

Racine County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Burlington Members Attend FFA Farm Forum

Racine County FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte,

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Jonathan Eckelberg, digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Ethan Giebel, director of education at Cooperative Network.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 44th year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



Members of the Burlington FFA chapter attended the FFA Farm Forum on February 19-20 in Wisconsin Rapids, including: (L-R) Weston Uhlenhake, Jessica Noble, Abbey Gorjance and Cassidy Dabbs. Noble and Gorjance were sponsored by the Racine County Farm Bureau.

Plan to Attend the Discussion Meet

The Discussion Meet gives young members an opportunity to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Date: Wednesday, August 24

Time: Arrive at 6:30 p.m., discussion meet at 7 p.m., cookout afterwards

Location: Jelli's Market, N5648 S. Farmington Road, Helenville

Topic: 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?

For more information or if you are interested in participating or attending, please contact YFA chair Kyle Bonner at kbonner594@gmail.com or 262.492.3806. For details on YFA events 'like' Racine County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook, and visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/racine.

District 1 Policy Development Meeting Set

The District 1 Policy Development meeting is **Wednesday, July 13.**

Details:

- 6:15 p.m. Social
- 6:30 p.m. Buffet dinner
- 7-9 p.m. Policy Development meeting



Location: The Machine Shed, N14 W24145 Tower Place in Pewaukee.

For more information about the Policy Development meeting, please contact Patti Roden at proden@wfbf.com.



COUNTYnews

RACINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Racine County Farm Bureau Cream Puff Stand Wants YOU



Summer is finally here, which means so is the county fair and the cream puff stand.

It's that fun time of year when you get to see your friends and catch up with acquaintances.

Please do not forget to volunteer your time and help in the cream puff stand that gives the profits back to the community, perhaps even to your family.



The Racine County Fair is July 27-31.

For more information or to volunteer for a few hours of fun during the fair, please contact Doris Malchine at jmalchine@TDS.net or 262.895.2206.

Thank you for your generosity.

It's YOUR Farm Bureau member project. See you in the cream puff stand!

New This Year: You can volunteer online. Visit the Racine County Farm Bureau web page and click on the link 'Cream Puff Stand Sign-up,' We are using SignUpGenius, and you don't even have to create an account to volunteer during the fair.

Celebrate June Dairy Month at Breakfast on the Farm on 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 at 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, musical entertainment by the Soggy Prairie Boys, activities including a free petting zoo, kids' games, tractor display, face painting, a giant sand pile and much more.

The delicious breakfast includes eggs, sausage, muffins, cheese, juice, milk and ice cream.

The event is supported by community donations to help offset the cost of putting on this educational event.

If you want to volunteer or sponsor this event, please contact Renee Schaal at 262.210.1077 or racinecobreakfast@gmail.com.



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Hello and congratulations Farm Bureau members!

The county achieved our membership goal and for that we will receive a \$1,000 bonus from the WFBE. A job well done and a tip of the cap to membership chair John Scott.

Now that planting and the first crop of hay is done, it is time to enjoy another busy Wisconsin summer.

The Schaal Family is hosting the Racine County Breakfast on the Farm on **Saturday, June 25**. This is the second year in a row that the county will have a breakfast on the farm and it

would be nice to see it become an annual event once again.

On **July 19-21**, Walworth County will host the Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. This is the first time that the show has been this close in some time. I hope that some of you will assist with the show. I volunteered because I think it will be fun to be part of the whole scene. Make sure that you take advantage of the close proximity of the show and attend to see the new technologies.

Next up is the Racine County Fair on **July 27-31**. Another great opportunity to come out and enjoy not only the food and fun of the fair, but also to catch up with friendships.

A couple of other events that I want to bring to your attention are the Wisconsin Ag Open golf outing, and our annual meeting, both in early September. The Ag Open is **September 12**

at Christmas Mountain by the Dells. It is open to anyone who wants to have fun golfing. If anyone is interested in playing call or text me and we will get you in on the foursome.

The grand finale for the summer will be our annual meeting at the American Legion in Union Grove. We scheduled Gary Sipiorski, who will be an excellent speaker. Make sure that you read his biography. It will be an enjoyable evening.

The Promotion and Education Committee will cover the dinner expense for members who assisted at the cream puff stand during the Racine County Fair at the annual meeting.

Make sure that you get out and enjoy these fun events.

Keith Jacobson

Racine County Farm Bureau President

Gary Sipiorski to Speak at County Annual Meeting

The Racine County Farm Bureau annual meeting is **Tuesday, September 13**, at the American Legion in Union Grove. Please watch your mailbox for a postcard with more details as the meeting date approaches.

Guest Speaker



Gary Sipiorski was a local and state FFA officer from Denmark. In 1973, he graduated from the UW-River Falls with a degree in animal science. Gary was in the feed industry for 18 years working with feed dealers and consultants making more than 1,000 calls on dairy farms each year.

Gary spent 17 years working at the Citizens State Bank of Loyal as an agricultural loan officer and worked his way up to president and chief executive officer and serves on the board of directors. He graduated from the Graduate School of Banking in Austin, Texas, and did business primarily with dairy producers.

Actively involved in Wisconsin, he served on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program and served as state and national director of the Independent Community Bankers of America and chair on the national agricultural committee. Gary chaired the advisory board of UW-River Falls, is an emeritus member of the board of visitors advisory board for UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Science and teaches the financial portion of a 234 course at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He chaired the Governor's Task Force on Growing Agriculture in Wisconsin and in January of 2008, he was asked to be on the Advisory Council on Agriculture, Industry and Labor for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

In October of 2008, Gary joined the Vita Plus Corporation, a 400 employee-owned nutrition firm based in Madison. He is a meeting advisor for the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin and writes for *Hoard's Dairyman* and many other agricultural publications. Gary has given many presentations in Wisconsin, the U.S. and internationally.

Gary and his wife Linda have been married for 43 years and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.



As of April 25, 2014, it is no longer legal to pass farm equipment in a no passing zone. Period.

Did You Know?

- Yes, you can drive a rubber-tracked tractor on a Wisconsin road.
- Driving farm equipment across the center of a roadway is legal.

For more Transportation Tidbits, visit bit.ly/TransportationTidbit or follow WFBE on Facebook.

Racine County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2016 Racine County Farm Bureau scholarship award recipients.

- Hunter Celeste, son of Patrick and Jodel Celeste, graduated from Union Grove Union High School in May 2016. He plans to study chemical engineering in college.
- Valerie Green, daughter of Rose Green and the late Arthur Green, attends UW-Platteville and plans to graduate in May 2017 with a degree in agricultural business and minor in animal science.
- Brett Waldron, son of Steve and Jenny Waldron,

graduated from Waterford Union High School in June 2016. He plans to study agri-business at Southwest Technical College.

- Kayla Wilson, daughter of Mark and Jenny Wilson, attends UW-River Falls and is studying dairy science with an agriculture business minor.

Each of the students received a \$1,000 scholarship. Funding for these awards is primarily raised at the county fair cream puff stand.



Preparing for Farm Technology Days

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days will be held in Walworth County on **July 19-21**.

The Field Demonstration Committee is in need of volunteers to drive tractors pulling the trams and spotters on the trams to help visitors getting on and off of the trams.

To volunteer, please contact Kathy Baumeister at kathybaumeister@gmail.com or Russ Weis at rdweis@wi.rr.com. Volunteers also are needed for other committees.

Farm Technology Days provides a great opportunity to showcase the latest innovations in agriculture, so plan to attend the show.

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/WFBFInstitute>. You won't regret this rewarding experience!

Applications are due August 15, 2016.



Nurture Your Leadership Skills By Dave Daniels, District 1 Director



Summer is right around the corner. Hopefully the planting season was kind to you and now it is time to nurture those seedlings.

and how we can more efficiently carry on our business. We also visited the New Zealand embassy to give the class members an idea of how other countries look at our agriculture sector and how it interacts with theirs. Now, that is fertilizing your mind in a short 24-hour time frame.

The next step is to help them understand how to interact all this information to our legislative representatives in Washington, D.C., and the consumers in Wisconsin and across the country. This is a small part of the WFBF Institute program.

This program is highly regarded around the state as an elitist teaching tool for future leaders. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to offer this to their members and there will be another class graduating at the end of this year and this summer, members are asked to apply for the 2017 class.

These seedlings need the farmer's help in fertilizing at the right time, suppressing weed pressure and scouting for insect and disease stress.

The WFBF Board of Directors did a bit of nurturing in April. The 2015 WFBF Institute class joined the board members on a trip to Washington, D.C. We attended a fast-paced meeting with American Farm Bureau staff who covered the legislation actions and policies that are facing the American farmer.

USDA representatives discussed how the government agencies have programs in place that will directly affect rural America

Please think about what you can do for your organization by nurturing your leadership skills and developing them to the next level for your community.

Summer is a grand season, enjoy the long days and nurture those crops for a bountiful harvest.

Essay Contest Winners Announced

Winners of the Racine County Farm Bureau essay contest were Raegan Fick, first place; Keegan Werth, second place; and Taylor Scott, third place. All three winners are fifth grade students at Woodfield Elementary School in Waterford.

Mikayla Acker, Treyton Bader, Katherine Goldamm, Calvin Hancock, Brady Johnson, Ava Lennartz and Tyler Lusic received honorable mentions.

The topic this year was, 'Tell me about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

Raegan will be invited to read her winning essay at the Racine County Farm Bureau annual meeting in September.

Kayla Wilson, Racine County Farm Bureau ambassador, announced the winners at a maple syrup ice cream sundae party for the fifth grade classrooms during the last week of school, and presented them with checks of \$25, \$15 and \$10.

The 48 entries were written by students in Mindy Crayton, Melissa Krueger and Rebecca Inda's classrooms.

Raegan's winning essay:

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

\$50 Available to 4-H Members

You are eligible to apply for one of four \$50 awards given to Racine County Outstanding 4-H members. The award program recognizes your total 4-H involvement, not just your exhibit record.



For more information and the application in the Racine County Fair premium book, visit www.racinecountyfair.com.

Ag Women's Summit Energizes

Twenty women from Racine County attended the Ag Women's Summit on March 4-5 at Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and UW-Extension.

Those who attended from Racine County included: Jacquie Strueder, Carol Thelen, Doris Malchine, Donna Hanson, Amy Ranke, Mindy Skewes, Dawn Noble, Julie Kastenson, Hannah Waldron, Julie Moyer, Samantha Moyer, Jackie Bratz, Katie Hagemann, Brook Baumeister, Amanda Biesiadny, Andrea Henning, Tammy Scott, Kathy Baumeister, Jenny Waldron and Kelli Kastenson.

Topics of interest, such as farm safety assessment, working with legislators, straw bale and container gardening, preserving the farm legacy and online safety were covered in breakout sessions.

During the closing session, we were privileged to listen to famed author and storyteller Jerry Apps talk about 'The Importance of Writing Your Own Story.' Apps is professor emeritus at the UW-Madison, author of more than 35 books and creator of television documentaries about rural history and country life.

Registration for the conference was funded by the Racine County Farm Bureau women's promotion and education committee with proceeds from the cream puff stand at Racine County Fair.



Racine County Farm Bureau was well represented at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in March.

Maple Syrup in Wisconsin

One of Wisconsin's most famous foods is maple syrup. When maple syrup was invented a tribal hero, named Manabush, thought that maple sugar had too much sweetness and his tribe would become too lazy. So, Manabush turned it into a liquid, maple syrup!

In Wisconsin, American Indians struggled getting sap from trees because of the weather. There had been a myth that maple sugar came from the trees, to turn into syrup, instead of sap.

The way the syrup is processed is the trees are tapped. Next the sap was collected and boiled in hot containers on hot stones, until it became thickened. Then they strained the thickened sap, heated it again and worked it with wooden paddles. Now they could put it in containers to freeze or store. It took a lot of effort, but it was worth it for the Wisconsin Indians. They could use it for many things in

different ways. They even drank the syrup.

The way they drank it is: they mixed maple sap with sap from other trees. Tribes were able to trade the maple syrup with the other tribes for wool cloth and iron kettles.

For a little bit in the late 1600s the syrup was starting to not be used as much. But the syrup was then used frequently again. Maple syrup was starting to outgrow sugar. By 1932 syrup was so popular and sold in companies.

In rankings, Wisconsin is number 4 on the list for maple syrup productions. Maple syrup is part of our heritage and history. Today many people use machines to make maple syrup, but there are still people who use the traditional way. No matter what, it still takes 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. Many people in Wisconsin love maple syrup!

Membership Goal Achieved

With the help of membership workers, the goal of 25 new voting members by March 31 to receive \$1,000 from WFBF was reached.

Jacobson, Jeff Rice, Brian Schaal, John Scott and Jacquie Strueder.

Thank you to the great volunteers in Racine County for making this possible including Scott Davel, Jim Hanson, Steve Henningfield, Keith

Congratulations to Jeff Rice and Jacquie Strueder, who signed more than five new members. They will receive a Farm Bureau Proud jacket at the annual meeting in September.

