



Marquette County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Marquette County YFA Members Tour Knigge Farms



Marquette County YFA members toured Knigge Farms near Omro on March 4.



Marquette County YFA members toured Knigge Farms near Omro on March 4.

This farm was the first dairy farm in the U.S. to have robotic milkers, and was recently featured on an episode of "The Bachelor" television program.

The tour included seeing a robotic milking and automatic calf-feeding technology and included a visit of a freestall dairy barn, where cows milk themselves 24 hours a day.

Green Lake and Marquette YFA Bowling Night a Success



On February 11, Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members from Green Lake County and Marquette County Farm Bureau's gathered for

bowling and pizza at Brantley's Bowlarama in Green Lake.

The YFA program is for Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35. It provides members with an opportunity to hone their leadership skills while networking with their peers. Many of the young farmers and agriculturists who have participated in the program have gone on to become active county, state and national Farm Bureau leaders, as well as respected leaders in their communities.

Plan to Attend the Marquette County Fair

July is just around the corner ... and that means that plans are under way for the 149th annual Marquette County Fair on **July 6-9**.

The Marquette County Fair will operate the Farm Bureau food stand. Make sure to stop at the food stand while you are at the fair. This event is a major 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.

If you want to volunteer to work in the Farm Bureau fair food stand, please contact Bob Blum at 608.369.1436.

For more information, visit www.marquettecountyfairwi.org.





COUNTYnews

MARQUETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Janik Winner of County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest By Amanda Kuchar



Essay winner Zen Janik (right) and his teacher Steve Sheldon.

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.

This year the topic was 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

There were a lot of well written essays and we had a hard time picking an overall winner. We had around 80 essays submitted. Our winner this year was from Coloma Elementary Class. The winner was Zen Janik and his teacher is Steve Sheldon. We enjoyed reading what all your students learned about Cranberries in Wisconsin and hope that you had fun learning about them, too. We want to wish Zen good luck as his essay will now move on to the district essay contest competition.

Thank you for taking time and participating this year and we look forward to next year's essay contest.

Cranberry Harvesting in the Fall

Splash! Splash! That's the sound of the water in a cranberry bog. This essay is about how farmers harvest cranberries. Farmers usually harvest them throughout September to November. There's two different ways to harvest them: dry or wet. I'd like to talk about harvesting them wet first, then harvesting them dry.

In the wet process, farmers flood the bogs when it's time to harvest. They pour in 15 to 18 inches of water. Then they use machines (fondly called egg beaters) to agitate the water. Next, they stretch a net from one side of the bog to the other. It is walked across the field to gather the berries. Sometimes they will use the boom of a boat. After that the berries are vacuumed up and into the ruck to be shipped to a processing plant. Then ripe berries arrive in stores.

In the dry process, they find a day in the fall when the berries are ripe and dry. You can tell when they begin to ripen because they will be bright red. It has to be a dry day because there can't be any moisture on the plant. They bring a mechanical picker onto the field so they can separate the berries off the vine.

That is how farmers harvest cranberries. After that they arrive in stores in the form of cranberry sauce, plain old cranberries, cranberry juice, delicious cranberry pie, and other yummy foods. Also, they have a tart flavor eating them raw.

Cranberries harvested wet or dry are both processed and delivered the same way. They both taste the same and they both are in the same food. That's how farmers harvest cranberries.

Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Josh and Amanda Knoch and Zeb Zuehls from Marquette County along with Green Lake County Farm Bureau members attended Ag Day at the Capitol and met with Representative Joan Ballweg.

Almost 400 people attended Ag Day at the Capitol held on March 8 in Madison. Ag Day is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., are major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau include a variety of other dairy, beef, pork, horse, corn, soybean, cranberry, potato and vegetable groups.

Marquette County Dairy Breakfast

**Marquette County Fairgrounds
757 Main Street, Westfield, WI
Sunday, June 11
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

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

Cost:



**Under 6 - Free
6-12 - \$5
12 and older - \$7**



Activities:

**Little Farmer Dress Up Contest at 10 a.m.
Kids games and educational activities
Farm animals**

**Live Music from Genesee Depot
Questions or for more information contact
Almon Klapoetke at 608.296.3435**

Facebook.com/MarquetteCountyDairyBreakfast
TravelMarquetteCounty.com

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District Director Report



With the upcoming crop year comes much anticipation. Will the yields be adequate? Can we manage the margins to make a profit? Or will it make quality feed for the livestock it is intended for?

This year also brings much skepticism. How will commodity prices move? Or do you have enough of your production marketed or insured?

I believe with the crop year we need to manage what we can and let the good Lord do the rest. I also believe we have a similar situation in our federal government administration.

There is much anticipation and skepticism on the direction our nation will take this year. The administration has given intentions to help create a simpler tax system, fair trade, secure borders, eliminating burdensome regulations and fix-

ing a broken health care system. This is no easy task for any government body but can be done. Through the process, we in agriculture need to remind them who helped them get elected, and continue to portray our needs.

In most trade deals, agriculture commodities are the balancer. We need to continue to partner with countries that need our products. Managing and protecting relationships that have taken generations to create. In some cases, raw products are exported, made into value added products and then imported back into the U.S.

We need to eliminate the unnecessary regulations that typically cause this and bring those jobs back to the U.S. Canada has also developed regulation to help protect their dairy industry at a detriment to our trade. The administration needs to hold them accountable. We also need to push for a trade deal in Oceania. TPP laid out many sanitary and labor requirements that would put the U.S. and many other countries on a level field, making trade much fairer between countries.

The administration is responsible for securing our borders

and knowing who is crossing them. They are also responsible for developing an immigration system that works for business and agriculture in this country. Labor needs continue to be challenging in many agriculture commodities including fruit, vegetables, aquatics, dairy, meat processing and many others.

This is not a large versus small farm issue. As many farmers continue to get older, the need for help with physical labor on farms continue to grow. This also leads into the health care system. As we move to fix a broken system we also need to care for our aging population.

As with a new cropping year we have an opportunity to start anew, so is following an election. This administration and congress was voted in by the 'fly over' states. We need to continue to hold them to the task moving forward. Along with being fiscally responsible, as we in our businesses. God Bless and have a safe growing season.

Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Director

Marquette County Members Attend Ag Women's Summit



Marquette County women (from left) Ashley Henke, Cheri Borzick and Christa VanTreek attended the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit held March 10-11 in Madison.

Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community were encouraged to attend the annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Madison Marriott West on March 10-11.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is presented by

Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and UW-Extension.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

Wine and Cheese Tasting Event a Success



On March 26, Marquette County Farm Bureau partnered with Lunch Creek Winery near Neshkoro, to host a wine and cheese pairing. Farm Bureau volunteers heard comments on how nice it was to have this type of event. The Farm Bureau sponsored cheese from Grande. Guests sampled cheese paired with wine made in Marquette County. Thank you to Aaron Wachholz, Brook Buchholz and Ashley Henke, who attended and answered questions 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.

DISTRICT 5 CONTEST TRAINING NIGHT

June 21 at 7 pm
First National Bank
408 Main Street Montello, WI 53949
Lower Meeting Room
Sub sandwiches and soda will be provided
Mock Discussion Meet at 7:30 pm
One on one assistance in filling out Achievement and Excellence in Ag Applications

For More information contact District
5 YFA Chair Amanda Knoch at
608.369.1091

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District 5 Discussion Meet

Date:
Wednesday, August 23

Time:
6:30 pm. Dinner - Pizza Buffet
7:00 pm. Discussion Meet
7:30 pm. Policy Development Meeting

Cost: \$12/person

Location:
Goose Blind Bar & Grill
512 Gold Street
Green Lake

Question to be
discussed:

Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?



For more information contact District 5 YFA Representatives
Josh & Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091 or joshamandaknoch@gmail.com To RSVP
by August 16, call, text or email District 5 Coordinator Becky
Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or rhibicki@wfbf.com

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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 - Life Line (NEW)
- Supplies and Products**
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 - Caterpillar
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Office Depot

- Communication**
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 - 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.

Marquette County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, Chris Smith 608.369.1041

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 RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson 608.828.5734

District YFA Update



Happy spring! I hope that everyone is having a good start to 2017 and I pray that planting goes well for everyone. 2017 has been a great year so far for YFA; in March, we had great representation at Ag Day at the Capitol and we had our county chairs meeting that was also well attended.

Looking ahead, we will be hosting a great cheese and wine event at Vines and Rushes on **April 23** for the whole family to attend.

We have our annual YFA contests, that I strongly encourage our YFA members to consider. If you have someone in mind or you are thinking about the contests but are not sure how they work, come to our training night with a mock discussion in **June 21** in Montello.

Applications for Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award are due on **July 1** and the real District Discussion Meet will be on **August 23** in Green Lake. If you are looking for a good social gathering over the summer we will be having our annual canoeing and summer picnic in Princeton on **July 30**.

For more information, please contact me at 608.369.1091 or check out the events on Facebook.
 Happy planting!

Amanda Knoch
 District 5 YFA Committee Representative

County Awards Scholarships to High School Seniors

The Marquette County Farm Bureau awarded two, \$250 scholarships this spring to graduating high school seniors.

Congratulations Ryley and Catelin on a job well done.



Ryley Frozene, Westfield High School class of 2017

Parents: Thomas and Penny Frozene
Plans on attending: Northland College, Ashland
Study: Outdoor education with a minor in humanities-natural resource science
Organizations-activities: Cross country co-captain, varsity basketball, student council, W-Club, varsity track, school musical, choir, FFA, Westfield Lions Club (Easter egg hunt, highway garbage clean-up, golf outings, kids' fisheree, Budda box golf outings, Operation Santa, District 5 Junior Holstein association, Salvation Army, orphan grain train and church activities.



Catelin Krueger, Westfield High School class of 2017

Parent: Christopher Krueger
Plans on attending: Madison Area Technical College
Study: Accounting with an emphasis on agriculture
Organizations-Activities: FFA, student council, state trap shooting, W-Club, National Honor Society, Spanish Club, leadership team, basketball, solo ensemble, drama club, Bowls for Hunger, class treasurer, band/pep band, softball and volleyball.

District Promotion and Education



Hello everyone! My name is Lynn Dickman and I am your newly appointed District 5 Promotion and Education Chair.

I am originally from Green County, growing up on an 80-cow dairy farm in Argyle. After earning a bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-Madison in 2010, I began working for Heartland Farms, Inc., in Hancock.

Today, I serve as a research agronomist on this 24,000-acre potato farm that grows and markets 8,000 acres of potatoes for potato chips each year. In June 2016, I completed my master's degree at UW-Madison where I studied stem end defect in potato chips for my thesis project.

This year, I participated in the Potato Leadership Institute and Potato D.C. Fly-In. I am the YFA chair for Waushara County, a graduate of Institute Class VIII and in the final four for YFA Excellence in Ag. Since 2014, I serve as president of Tri-County FFA Alumni.

Outside of agriculture, I am a member of the Stevens Point Curling Club, City Band, Ignite Leadership Network of Portage County and a board member for Meals on Wheels.

As the District 5 Promotion and Education committee representative, I am excited to get out and serve you as a liaison for state and national outreach activities. I plan to attend at least one board meeting and the annual meeting of each county in the district.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you want me to attend one of your county's events. Please say hello and introduce yourself if I see you at an event. If you are looking for ideas, activities or events, visit wfbf.com to download a copy of the 'Playbook,' a book of 'plays' compiled and maintained by the Promotion and Education Committee.

In 2015, the Promotion and Education Committee replaced the Women's Committee and is made up of nine leaders who represent the Farm Bureau districts. Committee members develop, promote and implement projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural committee.

Lynn Dickman
 District 5 Promotion & Education Committee representative
 608.558.9713 or ldickman87@gmail.com.