

# Richland County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## FFA Farm Forum Is Successful



agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural 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.

Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau takes pride in hosting this special event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school

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 44<sup>th</sup> year that the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

Each year Richland County Farm Bureau will sponsor the registration fee for two students from Richland County to attend FFA Farm Forum. FFA advisors and students interested in attending this event are encouraged to keep this in mind for next year.

## Ag Day on Campus - Save the Date!

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau will host Ag Day on Campus on **Thursday, April 21**.

Join the students on the West Lawn from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a day of celebrating agriculture.

Grab a walking taco, enjoy delicious Wisconsin-made

snacks, participate in sheep shearing demonstrations, pet the farm animals and learn more about agriculture.

If you are interested in being a sponsor of the event, please contact Dayna Anderson at [andersonday@uwplatt.edu](mailto:andersonday@uwplatt.edu).



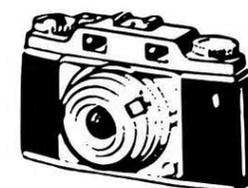
## 'Picture This' Photos Needed

Do you have a great photo that you have taken around your farm or somewhere in the county? We want to see them!

Submit your high resolution photos

to Lynn Siekmann at [lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com).

Your photo could be featured in the next issue of *Rural Route!*





# COUNTYnews

RICHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Farm Bureau in Action



Ag Day at the Capitol was held on January 27 in Madison. Richland County Farm Bureau president Dick Hauser attended. Members gathered at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center for a meal and issues briefing before they walked to the Capitol and met and discussed current agricultural issues with Representative Todd Novak and Senator Howard Marklein.



Richland County Farm Bureau president Dick Hauser attended the Council of Presidents meeting on January 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Dick met with other presidents and vice presidents from around the state and heard from a variety of speakers including Craig Culver, founder and chair of Culver's restaurants.

WFBF District 3 Director Dick Gorder was recently in Washington, D.C. with several other members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors. He met with Wisconsin lawmakers to talk about trade, immigration reform, biotech labeling and wolves.



The District 3 YFA Chili and Grilled Cheese Cook-Off was held during the first weekend in February. YFA members and their families enjoyed an afternoon of socializing and healthy competition. Participants were very creative, using a variety of ingredients and recipes to make their cook-off entries. The Chili and Grilled Cheese Cook-Off winners included: Gretchen Kamps, first place chili; Kent Jerrett, second place chili; Buck Johnson, people's choice chili; Justin Doyle, first place grilled cheese; and Melissa Doyle, second place grilled cheese.

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## President's Message



As I sit here writing this article, the temperature has been above freezing, even at night. Jimmy the Groundhog is looking pretty smart about an early spring.

By the time that you are reading this, it might be totally different with a blizzard swirling outside. It is the time of the year when we look forward to the coming of spring and the promise of a new start.

Your Richland County Farm Bureau is hoping for that new start, also. We welcome new ideas and more participation and input. There are many issues that need our support at the state and

national levels, and the more grass roots participation we have the stronger our voice.

Some of the most pressing issues include the pending high capacity well legislation, the potential review of the farm siting bill, always non-point pollution, Implements of Husbandry and waters of the United States (EPA) over reach.

With more participation, our county Farm Bureau could do more in the area of youth education and involvement and become more involved with conservation promotion in ways that will help rather than hinder farmers.

I look forward to working with new members during 2016 to grow our organization and bring in new leadership.

Please call me at 608.585.4808 with any concerns that you have and we will try to work on them together.

Thank you and have a safe spring.

**Dick Hauser**  
Richland County Farm Bureau President

## District Director Update



### *Perspective*

Heading to Orlando for the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention, I became acutely aware of perspective. The perspective of both time and space.

As I left Wisconsin it was very foggy and visibility was less than a half mile. In a matter of a few minutes of take-off we were above the fog and the sun was shining brightly. A few hours later I landed in Florida and the dreary weather of Wisconsin was quickly becoming a distant memory.

While I flew above the clouds with the sun streaming in the windows I realized how, in a manner of time and space, my perspective changed.

Some days it is difficult to see through the fog.

I realize going into this coming year there is a lot of uncertainty and questions about markets and margins. I know the profitability of corn, soybeans and milk this next year is not going to be what we have been fortunate to experience during the past couple of years.

I know that government oversight and regulations continue to challenge us. Further, I know there is a continuing and concerted effort by those who do not understand agriculture wanting to dictate how we farm.

Some days it seems to be more than I can manage and yet I know that is why I'm a Farm Bureau member. On any given day Farm Bureau is working on the very issues that challenge my farm's livelihood, thus allowing me to focus on my farm's needs.

It is important to keep things in perspective and have a profound understanding of what I can and cannot control. For almost a century now, Farm Bureau has been around in good times and challenging times as the voice of agriculture.

As the fog of uncertainty confronts us, be certain you don't overlook the importance and value of your Farm Bureau membership.

Best wishes and stay safe.

**Dick Gorder**  
WFBF District 3 Director

## 2015 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Highlights



The 96<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 5-7 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Richland County Farm Bureau members Dick Hauser, Byron Hillberry and Jim Hying served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's legislative agenda for 2016.



Nearly 45 YFA members from District 3 attended the 2015 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference that is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members networked, attended breakout sessions and learned more about Farm Bureau opportunities, all while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts.



Members of all ages enjoyed listening to the Peterson Farm Brothers during Saturday's afternoon session of the YFA Conference. The brothers shared behind the scenes details about their parody music videos and talked about the importance of advocating for agriculture. Several District 3 Farm Bureau members took the opportunity to get a photo with the brothers during the meet and greet session afterwards.



District 3 was well represented in the WFBF Producer Club. Membership workers who signed up five or more new members were recognized during the Producer Club luncheon held during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

## Celebrate National Ag Day



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

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand

for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the U.S. The National Ag Day program believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

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. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors.

Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...

our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

Download more helpful tools at [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org)! You will find:

- Talking points about the importance of agriculture.
- Ag Day logos.
- Sample presentation speech.
- Press release (to download and modify for your event).
- PSAs (to download and modify for your event).
- Print advertisements.

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

### Celebrate National Ag Day March 15

Did you know that it can take up to 500 years to make an inch of **soil**?

Farmers use conservation practices to protect this resource.



## District Promotion and Education Update



As we start a new year, we are reminded of the new things happening around us.

One new and exciting adventure is the Promotion and Education Committee. The long-time Women's Committee changed to the Promotion and Education Committee.

With this change, there are many new ideas and opportunities being brought forward. I know some counties still have the women's program and we are not asking you to change it. This will just give county Farm Bureaus more tools to use to strengthen their programs. When new information arrives I will pass it along.

I want to thank everyone who came to the District 3 Fall Women's Summit. We had a great turnout and a lot of fun painting and learning more about Ag in the Classroom.

I hope everyone has a great year and I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Farm Bureau event!

### Nicole Adrian

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

## County Ag in the Classroom Update

Essay season is here again! We encourage fourth and fifth grade students to participate in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest.

Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that can be used to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. This year's topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' This contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Richland County Farm Bureau has several resources available to assist in the learning and exploration of this year's topic. The 2016 Book of the Year, *Sugarbush Spring* by Marsha Wilson Chall, is the perfect way to teach students about the production of maple syrup and help students get started on the essay topic.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

Richland County contest entries are due by **April 1**. Mail essays to:

**Richland County Farm Bureau**  
c/o Germaine Hying  
23870 Sorge Lane  
Muscodia, WI 53573



## Richland County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Hauser 608.585.4808  
Secretary, Germaine Hying 608.739.3367  
Treasurer, Byron Hillberry 608.537.2352  
Women's Chair, Germaine Hying 608.739.3367

Richland County Farm Bureau 888.830.2576  
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle 866.355.7343  
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424  
RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson 608.935.9500

## District YFA Update

Winter One-derland!

We hope you are surviving winter! Our daughter, Zeeva, turned ONE in January, and it certainly has been a one-derland for us!



Between her and Farm Bureau, we've been on our toes since the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

One more thing that has changed is that Charisse and I are not only the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) representatives, but I also am serving as state YFA Committee Chair. This brings a new list of opportunities to our life.

We recently attended the AFBF Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida, the Young Leader Conference in Illinois and Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison.

In February, we participated in the District 3 YFA Chili and Grilled Cheese Cook-Off, AFBF YF&R Conference and the FFA Farm Forum.

Do you know a young individual or couple that excels in production agriculture? Encourage them to fill out the Achievement Award application! How about a young leader who promotes education or goes out of their way to help others? The Excellence in Agriculture award may be perfect for them! Both awards have cash prizes and the chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C., or Phoenix, Arizona, next January!

Just think, if you are ready for winter to be over, next time we write, we will be planting corn and cutting hay.

**Derek and Charisse Orth**  
District 3 YFA Representatives

