

# Portage County Farm Bureau

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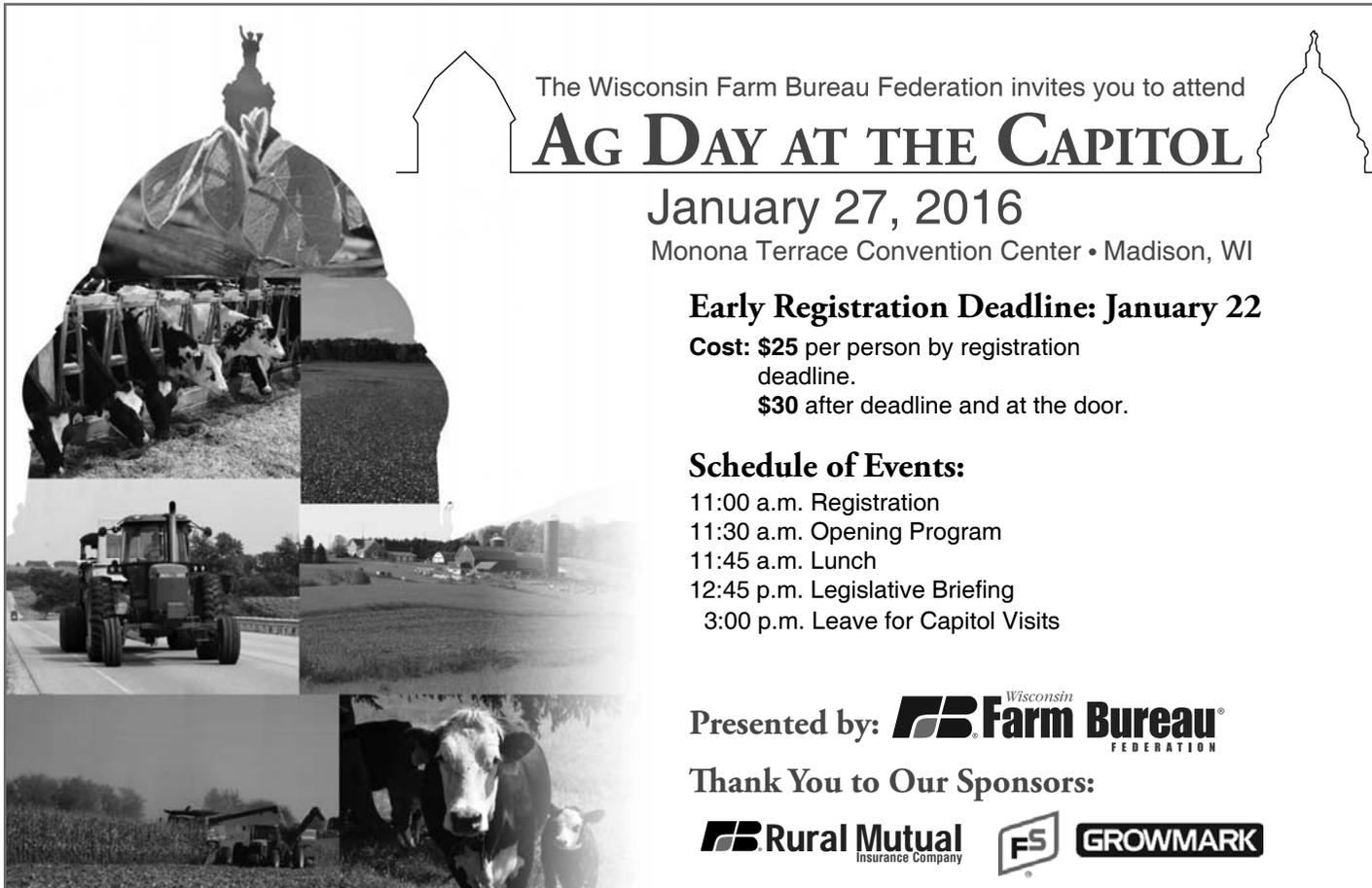
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**Michael Olson** (715) 570-7054  
**Jenni Zinda-Mancl** (715) 341-5808

**David Meihak, District Manager** - (715) 630-4801

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Mark Your Calendars for Ag Day at the Capitol



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend  
**AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL**  
January 27, 2016  
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

**Early Registration Deadline: January 22**  
**Cost: \$25** per person by registration  
deadline.  
**\$30** after deadline and at the door.

**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. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by:  Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

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## Raise Your Voice; Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, January 27**, and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important for all of us to raise our voice on issues. Take a few minutes to be familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators.

Inform them about how important agriculture is in Portage 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.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Ashleigh Calaway at 866.355.7348 or [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com).





# COUNTYnews

PORTAGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## County Annual Meeting Celebrates a Successful Year



Richard Roth being recognized for 60 years of service to the Portage County Board of Directors!

Thank you!!!

Every year members from across the county gather for a night filled with great conversation, education and of course business. This year was no different.

This year we said hello to new faces as we welcomed John Eron and Nathan Wolosek to the board of

directors and said good bye to Richard Roth as he retired from the board after 60 years of service. Gene Gaggs also retired from the board of directors this year.

On behalf of Portage County Farm Bureau we want to thank them for their dedicated service.

If you are interested in learning more about the business section of the meeting then check out the resolutions that passed under the grassroots policy section.

These resolutions along with others from around the state will be submitted to this year's state Policy Development Committee.



## Now That's a Wrap

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator



I can't believe another year has come and gone and what a year it has been. It never ceases to amaze me how the older I get the faster time seems to go. In May, I celebrated my one-year anniversary as a District Coordinator along with having a one-month old baby.

During the last year so many exciting things have happened. Many counties reached their membership goals, donated back to local agriculture youth organizations, clocked in volunteer hours and advocated for agriculture.

They say once a person has a child their priorities change. For me, I have found it more important that I support organizations that share my beliefs and will stand up for what is important when I can't. Farm Bureau is one of those organizations. What other organization works tirelessly for all aspects of agriculture not only the county level but also state and national.

My question to you is why did you become a member? Did you become a member because it was a family tradition? Did you join because someone asked? Did you join because you wanted your voice heard at our Capitols?

Your county Farm Bureau is continuing to grow and flourish under the guidance of the board. They can't continue to do this on their own. The board wants your help.

Are you interested in policy and development, the key part of this grassroots organization? What about helping elementary students learn about agriculture? Check out the Ag in the Classroom program. Are you a woman looking to get off of the farm or out of the office to spend some time with other women in agriculture? Then check out the county's women's program.

Maybe you are 18 to 35 years old and looking to meet other farmers and agriculturists? Then join the county's YFA program. Maybe your passion is meeting with elected officials and telling your story? All of this and more is possible by getting involved with Portage County Farm Bureau.

Not sure who to connect with to get involved check out the board directory in this newsletter or go to [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus).

No matter what your reason, be assured that Farm Bureau is working for you while you are busy working the fields, tending to your herds or spending moments with your family.

From my family to yours, thank you. Thank you for being a member, for supporting agriculture and being a part of the one percent that feed the other 99 percent. May this next year be one filled with bountiful harvests for you and yours.

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## Opportunity for the Future – Proposed Bylaw Change

By **Charlotte Rasmussen**, District 8 Women's Committee Representative



The proposed bylaw change: Change the name of the WFBF Women's Committee to Promotion and Education Committee.

Let's talk about the bylaw change and how it will affect your county women's program.

First of all how will this affect the WFBF Women's Committee? The recommendation provides that the WFBF Women's Committee members will continue to serve as members of the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee for the remainder of the service term.

What happens next? Because changing the name of the WFBF Women's Committee requires a change to the WFBF bylaw, this proposal will go before the

voting delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. A two-thirds majority vote is required to make a change to the WFBF bylaws.

How will this proposed change affect my county Farm Bureau? If passed by the delegates, this WFBF bylaw change will not require any county Farm Bureau to change from a women's program to a promotion and education program. It only applies to the WFBF Women's Committee. Counties that wish to continue with a women's committee will continue to do so, the committee members, structure and programs will not change.

We hope that your delegates will support the update at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The programs at the county level will stay the same.

Also, please make sure to save the date for the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit on **March 4-5, 2016**. For more information, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com).

## Grassroots Policy Presented at Annual Meeting

Below is the list of resolutions that the Portage County Board of Directors presented at their annual meetings in October. All resolutions passed and will be sent to the state Policy Development Committee. If you have questions, concerns or maybe you think that there is another pressing issue that needs to be dealt with, then make sure your voice is heard by contacting your board members.

### Portage County Farm Bureau 2015 Resolutions

1. We oppose any requirement for a farmer to have a veterinarian administer all common animal health husbandry practices.
2. We support holding imported agricultural products to the same health and sanitary standards as domestic production.
3. We are in favor of uniform and consistent regulation-fines across the state for entities that intentionally allow manure-sewage to seep into waterways.

4. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list
5. We are in support of the butchering-processing of downer animals that have gone down due to injury for the owner's personal use.
6. We are in favor of giving more control to the state and local government over the railroads.
7. We are opposed to the labeling of non-dairy products to be labeled as milk.
8. We support minimum state conservation standards without cost sharing and we support farmer-led coalitions for enhanced farmer-led water quality initiatives.
9. We oppose the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) and encourage the EPA and American Farm Bureau Federation to meet to work out disagreements with WOTUS.
10. We support legislation to allow miscellaneous day labor, up to \$1,000 without filing a W-4 form.

## District 8 Women's Summit Tour Captures Interests

What a wonderful way to spend a weekend!

This year's annual fall women's summit took place at Holland's Family Cheese in Thorp. It was an amazing afternoon filled with touring their beautiful dairy farm, sampling different types of Gouda cheese and, of course, wine.

It truly was an amazing day. I know a lot of ladies missed it because of harvest. Do you think if we did the tour in the summer it would be better?

If so, please contact Charlotte Rasmussen at [charlotter@ceas.coop](mailto:charlotter@ceas.coop).



## Connecting with Your County Farm Bureau – What is Valuable to You?

As with every organization, the desire to connect with its membership is a tricky one. It's one that every board tries to find out what way is best. The Portage County Farm Bureau board of directors is no different.

This survey will help answer these questions. Please mail it to Portage County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705 or email it to [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com) to be entered into a prize drawing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Do you receive the WFBF Ag Newswire via email?  Yes  No  Unsure

Do you have a Facebook account?  Yes  No

Which best describes your day-to-day work? (please check all that apply)

- Ag business  Farming/production ag  
 Retired  None of these, but I support Wisconsin agriculture

Learn about Portage County Farm Bureau. Please check all that interests you.

- Educate students/parents on where their food comes from  
 Hosting or volunteering at a farm tour  
 Being a farm tour guide  
 Visiting elementary school classrooms  
 Agriculture promotions – Corn Festival Breakfast  
 Discussing local legislative and political topics  
 Ag Day at the Capitol  
 Resolutions drafting  
 Farm safety  
 Food Link  
 Attend WFBF Annual Meeting  
 Summer Picnic  
 Membership drives and recruiting  
 Social/happy hours  
 Strategic planning  
 Writing newsletter articles or taking photos at events  
 Young Farmer and Agriculturist (age 18 to 35 years old)

Have ideas to share, questions or comments? We want to hear from you.

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Do you know someone who wants to be involved in Portage County Farm Bureau? Think of your neighbors, friends, family, sons, daughters, veterinarians, milk haulers, nutritionists, consultants or anyone involved in agriculture.

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## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

### Auto

- General Motors Discount

### Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Stroke Detection Plus

### Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- Caterpillar (NEW)
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Polaris
- Office Depot

### Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

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

## Portage County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, John Eron 715.498.5222  
 Vice President, Mark Zajackowski 715.457.2860  
 Secretary/Treasurer, James Isherwood 715.344.9654  
 YFA Chair, Melissa Eron 715.498.5222

Director, John Kosmalski 715.677.3857  
 Director, Leroy Miller 715.677.3435  
 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

## Member Benefit Spotlight: Up to \$2,000 off Caterpillar Agriculture Construction Equipment

Participating Farm Bureau members are eligible for a range of purchase incentives on Cat® machines:

Machine	Models	Farm Bureau Incentive
Small Wheel Loaders	924, 926, 930, 938	\$2,000
Compact Wheel Loaders	903, 906, 907, 908, 910, 914	\$1,000
Small Dozers	D3, D4, D5	\$1,000
Backhoe Loaders	420, 430, 450	\$1,000
Backhoe Loaders	415, 416	\$500
Compact Track Loaders	279, 289, 299	\$1,000
Compact Track Loaders	239, 249, 259	\$500
Multi-Terrain Loaders	277, 287, 297	\$1,000
Multi-Terrain Loaders	247, 257	\$500
Skid Steer Loaders	262, 272	\$1,000
Skid Steer Loaders	216, 226, 232, 236, 242, 246	\$500
Telehandlers	TH514, TL1055, TL1255	\$1,000
Telehandlers	TH255, TH406, TH407	\$500
Mini Hydraulic Excavators	304, 305, 305.5, 308	\$500
Mini Hydraulic Excavators	300.9, 301.4, 301.7, 302.4, 302.7, 303, 303.5	\$250

Members must provide a valid member verification certificate to the Caterpillar dealer at the time of quote to receive the discount.

Please visit [www.fbadvantage.com/cat](http://www.fbadvantage.com/cat) to print your certificate. The discount can be combined with any current retail discounts, promotions, rebates or offers available through Caterpillar or its dealers with the exception of other membership purchase incentives (such as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association discount).

Please note that you will need your Farm Bureau member number to complete your member verification certificate.

If you need your member number, please contact the Portage County Farm Bureau office at 888.385.5945 or District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway at 866.355.7348.



## Ag in the Classroom Essay Topic and Book of the Year Announced

Maple syrup flows through this year's book of the year and essay contest from Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

*Sugarbush Spring* by Marsha Wilson Chall is the 2016 Book of the Year. 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin' is the topic of the annual essay contest.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).

Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1, 2016**, to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator. A list of coordinators is available at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).

A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class.

The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, nearly 2,900 students participated in the contest.

In this year's Book of the Year selection, *Sugarbush Spring*, introduces young readers to the process of taking sap and making it into maple syrup.

The hardcover books come with an activity or lesson plan packet that teachers, students and home school parents can use to enhance the reading experience.

Book order forms are found at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) under 'Order Forms'.

For more information, please contact Gretchen Kamps at 866.355.7343 or [gkamps@wfbf.com](mailto:gkamps@wfbf.com) or visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).



## Silent Auction Donations Welcome

Donations are welcome for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Silent Auction held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 5-7 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The money raised is for ag literacy through Ag in the Classroom and YFA, women's and leadership Institute programs.

Donation forms can be found at [wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction](http://wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction).



## Sign a NEW Member, Get \$20

Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member who they sign between **October 1, 2015**, and **September 30, 2016**.

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

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 2016 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse or guest will receive recognition at the December 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting.

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

A county Farm Bureau will receive \$1,000 cash award if it reaches its new voting goal by the **March 31, 2016**, month-end cut-off.

Volunteer membership workers who recruit five or more new members by **May 5** will be awarded a Farm Bureau Proud jacket.

For more information, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com) or 866.355.7348.

