



Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Expedition to Expo

On October 8, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members from District 5 and 8 traveled to the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison.

YFA members spent the day exploring the trade show and watching one of the largest dairy cattle shows in the world.



A highlight of the day was the crowning of the Junior and International Show Supreme Champion dairy cows. Which turned out to be extremely special for one YFA member who got to see her family's International Guernsey Show Grand Champion walk the gold shavings of the International Supreme Champion on Saturday.



Thank you to the generous sponsors of the day United FCS, American Wood Fibers, VitaPlus and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Plans for a return trip to the 51st World Dairy Expo are underway. Watch for details in 2017.

District 8 Discussion Meet



Contestants included: (L-R) Will Litzer, Marathon County; Josh Huber, Marathon County; Katie Zoromoski, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; Lauren McCann, Wood County; and Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County. Josh, Lauren and Ryan will represent District 9 at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December. Ryan placed in the final four at the 2015 state Discussion Meet.





COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Price County and Taylor County Farm Bureaus Approve Resolutions

Below is the list of resolutions that the Taylor County board of directors presented at the annual meeting on September 22. All resolutions passed and will make their way to the Policy Development Committee, which is made up of volunteers from around the state. Last year the committee reviewed almost 500 resolutions submitted from county Farm Bureaus.

Did you know that once a year your county Farm Bureau hosts an annual meeting for its members? This year was no exception members throughout the county gathered in September to celebrate all of the county's accomplishments. This once-a-year gathering also is a time for members to elect new directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organization.

If you have questions, concerns or maybe you believe that there is another pressing issue that needs to be dealt with then make your voice heard by contacting a county board member.

Taylor County State

1. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and increased fines across the state for farms that intentionally, willfully, or neglectfully allow manure to enter waterways or wetlands.
2. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
3. We support all school busses flashing both amber and red lights 200 feet prior to a stop.
4. We support a hunting season on cougars in the state of Wisconsin.
5. We are in favor of farmers cooperating with point sources such as municipalities and industrial waste providing farmers are not held liable for non-point sources out of their control.
6. We support a cap on the maximum fines to farmers by government agencies for potential environmental impacts.
7. We support amending the current fence law to livestock owners utilizing fences to contain animals be required to build and maintain patrician fences

Federal

8. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list and to manage the wolf population at 350 or less.
9. We support the labeling of country of origin products.
10. We are in favor of utilizing horse meat for human consumption as well as pet food and other uses.
11. We are in support of the butchering/processing of downer animals that have gone down due to injury for the owner's personal use.
12. We support farmers and trained employees to administrate all animal health husbandry practices.

Internal

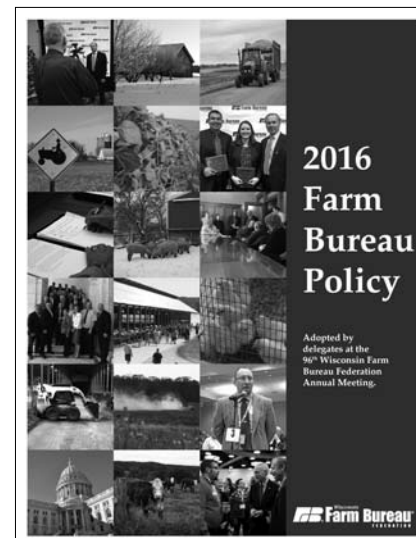
1. We are in support of a bylaw change to remove the state promotion and education chair position from a state board position.

Price County State

1. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas
2. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and increased fines across the state for farms that intentionally, willfully, or neglectfully allow manure to enter waterways or wetlands.
3. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles to have a slow moving vehicle sign, effective lighting, and reflective tape on public roads.
4. We support more equal distribution of state road funds to rural areas.
5. We oppose the future stewardship fund land purchases and call for the ending of the stewardship fund.
6. We support the issuing of more bear permits.
7. We are in favor of farmers cooperating with point sources such as municipalities and industrial waste providing farmers are not held liable for non-point sources out of their control.
8. We support a cap on the maximum fines to farmers by government agencies for potential environmental impacts.
9. We support DATCP to be required to repeal atrazine prohibition if three consecutive groundwater samples taken at intervals of at least six months show that the concentration of atrazine and its metabolites is below 50 percent of the enforcement. If there are other wells in the area, they are to be tested to verify that the concentration of atrazine and its metabolites also do not exceed 50 percent of the enforcement standard.

Federal

10. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list.
11. We support a hunting season on cougars in the state of Wisconsin.
12. We support the labeling of country and state of origin on products.
13. We are in support of tail docking to aid in keeping cows cleaner and improving the overall farm image and safety of those working directly with the cattle.
14. We oppose any requirement for a farmer to have a veterinarian administer all common animal health husbandry practices.



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WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke 715.539.2892
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

Dairy in the Classroom with Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

Did you know that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Farm Families of Wisconsin offer special opportunities for Wisconsin schools?

The Wisconsin Dairy Council (WDC), the school nutrition education division of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, works with Wisconsin's K-12 schools to offer free dairy and agriculture resources for Wisconsin classrooms.

The WDC has a wide variety of programs designed for kindergarten through high school that help students understand how dairy helps grow their bodies and drives Wisconsin's economy.

Each lesson is presented by WDC staff and features interactive presentations, a dairy snack and great support materials for teachers and students. Plus each lesson meets several of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for a variety of subjects including social studies, health, nutrition, science and agriculture, food and natural resources.

All presentations are free to Wisconsin schools. These lessons are a great compliment to your county's Ag in the Classroom program.

For more information, please contact regional program manager for Wisconsin Dairy Council Beth Schaefer at bschaefer@wmmb.org or visit www.wisconsinmilkmarketingboard.com.



**WISCONSIN MILK
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WFBF Seeks Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places.

In *Rural Route* WFBF wants to highlight those sights with your families and friends.

Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to Lsiekmann@bf.com.



Four Ways You Can FUN'd the Foundation at the WFBF Annual Meeting

Did you know at the WFBF Annual meeting there will be multiple opportunities to win awesome prizes and support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation?

1. **Silent auction:** We are soliciting for and receiving items for the silent auction. The auction will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday and will end at 5 p.m. on Sunday. For donation forms, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction.
2. **50/50 raffle:** The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets but it will have a different format. They will hold two different 50/50 raffles. The first will be from Friday evening through the beginning of the general session on Saturday morning. The other will be from Saturday afternoon through the general session on Sunday morning. *The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee also will be having

a corn hole tournament during the Friday evening entertainment.

3. **Trivia contest:** The trivia contest will again be held on Saturday evening following the Farm Bureau Extravaganza. There will be three rounds of 25 questions and a 15-minute time limit for each round. To participate: Form a team of six people, and submit the registration fee of \$10 per person or \$60 per team. Registration can be mailed in through **November 25** and on-site registration will take place on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited to 35 teams so register early. Registration forms are posted at wfbf.com/programsevents/event-registration.

What does the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation do?

Supporting agricultural education programs and developing agricultural leaders is the guiding principle of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Foundation. We couldn't do it without members like you.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Younger Farmer and Agriculturist program
- Promotion and Education Program
- WFBF Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

Besides funding the Farm Bureau programs listed, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation supports 4-H and FFA activities, scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin, Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council.

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits from WFBF

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

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

Rob Richard, WFBF's Senior Director of Governmental Relations, and Cheryl Skjolaas of UW Extension, are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF has been 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.



To see other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' go to our Facebook page at facebook.com/WIFarmBureau. Read more about the transportation tidbit initiative at: <http://bit.ly/TransportationTidbit>.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Theme Announced

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in the Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. Contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are at wisagclassroom.org. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1**.

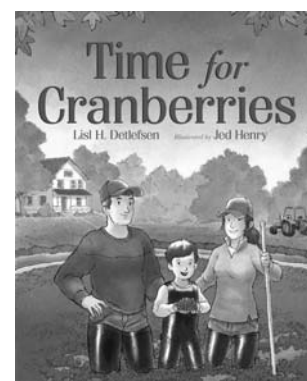
The essay contest coincides with the Ag in the Classroom 2017 Book of the Year, *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic allows students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will be forwarded to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A

state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Promotion and Education Committee. As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation.

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest. The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

For essay contest information and rules, and more about Ag in the Classroom, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.



Taylor County Farm Bureau President Testifies at Great Lakes Wolf Summit

Being a farmer is more than just being your own boss. It is being a steward of the land and caretaker of the animals they raise. Those lucky enough to be rooted in agriculture understand the responsibility that comes with it.

Newly elected Taylor County Farm Bureau Ryan Klussendorf testified on September 15. He made it his mission to educate those outside of the agriculture industry to understand the sacrifices made by farmers to ensure that their animals are well cared for. Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization and has taken a firm stance on wolves.

Good Afternoon. My name is Ryan Klussendorf. I am a fourth generation dairy farmer from Medford. I own and operate a 100-cow rotational grazing dairy farm with my wife Cheri and three sons Kale, Owen and Max.

I am here to testify because, like so many other farms in Wisconsin, I have had a confirmed wolf depredation on my farm. I'm here to tell you about the gruesome attack that happened on my farm, and how my cow number 2042 was bit in the back leg and drug down from behind by a pack of wolves. It is hard to believe it happened six years ago, and yet this single attack still impacts every decision we make for our cattle and our farm management practices continually revolve around it.

After cow number 2042's tendons and ligaments in her back legs were severed, the pack started eating her soft tissue while she was alive, but she eventually succumbed to her lethal injuries. The blood bath in the field was large and it was hard to identify her. The tags from her ears were 100 feet from her blood-stained corpse. For all of you this is the beginning of my story, but for me it started months before.

Our nightmare began in the middle of June 2010. We moved a group of young spring calves out to pasture for the summer. Born between February and April, the calves were put in a paddock close to the barn. These calves were moved to new pasture and fed grain twice a day. They were used to human contact and were very friendly.

On July 2, we received a phone call at 3:55 a.m. from the Taylor County Sheriff's Department. They had a report of a large group of young cattle in the roadway about a quarter of a mile from our farm. We were up, dressed and outside in a matter of minutes. We went out to the roadway and brought the agitated, sweat-covered calves from the roadway back to their pasture. Several more times on early July mornings we found these spring calves separated into groups out of their paddock but still on the farm.

In August, we were awoken twice by passing motorist and notified that our calves were out in the roadway. On August 10 at 2:15 a.m., we received a call from the Taylor County Sheriff's office that our calves were again in the roadway. We were herded the calves off the road but sensed fear in them. They seemed to be attracted to lights and were uncontrollable. We offered grain to the calves but as soon as we moved around to count them they spooked and ran.

While I was tending to the calves, my Cheri was being issued a citation for animals at large. By this time, we believed, incorrectly, that the calves were being chased by coyotes. As Cheri tried to explain this to the officer, she was told that we had inadequate fences. This was not the first time law enforcement was called, and to contact the DNR for help with the wildlife.

This is the first time I believed that I was fighting a losing battle. Our cattle are our most valuable investment and sole income generators on the farm. Each time there are cows on the road there is a very real possibility one could get hit. I kept asking myself, "What if it caused an accident, maybe even the death of the cow? Or even worse, a person?"

This is an extremely serious public safety hazard and a liability I take each and every night that I put cows on pasture. The sole reason I was able to start farming at age 21 was my ability to keep my overhead cost low by grazing my cattle. That day I also realized exposing my cattle to normal grazing practices, under the threat of wolf predation, also could ruin my life.

I certainly couldn't blame these calves. If I was running for my life, I also would run through a fence and head for the first car or light that I could find. Not only was I being tormented by a pack of wolves, but now I felt like I and my wife were being treated as a second-class, law-breaking citizens by the county sheriff's department.

We decided to fight the citation and go to trial. Having farmed all of my life, I was confident that I had adequate fences to contain our livestock, and we made changes to the way we farmed, including keeping our calves closer to the buildings. But nothing we did helped. When we were approached by the District Attorney to pay the fine or go to trial we expressed our problem with wildlife to him but were told, "there is nothing I can do for you, buy a gun."

To bring my story full circle, on the morning of November 7, we got up and headed to the barn to start chores. The first thing we noticed were cows in the barn yard waiting to be milked, but this was highly unusual as I normally have to go out to the pasture to get them.

That morning, as I made my way out to pasture to bring the rest of the cows in, I found cow 2042. She might only be one cow to you, but she was my cow. She was a three-year old, a good milker and ready to calve the next spring. That day I didn't only lose a cow but every calf she could have had in the years to come, and the milk she could have produced.

Each day my cows produce milk we pour on cereal in the morning and fill our cups with at supper each night. It is my responsibility as their farmer to keep the cows happy, healthy and safe. That day I failed them.

On November 11, the charges of animals at large were dismissed, and we received an apology from the Taylor County Sheriff's Department. That was the worst summer of my life, and it still affects me every day. My stomach sinks if the phone rings after 9 p.m. At night we have our windows open no matter what time of year. I listen to each car go by to make sure that they don't slow down. There are times that I spring out of bed thinking that someone was knocking on the door only to figure out that it is the ice maker in the kitchen dropping the ice. I am not an expert on wolves, but I am an expert on how one pack of wolves can torment you, threaten your livelihood and haunt you until you want to give up.

Our cows are now within 200 feet of the buildings on our farm each night. Our calves are no longer out on pasture. The cost has been financially burdensome due to additional feed management and manure hauling, and emotionally burdensome with increased health and stress levels for us and our animals.

I am a husband, a father and a farmer. Right now I cannot protect my cows and my family's livelihood without the risk of being prosecuted.

Help Wisconsin farmers by removing the gray wolf from the endangered species list and get back to a state-run management plan that accomplishes a population goal of 350 or less.

I don't think a federal judge, and most others who do not farm and care for livestock, can truly understand and appreciate the emotional tow and financial burden that wolf depredation can have on a farmer, their family and business. Cow 2042 might only be one cow to you, but she was one of the reasons I get out of bed each morning, and still is the subject of my nightmares every night.

Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ryan Klussendorf	715.965.7997
Vice President, Dick Wesle	715.678.2407
Secretary-Treasurer, Rob Klussendorf	715.785.5092
YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner	715.965.7840

Director, Jack Johnson	715.785.7777
Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, John Zuleger	715.560.8397

Taylor County Farm Bureau	866.583.7597
WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke	715.573.7208
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

County Farm Bureaus Elect New Executive Officer Team

During the October board meeting, the Taylor and Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors elected new officer teams.

Taylor County
President: Ryan Klussendorf
Vice President: Dick Wesle
Secretary-Treasurer: Rob Klussendorf

Price County
President: Sally Denzine
Vice President: Dan Berg
Secretary-Treasurer: George Blomberg

Meet: John Zuleger, Taylor County Farm Bureau's Newest Director



John Zuleger has been involved with Taylor County Farm Bureau for four years. He also manages a commercial snow removal company in addition to owning a pork and beef farm with his wife Kathy, daughter Alexis and son Levi.

John got involved with Taylor County Farm Bureau as way to make a positive

impact in his community.

"The greatest benefits of being a member is that it provides a collective voice for agriculture," said John.

Please join us in welcoming John to the Taylor County board of directors.

Welcome New Members

Town of Elk, Town of Knox, Jasmine Arnold, Ralph Berry, Hunter Bleck, Ryan Brost, Eric Dahlvig, Pat Dittrich, David Fisher, Jessica Heemeyer, Brian Ingersoll, Jeffrey Junk, Douglas Klemm, Jesse Kuenne, Charles Lavin, Jody Lebal, Wade Manglos, Harvey Mann, Jodi McIlhany, Richard Mendham, Matthew Morrison, Karen Newbury, Brian Nowak, Luke Pfaff, Rodney Pitzke, Jordan Richert, Donald Ringersma, Marvin Schilling, Sam Scott, Ethan Sydel, Raymond Taylor, Charles Valentine, Johnathan Wehe, Lucas Widmer and Steven Zenner.