



## Milwaukee County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## AFB Foundation is Creating a Foundation Outreach Team

You can help others learn what the AFB Foundation has to offer. Outreach team members will receive advance notice on grants and new materials, be featured in new resources, have opportunities to pilot new programs and influence the development of new resources.

For more information, visit [www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team](http://www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team).



## AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 8 • Monona Terrace Convention Center,  
1 John Nolen Drive, Madison

It's important for us to raise our voices on issues. Take a few minutes to become familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Milwaukee County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm.

Remember when you talk to your legislators, to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

### Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Capitol Visits

**Register by Wednesday, March 1, to Patti Roden at [prodren@wfbf.com](mailto:prodren@wfbf.com) or 262.689.1838.**  
**The cost is \$25 per person prior to March 1, \$30 after the deadline.**

## District 1 YFA Spring Fling Planned

Date: Saturday, March 18

Time: Doors open at 7:30 p.m., band plays from 8 to midnight

Band: FM Rodeo

Location: The Columbian, West Bend

Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

For tickets, please contact District 1 YFA Chair Charlie Oberhaus at 262.337.2448.

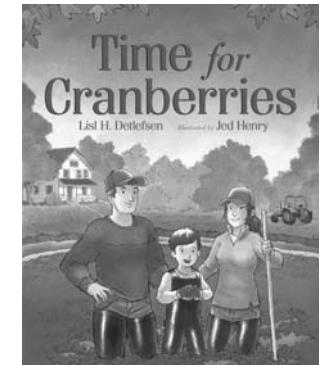


## Essay Contest Focuses on Cranberries

Each year, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations.

The 2017 topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

The essay contest theme coincides with the book of the year *Time for Cranberries* by Lisl H. Detlefsen. This book follows a boy and his family through the process of collecting cranberries all the way to eating the delicious treat.



Milwaukee County contest entries are due by **April 1**.

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

The cranberry became Wisconsin's official fruit in 2004. The result of a class project of a fifth grade student from Trevor Grade School in Kenosha County.



# COUNTYnews

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



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## Tradition: WFBF Annual Meeting Theme and Highlights

The WFBF Annual Meeting overlaps with the YFA Conference, giving members of all ages a chance to network and learn from each other. The YFA Conference was December 2-4; the 97<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting was December 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The YFA Conference kicked off with district meetings. The counties in District 1 include: Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha. In the District 1 meeting, we voted for the district events that we wanted to do in the coming year.

The Soggy Prairie Boys entertained the YFA members on Friday night. They had a very bluegrass-type sound and were nice to listen to when catching up with friends. On Saturday night, Tonic Sol-fa put on an amazing show. There were quite a few laughs and attendees were in a holiday mood.

As usual, the keynote speakers and breakout sessions were even better than the nightly entertainment. On Saturday morning, Director of millennial engagement for Monsanto Vance Crowe spoke. In his position, Crowe focuses on how to promote agriculture in a positive light and combat the negative rumors about agriculture. He made a few good take away points:

- When humans hear something, they take that information that they heard back to their 'tribe' of family or friends to see what they think about it, then present an answer. Most of us live our lives based on people loyalty, not facts. This is how rumors about agriculture are able to catch on so quickly among those who don't know any better. People tend not to look up facts. They check with their friends and family to see what they think.
- GMOAnswers.com is one of the most credible resources for GMO questions that you, your family or friends have. This website has GMO articles and facts put together by company experts and respected independent leaders.

On Saturday, District 1 had three members competing in the Discussion Meet. Sean Beres and Jeff Debele, both from Waukesha County, competed in the first two rounds. Kallie Jo Kastenson from Racine County competed in four rounds, advancing to the final four. They did a great job representing District 1.

On Saturday afternoon, there were workshops and time to visit the trade show and silent auction. Many of the attendees for the WFBF Annual Meeting arrived Saturday afternoon prior to the Saturday evening banquet.

During Sunday brunch, there was another keynote speaker, Aaron Thomas. Thomas' father Ed was the high school football coach in Parkersburg, Iowa, who taught his players dedication, commitment, the importance of hard work. In 2008, Ed was instrumental in bringing the small town together after an EF5 tornado destroyed Parkersburg.

The following year, Ed was murdered by one of his former football players. Aaron spoke about the importance of forgiveness and understanding, making the most of opportunities that life throws your way.

After a Green Bay Packer win, the Sunday afternoon breakout sessions included: Estate and Business Succession Planning, Grain Marketing Alternatives, How Farmers Lead Water Quality Discussions and Ideas that work for Membership Campaigns.

The awards banquet was on Sunday evening. The banquet showcased the WFBF Institute members who graduated and presented two top awards. Sam Skemp was the winner of the Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture award. The winner of the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award was Dave Kruschke from St. Croix County.

On Monday morning, the business session was held. Some highlights included:

- WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty is working on the 100<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting. He also discussed statements of belief: freedom, representative government and Farm Bureau.
- Rural Mutual Insurance CEO Peter Pelizza reviewed membership growth for the ninth consecutive year; number of claims up due to inattentive driving and as of January 1, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay dividends to farm policy holders. Projections estimate that \$2.5 million will be paid; there are 160 insurance agents in the state.

At the resolution session, Taylor County presented a by-law change to remove the Promotion and Education Committee chair from the Board of Directors. After lengthy discussion, it was voted to keep the position on the board due to responsibilities and representation.

Overall the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference was very good. The state does an excellent job in putting this event together. There were 461 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members in attendance at the YFA Conference and 650 attendees at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Attendees had a great time visiting, reconnecting and networking with friends.



District 1 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members gathered at the district meeting.

## District 1 Board of Director Update



Now that the days are getting longer, let's take a look at things that are planned for District 1 this year.

In December, the county chairs planned events that you need to watch for in this and upcoming newsletters.

From the Young Farmer and Agriculturist's Spring Fling to the Promotion and Education committee summer activities. Check them out, get involved and have some fun.

In January, a Wisconsin delegation ventured to the 'Valley of the Sun,' in Phoenix, Arizona, and attended the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Board members, staff and other Farm Bureau members listened to AFBF President

Zippy Duvall. His speech was about the new Congress getting things done in Washington, D.C. With a majority in both houses, and a new President, AFBF is hopeful that the country can move forward on some pressing agriculture issues.

Regulatory reform was one of the main topics so that farmers can farm rather than looking over their backs. AFBF delegates approved a special resolution urging Congress to enact swift, meaningful and strongly bipartisan regulatory reform.

The resolution comes in the wake of the introduction of bills in Congress that pare back the rapid growth of oppressive regulation and government overreach.

President Duvall also talked about tax code changes that will keep more money in taxpayers' pockets, trade opportunities and the changes that farmers want to see in the farm bill for 2018.

Speaking of the upcoming farm bill. WFBF is putting together a task force from members in the nine districts and some-at-large members from other farming segments. The Board of Directors want a well-rounded group to look at how the farm bill for 2018 will affect farmers in Wisconsin.

We also are bringing the Dairy Committee together to look at the Margin Protection Program and how it can provide a better functioning safety net for dairy farmers.

As the days get longer, we have plenty of work to do to. But rest assured, your organization is striving to make agriculture a better business to be involved in.

Have a great day,

**Dave Daniels**  
WFBF District 1 Director

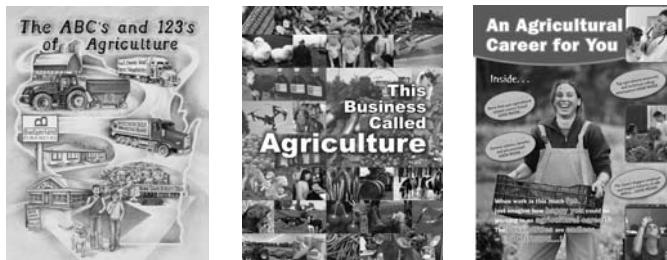
## Attention Teachers: FREE Resources Available from Ag in the Classroom

Ag in the Classroom has FREE resources available that you may find beneficial.

- *The ABC's and 123's of Agriculture*: Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.
- *This Business Called Agriculture*: Fourth grade students.
- *An Agricultural Career for You*: Middle school and high school students.

The Ag in the Classroom program has other free online and printed resources available.

For more information or to order these resources, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) or contact Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.



Jorge Solorzano and Ailiyah Nerat enjoyed playing with Snowball, one of the goats raised at Pampered Produce in Milwaukee. Thirteen-year-old Ailiyah has Huntington's Disease, which is an inherited disorder that causes degeneration of brain cells. One of her dreams was to pet a goat. Milwaukee County Farm Bureau board member Martin Hintz is co-owner of Pampered Produce along with Pam Percy.

## Building Farm Bureau ... One Member at a Time

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member who they sign between **October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017**.

Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **April 1** will receive a pair of Farm Bureau work gloves.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up five or more new members by **May 1** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest that will be presented at the county annual meeting.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up eight or more new members by **August 1** will receive a personalized Farm Bureau farm sign that will be presented at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm



Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2017 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse or guest will receive recognition at the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

Volunteer membership workers signing up past-due membership renewals or new members between **April 1** and **September 30** will be entered in a drawing for one of five, \$100 cash awards.

Volunteers collecting 10 or more renewals or new members during this period also will be entered in the grand prize drawing for a trip for two (registration and lodging) to the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 2-4.

For every new or past-due member signed, the membership worker must complete and mail in an entry card with the membership payment. Drawings will be on **September 30**.

## What's All the Hype? GMOs

Walk through the grocery store and look at the labels, they are so confusing to the shopper. Even the baby formula says GMO free or anti-GMO. What does that mean?

What is GMO? Genetically modified organisms or GMOs are crops that are modified to change specific traits in a plant. It is a process in which a desired gene from one plant is placed into another plant.

Many people don't know that there are only nine crops commercially available from GMO seeds in the U.S. including: alfalfa, canola, corn (field and sweet), cotton, papaya, potatoes, soybeans, squash and sugar beets. GMO apples are approved and will be in the marketplace soon.

When GMOs are used to grow products, it gives the plant insect or disease resistance and herbicide tolerance. For example, when you eat GMO sweet corn, the plant has been genetically modified for insect resistance and herbicide tolerance.

Did you know that GMO potatoes are modified to reduce bruising and black spots? There are many ways that the seeds are modified to create a better product. GMO crops are regulated, tested and safe for consumers (and animals). Also, there is no GMO wheat on the market today, so there is no correlation between GMOs and the gluten allergy.

If you see products labeled USDA Organic, they are required by law not to use GMOs in their food production.

For more information, visit [GMOAnswers.com](http://GMOAnswers.com).



Open to Your Questions  
About How Our Food Is Grown

## 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Celebrate National Ag Day March 15!

Join Ag in the Classroom and the Farm Bureau to 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.
- Share agriculture facts from the Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page that will be given on the hour.
- Have students in your county participate in an Ag Day coloring contest.
- Organize a pizza party on a farm, in a class-

room or at a mall. Explain how ingredients 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 to a university's agricultural research farm.
- 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.

Share your photos from National Ag Day with Farm Bureau. Email your photos to [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).



## Hamburger Helper **Patti Roden**, District 1 Coordinator



I was recently at a meeting where I heard this story...

Four girls lived together in a house during college. One of the four was studying to be an agriculture teacher, the others were not studying agriculture. One night, they decide to make hamburger helper for dinner, so they sent one of the roommates to the grocery store to buy hamburger. The roommate was gone for more than an hour and came back without the hamburger.

Puzzled, the woman studying to be an agriculture teacher went to the same grocery store that the roommate went to and purchased hamburger. When the agriculture teacher came back with the hamburger, she questioned the other roommate on why she couldn't find the hamburger. Her reason: none of the labels said 'hamburger.'

This story made me chuckle, but the reality is, consumers are so far removed from agriculture, that they may not know the difference between ground chuck and ground round in the grocery store. And the roommate was exactly right, none of the labels said hamburger.

Growing up on a farm and buying meat from the butcher shop, I guess I have taken it for granted that I am familiar on how to prepare beef and what the different types of ground beef are.

There are many types of ground beef based on where the meat comes from and the fat content. The most common types of ground beef that are available include:

- **Regular ground beef.** This beef usually contains the highest fat content (about 25 to 30 percent) since it's cut from the trimmings of inexpensive cuts like brisket and shank. Regular ground beef is the least expensive form, it has the most flavor, and it will shrink the most when cooked because of the high fat content.
- **Ground chuck.** This beef contains about 15 to 20 percent fat and comes from the front of the animal (by the shoulder). The ground chuck isn't as fatty and has good flavor. When reading a label, it also may be labeled lean ground beef.
- **Ground round.** This beef has about 12 percent fat and is from the back end of the cow near the tail area. The ground round has a less-beefy flavor, this beef is often mixed with other ingredients. It also can be labeled extra-lean ground beef.
- **Ground sirloin.** This is the leanest and most expensive form of ground beef. It contains 10 to 14 percent fat and comes from the midsection of the animal. Ground sirloin is the healthiest beef, yet is the driest when cooked. When shopping, it can be labeled extra-lean ground beef.

Next time you are at the grocery store, take note of the different types of ground beef and notice the fat content that is listed on the label. Or better yet, stop by your local butcher and buy some of the freshest meat. Ground beef can be stored in the refrigerator for up to two days, or stored in the freezer for up to six months.

Information from [www.thekitchn.com](http://www.thekitchn.com).

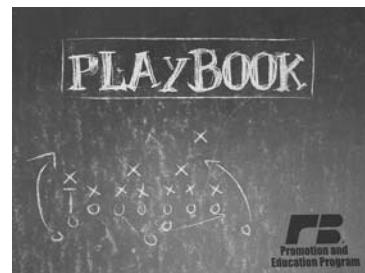
*Do you have other topics that you want to read about in the Milwaukee County newsletter? To generate ideas for future newsletters, please contact District 1 coordinator at [prodron@wfbf.com](mailto:prodron@wfbf.com).*

## Milwaukee County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Scott Ninnemann	414.421.4604
Vice President, Henry Kiesow	414.732.7242
Secretary/Treasurer, John Napientek	414.529.0980
Director, Martin Hintz	414.352.1868
Director, Elroy Honadel	414.529.0196
Milwaukee County Farm Bureau	877.483.0728
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
RMIC District Manager, Ken Bosman	414.416.7595

## 'Playbook' Resource is Online

Did you know that the Farm Bureau collected events, programs and activities from throughout the state and put them into one resource for counties?



Throughout the 'Playbook,' you will find activities and events for different ages, time frames and budgets in the following categories:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Consumer outreach
- Education and ag promotion
- Fundraising
- Member development
- Policy and development implementation

Updates to the 'Playbook' will be made quarterly. Updates to 'plays' and 'new plays' can be submitted.

For more information, please contact Deb Raemisch at 608.828.5712 or [draemisch@wfbf.com](mailto:draemisch@wfbf.com).

## Attend the Ag Women's Summit

Join us at the Ag Women's Summit on March 10-11 at the Madison Marriott West.



WISCONSIN

*Ag Women's*

SUMMIT

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and University of Wisconsin-Extension to host an event focused on engaging and supporting women in agriculture.

During the Ag Women's Summit the 2017 AgVocate of the Year award will be announced.

Keynote speaker is Jane Jenkins Herlong who will talk about 'Bare feet to high heels and the flip flops in between' and 'Don't throw tomatoes at my field of dreams.'

If you register before **February 13**, you will save \$25 on the \$155 registration fee. One-Day registration is \$115. Final registration deadline is **March 3**.

For more information or to register, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com) or to view the agenda, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda](http://wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda).