



Marathon County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Expedition to Expo

On October 8, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members from District 5 and 8 traveled to the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison.

YFA members spent the day exploring the trade show and watching one of the largest dairy cattle shows in the world.

A highlight of the day was the crowning of the Junior and International Show Supreme Champion dairy cows. Which turned out to be extremely special for one YFA member who got to see her family's International Guernsey Show Grand Champion walk the gold shavings of the International Supreme Champion on Saturday.



Thank you to the generous sponsors of the day United FCS, American Wood Fibers, VitaPlus and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.



Plans for a return trip to the 51st World Dairy Expo are underway. Watch for details in 2017.

District 8 Discussion Meet



Contestants included: (L-R) Will Litzer, Marathon County; Josh Huber, Marathon County; Katie Zoromoski, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; Lauren McCann, Wood County; and Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County. Josh, Lauren and Ryan will represent District 8 at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.





NOVEMBER 2016

COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Marathon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap Up

This year's county annual meeting had close to 90 members and guests in attendance. Attendees voted on policy, elected new directors to the board, received updates from affiliates and heard first hand how critical it is to share their agricultural story.

This once-a-year gathering is a time for members to elect new directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organization.



I'll admit that as our president Bill Mueller was describing this year's Distinguished Service to Agriculture award at the annual meeting, I was not fully focused on what he was saying. I was thinking ahead to other parts of the meeting, when his description of the recipient caught my attention. Milked cows, signed over 150 new members ... All I could think was, you've got to be kidding. . . Me? I was totally taken by surprise. I felt like a deer in the headlights and managed to, hopefully, express my gratitude and how honored I was to everyone. As I think of those who have previously received this award, I'm still not convinced I belong in their company. But I am even more motivated to use the abilities that God has given me to serve Farm Bureau and agriculture in general. Farmers feed the world. They should be respected and helped to do this critical work. I take pride in and find it rewarding to work toward this goal.

Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County vice president



Marathon County YFA committee members Lindsey Prah and Shannon Boschma check in guests. Ryan and Lindsey Prah will represent Marathon County when they compete in the Final 4 of the Wisconsin YFA Achievement Award competition in December at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Shannon Boschma is the retiring Marathon County YFA chair. On behalf of the Marathon County Farm Bureau board and YFA committee, we want to thank you for your years of service.



Owner of AgInspirations Kim Bremmer was the guest speaker at the Marathon County Farm Bureau annual meeting. She shared how important it is for farmers and agriculturists to connect with consumers to help dispel the myths surrounding agriculture.



Helen Traska shared the highlights of the county ice cream stand at the Wisconsin Valley Fair during the Marathon County Farm Bureau annual meeting. This year marks 29 years that Helen has served as the head of Marathon County's largest fundraiser. Thank you Helen for your years of service and all that you do.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 FUN'd the Foundation
On-The-Farm Town Hall
Dairy in the Classroom

3 Grassroots Policy
New Officer Team
Essay Contest
Member Benefits
Board Contacts

Four Ways You Can FUN'd the Foundation at the WFBF Annual Meeting

Did you know at the WFBF Annual meeting there will be multiple opportunities to win awesome prizes and support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation?

1. **Silent auction:** We are soliciting for and receiving items for the silent auction. The auction will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday and will end at 5 p.m. on Sunday. For donation forms, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction.
2. **50/50 raffle:** The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets but it will have a different format. They will hold two different 50/50 raffles. The first will be from Friday evening through the beginning of the general session on Saturday morning. The other will be from Saturday afternoon through the general session on Sunday morning. *The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee also will be having a corn hole tournament during the Friday evening entertainment.

3. **Trivia contest:** The trivia contest will again be held on Saturday evening following the Farm Bureau Extravaganza. There will be three rounds of 25 questions and a 15-minute time limit for each round. To participate: Form a team of six people, and submit the registration fee of \$10 per person or \$60 per team. Registration can be mailed in through **November 25** and on-site registration will take place on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited to 35 teams so register early. Registration forms are posted at wfbf.com/programmevents/event-registration.

What does the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation do? Supporting agricultural education programs and developing agricultural leaders is the guiding principle of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Thank you to those who have contributed to the Foundation. We couldn't do it without members like you.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Younger Farmer and Agriculturist program
- Promotion and Education Program
- WFBF Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

Besides funding the Farm Bureau programs listed, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation supports 4-H and FFA activities, scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin, Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council.



On-The-Farm Town Hall Meeting Held at Misty Hollow Farms

By Shannon Boschma, Marathon County YFA committee chair

Marathon County Young Farmer and Agriculturists hosted an On-The-Farm Town Hall on October 23 at Misty Hollow Farms in Athens.

It started with a wonderful farm tour, led by owners Eric and Misty Vogel. They answered questions about daily struggles and triumphs in dairy farming, as well as what drove them to use the Lely robotic milking system.

We then moved to the forum portion of the event and we were joined by candidates Katrina Shankland, representing Russ Feingold for U.S. Senate; Tom Tiffany - District 12 (for farm tour); Pat Snyder - District 85; John Spiros - District 86; Michael Tauschek - District 86; James Edming - District 87;

and Elizabeth Riley - District 87. Candidates answered questions with topics including: right to farm bill, farm size and pollutions, management practices and future budget goals.

Attendees socialized with the candidates following the forum as well, asking them specific questions that were of concern. It was interesting to visit and learn with each candidate, as some had experience in farming and small business, while for others this was a first time visit to a farm.

We had great sponsors for the event. Cheese, sausage and milk were donated by Dairy State Cheese Company; Bletsoe's Cheese, Inc.; Country Fresh Meats; and Kwik Trip, while materials and boots were donated by Leon Woller Rural

Mutual Insurance, Ag in the Classroom, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and Genex CRI.

The committee members spent many hours of planning and conference calling to pull this event together. Thank you to Beth, Will, Lindsey, Josh, Amber and Ashleigh for their help. We hope participants walked away from the On-The-Farm-Town Hall Meeting better informed as November 8 draws closer.

If you have specific questions about the meeting or farm tour, please contact a member of the YFA committee. It was a great networking experience.



Candidates and guests toured Misty Hollow Farms.



Will Litzer and Shannon Boschma, YFA committee members.



(L-R) Pat Snyder, candidate for District 85; Michael Tauschek, candidate for District 86; John Spiros, incumbent for the District 86; James Edming, incumbent District 87; Elizabeth Riley, candidate for District 87; and Katrina Shankland, representing Russ Feingold for U.S. Senate.

Dairy in the Classroom with Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

Did you know that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Farm Families of Wisconsin offer special opportunities for Wisconsin schools?

The Wisconsin Dairy Council (WDC), the school nutrition education division of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, works with Wisconsin's K-12 schools to offer free dairy and agriculture resources for Wisconsin classrooms.

The WDC has a wide variety of programs designed for kindergarten through high school that help students understand how dairy helps grow their bodies and drives Wisconsin's economy.

Each lesson is presented by WDC staff and features interac-

tive presentations, a dairy snack and great support materials for teachers and students.

Plus each lesson meets several of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for a variety of subjects including social studies, health, nutrition, science and agriculture, food and natural resources.

All presentations are free to Wisconsin schools. These lessons are a great complement to your

county's Ag in the Classroom program.

For more information, please contact Beth Schaefer, regional program manager for Wisconsin Dairy Council at bschaefer@wmmb.org or visit www.wisconsinmilkmarketingboard.com.



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For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

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RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

Marathon County Farm Bureau Elects New Executive Officer Team

At the October board meeting the Marathon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors elected a new officer team.

President: Bill Mueller
Vice President: Randy Wokatsch
Secretary: Ryan Prah
Treasurer: Amber Cordes
Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair: Katie Zoromski

The Marathon County Farm Bureau board of directors and members want to thank Jim Riehle, Eric Vogel and Shannon Boschma for their years of service to the Marathon County board of directors.

Essay Contest Deadline is April 1

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in the Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, ‘Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.’

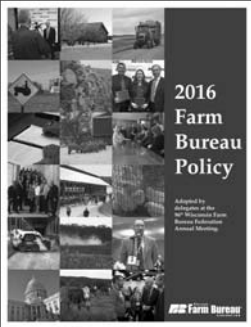
Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. Contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are at wisagclassroom.org. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1**.

The essay contest coincides with the Ag in the Classroom 2017 Book of the Year, *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic allows students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture. Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest, which is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the WFBF in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with a grant from DATCP.

For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at 608.294.8078 or darneson@wfbf.com or visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

Grassroots Policy: Marathon County Farm Bureau Approves Resolutions



The Marathon County Board of Directors presented resolutions at the Marathon County Farm Bureau annual meeting on October 6. All resolutions passed and will make their way to the Policy Development Committee, which is made up of volunteers from around the state. Last year the committee reviewed about 500 resolutions.

If you have questions or concerns or maybe you believe that there is another issue that needs to be dealt with. Make sure that your voice is heard by contacting a county board member.

State

1. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and increased fines across the state for farms that intentionally, willfully or neglectfully allow manure to enter waterways or wetlands and do not follow nutrient management plans. *Natural Resources and the Environment: Nutrient Management Regulations*
2. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank and wetland management. *Natural Resources and the Environment: End*
3. We are in favor of mandatory drug testing for any and all recipients of state aid. *General Government: Nutrition Assistance*
4. We support minimum state conservation standards without cost sharing with the exemption of capital improvements such as manure pits. *Natural Resources and the Environment: Non Point*
5. We support ending the Stewardship Program as the state does not have funds to purchase additional land. *Land Use: Stewardship Program*
6. Gas fuel taxation. *Fuel Tax*
7. We support the use of real Wisconsin products in all publicly funded education classes. *Education: Elementary and Secondary*
8. We no longer believe that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board should provide financial incentives for the placement of vending machines in schools due to Smart Snack Restrictions. *Dairy: Promotions*
9. We support DATCP to be required to repeal atrazine prohibition if three consecutive groundwater samples taken at intervals of at least six months show that the concentration of atrazine and its metabolites are below 50 percent of the enforcement standards. If there are other wells in the area, they are to be tested to verify that the concentration of atrazine and its metabolites also do not exceed 50 percent of the enforcement standard. *Natural Resources and the Environment: Ag Chemicals*

10. We are in favor of rural areas receiving the same governmental aide that urban areas have received to gain access to broadband internet. *Energy: Telecommunications*
11. We support amending the current fence law. Livestock owners should be required to build and maintain fences to contain their animals. *General Government: Fences*
12. We are in support of harvesting wetland vegetation for agricultural use. *Natural Resources and the Environment: Wetlands*
13. We support all school busses flashing both amber and red lights 200 feet prior to a stop. *Transportation: Safety*
14. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles to have a slow moving vehicle sign, effective lighting, and reflective tape on public roads. *Transportation: Safety*
15. We support farmers and trained employees to administrate all animal health husbandry practices. *Livestock: Animal Welfare*

Federal

1. We support eliminating the Conservation Security Program (CSP).
2. We support the addition of nutrition requirements to SNAP dollars to be consistent with the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act.
3. We are in favor of utilizing horse meat for human consumption as well as pet food and other uses.
4. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list.
5. We support farmers and trained employees to administrate all animal health husbandry practices.
6. We are in support of management practices to aid in keeping cows cleaner and improving the overall farm image and safety of those working directly with the cattle.
7. We oppose the EPA proposal to ban atrazine.
8. The FCC needs to hold companies accountable that receive federal funding for rural broadband.
9. We support a national security policy that prioritizes protection from cyber terrorism. Sec. 179 p. 47 (2.3). This would be an addition to AFBF’s National Security Policy priorities.
10. We are in support reforming the Dairy Margin Protection Program.

Internal Resolution

1. We support the UW Collegiate Farm Bureau membership, also include two-year technical and community college campuses.
2. We are in support of current state YFA committee members being eligible to compete in state contests while they are serving on the state YFA committee.
3. We encourage Wisconsin Farm Bureau to work jointly with commodity organizations for lobbying efforts to represent agriculture.