

# **Racine County Farm Bureau**

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## Rural Mutual Agents in Racine County:

**Melissa Probst**  
(262) 558-4470

**Sally Osenga**  
(262) 488-4455

**Linda Schopen - District Manager**  
(920) 723-5108

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Breakfast on the Farm Scheduled for June 25

Please mark your calendar for Racine County's Breakfast on the Farm from 7 to 11 a.m. on **Saturday, June 25**, at Schaal Dairy Farm, 1800 McKee Road in Burlington.

This is a great opportunity to bring your family to a local, family-owned dairy farm. Experience a tour of the farm and milking parlor. Music by the Soggy Prairie Boys and activities include a petting zoo, kids' games, tractor display, face painting,

a giant sand pile and much more. The breakfast includes eggs, sausage, muffins, cheese, juice, milk and ice cream. The event is supported by community donations to offset the cost of the educational event.

If you want to volunteer or sponsor this event, please email [racinecobreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:racinecobreakfast@gmail.com) or contact Renee Schaal at 262.210.1077.



## Money Raised for WFB Foundation

Thank you to the Racine County Farm Bureau for donating items to the silent auction at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Funds raised at the silent auction support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation programs.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation was established in 1988 and is invested in the future of agriculture. The mission of the Foundation is to 'Support agricultural education and develop agricultural leaders.'

Foundation projects include: Ag in the Classroom, YFA program, collegiate Farm Bureau chapters, leadership Institute, the Promotion and Education Committee, FFA Farm Forum, 4-H Key Awards and many more.

If you are interested in donating to the future of agriculture, please visit [wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation](http://wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation).

## YFA Spring Fling

**Date:** Saturday, March 19

**Time:** Band starts at 8 p.m.

**Location:** Circle B, 6261 Wisconsin 60 Trunk, Cedarburg

**Tickets:** \$10 at the door, \$8 in advance

**Band:** FM Rodeo





FEBRUARY 2016

# COUNTYnews

RACINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Racine County Farm Bureau Members are Proud



**Scott Davel was a district winner for the Discussion Meet and competed at the YFA Conference.**

Racine County members were Farm Bureau Proud at the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference, 96<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting and 81<sup>st</sup> Rural Mutual Insurance Annual Meeting. A total of 1,133 Farm Bureau members and guests enjoyed the weekend. Those from Racine County who attended included Scott and Kayla Davel, Keith and Beth Jacobson, Jim Hanson, Dave and Julie Moyer and Jacquie and Bernard Strueder.

The YFA Conference started on Friday with 520 YFA members attending the evening banquet. Many influential YFA leaders spoke and welcomed everyone to the eventful weekend. Each district broke up into their district meetings, then attendees enjoyed music by Rockstar Rodeo. The Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Jahnke, even joined them on stage.



**Dave Daniels and Keith Jacobson caught up with each other at the WFBF Annual Meeting.**

Saturday morning during brunch attendees listened to YouTube advocates, the Peterson Farm Brothers who are known around the globe for their music parodies promoting agriculture and telling their farming story. Three days after their first video was posted in June of 2012, it received 500,000 views and gave the brothers a trip to New York for an interview with Fox News.

During the Saturday evening banquet, Senator Ron Johnson updated members on issues happening in Washington, D.C. After dinner, members enjoyed the Rick Wilcox Magic Show, which continues to amaze members year after year.

The Sunday keynote speaker was Lowell Catlett. He had positive

and upbeat predictions and said that, "There has never been a better time to be in agriculture."

The Sunday workshops were educational with a range of topics including adapting to technology, social media, business succession planning, writing your story and a panel discussion on county fair food stands.

During the Sunday evening banquet, they announced that the 50/50 raffle raised \$4,000 for the WFBF Foundation.

The business session was on Monday. Chief Administration Officer Dale Beaty spoke about how agriculture has evolved from the 1950s until today. He also talked about the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters, leadership Institute program and concluded by thanking the meeting sponsors for donating \$30,000 towards the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Peter Pelizza, Rural Mutual Insurance CEO, also spoke. His key points included a 6.5 percent premium growth, 95 percent retention, a new farm safety initiative and about the money raised to donate 6,754 pounds of food to the food pantry.

During the district caucus, Dave Daniels was elected to another three-year term representing District 1 on the WFBF Board of Directors.

The resolutions meeting started with a bylaw change to change the Women's Committee to the Promotion and Education Committee. The bylaw change passed unanimously. There was a lot of discussion on the transportation policies. The weekend was a success and attendees had a great time.



**Beth Jacobson and Jim Hanson met at the trade show.**



**Racine County Farm Bureau delegates were: (L-R) Jacquie Strueder, Dave Moyer, Keith Jacobson and Jim Hanson.**

## Scholarship Applications Due in April

Applications for a Racine County Farm Bureau family member \$1,000 scholarships are due **April 15**. The scholarships are available for continuing education beyond high school including farm short course, technical, community or four-year college.

The application (revised 2014 version) is available on the Racine County Farm Bureau website or

from high school guidance offices.

For more information, please contact scholarship chair Norma Ranke at 262.534.3685 or normaranke12@gmail.com.

Profits from the county fair cream puff stand are a major source of the scholarship funding.



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Racine County Farm Bureau: 877.432.9489

wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/racine

## President's Report

Hello fellow Farm Bureau members,

I hope this mild winter has been enjoyable for everyone. We've saved on the heating bills, but for those who enjoy skiing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, etc., it's been challenging. I was even able to squeeze in a little golf at Ives Grove right before Christmas.

On December 4-7, the WFBF Annual Meeting was held in Wisconsin Dells. A list of policy changes can be found in *Rural Route* or on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau website. Not only is the meeting a chance to see friends but it also offers workshops on some important issues and concerns affecting farmers.

The Sunday keynote speaker was Lowell Catlett, an ag economics professor from New Mexico State University. His views of the ever-changing ag technology field were fascinating, but one statement resonated with me, "a luxury to one generation becomes a necessity to the next!" Think about it; my generation wouldn't have dreamed of living without running water and indoor plumbing, central heat, phones without cranks (and with cords) and TV (even if it was black and white), things my parents didn't have as kids. Can you imagine our children and grandchildren living without microwave ovens, cellphones, tractor cabs, GPS or social media?

We just participated in another Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27. I attended along with board members John Scott and Jim Hanson. Please remember that Ag Day At the Capitol is open to all Farm Bureau members. Racine County Farm Bureau will pay for the meal and registration. Contact a mem-

ber of the board if you want to attend. After a great pork chop dinner, Wisconsin Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Ben Brancel discussed issues that the Department is working on. Secretary Brancel also is a farmer, owning and operating a beef farm.

WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations Director Paul Zimmerman led a review of topics to discuss with legislators, which included implements of husbandry, high capacity wells, ag chemical clean-up program, UW-Extension reorganization and other issues.

Although they were in session, the Racine County legislators sent aides to meet with us and they took notes about our concerns. Representatives Samantha Kerkman and Dave Craig joined the meeting for a short time, but don't think we were ignored if our senators and assemblymen don't meet us face to face. They are listening. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of contacting legislators. They want to hear your concerns, but also enjoy compliments. Your time making contact will be time well spent.

The day before Ag Day at the Capitol, John Scott and I attended the Council of Presidents meeting. We discussed improving committees, membership and protecting your brand's image. The speaker at the evening session was Craig Culver, the founder and chief executive officer of Culver's restaurants. He compared his life with farming, long hours, etc.

Culver stressed hiring good people, treating them well and with courtesy. From growing up working in his parents' drive-in and later restaurant (and vowing he would never own one),



Jim Hanson, Keith Jacobson and John Scott spoke with their legislators during Ag Day at the Capitol.

he started with nothing and has grown to more than 500 restaurants. They sell more than 8.5 million pounds of cheese curds annually.

As another Wisconsin winter winds down, as the days get longer and average daily temps rise, we are preparing for another growing season. Right now, there isn't any area of ag that is profitable but at least some of our inputs have fallen. We farmers are used to this roller coaster called farming. We will adjust spending until conditions improve. I have told my non-ag friends to ask their neighbors who work at Case-IH what happens when farmers are making money.

So I wish everyone a safe rest of the winter, followed by a safe planting season.

**Keith Jacobson**  
Racine County Farm Bureau President

## Cream Puff Stand Open, July 27-31

Thinking about warm weather? Think Farm Bureau Cream Puff stand!

Starting July 27, we will serve those delicious treats. Lots of help is needed to make it a success including day chairs, workers, schedulers, runners, sit down jobs, etc. Join in that once-a-year-get-together to catch up on life and help the cream puff stand at the same time.



Your cream puff booth donates funds back to the community and Farm Bureau families. The Racine County Farm Bureau presents scholarships to Farm Bureau family members and awards for essay contests and 4-H members. Members also help the community by donating to five local food pantries, grants are available to five local libraries, help families at Christmas and support other organizations including the Ronald McDonald House by collecting pop tabs, thereby doubling the recycling money.

Your help at the Farm Bureau cream puff stand pay offs. You have that proud, self-gratifying feeling knowing that you did a good deed. Save time in the fair schedule to give the cream puff stand your time and support. The Racine County Fair is July 27-31.

Thank you for your help and see you at the fair.

**Wanted:** Worker scheduler. Can be done in the evenings from a computer. Previous work list provided as a guideline. Need to provide a worker schedule for the days of the fair.

For questions or more information, please contact Jacquie Strueder at 262.835.4539, Ginny Strueder at [vstrueder@hughes.net](mailto:vstrueder@hughes.net) or 262.835.4071 or Carol Thelen at [kitchencarolthelen@gmail.com](mailto:kitchencarolthelen@gmail.com) or 262.989.2185.

## From the Desk of Dave Daniels, District 1 Director



It was a great YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells in December. More than 1,100 members attended the Farm Bureau Extravaganza on Saturday night. The highlight of the evening was Rick Wilcox and his magic show. I still can't figure out where those doves came from!

The event was made possible because of a great partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance, FS Growmark, United Farm Credit, GreenStone Farm Credit and Badgerland Financial.

At the Producer Club luncheon, we honored our volunteer members who signed new and past-due members to keep our organization moving forward.

During the District 1 caucus, I was re-elected to another

three-year term as director on the Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Boards. I appreciate the support from the leadership of the eight counties in the southeast corner of the state.

We also chose some young members who competed in the Discussion Meet, Achievement Award, and Excellence in Agriculture competition and represented Wisconsin in Orlando, Florida, during the 97<sup>th</sup> American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in January. Many members traveled to Orlando to see how we affect national issues.

At the end of January, we attended Ag Day at the Capitol. This is a great opportunity to talk to state legislators about issues that affect us on our farms. Since it was earlier this year, it was cold but the sun was shining. It seems like the El Nino weather pattern affected the cold temperatures.

It is a slower time on the farm so make the best of it and take in some Farm Bureau action.

**Dave Daniels**  
WFBF District 1 Director

## Plan to Attend the 2016 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

Fourteen Farm Bureau women from Racine County plan to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit on March 4-5 at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Numerous breakout sessions will engage women of all ages. Friday evening entertainment will be a casino night.

The closing keynote speaker will be Jerry Apps who will talk about the importance of writing your own story. The final date to register is **February 26**.

Form more information, please visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com).



## 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
- 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).

## Be Awarded a 'Farm Bureau Proud' Jacket

Volunteer membership workers who sign up five or more new members by **May 5** will be awarded a 'Farm Bureau Proud' jacket, that will be presented at the county annual meeting.

County Farm Bureau volunteers also will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member that 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 exclusive recognition during the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting.

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

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

For membership applications or more information, please contact District 1 Coordinator Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com) or 262.689.1838.



## Racine County Farm Bureau Sponsors Outstanding 4-H Member Awards



Racine County Farm Bureau offers annual cash awards to family 4-H members.

Award divisions include junior (ages 10-13) and senior (14 and older). Ages are determined by January 1 of the current year.

Consideration for the award is given to the member's total involvement in the 4-H program, school and community, not just their fair entry placings.

The application and information is in the Racine County Fair premium book, which is available at [www.racinecountyfair.com](http://www.racinecountyfair.com).



### Racine County Bowling & Pizza Social

**Friday, March 18 River City Lanes**  
730 Cornerstone Crossing  
Waterford, WI 53185

### Join us for FREE bowling and pizza!

Come and meet the Racine County Farm Bureau board of directors for a fun evening of bowling. Bring a friend and win door prizes!

**New this year** – Competition! \$10 entry fee for teams of four people. Cash prize awarded to winning teams. There also will be a 50/50 raffle.



For more information, please contact **Scott Davel** at 608.234.7047.

## Preparing for National Agriculture Day

March 15 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and others across America gather to celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the U.S.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather to promote American agriculture. A few generations ago, most Americans were involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no the case.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in spreading the word.

For information, visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/nationalagday](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/nationalagday).



## Racine County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Keith Jacobson 414.852.1744  
Vice President, John Scott 262.994.4324  
Secretary- Treasurer, Jim Hanson 262.534.7331  
Women's Chair, Marge Demuth 262.878.2530  
YFA Chair, Kyle Bonner 262.492.3806

Director, Scott Davel 608.234.7047  
Director, Steve Henningfield 262.534.2874  
Director, Jeff Rice 262.539.3374  
Director, Brian Schaal 262.534.5255

Racine County Farm Bureau 877.432.9489  
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden 866.355.7341  
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels 262.878.5035  
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen 262.522.8620



For more information about YFA events, 'Like' Racine County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook, and visit the website at [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/racine](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/racine).

## Author Jerry Apps Speaking at Union Grove Graham Library

Popular rural author Jerry Apps will be at the Union Grove Graham Library at 6 p.m. on **Tuesday, April 19**.



He will discuss his latest book, *Wisconsin*

*Agriculture*. Apps also is scheduled to give the keynote closing speech at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in March.

## Sharpen Your Pencils

Each year the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in all public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations.

The 2015-2016 topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' County contest entries are due by **April 1**.

For more information, please contact Jackie Bratz at 262.206.4024 or [bratzfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:bratzfarm@yahoo.com) or visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).



## Racine County Ag Ambassador Wanted

Want to be the next Racine County agricultural ambassador?

For more information, please contact Jeff Rice at 262.210.4973.

