA
- 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).

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### Paige Lowery's essay

#### What Would Wisconsin Agriculture Be Without Bees?

*Without bees we would not have some of the foods we eat. Bees are important insects. I read in a book that they cross pollinate many plants that humans and other animals need to live, like fruits and vegetables. Bees cross pollinate by carrying pollen around with them from flower to flower.*

*At a cranberry marsh in the summertime there will be a lot of bees around. Don't swat at them! They are hard at work doing what they need to do. They bees will be flying from blossom to blossom, carrying pollen with them and making sure that flowers are able to create more flowers like them. What does that mean? That means healthier crops for Wisconsin and that is food for Wisconsin agriculture!*



### Kayela Kent's essay

#### Bees are Important to Wisconsin Agriculture

*Bees are important to Wisconsin agriculture because they make it so many plants and animals can live. Bees pollinate many foods like onions, celery, beets and strawberries. Bees also pollinate flowers that some animals live on and they are roses, tulips, daises, camellias, forget-me-not's, apple blossoms, poppies and peach blossoms. Bees pollinate crops that humans and animals eat such as corn, green beans, tomatoes and wheat.*

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## Welcome New Farm Bureau Members

Allen's Cranberries LLC, Brian Babcock, Nathan Bell, Robert Bogard, Matthew Bourgeois, Charles Cook, William Duckwitz, Warren Garthwait, Albert Grigoriev, Daniel Helm, Bradley Ingraham, Steve Kennedy, Art Labarge, Raymond Murphy, Gregory Neve, John Reilly, Ralph Sokol, Seth Tully, John Wilke and Michelle Woggon.

# Welcome to Farm Bureau

## Farmland DVD for \$10!

Academy Award®-winning filmmaker James Moll's feature-length documentary, FARM-LAND, is available on DVD at Walmart and Walmart.com.



This film is a great tool for educating others about agriculture.

For more information, visit [www.FARMLANDfilm.com](http://www.FARMLANDfilm.com) or Facebook by searching Farmland.

## Upcoming Events

### August

16-23 Juneau County Fair – Stop at the Farm Bureau booth and enjoy some homemade pie!

23 YFA Canoeing at Mecan River

24 District 5 Discussion Meet – Montello

### September

24 Juneau County Annual Meeting – Elroy

## Juneau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Sheahan 608.415.0810  
 Vice President, Bill Robinson 608.847.4144  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Santas 608.489.3509  
 Women's Chair, Tonra Degner 608.464.3312  
 YFA Chair, Sally Turpin 608.462.3387

Director, Carl Degner 608.464.3312  
 Director, Pat Stanek 608.462.5083  
 Director, George Weber 608.462.5907

Juneau County Farm Bureau 866.666.8012  
 WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.570.0158  
 District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029  
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.630.4801

## President's Message

It's hard to believe that summer is almost half over and before we know, it will be time for the Juneau County Fair. This year the fair is August 16-23. Again the Juneau County Farm Bureau will be selling pie in the commercial building.

I encourage you to stop by, meet with our members, look at the photos from last year's activities and of course, enjoy some homemade pie.

We have a great group of volunteers that make fresh pies each day of the fair. Proceeds from the pie sale are used to operate our county Ag in the Classroom program.

As fall approaches, it's time to start thinking about county policy development. Each year the county puts together resolutions that are voted on at the county annual meeting and sent to the WFBF Policy Development committee.

If you have possible county resolutions, I encourage you to contact me. Farm Bureau is a "grassroots" organization that starts from the local level.

I also want to remember board member Rodney Knuth. As many of you know Rodney passed away in April. He was a long-time board member and was serving as the county Farm Bureau vice president. He also was involved in many other community organizations. He will be missed by many, especially his Farm Bureau family.

I wish everyone a good rest of the summer and a safe fall harvest season. As always, thank you for your Farm Bureau membership. We appreciate your support of the Juneau County Farm Bureau!

**Richard Sheahan**

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

## Juneau County Farm Bureau is on Facebook!

Juneau County Farm Bureau is now on Facebook.

Check it out and 'like' the page to stay up to date on all the events and activities of the Juneau County Farm Bureau.

