



## Langlade County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

# March 4-5

Madison Marriott West, Middleton

Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

### Agenda Highlights

#### Friday, March 4

9-10 a.m. Registration  
10-10:30 a.m. AgVocate of the Year Award Presentation  
10:30-11:30 a.m. Keynote Panel: Women In Ag: Understanding  
Where We've Been and Where We're Heading;  
Moderator: Amy Pflugshaupt, Anchor and  
Reporter, NBC 15 Madison  
1-4:30 Breakout Sessions  
7:30-10 p.m. Casino Night

#### Saturday, March 5

6:30-7:30 a.m. Workout: Water aerobics or boxing and cardio  
8:30-9 a.m. Meet the 2016 AgVocate of the Year  
9-10 a.m. Breakout Sessions  
10:15-11 a.m. Brunch  
11 a.m. Closing Keynote by Jerry Apps: The Importance of  
Writing Your Own Story  
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Register by **February 3**: \$125; after February 3: \$150; one-day only registration: \$110; final registration by **February 26**. For more information, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com).

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Mary Fronek (right) talked to the group  
about her ideas at the FS/Growmark Young  
Farmer Program Focus Group.

### Farmland DVD Library Donation

By Darlene Eckerman



The recently released DVD *Farmland* was donated to Antigo Public Library director Cynthia Taylor by Christy Sveda-Schreiber and her daughters Cadence and Gwyneth, and Darlene Eckerman, representing Langlade County Farm Bureau.

This DVD is produced by the Academy award winning director, James Moll and tells the story of six different farms and ranches across the U.S.

DVDs also will be donated to the local school libraries, compliments of Langlade County Farm Bureau in support of agriculture.



JANUARY 2016

# COUNTYnews

LANGLADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Langlade County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

By Tom Houdek



President Tom Houdek conducted the annual meeting.

The Langlade County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on October 21 at the Antigo Town Hall with 47 members and guests.

Katelin Haglund, District 7 WFBF Women's Committee representative, discussed the WFBF bylaw change to change the name of the WFBF Women's Committee to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. Marie Graupner from the Langlade County Land Conservation

Department gave updates on local issues and programs. Krista Otto, Langlade County UW Extension 4-H and Youth Agent and Masha Anderson, 4-H ag ambassador talked about county programs. Samantha Schuessler from the Antigo FFA Chapter talked about the new Food for America on the Farm program that was in April on the Maly Farm. Langlade County Farm Bureau co-sponsored the event with the FFA and other organizations.



Krista Otto, Langlade County UW Extension 4-H and Youth Agent and 4-H Ag Ambassador Masha Anderson highlighted county programs.

Elections were held. Winning three-year terms were Dick Bolen and Darlene Eckerman. Elected as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting were Dick Bolen, Mary Fronck and Tom Houdek with Jake Bula as alternate.

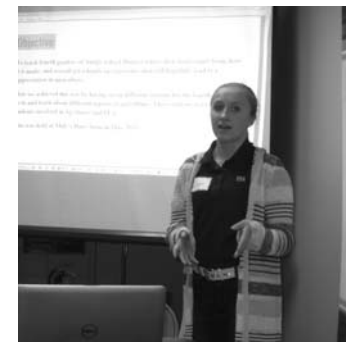
Darlene Eckerman led the policy development session. The following resolutions passed and were sent on to the

delegates body:

1. Whereas the technology involving unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) is moving at breakneck speed we support guidelines for their use and penalties for their abuse. Some guidelines would be as follows:

- UAVs can be flown only on one's own property unless they have permission from another property owner.
  - Property lines shall extend vertically to the maximum height allowed, which is 600 feet.
  - Failure to obtain permission for a flyover will be subject to fines beginning at \$2,000 or confinement with repeated offenses.
  - Businesses such as agriculture, forestry and road construction are not exempt.
  - Law enforcement must have legal precedent to fly UAVs over private property.
  - All UAVs should be required to have GPS locators in them.
2. The FAA should approve commercial contracts for use of UAVs.
  3. We support raising the state gas tax.
  4. We support raising registration fees with the money collected to be returned to the towns for road maintenance.
  5. Repairing damage to town or county roads should be the responsibility of the entity that caused the damage.
  6. Amend WFBF policy page 13, line 23 to read: We support requiring reasonable amounts of secondary containment for bulk fertilizer and pesticides stored on the farm.
  7. County resolution: WFBF bylaws should change the name of the WFBF Women's Committee to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.
  8. We support adding an opt-out clause to NRCS programs, without penalty, if there are material changes to the program during the duration of the program.
  9. We support third-party audits assuring responsible practices for animal husbandry and food handling.
  10. We support the concept of farmer-led water quality efforts.

Our next annual meeting is planned for October 19. Please join us.



Samantha Schuessler from the Antigo FFA chapter talked about the Food for America on the Farm program.

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## WFBF YFA Conference Highlights

By Mary Fronck



Mary Fronck participated in the District 7 YFA ice breaker.

The YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells had something for everyone. Attendees were excited and the atmosphere made a person feel like a part of the large organization that Farm Bureau is.

Friday night started with district meetings followed by the band, Rockstar Rodeo and an epic cornhole (bean bag toss) tournament.

On Sunday, I watched the discussion meets, which were amazing, "those YFA members really knew their stuff."

The YFA brunch was a highlight with keynote speakers, The Peterson Brothers. They had everyone laughing and motivated to promote agriculture. Many attended The Peterson Brothers breakout session to learn behind the scenes knowledge.

The YFA Conference wasn't all work, there was plenty of time to make connections with other YFA members.

Thank you to Rural Mutual Insurance and the Langlade County Farm Bureau for my sponsorship.

## President's Message

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation held its 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on December 5-7 in Wisconsin Dells. Langlade County's delegates were Dick Bolen, Mary Fronek and myself. Mary also attended the YFA Conference, which started a day earlier. She was sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance.

Saturday evening a trivia contest was held to raise funds for the Foundation, which supports agricultural education and young leader development. The Langlade County team put forth excellent effort; however, even with much preparation by Mary, we did not get first place (or second, third, fourth or fifth or . . .).

Sunday morning, the keynote speaker Lowell Catlett spoke of comparisons between 1970 and the present, and the opportunities presenting themselves that agricultural producers could take advantage of. It was informative and entertaining.

During the afternoon there were workshops including one on transition planning and a showing of the *Farmland*. On Sunday evening, the Leopold Conservation Award was presented to David and Leslie Meuer owners of Meuer Farm.

Monday morning, WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance held the business meetings. Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Recognizing the need to increase funds to provide adequate roads and bridges in rural Wisconsin, delegates voted to consider a combination of gasoline taxes, vehicles registration fees, farm

truck registration fees and environmental fees, as well as the establishment of local sales taxes, tolling and new vehicle taxes. Delegates supported the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes.

Other resolutions were passed supporting the use and regulations of drones and supporting Wisconsin DATCP procedures for testing and licensing pesticide applicators. Opposing towns and counties are imposing stricter requirements for nutrient management than state standards.

Delegates approved a bylaw change to replace the state Women's Committee with a Promotion and Education Committee. Rosalie Geiger was elected the chair. Jim Holte of Dunn County was reelected President of WFBF. Richard Gorder of Mineral Point was elected Vice President.

It was very interesting and informative interacting with farmers throughout Wisconsin.

### Tom Houdek

Langlade County Farm Bureau President



The Langlade County Farm Bureau Trivia Contest team (aka the Langlade Luminaries) concentrated on the questions. Team members were: (L-R) Dick Bolen, Judy Bolen, Janice Houdek, Tom Houdek, Mary Fronek and Marie Fronek.

## District 7 Board Report



Happy New Year! Hope the weather has improved by the time you are reading this.

I hope you had the opportunity to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting. I think it was one of the best we have ever had. If you were unable to attend, Mike Austin, who

has covered ag news and events in TV and radio for more than 30 years in our broadcasting area received the 'Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture Award.' He gave an interesting and humorous acceptance speech.

Senator Ron Johnson also attended our Annual Meeting. He gave a very interesting speech. He spoke of finding common ground and a need to work across party lines.

There are several important events coming up. The Council of Presidents is January 26 and 27. It is an important opportunity to express your viewpoints and concerns. The next important event is Ag Day at the Capitol. We need good attendance to keep our legislators informed of the ag issues and our concerns. The Wisconsin Ag Woman's Summit will be coming next. Ladies, try to attend this informative and fun event.

Following our strategic plan, the WFBF Board of Directors is working with other organizations to form alliances where we have common ground and concerns. We have found that we have many similarities in our discussions. When organizations work together, we have a much greater impact.

### Wayne Staidl

District 7 State Board Representative

## Badger Blankets Collection By Darlene Eckerman

UW Madison Badger Blankets is officially up and running. The newest club, sanctioned December 1, 2015, Badger Blankets was started by Langlade County native Chris Eckerman and colleagues from food science and theater majors. Collecting warm blankets and tying blankets the club distributed their first donations to the homeless in Madison and the YMCA prior to semester break.

Badger Blankets will take donations of blankets and fleece so that they can make tie blankets. 4-H clubs and other organizations are encouraged to make the fleece tie blankets for distribution. Collection boxes are at Insight FS on North Clermont, Schulz Heating

& Cooling on Highway 64 and 45 and D. Eckerman Tax Services on South Rollwood Road in Antigo.

For more information, contact Chris Eckerman at 725.610.5454. Langlade County Farm Bureau challenges all to donate and support humanitarian efforts.



Badger Blankets is accepting donations of new or used blankets.

## Ag in the Classroom Makes Plans for 2016 By Jolynne Schroeffer

Students in the Antigo School District will be a part of the Food for America program this spring. Students will be involved in learning about agriculture in Langlade County and planning educational programs. Antigo FFA members will spearhead this program.

In the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, the farm population started to decrease and school books and educational materials did not focus on agricultural. Educators focused on agriculture as an occupational specialty, rather than an integral part of every student's life. Agriculture education was offered to students wanting a career in agriculture.

In 1981, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) invited representatives of agricultural groups and educators came to a meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss agricultural literacy. A national

task force was selected. Representation came from agriculture, business, education and governmental agencies, some of whom were already conducting educational programs in agriculture.

The strength of Agriculture in the Classroom comes from its grassroots organization and that educators are a part of the movement. Strides have been made since 1981. Agriculture in the Classroom is regarded as a refreshing and flexible educational program designed to supplement and enhance the teacher's existing curriculum.

Our grassroots organization in Langlade County has been supported by the Langlade County Farm Bureau, Insight FS, Langlade County Dairy Promotion Committee and the Antigo FFA.

For more information, please contact Jack Schuessler at 715.627.4355.

## Women's Committee Report By Bev Brecklin

During the WFBF Annual Meeting it was decided to change the WFBF Women's Committee to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. Promotion and education have been a part of what Farm Bureau women have done for years. Because it was gender focused, there was a need for a name and identity change.

During the Langlade County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **October 19**, a vote will be taken to make this by-law change at the

Langlade County Farm Bureau level as well.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be on **March 4-5** at the Madison Marriott Hotel in Middleton. Early-bird registrations are due on **February 3**. Final registrations are due on **February 26**.

As we begin this election year, let's hope for the best. Good health, happiness and prosperity to all in 2016! Until next time.

## District 7's Christa Hoffman Wins WFBF Discussion Meet



WFBF President Jim Holte presented Christa Hoffman with a Stihl chain saw and other prizes for winning the YFA Discussion Meet.

on their ability to express ideas and opinions and to reach a solution on agricultural issues.

Congratulations to Christa Hoffman, a Shawano County Farm Bureau and YFA member, for winning the YFA Discussion Meet at the WFBF Annual Meeting held in Wisconsin Dells in December.

The Discussion Meet consists of a discussion panel where YFA members are judged

Hoffman received a chainsaw from Midwest Stihl and a financial plan provided by Rural Mutual Insurance.

Hoffman represented Wisconsin and competed in the national Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Orlando, FL.

When asked what she is looking forward to Hoffman said, "I'm looking forward to meeting other young farmers and ranchers from across the U.S. and seeing their perspectives of agriculture."

Hoffman also qualifies for the YFA trip to Washington, D.C., to be a guest at the YFA Conference and a special guest at Growmark, Inc., annual meeting in Chicago.

**Congratulations Christa on a job well done!**

## Promotion and Education Committee Report By Katelin Haglund



As we start 2016, we have a new committee at the state level. In December, during the WFBF Annual Meeting the delegates approved a change to the bylaws to change the state Women's Committee to the Promotion and Education Committee.

The members of the Promotion and Education Committee will meet and discuss the new structure for the committee. We are looking forward to this opportunity.

The change of the committee occurred after a task force was created in 2014 after concerns about the future of the Women's

Committee were expressed at strategic listening sessions. The task force recommended the change to the board and the board accepted the change in 2015.

The new Promotion and Education Committee will be open to women and men. While Wisconsin loses the opportunity to have a representative run for the AFBF Women's Committee, we hope to have a representative on the AFBF Promotion and Education Committee.

This bylaw change was only at the state level, counties are not required to follow the state committee structure.

For more information, please contact me at 715.210.5384 or [katelinhaglund@gmail.com](mailto:katelinhaglund@gmail.com).

## Policy Development Committee Report By Jon Bauer

Last winter, District 7 Director Wayne Staidl asked if I would serve on the state Policy Development Committee. Being a past delegate and working on county resolutions, I knew the process, so I agreed.

In the spring, the committee met to discuss background issues. In November, after the county meetings were complete and all the resolutions were compiled, we met to discuss more than 500 resolutions. Many were on the same issues but had different wordings. I was impressed how the committee members went through them to come up with resolutions that were relevant. This is a two-year term so I look forward to doing it again next year.

WFBF Vice President Dick Gorder chairs the committee and with help from WFBF staff, does a great job informing us about issues and compiling the input we provide.



The WFBF Policy Development Committee addressed the resolutions before the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

## FS/Growmark Focus Group By Mary Fronek

During the YFA Conference, a group of YFA members met with an FS/Growmark employee, Karen Jones, to help further the development of their new young farmer program.

As a young and diverse group with various levels of agriculture development, we provided insight into what a young farmer program should consist of.

Topics of interest were public speaking, employee management, marketing and transitioning among generations. As young farmers, we were in favor of using new technology, texting and social media. Using these options, information is passed from individuals and groups faster.

The focus group also agreed that hands-on experiences and different aspects of agriculture than what they do were the most interesting to learn and easiest to remember.



Mary Fronek (right) talked to the group about her ideas at the FS/Growmark Young Farmer Program Focus Group.

## Langlade County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Tom Houdek	715.627.2156
Vice President, Robert Fronek	715.623.2416
Secretary/Treasurer, Christy Sveda-Schreiber	715.623.7097
Women's Chair, Beverly Brecklin	715.623.4153
YFA Chair, Mary Fronek	715.623.2416
Director, Richard Bolen	715.623.6974
Director, Jake Bula	715.623.6779
Director, Darlene Eckerman	715.623.2520
Director, James Jansen	715.623.6261
Director, Jolynne Schroeppfer	715.219.1501
WFBF Board Director, Wayne Staidl	715.582.3671
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

## District 7 YFA Report By Brian Preder



Hello District 7 YFA members! I'm Brian Preder from Waupaca County and I represent District 7 on the state YFA Committee.

Raised in the dairy industry, I share the same passion for agriculture as all of you and as a YFA member, I can't be more excited and inspired to see young industry leaders' passion for agriculture.

In December, this passion was observed during the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. We had an outstanding attendance of more than 500 YFA members! This year, members heard The Peterson Brothers' story about their ag advocacy through YouTube music video parodies.

Members also developed their leadership skills through the YFA contests: Achievement Award, Excellence in Ag and Discussion Meet.

Congratulations to Christa Hoffman from Shawano County on winning the Discussion Meet. She represented Wisconsin Farm Bureau at the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in sunny Orlando, Florida. Good job Christa!

Please watch for upcoming District YFA events. If there are specific events that you want suggest, please contact me. Also if you want help with county YFA events, please contact me.

Finally, thank you to Kristi and Brian Fiedler for their commitment and dedication representing District 7 on the state YFA Committee during the past three years. I can't wait to see where being Farm Bureau Proud leads!

## Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz

**What one word includes 26 letters in it?**  
Alphabet.

**Why is an empty coin purse always the same?**  
Because there's no change in it.

**Farmer's son:** Dad, I'm having trouble with the tractor. I think there's water in the fuel.  
**Farmer:** Ok, let's go check it out. Where is it?  
**Farmer's son:** In the pond.

