



# Pierce | St. Croix County Farm Bureaus

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### District Director Message



Farmers are the eternal optimists. That is evident each spring as our fields come to life and we make the investment of crop inputs again. I hope this spring has been a great start to your crop year.

Each year we are reminded of the importance of asking our friends and neighbors to join us as members of Farm Bureau. This year, many took part in the "I'll Get Two" effort to gain new members. We are off to a great membership year thanks to the work of many volunteers. There is still time to continue this effort of supporting each of our counties.

Please plan to take part in County Farm Bureau events throughout the year. They are the backbone of local efforts to support programs like 4-H, FFA, Ag in the Classroom and our Young Farmer Program. They all contribute to making agriculture stronger. The resolutions process will be upon us before we know it, and your voice is an important one. The resulting policy will guide our actions through the year as we represent farmers across the state.

**Jim Holte**  
WFBF President and District 9 Director

### Join Pierce County YFAs for the Showdown

The Ellsworth FFA Alumni National Tractor Pullers Association's Tractor pull is at 7 p.m. on **Saturday, June 11**. Pierce County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist members are invited to attend this event. There will be special discounts for YFA members, their families and friends.



For more information, please contact Peter Kimball at 715.307.3726.

### Raise Your Voice: Plan to Attend the Policy Development Meeting

- When:** Thursday, August 4
- Where:** • 11:30 a.m. Tee Away Golf Course  
1401 E 11th Street N  
Ladysmith
- 7:30 p.m. Stout Ale House Banquet Center  
1501 N Broadway Street #1500  
Menomonie

**Your Voice Matters!** Farm Bureau has been a grass-roots organization since its beginning. Its strength does not lie in Madison or Washington, but rather in each and every one of its members in counties throughout the state and nation.

That means we need to hear what is important to you. Please plan to attend and let your voice be heard.

\*The **District 9 YFA Discussion**

**Meet** will precede the Policy Development meeting at the Stout Ale House starting at **6:30 p.m.**

For more information or to RSVP, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com.



### Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix Summer Appreciation Picnic Scheduled

- When:** Thursday, July 14
- Social Hour at 6 p.m.
  - Dinner at 7 p.m.
- Where:** Eric Turner Farm, W4210 850<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Spring Valley
- Menu:** Hamburgers, brats, hotdogs, buns, condiments, milk, lemonade, water and utensils will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and chairs.

There will be yard games and family fun. We hope to see you there!

For more information or to RSVP by **July 8** (appreciated but not required), please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com.





# COUNTYnews

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

## Local Farmers Advocate for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol

Farmers and agriculturists from around the state and representing a variety of commodities came to Madison on January 27 to bring a voice for agriculture to the Capitol.

Members of Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus, along with nearly 400 other farmers and members gathered at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening to learn more about

topics in agriculture as well as meet with their state representatives.

Whether or not you attended Ag Day at the Capitol, it is important for us to raise our voice on topics that are important. Take a few minutes to become familiar with a topic that is affecting you and contact your legislators.

It is important to have farmers to be a voice for agriculture!



Representing Pierce County Farm Bureau during Ag Day at the Capitol were: (L-R) Paul Fetzer, Bryan Thoner, Monica Krings, Pete Christiansen, Phil Verges, Laura (Emma) Benitz, Peter Kimball and Dean Bergseng.



Representing St. Croix County Farm Bureau during the Ag Day at the Capitol were: (L-R) Kaitlyn Konder, Greg Zwald, Maddie Colbeth, Dennis VanRoekel and Lynn Brosi.

## Networking at the Ag Women's Summit

By Laura Benitz, Pierce County Farm Bureau Board Member

Greetings women of Pierce and St. Croix Counties! This was my first year attending the Ag Women's Summit and I had an amazing time! I only signed up because of one session and I didn't realize how much of a blessing the networking would be.

Our first large group had a wonderful panel of women, including a past Alice in Dairy land. There also was time for questions and answers and great conversations continued at our table. The networking, sessions, casino night, boxing (with trainers) and amazing food built for a time that encouraged and refreshed women on the farm!

Mark your calendar for the Ag Women's Summit for **March 10-11, 2017!** It will be time well spent.



District 9 members attended the Ag Women's Summit were (L-R) Mary Prestrud, Laura Benitz, Monica Krings, Kayla Pagenkopf, Katie Mattison, Amber Cordes, Geri Wolfe, Sandy Reichel and Melanie Peterson.

## District 9 YFA Outing with Minnesota

More than 50 young farmers from Minnesota and Wisconsin Farm Bureau toured a water buffalo farm and a kidney bean farm on March 12 to learn about agriculture in northwestern Wisconsin.

The group toured the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company in Chippewa Falls and had dinner at the Fill Inn Station Restaurant and Saloon.



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## 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.)

## 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

## 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

## Pierce County Annual Meeting

**When:** Thursday, September 15.

## Coming Soon, Pierce County Fair

The Pierce County Fair is **August 11-14**. The Pierce County Farm Bureau will operate the 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 your help is appreciated.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Monica Krings at 715.495.6286 or Dean Bergseng at 715.307.4976. We hope to see you at the fair!



## Pierce County Farmers Card Party



**Tony Shafer smiled after winning the Euchre Tournament.**

Another successful euchre party is in the books for the Pierce County Farm Bureau. It was on March 18 at the El Paso Bar and Grill and brought nearly 70 people to enjoy an evening of fun.

Thank you to the sponsors who helped make the event a success including Ron Thompson, Precision Ag; West Wisconsin Nutrition, Jim Paider IBA; NK Seed, John Krings; and AgStar.

## Pierce: Welcome New Members!

Dan Anderson, Craig Bakke\*, Jason Carlson, Parker Heise, Vernon Kelly, William Liddle\*, James Mentink\*, Susan Nelson and Kinseth Sorlien.

\*Denotes voting membership.

## Pierce County President's Message



Dear Farm Bureau Members,

As I write this, spring is coming to an end and with it goes our winter. There is plenty of moisture in the ground to start the year and farmers are working to get crops in and are looking forward to a great summer.

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!

Mark your calendar for the Pierce County Dairy Breakfast which will be **June 18** at the Leeallen Huppert Farm west of Ellsworth on Highway 10.

Be safe, 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

## Pierce County Essay Contest Winner



**Pierce County Farm Bureau Women's chair Monica Krings presented Benjamin Accola with a certificate and cash prize for writing the winning essay. Benjamin's teacher Deb Freeman received Sugarbush Spring.**

Benjamin Accola, a fifth grade student from River Falls, is the Pierce County winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. He is the son of Neil Accola and Wendy Accola. Deb Freeman is his teacher at West Side Elementary.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth graders were asked

to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

Benjamin's winning essay:

### Maple Syrup in Wisconsin, The Story of Sap to Snack

*Have you ever wondered how does this delicious treat go from a stick sap to a still sticky topping and ingredient? Well, our answer can be found in this story sap to snack. The original way of collecting maple syrup was the Native American way, where they would tap a tree with a reed or hollow stick and let it go down the spout into a bucket made from a hollowed tree or birch bark. Now we use a drill to make a hole in the tree, when we either use a vacuum or gravity tap that takes it to an evaporator.*

*The Native American tribes used a bucket with a hot rock in it and let it evaporate the water or they let it freeze and took the ice off. Around the time of the American Civil War, people used large flat sheets and covered them with syrup and heated it up. This speeded production up because it took less time because of more surface area. Now we use a machine called an evaporator that takes in the syrup and evaporates out the water. This process is called concentration.*

*Now when things are happening in the production, off-flavors can occur that change the taste and infect it with contaminants.*

*Lastly something that hasn't changed in maple syrup production since the Native Americans is the boiling which is the last step in making maple syrup. It is where you put it into a large pot and heat it until it gets to 218 degrees F. Then you let it cool, grade it and package it. Then you get some tasty maple syrup. Next thing you know, you're putting it on your pancakes and gulping it down.*

## Making Time to CHOOSE to Lead

By Leslie Svacina, a St. Croix County Farm Bureau board member and member of the 2016 WFBF Institute



I don't have enough time. I'm not experienced enough. I'm too young. I'm too old. I'm not a typical farmer. There are dozens of reasons for not stepping into leadership roles.

I thought a lot about what it takes to be a leader while driving three-and-a-half-hours home from our first WFBF Institute last month.

Vince Lombardi once said, "Leaders are made, not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile."

This quote sheds light on a myth that only certain people are destined to be leaders; however, leaders come from all backgrounds and demonstrate strong character, while using skills and talents to benefit their communities. Leaders recognize and step up when asked or on their own initiative. Either way, it's a CHOICE.

Similar to many, I'm busy. I have a young son, a job off the farm and I manage a growing farm. Through life experiences, I recognize the importance of taking care of oneself and family. But that aside, there will never be a good time to be a leader. As members of Farm Bureau and other organizations, we need to step up and take a leadership role. Find the right fit and what works. Say yes and do it well.

We also need to find ways to grow as a leader, developing personal skills and challenging our views and perspectives on life. I've made the choice to purposefully grow as a leader through the WFBF Institute. During our first session we learned about ourselves, evaluating who we are as leaders, understanding our personality types and intellectual intelligence and building and practice speaking skills.

The best part so far has been getting to know my classmates. We each come from different places in life, from being just out of school to seasoned agriculturalists, single, married, county board members, new members, range of agricultural experiences and so on.

Fellow agriculturalists, here is my challenge: CHOOSE to make the time to step up as leader in your community, and consider adding the WFBF Institute to your development to-do list.

The WFBF Institute develops strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. As an Institute member you will participate in engaging and interactive sessions that develop your leadership skills, dive into your creative side, advocate for agriculture and learn more about Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

Apply to be a member of the 2017 WFBF Institute. Applications are due **August 15**.

For more information, visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/leadership-training-institute](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/leadership-training-institute). You won't regret this rewarding experience!

## St. Croix County President's Message



The summer activities of Farm Bureau are rapidly approaching.

The St. Croix County Fair will be here before we know it. We are always looking for more help in the food stand and want you to join us and work for a few hours. You are sure to have a good time.

If you are willing to work, please contact Melanie Peterson or Jenny Mueller.

This year we are trying something different and will have a member appreciation picnic with Pierce and Dunn County with Pierce being the host. Please join us on **Thursday, July**

**14**, at the Turner farm south of Baldwin.

Farm-City Day will be held on **August 13** at Kruschke's Crisdhome Farms north of New Richmond. Many volunteers are needed to make this event successful so please contact me if you want to help.

The policy development process will start soon with the multi-county meeting on **August 4** in Menomonie. If you have an idea that you want presented at the annual meeting, this is the place to start. Join us and let your voice be heard.

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

## Meet Farm Bureau Member: Kaitlyn Konder



**Farm name:** Kondquest Holsteins  
**City, county:** Glenwood City, St. Croix County

**Number of years in Farm**

**Bureau:** 1 year

**Why did you choose agriculture?**

Agriculture has been, and always will be, a part of my life. I grew up on a family dairy farm, where we milk 45 Holsteins. I showed at the St. Croix County Fair ever

since I was in first grade and at the Wisconsin State Fair. I am serving as a Wisconsin State FFA Officer and I travel the state promoting agriculture and FFA. Being involved with the agri-

culture industry has made me the person I am. Growing up on a farm gave me a work ethic that I wouldn't change for the world. I want to be a large animal veterinarian and support the agriculture industry.

**Why are you a Farm Bureau member?** I am a Farm Bureau member because my older sister is involved in the organization and she has grown as a person. I want to attend different events to learn about what is happening in the agriculture industry so that I'm aware of what the future holds. I am excited to see my future in Farm Bureau participating in events and networking with others.

**Any other information you want to share?** I enjoy listening to other farmer's stories and watching the discussion meet contest. I can't wait to tell my agriculture story someday.

## Upcoming Events

### June

- 3-5 Roberts Good Neighbor Days
- 4 Dunn County Dairy Breakfast - Val-O-Mo Farm, Steve Weinzirl family
- 4 Dairy Day, Farm and Home, New Richmond, 8 a.m. to noon
- 11 Ellsworth FFA Alumni National Tractor Pullers Association Tractor Pull
- 18 Pierce County Dairy Breakfast - Lee Alen and Mary Jo Huppert farm

### July

- 1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 8-10 River Falls Days
- 13-17 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 14 Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Picnic
- 19-21 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Walworth County
- 20-24 St. Croix County Fair
- 20-24 Barron County Fair
- 27-31 Dunn County Fair
- 27-31 Polk County Fair
- 29-31 Elmwood UFO Days

### August

- 4 Policy Development Meetings and YFA Discussion Meet
- 4-7 Rusk County Fair
- 13 St. Croix County Far-City Day, Kruschke family, Crisdhome Farm
- 11-14 Pierce County Fair
- 15 2017 WFBF Leadership Institute applications due
- 15 YFA Conference Sponsorship forms due
- 18-21 Sawyer County Fair

### September

- 12 Wisconsin Ag Open
- 9-11 Prescott Daze
- 9-10 Chippewa Valley Farm City Day - Alfalawn Farm, Menomonie
- 10 Second Annual Farmer Frolic 5K Run/Walk, Chippewa Valley Farm City Day
- 14 St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
- 15 Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

## St. Croix County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, David Kruschke 715.246.6461  
Vice President, Leslie Svacina 651.261.3079  
Secretary/Treasurer, Jenny Mueller 715.749.3583  
Women's Chair, Melanie Peterson 715.665.2142  
YFA Chair, Kirsten Konder 715.977.7351

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, Randy Roquette 715.684.3303  
Director, Greg Zwald 715.222.4349

St. Croix County Farm Bureau 888.830.2574

## St. Croix County Annual Meeting

**When:** Wednesday, September 14.

## St. Croix County Fair is Coming

The St. Croix County Fair is July 20-24 and the St. Croix County Farm Bureau will operate the food stand, which includes those famous deep fried cheese curds.

The food stand is open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the fair and we need your help. Please volunteer a few hours to serve 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.

For more information or to schedule your preferred time, please contact Melanie Peterson at 715.665.2142 or Jenny Mueller at 715.749.3583. Many hands make for light work. Thank you for your willingness to help.



## St. Croix Scholarship Recipient



Hailey Schultz is the recipient of the \$250 St. Croix County Farm Bureau Scholarship. She is a senior at St. Croix Central High School and the daughter of Joel and Cindy Schultz.

Cindy plans to attend Concordia University and major in education. She is active in golf, Roberts Ribbon Reapers 4-H Club, Family Career and Community Leaders of America and National Honor Society. **Congratulations to Hailey! We wish you the best in your endeavors.**

## St. Croix: Welcome New Members!

Dulcie Anderson, Ken Anibas\*, Ashley Berg\*, Mark Biel\*, Mary Brand\*, Paul Churchill\*, Corey Deiss, Jarek Farbisz\*, Brian Fayerweather, David Finkelson\*, Keith Gunderson, Daniel Hager, Jackson Hager, John Huppert\*, Mitchell Johnson, Sam Johnson, Dwayne Johnson, Pat Johnson, Anna Koch, Daniel Koecher\*, Mary Kurth\*, Bradley Langer\*, Donald Langer, Jon Lantz\*, Charles Most\*, Paige Nelson, Kyle Olson, Daniel Puhmann\*, Mark Raleigh\*, Michelle Reuter\*, Matthew Shipp, Daniel Sitz\*, Todd Straub, Town of Hartland, Mitch Thompson\* and Robert Wirth\*.

\*Denotes voting membership.