Marinette County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Marinette County:

Melvin Gross (920) 897-4524

James Pickett (715) 927-2122

Tom Gustafson, District Manager - (920) 420-1106

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

County Fair Ice Cream Stand Help Needed

By Ryan Staidl

Do you want to help during the Marinette County fair in the Marinette County Farm Bureau ice cream stand and scoop ice cream?

The income from the ice cream stand supports activities including donations towards the breakfast on the farm, the cattle barn at the county fair, Ag in the Classroom, food pantries and Christmas gifts for needy children in our community.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact me at 715.582.0928. We appreciate any help.

Institute Applications Due Soon

By Kristy Erickson

In the June newsletter, I explained what a wonderful experience the WFBF Institute has been for me. You can be a part of this tremendous opportunity in 2017, but you must apply by **August 15.**

For more information and to see the class schedule, visit wfbf.com and search 'Leadership Training Institute.' The application form can be downloaded, or you can contact me or District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz at wraddatz@wfbf.com or 866.355.7346.

I'm attending! Will you?

Join us for the 2016 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells!

Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for **FREE**! You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. **BUT HURRY!** This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application at http://bit.ly/YFAConference2016

Qualify for Cash – Refer A Friend!

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a $100 cash award.

(Limit one award per family and you must be present at Friday night's banquet to qualify.)

JULY 2016

COUNTYnews

MARINETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

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Marinette County Farm Bureau Supports the New County Fair Barn

By Jamie Van de Walle and Ryan Staidl

For the past five years the people of Marinette County have graciously donated to help make repairs on the cattle barn at the Marinette County fairgrounds.

In 2015, there were enough funds to make some major repairs that were needed due to water damage. As those repairs got started it was found that the damage was far worse than anyone imagined.

No means of repair work would lead to a building that was safe for the fair participants or public who came to see the animals. It was with a heavy heart that the decision was made to tear down the remaining structure and start from scratch.

A massive fundraising movement was quickly enacted by a committee that was dedicated to collecting enough money to build a new building by August 2016. The committee made several sponsorship opportunities available to those who were willing to help get the ball rolling.

For donations of $2,500 individuals, families and businesses could sponsor a stall in the barn that will have a plaque recognizing the dedication to the youth of Marinette County.

For sponsorships of $250 or more, plaques will be placed on the milk house wall recognizing those sponsors.

To date, the cattle barn project raised nearly all of the funds necessary to complete the project. The final kick is underway to come up with the remaining balance to ensure that the children will have a barn to house their cattle at this year's fair.

The businesses, families and individuals of Marinette County have truly shown their dedication to keeping agriculture in our part of Wisconsin as well as their commitment to children. There are not enough words to express the gratitude that we have for those who have helped.

For more information or if you are interested in donating, please contact Jamie Van De Walle at 715.9237806.

The Marinette County Farm Bureau board of directors decided to contribute $2,500 toward the cattle barn project and will be recognized at the stall sponsor level.

Photo from Dave Gross.

This was one of the first loads of concrete for the new cattle barn at the Marinette County fairgrounds. Thank you to the volunteers and to those who donated to the project.

Farm Facts Brochure is Available

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 it's interactive.

To order the brochure, visit wisagclassroom.org and use the resource form.

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.

President's Message

Hope that you are having a great summer. With the adequate rain and the warm weather most of the corn was a lot taller than 'knee high by the Fourth of July.' Let's hope our good weather continues.

The Marinette County Farm Bureau board of directors decided to contribute $2,500 towards the construction of the new cattle and dairy barn at the Marinette County fairgrounds in Wausaukee.

We will be recognized at the stall sponsor level, so look for the Marinette County Farm Bureau stall plaque when the project is completed.

The board thought that this project is a great benefit for the community for many years to come and needs the ag community's full support.

Ryan Staidl
Marinette County Farm Bureau President

District 7 YFA Report **By Brian Preder**

As I visit the counties of the district, I am impressed. What impresses me the most is the leadership of our county YFA chairs who volunteered time and skills to develop the next generation of Farm Bureau members. It also is awesome to see the support that the YFA chairs receive from the boards of directors in each county.

In February, we brought together this talented group of YFA leaders for the first District 7 County YFA chair meeting. It was a great opportunity for the YFA chairs to share their experiences and get to know their fellow chairs. We also started planning District 7 YFA events for the upcoming year. Be sure to watch for those. Thank you to the YFA chairs for taking time for the meeting.

The first District 7 event for the year was the Gamblers hockey game on March 19. About 30 members attended and enjoyed an exciting game and pizza afterwards. It was great to have this many members attend the first event of the year.
Looking ahead to fall, how about participating in the District 7 YFA Discussion Meet at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 14** at the River Rail Bar and Grill in Shiocton?

The topic that we will discuss is: **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?**

For more information and the other topics for discussion, visit wfbf.com and search 'YFA.'

Of course I can't mention contests without mentioning the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells during the first weekend of December. If you haven't attended the conference, we have the 'no excuse reason' to attend--the Rural Mutual Insurance YFA conference sponsorship.

If you want the opportunity to develop your leadership skills, network with YFA members and have a lot of fun, fill out the application on the YFA web page and return by **August 15.**

District 7 YFA members at last year's District 7 Discussion Meet included Christa Hoffman (right) who won the state Discussion Meet.

I look forward to meeting fellow District 7 YFA members at upcoming events and contests. As always, if you have questions or ideas, please contact me and stay Farm Bureau Proud!

District Report

I was recently reading an article that seemed to hit close to home.

Did you know that 46 million people, which is about 15 percent of the U.S. population, live in rural America?

We and our fellow farmers provide the food and fiber that feeds and clothes our nation and much of the world.

We need to keep rural America strong and economically sound. A lot of national and state funding goes to urban areas rather than the rural areas, which in turn makes it difficult to attract teachers, new businesses and keep existing businesses flourishing.

We see so many local grocery stores, hardware stores, shopping centers, clinics and movie theaters close because of financial difficulties.

Another thing that seems to be put on the chopping block is the agriculture programs in our schools. This past weekend while at a party, I was asked about agriculture and FFA. "Why isn't FFA in more schools?"

Now that the focus is on growing some of their own food, many do not have the education or background on how to proceed. We need to step up to the plate to keep our schools and rural economy viable.

Wayne Staidl
District 7 State Board Director

Veriha Receives $500 Reward Member Benefit

Lee Veriha of Porterfield noticed that some heavy iron tractor parts were disappearing from his shop and he was pretty sure that he knew where they had gone and who had taken them.

After finding his stolen parts at a salvage yard he contacted the authorities, who arrested the perpetrator just as the individual was bringing in another load of Lee's tractor parts. Lee received the $500 Reward from Farm Bureau for providing the information that led to the criminal's arrest and conviction.

The $500 Reward is available to anyone providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons for arson, theft or criminal damage to a Farm Bureau member's property when the Farm Bureau $500 reward membership sign is posted on the member's property.

If you do not have a $500 reward sign posted and want one or if your sign is faded and illegible and you want a new one, please contact your Rural Mutual Insurance agent, any of the Marinette County Farm Bureau board members or District Coordinator Wes Raddatz at wraddatz@wfbf.com or 866.355.7346.

Signs are provided to members free of charge.

Marinette County Farm Bureau president Ryan Staidl presented Lee Veriha (right) with a $500 check that he received from the Farm Bureau $500 Reward member benefit.

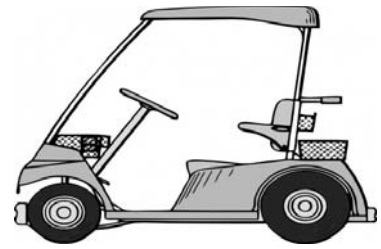
Register For the Wisconsin Ag Open

The Wisconsin Ag Open is on **Monday, September 12** at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

The format will be a four-person team scramble and registration includes 18 holes with a cart, gift bag, food and beverage and golf contests, mulligan sales and door prizes.

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.

Please note: We are limiting the outing to 144 golfers to offer maximum golf pleasure and pace on the course. Registration and payment are needed to secure your spot.



For more information or to register, please visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.

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.

Marinette County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ryan Staidl	715.582.0928
Vice President, Wayne Staidl	715.582.3671
Secretary/Treasurer, Cindi Wautier	920.495.1389
Women's Chair, Amanda Staidl	715.582.0928
YFA Chair, Trevor Van Drisse	715.789.2576
Director, Dan Klimek	715.923.8875
Director, Gerald Rogge	920.897.3297
Director, Karl Stibbe	715.582.3671
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106

The board meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Pound Village Hall.

Policy Development Meeting Invitation

It's an election year and politics are in the news.

So is Farm Bureau policy, so let's get it started at the grassroots level. Come and participate in your county Farm Bureau policy development meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, September 13,** at the Pound Village Hall in Pound.

Some topics that you might consider bringing your opinions to the meeting are:

- **Animal husbandry and welfare.** This might involve tail docking practices, cage-free egg production or commodity group recommended best management practices contracts.
- **Atrazine Prohibition Areas.** Should they be repealed? Expanded? Is weed resistance to the chemical being created by lowered application rates?
- **Rural Broadband Internet Service.** Is it necessary? What about government mandates, funding, etc?
- **Wisconsin Fence Law.** Should the fence law be modified to require livestock farmers to be responsible for maintaining fences to contain their livestock? Should non-farmers be able to require farmers who do not have livestock to construct or maintain their half of the fence? How should disputes be settled?
- **Wetlands issues.** Farm drainage, wetlands enhancement programs and funding, federal and state regulations.

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

Now that the implements of husbandry (IOH) trilogy is complete, but so many questions still remain, there has been discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book.

This book will encompass aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin highlighting state and federal laws.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the UW-Extension are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF is rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media. These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

Even though you may know these laws, it's our hope that you

share them via social media to reach and educate a much wider audience. More importantly, any feedback that you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book.

For example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or ag commercial motor vehicle (Ag-CMV) in a no-passing zone?

For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Why did the banker break up with his girlfriend?
He lost interest.

Everyone likes political jokes.
Until they get elected.

Where do cows go to have fun?
To a-moos-ment parks.

A nephew gushed to his uncle after the holidays, "Thanks for the electric guitar! It's the best present I've ever received!"
"Can you play it yet?" his uncle asked.
"No, I don't play it," the boy replied. "Mom gives me $10 a week not to play it in the daytime, and Dad gives me $15 a week not to play it at night."

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

The Marinette County Farm Bureau annual meeting is at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday October 11,** at Biundo's Restaurant in Peshtigo.

Hope that you can attend.

District Meeting Announcement

You are invited to attend the District 7 meeting on **Monday, August 8,** at Anello's Supper Club (yes it is rebuilt) in Shawano on Green Bay Street. A family style chicken and fish dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. An educational and informational meeting will follow with ample time to ask questions.

For more information or to make a reservations by **August 5,** please call Wayne Staidl at 715.582.3671. If there is no answer, please leave your RSVP with names of those attending and what county you are from. I hope to see you there.

Wayne Staidl
District 7 State Board Director

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Cindi Wautier

Students at Coleman Elementary got to explore a variety of Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom materials during Green and Growing Summer School.

The biotechnology 'Ag Mag' and 'Clean Water Team' resources were a success. The resources will be used in Ms. Wautier's ag classes throughout the school year as well.