



Portage County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Friends of Mill Creek Watershed Learn About Soil and Water Conservation Practices



Portage County Farm Bureau provided the lunch for visitors.

On June 25, members, friends, farmers and conservationist gathered to learn more about soil and water conservation practices in the Mill Creek watershed.

Visitors also saw heritage tractors and equipment prepare the soil and plant soil conservation buffer strips along waterways leading to the Mill Creek. They learned about cover crops and cover cropping techniques that work with cropping systems.

Tillage and planting demonstrations and heritage equipment display were provided by:

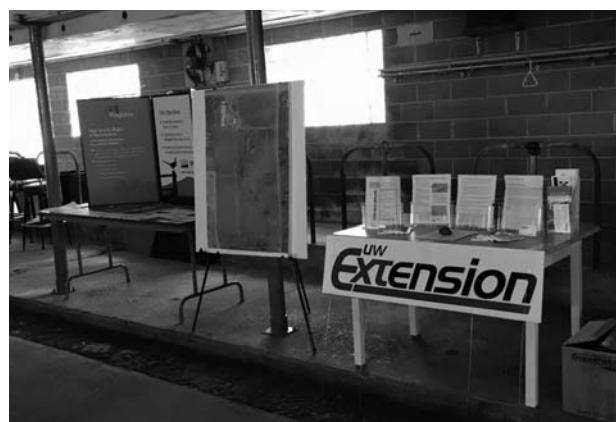
- Rudolph Old Tractor Club
- Glacier Ridge Tractor Club
- Sherry Tired Iron
- Rosholt Area Threshermen, Inc.

The event was hosted by the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council.

Thank you to the collaborators including UW-Extension, Portage County; Portage County Land and Water Conservation Division; and Wood County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council is a group of farmers in the Mill Creek watershed who came together because they care about the soil, water and farmers.

The ultimate goal of the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Council is to be stewards of environmental sustainability for the land and water in the watershed and demonstrate to the public that farmers are conservation leaders and care about the land and water and are doing everything they can to take care of it.





COUNTYnews

PORTAGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2016 District 8 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Farm Tour

By Shannon Boschma, Marathon County YFA Chair



National Farm Medicine Center regarding farm safety topics and training. While there we enjoyed lunch sponsored by the National Farm Medicine Center and WFBF YFA.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from District 8 gathered on April 1 to enjoy a day of learning in central Wisconsin.

Our first tour was at H&S Manufacturing in Marshfield. We learned about the business history and building philosophies of H&S from tour host Ron Zygarielke. We also enjoyed a tour of the manufacturing plant.

From there we went to the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station auditorium to listen to an insightful presentation from staff with the

Our next tour was Seehafer's Farm and Creamery in Marshfield. We learned about their agri-tourism venture in starting a creamery on-farm from Nikki Seehafer. Staff from the National Farm Medicine Center also presented some key points to consider when welcoming visitors on farm. Joey Ploeckelman gave a tour of the dairy farm and answered questions about milking practices, feed mixes and calf-heifer raising.

The last tour was at the UW-Marshfield Agricultural Research Station Farm in Stratford. Nancy Esser and Will Cordes presented the group with a lot of interesting information regarding what kinds of trials are conducted on UW research farms, why those trials take place and how dairy farms use and benefit from their findings.

Thank you to the tour hosts: H&S Manufacturing, Seehafer's and Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, the guest speaker from the National Farm Medicine Center and to everyone who participated in the tour. We hope you enjoyed the tour and found it informational.



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District 8 YFA Update By Beth Schaefer, District 8 YFA Representative

Calling all Young Farmer and Agriculturist members. Some exciting events and opportunities are on the horizon including the District 8 Discussion Meet, Rural Mutual Sponsorship for the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference and bus trip to World Dairy Expo.

'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?'

Do you have some ideas on how to answer this question? If you are between the ages of 18 and 35, come and share your knowledge and thoughts on this question by participating in the 2016 District 8 YFA Discussion Meet. The Discussion Meet is at 7 p.m. on **Sunday, August 28**, at Abbyland Travel Center and Restaurant in Curtiss. The dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The top three individuals will advance to the state competition held during the WFBF YFA Conference on December 2-4 in Wisconsin Dells.

Never competed before? Check out the 2016 Discussion Meet Manual and Tips for competing at www.wfbf.com. Look

for the updated YFA page for contest details. If you plan to participate or have questions, please contact Beth Schaefer at eaporior.schaefer@gmail.com or 608.577.6845.

This year the District 8 Policy and Development meeting will be held immediately following the YFA Discussion Meet, so come participate or cheer on our district YFA members and stick around to participate in the foundation of our organization – grassroots policy development.

Summer officially started on June 20, but planning for the YFA Conference is in full swing. Mark your calendars for December 2-4, when more than 500 YFA members arrive at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to learn, compete, network and celebrate with YFA members.

Never been to the state YFA Conference? How about attending for free? That's right, free. Rural Mutual Insurance Company will sponsor the registration and hotel for up to 50 YFA members and their guests who have not attended the YFA Conference.

For an application and details about the Rural Mutual Sponsorship, visit www.wfbf.com. Applications are due **August 15**.

Want to go to the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison? Want

to enjoy the cattle shows, vendors and networking, but don't want to drive? Catch the YFA bus, and leave the driving to us.

The bus will travel to World Dairy Expo on **Saturday, October 8**, and return after the Supreme Champion is named Saturday afternoon. The bus will tentatively leave from Wausau and pick up in Stevens Point and Westfield. More details, including cost, will be available at www.wfbf.com under the events calendar. Don't miss the 50th World Dairy Expo.

Do you have the next idea for a YFA event? Please share your ideas with Beth Schaefer, State YFA Committee Representative for District 8 at eaporior.schaefer@gmail.com or 608.577.6845.



Portage County Members Attend Summer Picnic

Portage County Farm Bureau hosted its second annual picnic in the park on June 26.

Almost 20 members attended and everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Portage County Receives Matching Grant

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) is a national program that helps students, pre-K through twelfth grade, gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so they become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

On a local level, county AITC coordinators and volunteers serve as contacts on the program. They can arrange teacher training workshops, obtain materials, organize farm or agribusiness tours or coordinate 'farmer in the classroom' presentations. Wisconsin AITC focuses on providing agriculture resources to elementary teachers through classroom presentations, teacher training and other events. Program activities are carried out in partnership with many agricultural organizations, businesses and government agencies.

This year, Portage County Farm Bureau was a winner of a \$500 matching grant made possible through the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. The county's AITC committee plans on using the money to purchase their own soybean science kit as well as materials for teachers throughout the county.

For more information or if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact John Eron at 715.498.5222.

Annual Fruit Sale Details Coming Soon

Please keep an eye on your mailbox for details for the Portage County Farm Bureau annual peach and blueberry sale.



Register NOW for the Wisconsin Ag Open

The Wisconsin Ag Open is **Monday, September 12**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.



We're Growing Leaders.

Be a member of the 2017 Leadership Institute



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

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/WFBFIInstitute>. You won't regret this rewarding experience!

Applications are due August 15, 2016.



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
 - Polaris
 - Office Depot

- Communication**
 - AgriVisor
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- 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.

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

Now that the implements of husbandry (IOH) trilogy is complete, but so many questions still remain, there has been discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book.

This book will encompass aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin highlighting both state and federal laws.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the UW-Extension are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF is rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media. These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

Even though you may know these laws, it's our hope that you share them via social media to reach and educate a much wider



audience. More importantly, any feedback that you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book. For example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or ag commercial motor vehicle (Ag-CMV) in a no-passing zone?

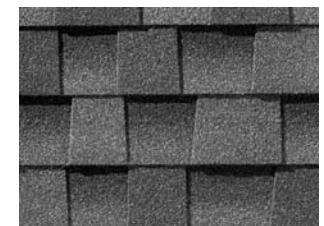
For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

Portage County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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|--|--------------|
| President, John Eron | 715.498.5222 |
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| Secretary/Treasurer, James Isherwood | 715.344.9654 |
| YFA Chair, Melissa Eron | 715.498.5222 |
| Director, John Kosmalski | 715.677.3857 |
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| Director, Mark Schaffner | 715.370.2904 |
| Director, Leonard Wiza | 715.457.6648 |
| Director, Nathan Wolosek | 715.459.1820 |
| Portage County Farm Bureau | 888.385.5945 |
| WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke | 715.573.7208 |
| District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway | 866.355.7348 |
| RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak | 715.344.6220 |

Faulty Shingles?

By Randy Wokatsch



With the agriculture commodities being what they are, I wanted to pass on some information that I found.

Attention to those who have asphalt shingle roofing on their homes, barns, sheds or other buildings: If your shingles were manufactured by CertainTeed Corporation between July 1, 1987 and December 31, 2005, you may qualify for a settlement because these shingles are defective.

For information and a claim form, visit www.certainteedshinglesettlement.com. Company representatives are available to help as well.

If you have any questions, please call me at 715.443.2457 or 715.506.1355. I completed the form and have received payment. During these trying times every bit helps so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute Graduates Talk Ag on Capitol Hill



(L-R) Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County; William Litzer, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; Congressman Sean Duffy; and Bill Mueller, Marathon County.

The topics discussed were trade, immigration, wolves, food labeling and the farm economy. Graduates of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute leadership course were joined on Capitol Hill by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Board of Directors.

The trip marked the completion of the Institute, a year-long leadership training program available to Farm Bureau members.

"Being aware of political changes and how they can or will affect my farm and life are important to me. The Institute has helped me to think outside of the box when talking with my representatives. I was able to share with them exactly how their

Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., on April 13-14.

While in Washington, Farm Bureau members met officials from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture where they discussed issues pertaining to wetland conservation, telecommunication and broadband expansion, food safety and national preparedness for animal disease.

"Being in the institute program I learned the value of being fearless. By being fearless you can accomplish more in life like having the experience of meeting our representatives in

Washington, DC., Having the opportunity to talk and share our experiences and concerns on agriculture issues with them was a benefit. Going through the institute has helped develop my confidence." -Brad Weber

decision will impact me," said Janet Clark, a dairy farmer and Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member.

A visit to the New Zealand Embassy included a conversation on trade and the global agricultural economy.



In addition to meeting with Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and their representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, Farm Bureau members also toured the floor



(L-R) Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; and Bill Mueller, Marathon County.

Members of the Institute Class IX who attended the Washington, D.C., trip were: Hannah Barthels, Milton; Amanda Carlson, Hartland; Janet Clark, Rosendale; Jayne Dalton, Endeavor; Erin Daluge, Janesville; Will Litzer, Marathon; Kelsi Mayer, Monroe; Bill Mueller, Wausau; Sarah Sacker, Browntown; Taylor Schuetz, Brooklyn; Kim VandenAvond, Luxemburg; Brad Weber, Marshfield; and Randy Wokatsch, Marathon.

For more information about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute, visit bit.ly/WFBFIInstitute.