



# Pierce | St. Croix County Farm Bureaus

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For information about our farm safety campaign, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

### Rural Mutual Agents in Pierce & St. Croix County:

Pam Singerhouse (715) 796-2207  
Leah Close, Steve Jenkins (715) 425-8121  
Nick Jenkins, Tom Jenkins (715) 796-2207

Ken Truax - District Manager

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

**District 9  
Policy Development Meetings**

2015  
District 9 Policy Development meetings:

**Monday, August 17**

11:30 am Tee Away Golf Course  
1401 E 11th St N  
Ladysmith, WI 54848

7:30 pm Stout Ale House Banquet Center  
1501 N Broadway St; #1500  
Menomonie, WI 54751

Farm Bureau got its start with local farmers meeting to discuss issues of concern in order to devise ways, or policies, to resolve these issues. The purpose of these meetings is to continue to discuss pertinent issues in agriculture in Northwestern Wisconsin that will possibly be proposed within each County Farm Bureau.

**Please plan on attending and let your voice be heard!**

For directions, questions or to RSVP, contact Katie Mattison, District 9 Coordinator at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.

## Mark Your Calendar!

### July

10-12 River Falls Days  
15-19 St. Croix County Fair  
17 YFA Eau Claire Express Game  
17-19 Plum City Summer Fest  
22-26 Dunn County Fair  
24-26 Elmwood UFO Days

### August

1 District 9 YFA Outing  
8 Farm City Day  
12 District 9 Women's Summit  
13-16 Pierce County Fair  
14 WFBF Institute Class X Applications Due  
14-16 Moon Lake Threshing Bee – Clayton  
15 YFA Conference Sponsorship Forms Due  
17 District 9 Policy Development Meetings

### August Continued

21-23 El Paso Days  
23 St. Croix Valley Collector's Association Threshing Bee – Hudson  
25-27 Farm Technology Days – Dane County  
28-30 Harvest Fest  
29 District 9 Ag in the Classroom Workshop

### September

9 Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting  
10 District 9 YFA Discussion Meet, Menomonie  
11-13 Prescott Daze  
11-12 UWRF Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo  
14 Wisconsin Ag Open  
18-20 Spring Valleys Dam Days  
24 St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

**Save the Date  
Pierce County  
Farm Bureau  
Annual Meeting**

When: Wednesday, September 9  
Where: Martel Community Center

Come celebrate with Pierce County Farm Bureau, network and discuss current policy at the Pierce County Farm Bureau annual meeting. Watch your mail later this summer for your formal invitation.

**Save the Date  
St. Croix County  
Farm Bureau  
Annual Meeting**

When: Thursday, September 24  
Where: Baldwin Legion

Come celebrate with St. Croix County Farm Bureau, network and discuss current policy at the St. Croix County Farm Bureau annual meeting. Watch your mail later this summer for your formal invitation.



# COUNTYnews

PIERCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | ST. CROIX COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Bourget Babbles: A YFA Program Update



I hope everyone enjoyed their spring and the beginning of summer—it's finally here! I know everyone's calendars are filling up with all of the wonderful things that come with summer: barbecues with family and friends, fun on the water and fieldwork.

District 9 YFA also has some wonderful opportunities for some summer fun. We have summer socials and some great professional development opportunities.

**July 17– Eau Claire Express Game, 7:05 p.m.**

\$12, RSVP by July 10 to Cindy Bourget at 715.505.7676

**August 1 – Shooting Range, Brewery Tour and Bonfire**

Choose any or all of the activities that day! Watch your mail for more information.

**September 10 – District YFA Discussion Meet, 7 p.m.**

Dunn County Community Service Building  
(Old Health Care Center)

**September 12 – Farmer Frolic 5K**

This 5K will be paired with Farm City Day in Chippewa County; watch for more details. All proceeds help fund YFA events!

I would also encourage you to take a look at attending your county's policy development meetings. A great way to find out those dates is to talk to a member of your county board.

I can't wait to see all of you this summer. If you have ideas for other things to do or would like to sign up to help with any of these events, just let Al or I know at [cindy.m.bourget@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.m.bourget@gmail.com) or 715.505.7676.

Happy Summer!

**Cindy Bourget**  
District 9 YFA Representative

## Acreege Certification Submitted by Robert Forrest, St. Croix County FSA

After spring planting, producers need to certify their 2015 acreages by the July 15 reporting deadline to the St. Croix County Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Baldwin. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage is required to establish eligibility for most FSA programs that were enacted in the 2014 Farm Bill.

The deadline to file an acreage report for 2016 perennial forages and fall seeded small grains and wheat is November 15, 2015.

For more information or to schedule an acreage reporting appointment, please contact the St. Croix County FSA office in Baldwin at 715.684.2874 ext. 2.

## District 9 Women's Committee Update



As I sit down to write this, I can't help but reflect on the last few months as the new women's committee representative for District 9.

To say that so far it has been a learning experience is an understatement. I have met so many new people and gotten immersed even further into Farm Bureau and for that I am truly thankful. This organization that we all have in common has so many opportunities for us all to get involved and let our voices be heard for something near and dear to our hearts, agriculture.

Something I hold very closely to my heart, being a mother of two young children, is the Ag in the Classroom program. Agriculture gets left behind easily in our schools and I want to help give our district Ag in the Classroom coordinators and all those who want to help get the Ag in the Classroom programs into our schools a chance to gain knowledge, tools and share their experiences with each other.

On August 29, we will be having a district-wide Ag in the Classroom round-table discussion and training day. All of you who want to get more involved in Ag in the Classroom and those who are serving as coordinators, please mark this day and plan to attend. It will be a great day to share ideas and see what is working for other counties, so please join us to share your valuable experiences!

Something else to look forward to in August will be our district-wide women's summit. This will be held on August 12 in the Amery area. This is a great chance to get off of the farm and network with other women involved in agriculture from across our district. I challenge you to try and find another woman who may be interested in becoming a member and bring her to this event. This is a great event to show others what we are about and the support system that we have in place as women in agriculture.

Lastly, in 2014 the state Women's Committee held a pop tab drive during the WFBF Annual Meeting. We collected 734 pounds of tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald houses. We are holding the drive this year and it will be a competition among districts to see which district donates the most.

Who doesn't like a little friendly competition! So please start or keep saving those tabs! If you know anyone who owns a bar or restaurant who is willing to save these for you, think about asking them. If you are unable to make it to the WFBF Annual Meeting but still want to donate, please contact Katie Mattison or I and we will make sure that the pop tabs are picked up.

**Amber Cordes**  
District 9 Women's Committee Representative



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## Pierce County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dean Bergseng 715.425.6404  
Vice President, John Krings 715.495.6285  
Secretary, Laura Benitz 715.220.8962  
Treasurer, Roy Swanson 715.273.3268  
YFA Chair, Peter Kimball 715.307.3726  
Women's Chair, Monica Krings 715.495.6286

Director, Mary Brand 715.307.0903  
Director, Eric Turner 715.307.7262  
Pierce County Farm Bureau 866.795.4792

**We are here for you. Call with questions or if you are interested in getting more involved in Farm Bureau!**

## Pierce County President's Message



Dear Farm Bureau members,

What a great spring it has been! Farmers got their crops in and had a few short windows to get some high protein hay bagged. Moisture levels have improved and things were looking great at the time I wrote this.

Pierce County Farm Bureau made our membership goal the end of April. Thank you to the dedicated Farm Bureau members who put in the extra time and effort to make many contacts to help meet our goal. We welcome all new members!

The Pierce County Fair will be August 12-16 and Pierce County Farm Bureau will again have our Little Red Barn where we will be selling milk, cookies and cheese curds. If you would be willing to

help, we would greatly appreciate it. Shifts are three-hours each. If you are interested contact, any Pierce County Farm Bureau Board member.

We will be handing out milk and cheese curds to promote the dairy industry at local parades. Look for us at the River Falls Days Parade as well as the Prescott Daze Parade.

There are many festivals, shows, etc., in our area coming up this summer and early fall. See the schedule in this newsletter for more information.

Have a great summer and I hope to see all of you at some of our upcoming events.

**Dean Bergseng**  
Pierce County Farm Bureau President

## Plum City Student is Essay Contest Winner

Allysha Lee Hines, a fourth grade student from Plum City, is the Pierce County winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100 to 300 word essay with the theme, "Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?"

Allysha is the daughter of Patrick Hines, Jr. Tanya Bechel is her fourth grade teacher at Plum City Elementary.

A total of 2,853 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Frontier-Servco FS and We Energies.

*Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced. The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: Agriculture. Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of local educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.*



**Monica Krings, Pierce County Farm Bureau Women's Chair presented Allysha with a certificate and cash prize from the Pierce County Farm Bureau for submitting the winning essay.**

Here is a look at Allysha's winning essay:

Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?

You probably think bees are just pests at your family picnic, well, let this girl prove you wrong. Bees are four winged, hairy insects that gather pollen and collect nectar to make honey. Most bees live in colonies. In the colonies, they work together to make honey and that's what most bees in Wisconsin do.

Where would Wisconsin be without bees? Well, without bees we wouldn't have any apples, raspberries, or our state fruit, cranberries, because bees need to pollinate them. We, as in the state of Wisconsin, are the top cranberry producer in the United States, and when cranberry harvest time comes around, cranberries bring in a lot to the Wisconsin economy.

Do you like honey? Well, bees make honey, but you probably already knew that. Here's something you probably didn't know, bees communicate by dancing. Wouldn't that be cool talking about making honey by dancing?! Well when you are picking berries or are at a picnic and you see a bee, don't swat at the little guy, he or she is just trying to do their job and you are doing yours. So if you swat at it, it may sting you. After a bee stings, it dies and that is just one less bee to pollinate your apple tree or one less bee to make delicious honey for us.

So next time you see a bee, before you swat it think "do I want honey or a delicious apple for breakfast or a snack" and then don't swat the bee, let it live and make you honey. Bees mean a lot to Wisconsin agriculture. What do they mean to you?

## Euchre Party a Success



Another successful euchre party is in the books for the Pierce County Farm Bureau. It was held on Friday, March 27, at the El Paso Bar and Grill and brought nearly 70 people who enjoyed an evening of fun.

Thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make the event a success including Pierce County FB, AgStar, AgSource, Countryside/Precision Ag, John Krings NK Seed, Western Wisconsin Ag Supply. We hope to see everyone next year!

## Coming soon – Pierce County Fair



The Pierce County Fair is set for August 13-16. The Pierce County Farm Bureau will again be operating their Little Red Barn where cookies, milk and cheese curds will be served.

We encourage you to volunteer to work a shift. The Little Red Barn is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day of the fair. Shifts are flexible and every hour you can help is appreciated!

Please contact Monica Krings at 715.495.6286 or Dean Bergseng at 715.307.4976 if you are able to help out. We would love to see you at the fair!

## Welcome New Pierce Members!

Keith Anders\*, John Bazille\*, Gene Champlin\*, Pete Christiansen, Edward Cobian\*, Luke Flynn, Michael Hildebrandt\*, Cory Huppert\*, Mark Kimball\*, Max Klecker\*, Brad Mogen, Scott Most\*, Richard Schommer, Donald Schroeder, John Schroeder, Bryan Thoner\*, Ruth Wagner\* and Michael Young

\*Denote Voting Membership

## Berry Season is Here!

Visit White Pine Berry Farm to get your fresh berries.



## Planting Success for 60 Years

The Krings Brothers of Plum City are celebrating 60 years of selling seed to area farmers!



It all began in 1954 with James Krings selling seed under the company name of Funk's G-Hybrid. In 1988, James' brother John took over the business. The seed company was then purchased by CIBA Geigy and was named CIBA Seeds. This was the first company with BT Corn in 1996. Later that year CIBA merged with Northrup King and became NK-Syngenta, which is the present name of the seed company.

The biggest change the brothers saw in the business throughout the years was that area farmers started planting similar amounts of acreage for soybeans as to corn.

John's company, NK-Syngenta, is still going today and the representative is Kevin Lallensack of Hudson.

Every fall, John holds a field day at his field plot near Arkansaw, WI to celebrate the harvest.

## St. Croix County President's Message



Summer events are rapidly approaching and the St. Croix County Fair will be here in a short couple of weeks! We are always looking for more help in the food stand. We would love it if you would join us and work for a few hours. If you are willing to work, please contact Melanie Peterson or Jenny Mueller.

This year we will be without the help of one of our faithful cashiers, Rudy Erickson, as he passed away during the winter. So we are in need of somebody to help fill those shoes.

Farm City Day is coming up on August 8 and will be held at the Neumann Family Farm. St. Croix County Farm Bureau

will be sponsoring a beef promotion along with Ag in the Classroom activities. The Neumann farm is west of Cedar Lake on Polk St. Croix Road.

The beginning of the policy development process will be starting soon with the multi-county meeting on August 17 in Menomonie. If you have an idea that you would like presented at the annual meeting, this is the place to start.

Also, don't forget that our annual meeting will be Thursday, September 24.

I hope to see you at some of our upcoming activities.

**Dave Kruschke**, St. Croix County Farm Bureau President

## St. Croix County Scholarship Recipients Selected

Three St. Croix County students have been selected as recipients of the 2015 St. Croix County Farm Bureau \$250 Scholarships. The applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and a recommendation from teachers.

This year's St. Croix County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients

**Kaitlin is a senior at Glenwood City High School. She is the daughter of Kraig and Maureen Konder. Her plan is to attend the UW-River Falls for pre-veterinary medicine and then transfer to the University of Minnesota for veterinarian school. Kaitlin is active in the Bellringers 4-H Club, FFA, cross country, track and field and is a member of the National Honor Society.**



**Tanner is a senior at Baldwin-Woodville High School. He is the son of Terry and Laura Thompson and plans to attend the University of St. Thomas to study business administration – financial management. Tanner is involved in basketball, golf and is very active in his church as well as many community service activities.**



**Ellis is a senior at New Richmond High School. He is the son of Bob and Tammy Frank and will be attending Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar Iowa to study ag production and ag business. Ellis is involved in Riverside 4-H, FFA, basketball and is on the county dairy judging team.**



Congratulations to all of the recipients. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

## Glenwood City Agriculture Education Program Receives Grant

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag in the Classroom program awarded 18 matching grants to Wisconsin schools and organizations to expand agricultural literacy. The grants, totaling more than \$8,300, provide funding for a variety of activities that help students learn about agriculture. Glenwood City's Agriculture Education Program was the recipient of \$360.67 of the total \$8,300 that was awarded throughout Wisconsin.

The Glenwood City Agriculture Education program, with the

help of Ag in the Classroom and the FFA Alumni, has developed a unique learning experience for students. Students have developed a full-scale hydroponics system in the agriculture classroom and are using it to produce food for the local food pantry. Students have developed an understanding of agricultural systems and how food production via hydroponics is facilitated.

To learn more about matching grants and the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).

## FSA Offices to Host COC Elections Open House July 8 Submitted by Robert Forrest, St. Croix County Farm Service Agency



The St. Croix County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Baldwin is hosting an annual open house on Wednesday, July 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. FSA county office staff will provide information on FSA's County Committee Election process.

FSA County Committees help deliver farm programs at the local level. Farmers who serve on county committees are serving other farmers by working to make FSA agricultural programs meet the needs of local producers.

The open house is an opportunity for producers and landowners to visit the FSA county office to learn more about

how they can make a difference through the annual election process.

The nomination period for this year's election is June 15 to August 3. There is plenty of time for farmers and landowners to get involved, especially women and minority producers. To find out more about the election or to obtain a nomination form, go to [www.fsa.usda.gov/elections](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections) or contact your local county FSA office. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in the meeting should contact Bob Forrest at 715.684.2874 ext. 2 or Federal Relay Service at 877.387.2001 by at least three days prior to the open house.

## St. Croix County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, David Kruschke	715.246.6461
Vice President, Randy Roquette	715.684.3303
Secretary/Treasurer, Jenny Mueller	715.749.3583
Women's Chair, Melanie Peterson	715.665.2142
YFA Chair, Mikayla Doornink	715.338.5666
Director, Fritz Anding	715.425.5058
Director, Tim Bazille	715.698.2328
Director, Lynn Brosi	715.425.5575
Director, James Lund	715.684.3936
Director, Dean Mueller	715.760.1501
Director, Gary Peterson	715.665.2142
Director, Greg Zwald	715.222.4349
St. Croix County Farm Bureau	888.830.2574

## District 9 Contacts

WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget	715.505.7676
District 9 Women's Chair, Amber Cordes	715.357.3444
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

## Farm City Day Set for August 8

The 2015 Farm City Day will be held Saturday, August 8, at Neu-Vu Acres, the Neumann Family Farm at 2250 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New Richmond.

Every year nearly 100 4-H members and families volunteer to help at Farm City Day. This is a great community service project and can be fun too. As always, it takes a tremendous volunteer force to host a successful event like Farm City Day. If you are interested in helping out please contact the St. Croix County Extension office at 715.531.1930.

## The St. Croix County Fair is Right Around the Corner

This year's fair is set for July 15-19. St. Croix County Farm Bureau will once again be operating their food stand, which includes those famous deep fried cheese curds!



The food stand operates from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the fair and we could use your help. Please consider spending a few hours serving your friends and neighbors at the St. Croix County Fair Food Stand. A free meal is included for working at least a three-hour shift. Contact Melanie Peterson at 715.665.2142 or Jenny Mueller at 715.749.3583 to schedule your preferred time.

Many hands make for light work. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

## Welcome New St. Croix Members!

Jae Anderson\*, Sam Ausen\*, Kevin Bonte, Jerry Bradley\*, Liz Doornink\*, Shannon Dorwin\*, Stacy Downer, Craig Erlitz\*, Jared Frey, Chris Gilman\*, Jim Graese\*, Darrick Haas, Peter Heebink\*, Angela Hines\*, Dennis Johnson, Marvin Johnson\*, Gary Kasprzak\*, Jason Kjeseth, Mike Kjeseth, Kaitlin Konder\*, Andrew Lauver, John Lund\*, Matt McGee\*, Wendy Meckel, Brian Ormson, Julio Orsini\*, Cheri Rott\*, Brent Springgle, Leanne Terpstra\*, Zach Tiry\*, Jonathan Wolff and Kay Zwald\*  
\*Denotes Voting Membership