



Marathon County Farm Bureau

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Insurance Company
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RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN MARATHON COUNTY

Shayne Courneya (715) 842-0886	Rudy Mikulich (715) 842-0886	Dave Meihak, <i>District Manager</i> (715) 544-6824
Jennifer Howen (715) 384-2826	Brad Kreklau (715) 384-2826	
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

From the Desk of Randy Wokatsch, County Policy Chair



Some of you may have seen a pre-game Super bowl ad on Facebook that was created by Humane Watch, a division of the Center for Consumer Freedom.

This ad's goal was to expose the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) as the disreputable organization it is. Two of the ultimate goals of HSUS are to end all animal agriculture and hunting.

I encourage those of you who haven't seen the ad to check it out. Google 'Humane Watch Super bowl ad' and you can find a site to view it.

Tell your friends, relatives and neighbors about it. And if you think it's as well-done as I do, encourage the leaders of farm and hunting organizations to financially support Humane Watch. Together we can make a difference.

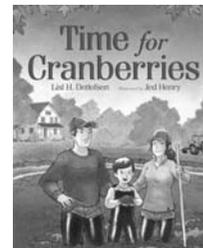
Secondly, please help the dairy industry by supporting the Dairy Pride legislation. Senator Tammy Baldwin authored Senate Bill S130 and Representative Sean Duffy co-authored companion House Bill HR778.

These bills direct the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enforce the definition of dairy, which is dairy products are produced by mammals.

If you support their efforts, mention the bills by number and please contact Senator Tammy Baldwin at 800.247.5645 and Representative Sean Duffy at 855.585.4251.



2017 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



This year's essay contest topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

The 2017 book of the year is "Time for Cranberries" by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen.

The book and essay topic allow us to educate students about the production of cranberries in the nation's number one producing state: Wisconsin.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Contest Rules

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be

computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper. The essay must be between 100- to 300-words in length (using common MS Word 'word count' methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).

- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parent's name, teacher's name, email, school name and address, school phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entry deadline: Postmarked by **April 1**, and sent to: Marathon County Ag in the Classroom, 1355 Whippoorwill Road, Marathon, WI 54448-9799.





COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Highlights



Marathon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting representatives included: Ryan and Lindsey Prah, Achievement Award contest; Mark Zimmerman (Ruth Blado), James and Joanna Juedes, Randy (Kerry) Wokatsch, Don (Jilayne) Radtke and Beth (Matt) Schaefer were recognized for outstanding membership work and acceptance in the Farm Bureau Proud Club; Josh Huber (Emma Hesper), Discussion Meet; Amber (Will) Cordes, past service on the Promotion and Education Committee; and delegates were: William (Rita) Mueller and Joe (Ami) Kaiser, Mark Zimmerman, Randy Wokatsch, Ryan Prah, James Juedes and Amber Cordes.

On December 2-4, more than 500 YFA members from across the state attended the YFA Conference. This annual conference held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting was another huge success.

YFA members were able to take part in breakout sessions covering everything from the social media, financial planning and the opportunities available through Farm Bureau.

YFA members were also able to compete in state-wide contests such as Excellence in Agriculture, Achievement Award and Discussion Meet.

On December 3-5, Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to take part in the 97th WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members took part in breakout sessions that included a panel on water quality, membership and farm succession. Delegates discussed and voted on hard-hitting issues for agriculture.

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Marathon County Farm Bureau was featured as one of the top county of excellence programs for the involvement with local watersheds.



Marathon County Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program also was recognized for the town hall meeting held in the fall.

Meet: Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association



The history ...

Established in 1922 by farmers, for farmers, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association aids producers in the marketing, managing and financing of their agricultural businesses. Equity operates 12 auction markets and has collection points in Ettrick and Thorp, and Menominee, Michigan, and has a hog and cattle marketing center in Arlington.

In this special spring issue of your Marathon County Farm Bureau newsletter, we are taking an inside look at your local Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association.

The business ...

Equity Livestock Stratford is a fully licensed and bonded cooperative that has been a trusted leader in livestock marketing at the Stratford market for nearly 60 years. Weekly sales of market cattle and calves held Monday through Thursday highlighted by Tuesday's dairy cattle sale held each Tuesday at 12 noon and the Feeder cattle sale held each Wednesday at 12 noon. On farm field service staff and assistance in livestock hauling is also available. For more information or to schedule a visit call the Stratford market at 715.687.4101.

The future ...

The Equity Stratford auction market opened in the fall of 1959. Much has changed in those 58 years, and the times have placed additional requirements that cannot be met at our present location. To meet those needs and better serve our producers, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association has recently invested in property south of the Highway 29 and 97 intersection and plans to build a new, state-of-the-art facility. The new location, only eight miles north of our present location will provide our patrons, truckers and buyers with more convenient access.

For more information, please contact the Stratford Market at 715.687.4101.

Heart of the Farm: Women in Agriculture Conference, March 21

Heart of the Farm Women in Agriculture invites all Wisconsin directly or indirectly involved in agriculture to attend.

- **Communication is Key:** Lyssa Seefeldt, agriculture agent, Marquette County. *Communication on a farm is critical to the success of the farm. Understanding what motivates ourselves as individuals can help us be clearer in communication of our farm priorities both with our family and employees.*
- **There are Many Variables On Your Farm That You Can Control, But Mother Nature is Not One of Them:** Jenny Kilpatrick, Premier Insurance Solutions, LLC. *Learn how to manage that risk through crop insurance and how it can work for your farm. We will also touch on how livestock insurance (LRP/LGM) can play a role in managing your risk.*
- **Container and Pallet Gardening:** Heather Schlessler, dairy agent, Marathon County. *In this presentation Heather will demonstrate how to plant a container and a pallet for your garden.*
- **Main Grain Bakery: Her Story:** Sarah Jo More, Steven's Point. *The Main Grain Bakery offers the highest quality artisan bread, sweets and special order desserts all made with organic and local ingredients in a sustainable manner and from scratch.*

- Join author, humorist, musician and radio host Michael Perry for a freewheeling hour of 'behind the pages' stories drawn from the hilarious and heartfelt stories that fill his best-selling books and humor recordings, from the beloved "Population 485" right up to his latest "The Jesus Cow."

Michael is an author, humorist, radio show host, song writer and singer. His writing has appeared in numerous publications including "Esquire," "Newsweek," "The New York Times Magazine," "Salon," "The Utne Reader" and "Cowboy Magazine," and his essays and humor are frequently heard on Wisconsin and Minnesota public radio. Perry lives with his wife and two daughters in rural Wisconsin, where he serves on the local volunteer fire and rescue service and is an intermittent pig farmer.

Agenda

- 9:30 a.m. - Introductions
- 10:00 a.m. - Communication is Key
- 11:00 a.m. - Michael Perry
- 12:00 noon - Lunch (provided)
- 1:00 p.m. - Fighting Mother Nature
- 1:30 p.m. - Pallet Gardening
- 2:30 p.m. - Main Grain Bakery
- 3:00 p.m. - Evaluations and prizes



University of Wisconsin-Extension

Registration due by March 14

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State _____
 Zip _____ County _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Please indicate dietary and/or accessibility needs:

Registration Cost: \$20. Please make checks payable to: **UW-Extension**. Send to: **Wood County Extension Office, c/o HOF-Wood County, PO Box 8095, 400 Market Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495.**

YFA Report By Beth Schaefer



Are you between the ages of 18-35? Did you know there is a whole set of programs, events and opportunities just for YOU? The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee is JUST for younger members and caters to YOUR unique situation in the agriculture industry.

Hi! I am Beth Schaefer, and I have the absolute privilege of representing District 8 on the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee.

Each county has a YFA county chair. District 8 is proud to have a full slate of enthusiastic faces to serve YFA members: Clark: Max Malm; Lincoln: Kyle Kudick; Marathon: Katie Zoromski; Portage: John Kosmalksi; Price: Dan Berg; Taylor: MJ Zenner; and Wood: Jason Behrend.

These folks are here to help you make the most out of your Farm Bureau membership, so please reach out to them. They have planned some great social and educational events for your county. Watch for postcard invites or visit wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program to learn about upcoming YFA opportunities and see all the latest events happening in your county and District 8.

You may have heard the old adage, "You get what you give." This is true for almost all situations in life; except for Farm Bureau. The many opportunities to travel, network and promote the agriculture industry that I have been afforded during my nine years of Farm Bureau membership has far surpassed what I have paid in membership dues.

How can you capitalize on your membership you ask? Choose to attend an upcoming YFA event, volunteer for a committee in your county or attend a county board meeting to learn what your county Farm Bureau is doing with YOUR dues and to serve YOU.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming YFA events and activities.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Friday, March 24, District 8 YFA Ag Tour

This year we will be headed to Marathon County to tour Country Fresh Meats, a dairy farm and the Bull Falls Brewery. Watch Facebook and your mailbox for the postcard invite!

7 p.m., Sunday, May 21, District 8 YFA Contest Prep Night

Want to learn more about Farm Bureau contests for YFA members? Bring your laptop and questions to the YFA Contest Prep Night. We will have past participants and winners share their secrets to competing in the Excellence in Agriculture, Achievement in Agriculture and Discussion Meet. This workshop also will be available to join via Zoom, an online meeting forum.

I am looking forward to meeting YOU soon at one of the many upcoming YFA events. For more information, please contact me at eaprior.schaefer@gmail.com. Don't forget to enjoy National Agriculture Week, **March 19-25**. Be proud of all YOU do for American agriculture.

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
 - Office Depot

- Communication**
- AgriVisor
 - The Country Today
- Insurance**
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
 - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel**
- AAA
 - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
 - Budget (NEW)
 - 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.

Celebrate National Ag Day, March 21

Join Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and celebrate National Ag Day on **March 21**.

- Celebrate by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, college students, agri-business employees and others by reading books about agriculture to students, home school families, nursing home residents, day cares and others. Who can participate? Anyone who has an interest in agriculture, enjoys reading, working with youth and has time on **Tuesday, March 21**, to read, visit and do an activity with an audience. Resources can be found on the Ag in the Classroom website.
- Share agriculture facts from the Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page that will be given on the hour. When posting on social media, use the hashtags #WiReadsAg2017 and #agday2017.
- Have students in your county participate in an National Ag Day coloring contest. This image can be found on the Ag in the Classroom website. We will promote this design on our Facebook page for children to send in but you could also make it a county contest. Want it to say: 'Brought to you by ABC County Farm Bureau?' Email Darlene at

darneson@wfbf.com and she will get it to you.

- Organize a pizza party on a farm, in a classroom or at a mall. Explain how ingredients from kids' favorite food come from farms and ranches and how each is processed and delivered to the grocery store or restaurant.
- Host a classroom field trip to a local farm or ranch or to a university's agricultural research farm. Or, bring the farm to the classroom. This provides a great opportunity for children to learn about career opportunities in agriculture.
- Distribute information about agriculture or other information through local stores. Ask your grocer to feature the Ag Day Logo or other positive messages about agriculture on grocery bags or signs used during Ag Week. You might also set up a farm-to-your-table display in your local grocery store.

Share your photos from National Ag Day with us. We are happy to share what you have been up to. Photos can be emailed to darneson@wfbf.com.



Farm and Business Succession Meeting Hosted by Rural Agent and County

Join us to discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues that many Wisconsin farm families face.

The presentation will explore: how to be fair to your children in passing the business to your business heir(s), while also providing a fair inheritance to your non-active children; how to surmount common estate-tax traps; making sure you and your spouse are prepared for retirement and the potential need for long-term care; and how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors.

Presenters: Jared Nelson from Farm Bureau Financial Services and attorney Rick Bollenbeck.

When: 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 21

Where: Willow Springs Gardens, 5480 Hillcrest Drive, Wausau.

Who is invited: Anyone

How to RSVP: Please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 866.355.7348 or acalaway@wfbf.com.



Welcome New Marathon County Farm Bureau Members

Did you know that agricultural businesses and services can be Farm Bureau members? Numerous agriculture-based businesses in Marathon County and across the state are proud members of Wisconsin's largest general farm organization, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Robert Alens, Michael Beining, Craig Blumke, Jerry Borth, Mary Davis, Floyd Dean, Jim Draeger*, Lori Ellenbecker, Daniel Fischer, Kristine Fonti*, Gary Framke*, Cody Fritz, Grahm Wood Products, Inc., Stacy Groshek, Jenny Halopka, Cha Hang, Khoua Her, Vang Lee, Paul Lieder, Newchee Lor, Chong Ly, Bee Moua*, Blong Moua, NCG Ginseng, Inc.*, David Noha, Valerie Norgord, April Pankow, Roger Plisch, David Polster, Jason Raasch*, Thomas Rocheleau, Korey Rottscheit, Adam Schillinger, Raelene Schuette, Jesse Seehafer*, James Spink, Daniel Stashek, James Steiner, Town of Wien, Nao Vang, Fong Vang, Kua Vue, Kent Wesner, Avery Wilde, Duane Wilde, Lori Wildmann, Fai Xiong, Sia Xiong, Elizabeth Xiong, Gaoly Xiong, Vang Yang, Khoua Yang, Nkia Yang and Staci Zastrow*.

*Denotes voting membership.



Marathon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, Chad Erickson 715.352.3589
 Director, James Juedes 715.581.3121
 Director, Joe Kaiser 715.218.1298
 Director, Will Litzer 715.370.5718
 Director, Tom Mueller 715.536.6161
 Director, Beth Schaefer 608.577.6845
 Director, John Utecht 715.845.9335
 Director, Mark Zimmermann 715.571.5512

Marathon County Farm Bureau 877.583.5880
 District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway 866.355.7348
 WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke 715.573.7208
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

Marathon County Farm Bureau Offers College Scholarship

Scholarship requirements

Applicant must be:

- A student enrolled in a four-year university or two-year technical school program with a freshman, sophomore or junior standing or a high school senior accepted to four- or two-year program.
- A Marathon County resident or member of Marathon County Farm Bureau.
- Preference will be given to student pursuing an agriculture degree.
- Two letters of recommendation must accompany scholarship application.
- Please submit completed application to: Marathon County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.
- Applications must be completed by: **April 1**. Notification of scholarship recipient by **June 1**.
- Payment of scholarship will be sent to student, after next semester grades are submitted to the Marathon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



For more information or for the scholarship application, visit wfbf.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/2017-Marathon-County-Farm-Bureau-Scholarship.pdf.

Farm Women's Luncheon, April 22

At the Farm Women's luncheon on **April 22**, Heather Schlessner from UW-Extension will discuss straw bale gardening.

Details: 212 River Drive, Wausau; 1-2 p.m.; sponsored by the Marathon County HCE and Marathon County Farm Bureau.

Register online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfx64u4HNcOuXHU2SQayLbVLIhEr4jkV-VlvWGT_WiUbYO1JSw/viewform?c=0&w=1.

