

# Juneau County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Local Students Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum



Members of the Mauston FFA chapter who attended the FFA Farm Forum were: (L-R) Daniel Walsh, Carson Laridaen and advisor Darrell Hines. The students were sponsored by the Juneau County Farm Bureau.

covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers 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.

For more information about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, visit [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com).

Mauston FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on 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, FFA members attended workshops that covered

### Juneau County Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Juneau County Farm Bureau members met with Representative Ed Brooks during Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27: (L-R) Sally Turpin, John Mitchell, Ed Brooks, Richard Sheahan, Terry Turpin and Richard Sheahan.

Members of Juneau County Farm Bureau along with nearly 400 other farmers and members of farm and commodity groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening to learn more about issues in agriculture as well as meeting with their state representatives.

### Come to the Juneau County Fair and Buy a Piece of Pie

The Juneau County Fair is August 14-21 in Mauston and the Juneau County Farm Bureau will be selling pie in the commercial building.



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

The pie sale helps fund the county Ag in the Classroom program.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the pie!





# COUNTYnews

JUNEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Juneau County Ag in the Classroom Update

By Tonra Degner, Juneau County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



Wonewoc-Center Elementary Ag in the Classroom essay winners: (L-R) Taylor Wilcox, Kyle Degner, Bryn Ertel and Ava Hinze.

Juneau County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program sponsored the fourth and fifth grade essay contest.

The theme was 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' This year Juneau County received more than 150 essays.

The winners are selected by a five person committee. Those selected to receive trophies this year were: Bryn Ertel and Kyle Degner from Wonewoc-Center and Rachel Bilski from Necedah. Bryn's essay was selected to represent Juneau County at the District 5 competition. The county also had three honorable mention award winners including Haley Robinson from St. Paul's School and Taylor Wilcox and Ave Hinze from Wonewoc-Center. All six students were invited to come and share their essays with the members at the county

annual meeting in September. They did a fine job and representing the county Ag in the Classroom program.

I made follow-up visits to each participating classroom to distribute prizes and awards. Each student who submitted an essay receives a participation award, there is an activity based on the topic and a snack served relating to the topic.

Trophies are donated by Clint Baurichter, a Rural Mutual Insurance agent. Thank you Clint for your generous support. Other prizes and snacks are paid for from the profits of the pie sales at the Juneau County Fair.

At the fair booth, the county also displays photos from the classroom visits. Make sure to attend the Juneau County Fair and stop at the Farm Bureau pie stand to support this program.

The Ag in the Classroom program sponsored by the Juneau County Farm Bureau has a goal of providing teachers and students with a greater understanding of where their food comes from. We try to provide as many resources as possible. The county has developed 13 resource tubs for elementary grades of food topics related to a variety of commodities grown in the state. We love to have teachers and students participating and using our materials.

Here is Bryn Ertel's winning essay.

### Maple Syrup Production in Wisconsin

Maple Syrup is a very tasty snack used to put on your pancakes, ice cream and you can even make maple candy out of it. Not all maple syrup is real. The best 100% maple syrup comes from sugar maple trees in late winter.

Maple syrup is produced by sugar maple trees. First, you have to tap the maple tree, but you need to make sure you tap the tree in the right place otherwise you may get little or no sap. Next, you put a tube or a spout into the tree to collect the sap from the trees. Then, you boil the sap at 7 degrees above the boiling point. Finally, you have to test the maple syrup to make sure it is not bitter or woody tasting.

Some maple syrup producers lie about the amount of real maple syrup in their products. Sometimes

people say that their maple syrup is 100% real. But is it really? Many types of maple syrup that you find on store shelves don't have any real maple syrup at all! Producers who don't have any real maple syrup in their products usually use water, brown sugar, food coloring and flavoring.

Did you know maple syrup tastes different depending on the time of the year? In spring maple syrup producers don't make maple syrup. If they were to make sample syrup in spring, the maple syrup would taste woody and bitter. The best time to make maple syrup is in the late winter and early spring before the trees bud.

Maple syrup is a little difficult to make, but it is a very interesting process. Make sure you have real maple syrup on your family table.

Read the other winning essays on page 2.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**2** District Report  
Essays

YFA Training Night  
Did You Know?

**3** Scholarships Awarded  
Upcoming Events  
Discussion Meet  
Annual Meeting Date  
Member Benefits  
Board Contacts

## District Director Report



We are moving into a very important presidential cycle.

The U.S. has major issues that need to be addressed in the coming years. An overreaching Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a vacant Supreme Court Judge seat, border security and two major trade deals.

Producing food requires natural resources. We must protect our soil, air and water qualities. The EPA is moving in a direction trying to control much more land every time it rains. Farmers have been tilling the soil and applying nutrients for hundreds of years.

During those years, farmers continue to lower their carbon footprint per pound of protein and per pound of energy produced. Timing of farming practices are critical and we must

have an EPA that will not require a permit for everything that a farmer does. There are much more realistic approaches of protecting our vital resources.

Immigration also is an important part of the U.S. history. Many of our descendants came to America looking for a better life for their family. They were hard-working people with many talents. They helped build and protect America. The next administration must protect our borders from the many threats. It also is important to build a comprehensive immigration system that works for this country.

The next President also must address the ability and the profitability of moving products around the world. Trade is a major source of income for farmers, and the U.S. has a reputation of quality and consistent products. There has been discussion of candidates wiping out trade deals when they get into office. Neglecting a current trade deal will take us out of any future negotiations.

If we also look at potential income, we must look at projected population growth. China eliminated their one-child rule. Asia has a projected population of five billion and Africa, four billion in the next 40 years. While America and Europe are considered aging markets. Another major trade deal is on the horizon. The countries involved in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents 11 percent of the global population and 38 percent of the global gross domestic product. Having global countries buy U.S. products is a major way to improve our economy.

This presidential campaign is important in many ways. The next administration could affect us many years past their office. It is critical that we vote for a candidate that is visionary and will give us the ability to guide America into the future. We have a very interesting road ahead. God bless and have a safe growing season!

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Board Director

### Essays continued

## Maple Syrup Production in Wisconsin

Kyle Degner's essay

Have you ever wanted pancakes or waffles? If you have pancakes or waffles, do you put syrup on either? What brand of syrup do you use? Do you know that most of the store bought brands only have 0-2% of actual maple syrup in them? I am going to tell you about real maple syrup made in Wisconsin.

The first step in maple syrup production is tubing and taping. In the late 1950s people started using tubing because they thought it would be easier than using a bucket. They made the tubing better every year because at first it was not taking much of the sap out of the tree. Now they are making tubes that have suction. You know a real maple tree by looking at its branches. The branches are always forked at the top. You do not want to tap a maple tree when it has bloomed in the spring, because the maple syrup will taste bitter. The maple tree has to be partially frozen for the maple syrup to be good.

Some of the equipment used in maple syrup production is an evaporator and a hydrometer. The evaporator is a machine that can take large amounts of water out of the maple sap. The hydrometer is a machine that can measure the gravity and density in the maple sap. The temperature can be anywhere from 199 degrees to 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

Wisconsin is one of the top five states in the United States for maple syrup production. Maple syrup production is still the first agricultural crop of the year. Making maple syrup is a very difficult process. It is a difficult process but it is worth it because real maple syrup made in Wisconsin tastes good on pancakes and waffles.

Rachel Bilski's essay

*Hello, I'm going to tell you how to make delicious maple syrup and what it is about! Maple syrup is used for a lot of things. Syrup is sticky that is because it is made from tree sap. Most maple syrup that you get at the grocery store is made out of corn products. That's because it is less expensive.*

*Although some people do add real syrup to their products to make it taste better. This is how you make it at home. First you have to wait until the days get warmer and the nights are colder in spring. You need some buckets with a hole in the lid, a hammer, a spile, a tube and a tool called a brace. The first think you do is find a maple tree. Then you drill a hole in the tree with your brace. After that you quickly put your spile into the tree, then put on your tube. Make sure your tube is in your bucket. I suggest before you start put your tube on the spile. Also make sure you have a lid on your bucket so animals and bugs don't get in there.*

*Now you have to boil the maple syrup to rid of the water. Maple syrup is mostly made out of water, so it looks really watery at first. When you are boiling the maple syrup check its temperature every few minutes. After you boil the maple syrup to the right temperature it is ready to each. If you over boil it, it will turn all gooey and clumpy then you start all over again. Then when the syrup is done to strain it into jars. Now it is ready for you to eat.*



As of April 25, 2014, it is no longer legal to pass farm equipment in a no passing zone. Period.

## Did You Know?

- Yes, you can drive a rubber-tracked tractor on a Wisconsin road.
- Driving farm equipment across the center of a roadway is legal.
- Road and bridge weight limits have always applied to farm equipment
- Passing farm equipment in a No Passing Zone is illegal.

For more Transportation Tidbits, visit [bit.ly/TransportationTidbit](http://bit.ly/TransportationTidbit) or follow WFBF on Facebook. **Be safe out there!**

## Farm Facts Brochure is Available Now

Did you know that agriculture contributes 413,000 jobs to Wisconsin's economy or 11.9 percent of total employment?

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2016 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure. The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and is now interactive.

To order the brochure, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) and use the resource order form.

## YFA Contest Training Night on June 16

District 5 will be conducting a YFA contest training night for the Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award on June 16 at 7 p.m. at Gooseblind in Green Lake. All are welcome to attend.

There is no cost to attend and a meal will be provided. Come and learn about the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) contests.

The WFBF YFA program is for

members between the ages of 18 and 35 and offers opportunities for leadership and skills development, along with meeting and networking with peers.

YFA members are eligible for the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and the Excellence in Agriculture Award. The winners of these contests at the state level will compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona on January 8-11, 2017.

## We Want You! Apply by July 1

### Excellence in Agriculture



The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

### Achievement Award



The Achievement Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

The YFA Program is funded by Farm Bureau for Farming's Future (YFA Foundation)

Get your application here: [bit.ly/WIYFAContests](http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests)  
For more information, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or [bhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com).

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Life Line (NEW)
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - Caterpillar
  - 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).

## Juneau County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships



Allyson Stanek received the \$250 Rodney Knuth Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Melissa Stanek and Pat Stanek of Elroy and a 2016 graduate of Royall High School.

Allyson will attend UW-Stevens Point to pursue a career in optometry.



Bailey Miller was awarded the \$250 Juneau County Farm Bureau Scholarship. He is the son of Mitch and Shannon Miller of Wonewoc and a 2016 graduate of Wonewoc-Center High School.

Bailey will attend Carthage College in Kenosha to pursue a career as either an accountant or financial advisor.

Congratulations Allyson and Bailey!

## 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.



## Register Now for the Wisconsin Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on September 12 at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

The event supports the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to expand agricultural leadership, 4-H and FFA program, agricultural literacy efforts, and other education, youth and leadership programs.

Registration includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, gift bag, food and beverages, golf contests, mulligan sales and door prizes.

For more information, visit [wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open](http://wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open).



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 District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029  
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.630.4801

## Save the Date: Annual Meeting

The Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held September 22 at the Elroy Legion Hall at 8 p.m. Watch your next newsletter for more details.

## Juneau Farm Bureau is on Facebook!

The Juneau County Farm Bureau is 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



## Plan to Attend the District 5 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, August 29**, at Christianos Pizza in Green Lake. The cost for the meal is \$12.

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

### WFBF YFA Discussion Meet Questions and Topics

**Please Note:** All 2016 District Discussion Meet contests will use and discuss Topic Question #5.

1. American agriculture depends on a foreign-born labor force. How would you draft a national immigration policy?
2. How can we ensure that farmers and ranchers, not government agencies, are driving the management of natural resources?
3. How can we as farmers and ranchers maintain 'ownership' of our intellectual and proprietary information? (Big data, unmanned aerial vehicles, unauthorized videos.)
4. The nation's tax policy has become increasingly complicated and cumbersome. What should a balanced and beneficial tax policy look like for agriculture?
5. **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?**

## Upcoming Events

Month	Date	Event
June	16	District YFA Contest Training Night Gooseblind, Green Lake
August	14-21	Juneau County Fair - Mauston
	29	District 5 Discussion Meet Christianos Pizza, Green Lake
September	22	Juneau County Annual Meeting 8 p.m., Elroy Legion Hall