

Racine County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Estate and Farm Succession Planning

By Sally Osenga, Rural Mutual Insurance Agent



The guest speaker at the Racine County Farm Bureau annual meeting had a great message for members on September 13.

Gary Siporski stressed the importance of reviewing our finances and completing a balance sheet on December 31 of each year before you celebrate the New Year.

I also suggest that you take a moment to think about estate planning and farm-business succession planning. If you're like many of the farms we work with, this is a topic that you've probably spent some time thinking about. Maybe attended a few seminars, read about possible solutions, maybe even taken a few steps by starting a trust, but what I've found is that most have not taken **all** of the steps needed to make sure what they want to happen is what actually happens.

Staff with Rural Mutual Insurance can help you. We offer the services of a lawyer that specializes in this. He will come to your home and the first visit is free.

If you're at a point where you know you need to do something, but not quite sure what to do, I suggest that you meet. To set up a meeting, please call me at 262.488.4455.

Cream Puff Stand A Success

By Carol Thelen

Our 2016 cream puff stand at the Racine County Fair was a success thanks to the wonderful volunteers. Be it a 2-, 4-, 6-hour or whole-day shift, your help is appreciated for without our volunteers, there would be no cream puff stand.

The profits are donated back into the community in the form of monetary help for food pantries, scholarships that have perhaps even helped your family, essay contest winners, 4-H awards and many more community-minded programs.

With almost 400 dozen combined cream puffs and eclairs being sold, not to mention the shakes, milk and water, you can see we needed a lot of help.

Don't forget to volunteer some time next year during the fair to help in the cream puff stand. It is fun and so often it is that one time of year when we connect with people we haven't seen since last year's cream puff stand. Save the dates: **July 26-30, 2017**. We will see you at the Cream Puff Stand at the Racine County Fair!



Attention Farm Bureau Women

It's time to think about the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit! It'll be on **March 10-11, 2017**, at the Madison Marriott West.

The Ag Women's Summit is presented by Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Badgerland Financial and UW Extension. The purpose of the summit is to connect women involved in areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

Each attendee is required to send in her own registration and fee, and acquire lodging. For information, please visit the Wisconsin Women's Ag Summit website.

The Racine County Farm Bureau will reimburse the amount of the early registration fee to those who attend.

If you are interested in reimbursement, please contact Darlene Ehrhart at 262.878.1427 or dehrhart@wi.net. Darlene will send an application to you. Please fill it out, sign and return to the designated Racine County Farm Bureau person at the summit.

To receive the reimbursement, applicants must be Farm Bureau members for one year and also be willing to work in the cream puff stand at the 2017 Racine County Fair.





COUNTYnews

RACINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Cream Puff Eating Contest By Jenny Waldron

The cream puff contest at the Racine County Fair was very enjoyable for the participants and the crowd. We had two divisions for kids (ages 4-6 and 7-10) and two adult divisions (ages 11-17 and 18 and older). Community State Bank sponsored the trophies and ribbons and Racine County Farm Bureau sponsored the coupons for a cream puff or shake for each winner. Each child who participated received a coloring book.

Congratulations to the winners!

First place winners: 4-6 year-old group: Levi Gundreson and Antonio Williams; 7-10 year-old group: JJ Alvarez and Alexis Novachavich; 11-17 year-old group: Clayton Esch, Hannah Waldron and Myron Tucker.

Most enthusiastic winners: 4-6 year-old group: Colin Mutter and Lily Gillmore; 7-10 year-old group: Julia James and Carter Kerkman; 11-17 year-old group: Clayton Esch and Brett Thiede.



This annual event is always enjoyable to watch. See you next year at the cream puff stand during Racine County Fair.



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YFA Discussion Meet Contest

The District 1 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 24 at Jelli's Market in Helenville. There were five contestants who participated and the topic was: **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.**

The contestants included: (L-R) Scott Davel, Racine County; Sean Beres, Waukesha County; Jeff Debele, Waukesha County; Kallie Jo Kastenson, Racine County; and Brice Krull, Jefferson County. Finalists Sean Beres, Jeff Debele and Kallie Jo Kastenson will compete during the YFA Conference on December 2-4.



If you see the contestants, please wish them the best of luck as they move on to the state competition.

Annual Meeting Celebrates Success

Congratulations on another successful Farm Bureau year! The Racine County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was on September 13 at the American Legion Hall in Union Grove with 90 people attending. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the American Legion Post 171.



The guest speaker was Gary Sipiorski from Vita Plus Corporation and he talked about the global impact of agriculture.

Members voted on the Farm Bureau Board of Directors and selected the delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting who are: Keith Jacobson, Jim Hanson, Kevin Malchine and Bernie Strueder.

Another part of the meeting was recognizing the people who worked in the Racine County Fair cream puff stand. The money raised goes towards scholarships and community events.

Thank you for another successful year, we look forward to seeing you again next year!

From the President...



As we enter into another fall harvest season, I'm reminded how farming can be like sports.

Yes, the Milwaukee Brewers are rebuilding, the Badgers should be better under second year coach Paul Chryst and on paper, the Green Bay Packers look to be one of the best teams in the NFL. But it takes a lot to go right and a lot to not go wrong to win the Super

Bowl. A few breaks going your way and avoiding key injuries can make the difference between a championship and another fine season.

And isn't farming very similar? On paper we can select the best hybrids with the best genetics for our farm, have our soil tests in the high range or order the correct chemicals to

control the weed and pest problems on our farm, but without a few breaks, like timely planting dates, having adequate moisture and heat at critical times or not having an early frost, we can end up with an average crop and not a bin buster.

That appears to be what happened to us in southeastern Wisconsin. The rest of the state had close to ideal growing conditions, but the dice didn't role in our favor this year. But we've had many years like this before, only to be surprised when harvest began.

I received an interesting quote the other day defining farming: "The art of losing money while working 400 hours a month to feed people who think you are trying to kill them!"

This would be amusing if it wasn't so true. There is so much misinformation being distributed. Consumers get some of these ideas in their mind and it's hard to change their opinions. What food do they think we eat? And they worry about the air and the water. What air do they think we breath and

what water do they think we drink?

Consumers do not rationalize this false information with the truth, and this is where Farm Bureau is helping spread the word. Ag in the Classroom, along with other programs, is helping children and consumers to learn the truth.

We as farmers, especially you younger members who use social media, can do a great deal of good by spreading the facts. Younger people want to hear from people and not an organization. So get the true story out in the media and it will benefit us. Heck, even the federal government has said GMO crops are safe.

I wish everyone a safe harvest this fall. And maybe with a few breaks the Green Bay Packers will be Super Bowl champs! And maybe next year the dice will roll in our favor.

Keith Jacobson

Racine County Farm Bureau President

Outstanding 4-H Award Winners Announced

By Kallie Jo Kastenson



In the junior division, we had one award winner: Jacob Kreuscher.

Jacob Kreuscher

is the son of Eric and Julie Kreuscher. He is a member of the Kan-Do 4-H Club. It is Jacob's first year that he can serve as an officer, and he was elected sergeant of arms. Jacob participated in more than 14 projects. He says that the beef project has taught him that dedication and hard work are key for reaching your goals. The tractor project allowed him to learn more about the maintenance, operation and safety of tractors. Congratulations to Jacob for his hard work.

In the senior division, we had three award winners: Justin Ehrhart, Maegan Kreuscher and Taylor Schaefer.

Justin Ehrhart is the son of Jeff and Kathy Ehrhart. He is an active member of the Burlington Back 40 4-H Club. This year, he served as senior sergeant of arms, junior leaders president and as the county junior leader's secretary.

Justin has taken an active role in building leadership skills at Mid-Winter Retreat, Night with the Stars, County Fair Clean-up and 4-H Winter Camp. His service in the community extends further than 4-H, he served as the Waterford FFA president, volunteered at St. Mary's Dover Activity Day, DJ'd at the Kansasville Fire and Rescue Banquet and helped with the Farm Bureau Dairy Days.

Within the swine project, Justin says he always tries to help and set a good example for younger members. Thank you Justin for your dedication to Racine County!

Maegan Kreuscher is the daughter of Eric and Julie Kreuscher. She is active in Kan-Do 4-H, where her 4-H activities span from serving as club president to serving on their Halloween party and auction committees. She is the junior leader of many projects, including beef, basketry, swine and archery.

Maegan said that participating in the beef and swine projects has allowed her to find a vision for her future. She wants to be a large animal veterinarian. Our congratulations to Maegan Kreuscher.

Taylor Schaefer is the daughter of Carolyn and Darrell Schaefer. She is a member of Tucker 4-H. Taylor is an active member at the club and county level. In her club, she served as the president and awards night chair. At the county level, she served as vice president, base camp co-youth director and an ambassador. Taylor admits that she joined 4-H with little knowledge of the program, but through her involvement, she has grown in her public speaking, leadership and organization.

Her leadership roles in the club and county allowed her to "step out of her comfort zone and push myself to be the best person I can be."

Congratulations to our outstanding 4-H Award winners!

Meet Racine County YFA Chair Jim Waldron



Jim Waldron joined Farm Bureau when he purchased insurance through Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

He owns Performance Planting and farms at Bratz Dairy. The farm is a third generation farm with 150 cows and 300 acres of cropland. Jim not only farms, but also runs his own seed and planter parts sales company.

When you see Jim, congratulate him on being elected the new Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair for Racine County Farm Bureau!

District 1 Highlights



Greetings, as we wrap up another wonderful and challenging year in Wisconsin. I will highlight a few activities that your state Farm Bureau Board and organization have participated in this year.

Late in 2015, WFBF hosted representatives from the German Chamber of Commerce along with a few German dairy farmers. The topic of discussion was the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

In March of 2016, eight board members and two staff members visited Germany. We again discussed TTIP along with risk management, commodity futures and herd expansion. We also discussed the layers of regulation, the effect of employment on larger farms and how grocers and marketing firms have mandated accepted farm management styles and systems.

As we look to trade agreements being a focal point of the election, we must remember Wisconsin exported \$3.2 billion worth of agricultural products to 144 countries.

In July, the WFBF Board, staff members and Rural Executive staff sat down with representatives from Case IH. With the rewriting of implements of husbandry (IOH) legislation, we wanted to hear the perspective of

Get to know Jim's favorites...

RED OR GREEN TRACTORS?: RED

Holiday: Fourth of July

Color: Red

FOOD: ITALIAN

SPORT TO PLAY: BASKETBALL

Sport to watch: Football

MUSIC: COUNTRY

Restaurant: Olive Garden

Flavor of ice cream: Cookies and cream

this implement manufacturer headquartered in Racine.

All 50 states have different regulations and Case IH produces tractors for several continents. They were not concerned with the regulation shifts as long as their engineers have time to adapt. It also was impressive to see how high powered implements are built and how quality control is monitored.

As you can see, no one year defines an organization's accomplishments or challenges. It is a process that continues from year-to-year. I look forward to working for you and our organization. Have a safe harvest.

Dave Daniels

WFBF District 1 Director

Thank You, Marge!

On behalf of the Racine County Farm Bureau members, we want to thank Marge Demuth for her years of service as the woman's committee chair. For the last three years, she served as the chair of the women's committee and did an outstanding job. Thank you Marge for your time and commitment.



Meet Ag Ambassador, Jessica Noble



I am Jessica Noble, the 2016-2017 Racine County agriculture ambassador. I am 17 years old and a senior at Burlington High School. I live with my parents Ed and Dawn on a 90-cow dairy farm in Dover. I help with chores, milking and seasonal work like baling and harvesting.

I joined 4-H in second grade and served in three officer positions for Kan-Do 4-H Club. I also am an active FFA member, serving as Burlington FFA president during my

junior year and as parliamentarian this year.

For the past 5 years, I served as the dairy teen leader for Kan-Do 4-H Club and showed beef and dairy for 8 years at the county fair. Last year, was my first time showing a colored breed. I bought a Jersey heifer named Daisy. She calved at the end of summer and now I am raising a show calf. These experiences are what I enjoy the most about living on the farm. This was my second year showing beef at the Wisconsin State fair and my first year showing dairy.

I am honored to represent agriculture in Racine County.

Women's Committee Report By Marge Demuth, women's committee chair

The Racine County women's committee had another productive year.

Farm Bureau family members were eligible to apply for scholarships, 4-H awards and paid registration fees to the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.

Agricultural education outreach included \$300 grants given for agriculture related programs at the Burlington, Waterford and Union Grove libraries, participation in the Market Basket survey, Ag in the Classroom and essay contest. Books about Wisconsin food products were distributed to 15 local schools and libraries.

We reached out to communities through \$800 donations to five food banks including: Love, Inc., Burlington; Norway Lutheran Church; Waterford Methodist Church; Union Grove Area Food Bank; and St. Louis Catholic Church, Caledonia.

These projects were funded by profits from the annual cream puff stand at the Racine County Fair. Thank you to those who worked and made the stand another success story. The Racine County women's committee has a proud history and a state

reputation of effective programming and strong leadership including former state Women's Chair Gertude Scott.

Throughout Wisconsin, societal and role changes have resulted in many Farm Bureau women's committees becoming inactive or disbanding. Reorganization at the state level has renamed the Women's Committee with a Promotion and Education Committee.

Yes, agricultural promotion and education have always been the focus of our worthwhile and well-organized activities. We do, however, recognize the need for restructuring to accommodate younger women. Holding fewer, and evening meetings and making more use of technology are the first steps that we are taking.

Our challenge in 2016-2017 is to match your time, talent and interest with a project-activity that will fit in your schedule. We plan to work more closely with the board to integrate committees and evaluate our programs. More young women, and men, committed to doing what they do best, will result in extending Racine County Farm Bureau's reputation of excellence.

Dairy Day Held at Rochester Library

By Darlene Ehrhart

The Racine County Farm Bureau Women's Committee, along with the Racine County Dairy Promotion and Kan Do 4-H, held their Dairy Days Promotion on June 13 at Rochester Library.

Approximately 250 attendees participated in the games, viewing farm animals and more. Attendees were treated to an ice cream cone provided by the Dairy Promotion. Information pertaining to agriculture including some recipes for those who prepare meals at home were handed out.



Racine County Agricultural Ambassador Kayla Wilson and Emily Schaal helped with the activities.

Thank You For A Great Year

By Kayla Wilson, Racine County Agriculture Ambassador



Thank you to the Racine County Farm Bureau and Racine County Dairy Promotions for the opportunity to be the agriculture ambassador. It was an honor to represent agriculture in Racine County, and I can't believe the connections I made in the industry. It helped make the fair a year to remember.

I loved helping in the cream puff stand, being a part of the royalty and being a part of many events. This was the perfect opportunity for me to grow not only as a communicator, but also expanding my ag knowledge. I suppose my ag classes at River Falls have helped too.

Agriculture will always be a part of my life and this was just the start. I love talking to others who have the same passion, as well as those who don't. I will continue to be involved in the community and to teach others the importance of agriculture and the impact that it has on the world.

Also, thank you to my parents for their continued support, and Renee Schaal and Jeff Rice for working with me and the Ag Ambassador Program.

Racine County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Racine County Board of Directors



Front row: (L-R) YFA Chair Jim Waldron, president Keith Jacobson, vice president John Scott and secretary-treasurer Jim Hanson. Back row: (L-R) board members Steve Henningfield, Brian Schaal, Jeff Rice and Scott Davel. The women's committee chair position is vacant. A new chair will be appointed by the president.

Racine County Achieves Membership

The membership year-end was September 30 and Racine County achieved a gain in voting and total membership.



Achieving the goal was possible because of the dedicated membership volunteers who signed new members throughout the year. Thank you to those who signed new members including: Scott Davel, Jim Hanson, Keith Jacobson, Steve Henningfield, Jeff Rice, Brian Schaal, John Scott and Jacquie Strueder.

Essay Contest: Cranberry Focus

Each year, Ag in the Classroom offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations. The 2016-2017 topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'



The essay contest theme coincides with this year's book of the year *Time for Cranberries* by Lisl H. Detlefsen. This book follows a boy and his family through the process of collecting cranberries all the way to eating the delicious treat. County contest entries are due by **April 1, 2017**.

For more information, please contact Jackie Bratz at 262.206.4024 or visit www.wisagclassroom.org.