



## Marquette County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Local Students Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum

Montello and Portage FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.



Montello FFA Chapter members attended the FFA Farm Forum: (L-R) Brooke Walker and Samantha Corso.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Jonathan Eckelberg, digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Ethan Giebel, director of education at Cooperative Network.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 44th year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

For more information about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, check out its website at [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com).



Portage FFA Chapter members attended the FFA Farm Forum: (L-R) Kaylee McReath, Kaitlyn Colling and Caitlin Warren.

### Plan to Attend the Marquette County Fair

July is just around the corner...and that means that plans are under way for the 148<sup>th</sup> annual Marquette County Fair on July 7-10.

The Marquette County Fair will operate the Farm Bureau food stand; however, this year the Farm Bureau also will serve food on Thursday. Make sure to stop at the food stand while you are at the fair this summer. This is the largest fundraiser for the county Farm Bureau, and the money raised helps the county to continue a variety of activities and programs that support youth and agricultural education.

For more information, visit [www.marquettecountyfairwi.org](http://www.marquettecountyfairwi.org).



### Farm Bureau Sponsors 'Thank a Farmer' Luncheon



Nearly 20 people attended the Farmer's Appreciation Luncheon held on March 15 at the Harrisville Fire Station. The event was held in honor of National Ag Day.

WFBF Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard provided a legislative update, answered questions and discussed local ag topics.



MAY 2016

# COUNTYnews

MARQUETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Marquette County Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Farm Bureau members met with Representative Joan Ballweg at Ag Day on the Capitol on January 27: (L-R) Josh Knoch, Brad Kolpin, Jr., Amanda Knoch, Jim Bays II, Representative Joan Ballweg and Tom Hell.

Members of Marquette County Farm Bureau along with nearly 400 other farmers and members from various farm and commodity groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening

to learn more about issues in agriculture as well as meeting with their state representatives.

## Plan to Attend the Marquette County Farm Bureau Breakfast



Tom and Brittney Lyon of Maple Lawn Farm in Westfield welcome you to come for breakfast. Take a guided tour of the farm to see the advancements in modern farming.

You can pet calves and cows, and possibly see a cow giving birth. Be part of the fun and dress up your little farmer for the day and let them strut their stuff during the judging at 10 a.m.

**\*Note:** All parking will be at Westfield High School and a shuttle will be provided.

**When:** June 12

**Time:** Serving from 7 a.m. to noon

**Menu:** Pancakes, scrambled egg bar, sausage, fried potatoes, apple sauce, cheese, milk, coffee, juices and ice cream

**Details:**

- 10 a.m. Little Farmer Dress up Contest
- Farm Tours
- Kid Games and Face painting
- Music by Geneses Depot
- Cost: younger than 6 - free; 6-12 - \$5; and 12 and older, \$7.

For more information, please call Josh Knoch at 608.369.1321.

## County Conducts Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students.



Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that teachers and home school parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

The 2015-2016 topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' The contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

The Marquette County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom essay winner is Cailee Kravick, daughter of Chad and Cindy Kravick. She is a fifth grade student at Westfield Elementary School.

Cailee's award winning essay:

### 'Mapleicious'

*Did you know that Wisconsin is famous for maple syrup? It's because of the climate and the location of Wisconsin.*

*Maple syrup is good for so many reasons. A few reasons why maple syrup tapped is better than maple syrup that is processed is because tapped maple syrup has no artificial coloring, flavorings, preservatives or additives. Another reason why tapped maple syrup is good is because it has as much calcium as milk does.*

**Fun fact:** *Did you know a gallon of water weighs eight pounds and a gallon of maple syrup weighs eleven pounds?*

*The Wisconsin maple syrup is graded by the United States Department of Agriculture. These three classes are light amber, medium amber and dark amber.*

**Fun Fact:** *In 2013 Wisconsin produced 265,000 gallons of maple syrup which equals 2,915,000 pounds of delicious syrup! So if you put one ounce of syrup on one pancake you would have enough Wisconsin maple syrup to cover 46,640,000 pancakes!*

*In conclusion, it seems that Wisconsin maple syrup producers keep a lot of pancake eaters happy!*

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## District Director Report



We are moving into a very important presidential cycle.

The U.S. has major issues that need to be addressed in the coming years. An overreaching EPA, a vacant Supreme Court Judge seat, border security and two major trade deals.

Producing food requires natural resources. We must protect our soil, air and water qualities. The EPA is moving in a direction trying to control much more land every time it rains. Farmers have been tilling the soil and applying nutrients for hundreds of years.

During those years, farmers continue to lower their carbon footprint per pound of protein and per pound of energy produced. Timing of farming practices are critical and we must

have an EPA that will not require a permit for everything that a farmer does. There are much more realistic approaches of protecting our vital resources.

Immigration also is an important part of the U.S. history. Many of our descendants came to America looking for a better life for their family. They were hard-working people with many talents. They helped build and protect America. The next administration must protect our borders from the many threats. It also is important to build a comprehensive immigration system that works for this country.

The next President also must address the ability and the profitability of moving products around the world. Trade is a major source of income for farmers, and the U.S. has a reputation of quality and consistent products. There has been discussion of candidates wiping out trade deals when they get into office. Neglecting a current trade deal will take us out of any future negotiations.

If we also look at potential income, we must look at projected population growth. China eliminated their one-child rule. Asia has a projected population of five billion and Africa, four billion in the next 40 years. While America and Europe are considered aging markets. Another major trade deal is on the horizon. The countries involved in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) represents 11 percent of the global population and 38 percent of the global gross domestic product. Having global countries buy U.S. products is a major way to improve our economy.

This Presidential campaign is important in many ways. The next administration could affect us many years past their office. It is critical that we vote for a candidate that is visionary and will give us the ability to guide America into the future. We have a very interesting road ahead.

God bless and have a safe growing season!

**Kevin Krentz**

WFBF District 5 Board Director

## District YFA Contest Training Night

District 5 will conduct a Young Farmer and Agriculturist contest training for the Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award on at 7 p.m. on June 16 at Gooseblind Grill and Bar in Green Lake. No cost to attend. Meal will be provided. Come and learn about the YFA contests.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's YFA program is for members between 18 and 35 years old. The program offers opportunities for leadership, skills development and for YFA members to meet and network with their peers.

Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are eligible for the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and the Excellence in Agriculture Award.

The winners of these contests on the state level will compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention on January 8-11, 2017, in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Achievement:** The Achievement Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and civic and service organizations. Applicants must derive a majority of their income from on-farm production for the past three years.

**Excellence in Agriculture:** The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must derive a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years. Examples are an agriculture teacher, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee, agricultural writer or marketer.

**Discussion Meet:** The YFA Discussion Meet provides young members an opportunity to demonstrate their

speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues. Each of WFBF's nine districts will hold a district meet competition this fall.

For more information, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or [bhibicki@wfbf.com](mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com).

All are welcome to attend.

## Partnership Brings Together Fun Community Event

On April 2, the Marquette County Farm Bureau partnered with Lunch Creek Winery near Neshkoro, to host a wine and cheese pairing event. Farm Bureau volunteers heard many comments on how nice it was to have these types of special events.

The Farm Bureau sponsored cheese made from Saputo Creamery. Guests were able to sample cheese paired with wine made in Marquette County.

Thank you to Aaron Wachholz and Ken Borzick, local farmers who attended and answered questions that guests had about farming, agriculture, cheese and other topics.

The Farm Bureau was pleased to co-sponsor this event with Lunch Creek Winery and to promote dairy products. Thank you to those who helped and made this event wonderful.



Local farmers Ken Borzick (left) and Aaron Wachholz were available to answer questions about agriculture at the wine and cheese tasting at Lunch Creek Winery.



Attendees enjoyed cheese and locally-made wine samples at the wine and cheese tasting event held April 2.

# We Want You! Apply by July 1

### Excellence in Agriculture



The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges 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 a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

### Achievement Award



The Achievement Award judges 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.

Get your application here: [bit.ly/WIYFAContests](http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests)

The YFA Program is funded by  for Farming's Future (WFB Foundation)

# There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave
  - Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - Caterpillar
  - Insight FS
  - 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

# Marquette County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Al Klapoetke	608.296.3435
Vice President, Chris Smith	608.369.1041
Secretary/Treasurer, Aaron Wachholz	608.297.7109
YFA Co-Chairs, Kalie Christensen	920.765.3048
Women's Co-Chair, Ashley Henke	608.369.0261
Women's Co-Chair, Amanda Zuehls	608.369.1366
Director, Jordan Bittelman	608.296.2262
Director, Bob Blum	608.369.1436
Director, Brooks Buchholz	608.369.0366
Director, Tom Hell	608.617.7174
Director, Josh Knoch	608.369.1321
Director, Brad Kolpin, Jr.	608.369.0920
Marquette County Farm Bureau	888.644.8366
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki	866.355.2029
RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson	608.828.5734

# Plan to Attend the District 5 Discussion Meet



YFA members competed in the 2015 District 5 Discussion Meet contest.

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held at 7 p.m. on **Monday, August 29**, at Christianos Pizza in Green Lake. The cost for the meal is \$12.

For more information, please contact District YFA Chair Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091.

# WFBF YFA Discussion Meet Questions and Topics

**Please Note:** All 2016 District Discussion Meet contests will use and discuss Topic Question #5.

1. American agriculture depends on a foreign-born labor force. How would you draft a national immigration policy?
2. How can we ensure that farmers and ranchers, not government agencies, are driving the management of natural resources?
3. How can we as farmers and ranchers maintain 'ownership' of our intellectual and proprietary information? (Big data, unmanned aerial vehicles, unauthorized videos.)
4. The nation's tax policy has become increasingly complicated and cumbersome. What should a balanced and beneficial tax policy look like for agriculture?
5. **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?**

# Zuehls Named Scholarship Winner



Lyncee Zuehls, daughter of Ron and Tama Zuehls of Montello was named the 2016 Marquette County Farm Bureau Scholarship winner.

Lyncee is a 2014 Montello High School graduate and is a sophomore at UW-River Falls majoring in crop and soil science.

# Check Out the Marquette County Farm Bureau on Facebook!



The Marquette County Farm Bureau is on Facebook. Check it out and 'like' the page to stay up to date on the events and activities of the Marquette County Farm Bureau.

# Welcome Farm Bureau Members

Edwin Blade, Justin Galloway, Steven Gibbs, Emily Girdauskas, Nate Halbach, Wendy Kohrt, Mike Krueger, Eric Mateske, Jeff Mateske, Montello FFA Chapter, Nicholas Peschel, Jacqueline Rohde, Sandra Ross, Lyssa Seefeldt, Savanah Sell, Shari Stier, Westfield Chamber Organization and Westfield FFA Chapter.

# WFBF Seeks Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. WFBF wants to highlight those sights with your families and friends in *Rural Route's* picture this section.



Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to [Lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:Lsiekmann@wfbf.com).

# Three Marquette County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Women's Summit

Deb Reinhart, a farmer from New Holstein and executive director with the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Foundation, was recognized as a promoter of agriculture, being named the 2016 AgVocate of the Year at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit held March 4 and 5 in Middleton.

More than 325 women celebrated their role in agriculture at the event hosted by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and UW-Extension.

The summit's planning committee invites women to save the date for the 2017 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit on March 10-11 at the Madison Marriot West in Middleton.



Marquette County members (L-R) Cheri Borzick, Ashley Henke and Christa Van Treeck attended the Ag Women's Summit held March 4-5 in Middleton.

# Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

## June

- 12 Marquette County Farm Bureau Breakfast - Maple Lawn Farm, Westfield
- 16 District YFA Contest Training Night – Gooseblind Grill and Bar, Green Lake

## July

- 7-10 Marquette County Fair - Westfield

## August

- 29 District 5 Discussion Meet - Christianos Pizza, Green Lake

## October

- 3 Marquette County Annual Meeting - Mikey's Sportsman Bar, Harrisville