

Kenosha County Farm Bureau

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Barb Wenzel (262) 843-4400	Nathan Leonardelli (262) 654-0427

Linda Schopen- District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Wisconsin Ag Open Golf Outing



Farm Bureau members Sam Skemp, Brian Koenig, Tom Hebert and Dave Daniels participated in the Wisconsin Ag Open on September 8.

Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Below is a tentative schedule:

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| • 11 a.m. | Registration |
| • 11:30 a.m. | Opening Program |
| • 11:45 a.m. | Lunch |
| • 12:45 p.m. | Legislative Briefing |
| • 3 p.m. | Capitol Visits |

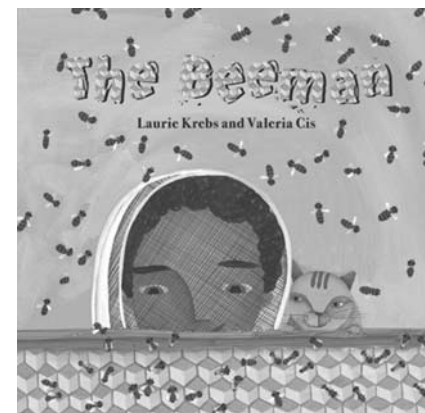
Individual registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 after March 5.

RSVP to Patti Roden if you are interested in attending (262.689.1838 or proden@wfbf.com).



The Beeman to Buzz into Schools

Told from the viewpoint of a child whose Grandpa is a beekeeper, this rhyming text offers an accessible and engaging introduction



to the behavior of bees. Children will learn where they live, how honey is made, what a beekeeper does and more. The 2015 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is “The Beeman” by Laurie Krebs.

“Why are bees important to Wisconsin Agriculture?” is the topic of the essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom program.

Essay submissions must be between 100 to 300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans, county contest coordinators and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1 to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator.



NOVEMBER 2014

COUNTYnews

KENOSHA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Successful Annual Meeting Held at Birchwood Grill

Twenty-seven guests were in attendance at the Kenosha County Farm Bureau annual meeting at the Birchwood Grill on September 23.

Each year the Kenosha County Farm Bureau board of directors and the delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting are selected. The voting members also approved policies.

Kevin Muhlenbeck was elected as a director; Connie Meier was elected as Women's chair and Tara Daniels as YFA chair. If you're interested in being more involved with the Kenosha County Farm Bureau, please contact any of the board members.



The 2014 Kenosha County Farm Bureau board: (back L-R) Tara Daniels, Daniel Kevek, Wilfred Meier, Kevin Muhlenbeck, (front L-R) Connie Meier, Steve Robers and (not pictured) Scott Thompson.

Muhlenbeck and Betty Muhlenbeck.

The Policy Development committee brought forward the resolutions, which recognizes Kenosha County's position on national, state and local issues. All the resolutions passed the voting membership and will be forwarded onto the WFBF Policy Development Committee for consideration.

Following the Kenosha County Farm Bureau annual meeting, the board elected officers. Congratulate the officers next time you see them:

- Kevin Muhlenbeck, President
- Steve Robers, Vice President
- Daniel Kevek, Secretary/Treasurer

Delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting, December 6-8 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells, include Wilfred Meier, Kevin

Thank you to all the members who attended this year's annual meeting! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



There was a great crowd at the Kenosha County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Rural Mutual Insurance CEO Peter Pelizza spoke about the success of Rural Mutual.

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2014 Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipient

The recipient of the 2014 Kenosha County Farm Bureau scholarship was recently selected. This year's recipient is Madison Fenske.

Madison Fenske, daughter of Michael and Mary Fenske, is a 2014 graduate of Westosha Central High School. Besides being very active in high school with the varsity girls' golf team, association of business students, geography club and Mu Alpha Feta, she was active in her 4-H club where she has been vice president, secretary and historian. She was also a member of National Honor Society at Westosha Central High School.

Madison is attending the University of Wisconsin-Parkside studying communication, with an emphasis in public relation. Her future goal is to have her own talk show on the FM106.1 radio station because she enjoys talking and listening to others.

We congratulate Madison and wish her the best in her continued education.

Congratulations Madison!



Policy Approved at Annual Meeting

Kenosha County Farm Bureau voting members were presented each of the following policies at the annual meeting. Each of these policy measures will be passed on to the national, state or local level for consideration.

LOCAL

1. Whereas current statute states a governmental body shall post public notice of a meeting or hearing in a newspaper and post a copy of such notice in a town or village hall. And whereas many landowners are not notified when issues are publicly discussed concerning their property.

Be it therefore resolved that when governmental bodies are deciding zoning, changes in zoning, special assessments or other actions affecting the value of private property, that the landowners of this property and adjoining neighbors, be notified in writing prior to the scheduled date of these meetings or hearings.

2. We support a shared UW Extension Agricultural Agent between Kenosha and Racine Counties. That individual would have attributes that will be well used in the surrounding counties as well.

STATE

1. Whereas the State legislature has addressed the issues of property tax reform on Farmland and its assessed value mechanism.

Be it therefore resolved that Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation stay watchful on these issues ensuring that significant alterations from the original intent do not occur.

2. Be it resolved that WFBF support the education of our young drivers as to the recognition of and reaction to agricultural signage for the safety of all drivers, whether that class is sponsored by a school, state program or private driving school. And be it resolved that all driver's education programs be monitored by the Department of Transportation, and kept to the same standards.

3. We support state legislation to ban the use of cell phones while driving, unless using a hands-free device.

4. We support a nutrient management planning that has a two tiered plan for smaller and larger acres to be compliant with the farmland preservation program.

5. We propose that when engineering a road the state and local level of governments should install culverts to assist in transporting manure to reduce traffic on roads.

6. We support the ability for immigrant workers to obtain a valid drivers license providing they meet the criteria of the current state driving requirements.

NATIONAL

1. Whereas there is a continuing tendency to overspend in the national budget, thereby increasing the nation debt.

Be it resolved that Farm Bureau continue our support for a balanced budget.

2. Whereas Ag. Trade is an important part of U.S. trade internationally and currently the U.S. has a large foreign trade deficit.

Be it resolved that AFBF continue the drive to reduce this deficit by marketing more of our agricultural products abroad, support U.S. trade delegations and support free trade of America's wherever possible, however recognizing some products are more sensitive than others.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Contest Results

Discussion Meet

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Each Wisconsin Farm Bureau district holds their own Discussion Meet. The District 1 YFA Discussion Meet was held on August 19 at Williams Farm in Waukesha County. Those present toured Williams' Farm and enjoyed watching the discussion meet and a delicious cook out.

Thank you to Lindsay Knoebel for being the time keeper for the evening. There were five participants, and three were chosen to compete at the YFA Conference on December 5-7. Those who competed in the contest were Becky Assmann (Ozaukee County), Ryan Brueggemann (Waukesha County), Amanda Carlson (Waukesha County), Garrett Goeller (Washington County) and Emily Watson (Walworth County). The three finalists were Ryan Brueggemann, Amanda Carlson and Emily Watson. Good luck Discussion Meet finalists!

Achievement Award

The Achievement Award evaluates 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 top four applicants have been chosen, and Mark Mayer from Ozaukee County and District 1 has been named a finalist.



Amanda Carlson, Waukesha County

Amanda Carlson grew up on a registered Holstein dairy farm in south eastern Minnesota. After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in agricultural marketing communications, she worked full-time on her family's farm before interning with Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. Earlier this year, Amanda moved to Hartland to work as an account manager for Charleston | Orwig, an agricultural marketing agency. To keep her boots in the dairy industry she milks a few nights a week at a neighboring farm and enjoys contributing to her blog with "cow talk".



Emily Watson, Walworth County

Emily Watson lives in Elkhorn. She was an active 4-H member and showed Brown Swiss cattle growing up. After joining her FFA chapter in high school she dedicated herself to the program and its events. From 2012-2013 she was a Wisconsin FFA Officer. In September she was selected as the 2015 Walworth County Fair, Fairest of the Fair. She plans to continue her education and pursue a degree in agricultural education and communication, to become an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor.



Ryan Brueggemann, Waukesha County

Ryan Brueggemann farms in partnership with his brother Glenn, on a rented farm. They have 100 cows and farm 500 acres. Ryan is a graduate of UW-Madison's Farm & Industry Short Course and is a current member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Leadership Institute. In his free time Ryan enjoys snowmobiling and motorcycling.



Mark Mayer lives in Fredonia. After purchasing his first dairy cattle and utilizing rental facilities, Mark purchased his current farm in 2006. He farms 550 acres. He attended Lakeshore Technical College for dairy herd management. Mark is the vice president for Ozaukee County's YFA committee and also serves on the policy development board and board of directors. Mark likes to spend time with his family, including his 12 nieces and nephews. He also serves on his local fire department.

If you see any of these finalists wish them good luck as they compete at the YFA Conference on December 5-7.

**Good Luck
Amanda, Emily,
Ryan and Mark!**

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 (NEW)
- 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.

Kenosha County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Kevin Muhlenbeck	262.859.1824
Vice President, Stephen Robers	262.539.3199
Secretary/Treasurer, Daniel Kevek	262.308.6058
Women's Chair, Connie Meier	262.857.7202
YFA Chair, Tara Daniels	262.770.2335
Director, Wilfred Meier	262.857.7202
Director, Scott Thompson	262.237.4777

Kenosha County Farm Bureau	877.432.9489
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen	262.522.8620

From the Desk of Dave Daniels...



Hello all Farm Bureau members,

The county annual meetings are in the books and we move into the policy process that will be voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting has grown in the past few years as we have tied it with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference. We are even bursting the

seams of the Kalahari. It's good to have extra members networking and shaping policy for the future.

In January, a contingent of us will attend the American Farm Bureau Convention in San Diego and further agricultural policy. We have always had a good number of members from District 1 attend and further educate themselves on national policies and challenges. Take time to see if this would be something that would interest you and contact either myself or Patti Roden on availability for this event.

Hope your harvest goes well and uneventful.

Dave Daniels
WFBF District 1 Board Director

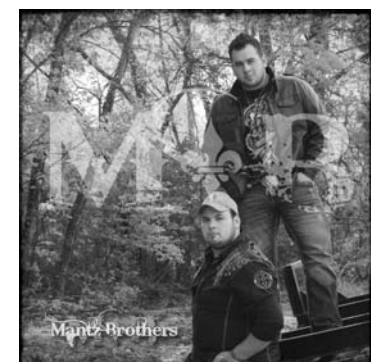
8th Annual YFA Spring Fling

Date: Saturday,
April 11

Location: Circle
B, Cedarburg

Band: The Mantz
Brothers.

Watch the next newsletter for more information.



Save the Date – Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit



The 2015 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held **March 13-14** at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Visit www.wiagwomenssummit.com for more information and to register.

Kenosha County Agriculture – A Snapshot



Kenosha County is a diverse county featuring a variety of livestock enterprises including horses, dairy, beef, swine and more. The nursery and greenhouse industry is very important to the county, meeting the needs of the urban and rural areas with bedding plants, flowers, trees, sod etc. Grains take up the majority of the acreages in the county. The look of agriculture continues to change as the county is home to many small scale farming operations which includes poultry, sheep, goats, vegetables and much more. The number of horses and boarding operations in the county continues to increase as well.

On the farm.

- 359 farms in 2012; 460 farms in 2007
- 575 farm operators on these farms. Of these, 188 are women.
- 152 are full-time farmers.
- Of all farmers, 221 work 200 or more days a year off the farm.
- 96.4% of farms are owned by individuals or some form of family ownership.

- The average age of a Kenosha County farmer is 55.7.
- 120 farms hire employees. There are 793 hired farm workers. This generates a payroll of \$8,032,000 annually.

Size matters.

- Farmers own and manage resources on 44% of all land in the county – 76,632 acres in 2012. They farmed 84,345 acres in 2007.
- 213 acres is the average farm size, up from 183 acres in 2007.
- 185 farms were less than 50 acres in size; 40 farms were 500 acres or more.

Diversity of agriculture.

- 91 farms with 11,389 cattle and calves
- 31 dairy farms in 2012; 34 farms in 2007
- Dairy cow numbers were 3,441 in 2012, compared to 3,279 in 2007.
- 27,622 acres of corn for grain
- 20,798 acres of soybeans
- 5,879 acres of forages
- 5,301 acres of wheat
- 2,876 acres of corn for silage
- 16 farms produce vegetables on 1,030 acres

Agriculture is changing.

- 273 farm operations have internet access. Of these, 261 have high speed internet.

- 51 Kenosha County farms generate \$986,000 in local food sales to consumers in 2012. This compares with 76 farms and \$1,397,000 in 2007.

Tradition is important.

- Grains retain their position as the county's number one farm commodity. The total value in business sales annually is \$35.2 million.



- Milk, nursery and greenhouse, vegetables, and horses round out the top five commodities after grains.

Agriculture is an economic force.

- Agriculture generates a total of \$811 million in economic activity – 9% of total economic activity in the county.
- Agriculture accounts for \$180.5 million – 4.0% of the county's total income.

- Agriculture pays taxes. It generates \$13.2 million in local and state taxes. This does NOT include all property taxes paid to local schools.
- Agriculture provides 2,508 jobs – 3.6% of the county's workforce. On-farm production accounts for 1,672 jobs and agricultural processing accounts for 1,533 jobs.

Farmers are stewards of the land.

- As stewards of the land, farmers use conservation practices, such as crop rotation, nutrient management and integrated pest management, to protect environmental resources and provide habitat for wildlife.



Prepared by: Ken Barnett, Extension Educator

July 29, 2014

Sources:

<http://www.uwex.edu/ces/ag/wisag/document/agimpactbrochKenoshaCoFINAL.pdf>

2012 Census of Agriculture, USDA and Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.

Pop Tabs Wanted



RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES

Keep saving your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured children. Since their doors opened in 1984, more than 35,000 families have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee while their child received critical medical care. In 2013 alone, they served nearly 1,000 families. They have been at full occupancy with their 38 guest rooms—often with a wait list of anywhere from five to 20 families each day.

At the district 1 Ronald McDonald House event on May 3, 78.85 pounds of pop tabs were collected. Each district is having a competition that goes through December, so keep saving your pop tabs.

Since 2000, little aluminum tabs on the tops of soda cans have meant more than \$210,000 to the Ronald McDonald House. Revenue from recycling these little bits of aluminum helps provide a home away from home for families whose seriously ill children are undergoing treatment in the Milwaukee area.



Pop Tab Revenue History for the Ronald McDonald House:

- 2013 - \$29,250
- 2012 - \$26,200
- 2011 - \$24,506
- 2010 - \$26,171
- 2009 - \$14,845

Let's help make a difference and save your pop tabs! Any pop tabs that you have can be given to any member of the Kenosha County Farm Bureau board.