



Rusk | Sawyer County Farm Bureaus

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contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Rusk, Sawyer County:

Steve Shimko
(715) 532-6532

Pat Gillis
(715) 934-2400

Dale Thompson
(715) 634-3423

Ken Truax - District Manager
(715) 514-4477

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Barron Student Wins Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



Bryce Henning proudly holds his award with his teacher, Lindsey Bell (left) and Barron County Farm Bureau President and Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Karyn Schuaf.

Bryce Henning, a fifth grade student from Barron, is the statewide winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Fourth and fifth graders were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay on, "Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?"

Bryce is the son of Patrick and Amanda Henning and Stephanie Henning.

A total of 2,853 students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Frontier-Servco FS and We Energies.

The finalist from the Farm Bureau's nine districts received a certificate, educational resources for their teacher and a classroom presentation about Wisconsin agriculture.

This year's finalists include:

- Matthew Wanta, Rockfield Elementary School, Germantown, Washington County (District 1)
- Hayden Wrolstad, Northside Intermediate School, Milton, Rock County (District 2)
- Madilynn Mundt, Kickapoo Elementary School, Viola, Vernon County (District 3)
- Emma Paris, LaGrange Elementary School, Tomah, Monroe County (District 4)

- Alexis Ullenberg, St. Mary Springs Academy, Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County (District 5)
- Ruby Jesion, Christ Child Academy, Sheboygan, Sheboygan County (District 6)
- Molly Haines, St. Anthony School, Oconto Falls, Oconto County (District 7)
- Sam Nitzke, South Mountain Elementary School, Wausau, Marathon County (District 8)
- Bryce Henning, Riverview Middle School, Barron, Barron County (District 9)

Bryce's winning essay:

Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?

There are more 25,000 kinds of bees in the world but there is one kind that really stands out. It is called the honeybee and it is important to Wisconsin's agriculture because of the honey it produces as well as the job it does pollinating plants.

The honeybee produces honey which supports Wisconsin's agriculture and economy. In 2012, the state's honey crop was valued at nearly 9 million dollars. Who would think those little bees could create something worth so much? They are also responsible for more than just creating honey because their beeswax is often used to create candles and other products.

To create honey and beeswax, the bee has to fly from flower to flower collecting pollen and this process is crucial to the flowers. The spreading of pollen, called pollination, is needed for plants to create the food we eat. If we had not honeybees there would be fewer beautiful flowers. Crops such as apples, cranberries, and cherries would also suffer. The cranberry industry alone employs 7,000 people in the state of Wisconsin. Without bees, many people would be without jobs. It is also estimated that nearly one-third of the food we eat is created by the work the bees do.

So the next time you see a little honey bee, think about how it impacts the agriculture in the state of Wisconsin. This amazing insect is important in creating jobs, honey, and pollinating many of our crops.

Farm Bureau Leaders Meet



More than 40 Farm Bureau members and leaders from northwest Wisconsin met June 18 at the Barron Electric Meeting room in Barron.

WFBF President and District 9 Director Jim Holte hosted a listening session, expressing the value in listening to concerns and comments from members and leaders of the Farm Bureau organization.

Also present was Dale Beaty, who led the group in a leadership training exercise.

President Holte also made the announcement that the Board of Directors selected Dale Beaty as the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's new Chief Administrative Officer as of July 1.



AUGUST 2015

COUNTYnews

RUSK | SAWYER COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2015 Dairy Breakfast Serves More than 1,400

The 2015 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast was held on June 27 at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds in Hayward.

More than 1,400 people were served pancakes with the option of blueberries, sausage, ice cream, strawberries, whipped cream, milk, cranberry juice and coffee. Sawyer County Farm Bureau in sponsorship with the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, hosted the event.

Throughout the morning, visitors were entertained with music by Larry's Drifters, sampled products from Meadowbrook Cranberry Co., LLC and Springbrook Organic Dairy and had the opportunity to visit informational booths.



Nate Kringle enjoyed making pancakes as fast as they could be eaten.



Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast co-chair, Jim Henchel enjoyed his breakfast.

Thank you to Pat Gillis and Jim Henchel for organizing the event which would not be possible without the volunteers including Sawyer County 4-H members and leaders and the Sawyer County Farm Bureau board of directors and members.

Proceeds from the event will support the 4-H food stand at the county fair and other events at the Sawyer County Fair, Ag in the Classroom activities, Young Farmers and Agriculturists activities and other agriculture events throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who came and enjoyed the Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast!



Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast chair, Pat Gillis invited the community to enjoy a delicious breakfast via a radio broadcast with WRLS 92.3.



Kayla Kringle and Theresa Depies handed out milk and cranberry juice to attendees at the dairy breakfast.



2015 Musky Fest royalty showed their love for Wisconsin dairy!

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Member Profile: Meadowbrook Cranberry Company



Meadowbrook Cranberry Co., LLC, is a family owned and operated business located in Exeland.

The company was started in 2008 by Sawyer County Farm Bureau member, Greg Swope. As an entrepreneur, Greg always had an interest in the cranberry

business. He worked for Ocean Spray in Tomah for years and as an electrician prior to purchasing the marsh.

His knowledge and connections in the cranberry business paired with his mechanical talents and work ethic made for a great mix. Since the purchase, the marsh was more than doubled in size and upgrades such as new irrigation and drainage systems were installed. A cranberry pump also was purchased for efficient harvesting. Greg and his son, Kent operate the marsh year round.

Harvest is a fun time at Meadowbrook Cranberry Co. The highway runs through the marsh and the beauty of the fall colors and floating cranberries prompt passersby to stop, purchase fresh cranberries and learn more about cranberries. Because cranberries freeze well, people buy in bulk and eat them throughout the year.

Some visitors look for ready-made items. In a search to fill that niche, Yvonne developed cranberry chutney. This product is something that customers can sample and buy.

After experimenting with many recipes, one was found that everyone loved. It's a mixture of cranberries, apples and spices that is delicious on almost anything, especially cream cheese and crackers.

The customers loved it and the demand for chutney continued throughout the year promoting Meadowbrook Cranberry Co., LLC, to take the canned concoction to a new level under the name Meadowbrook Family Farms, LLC.

For more information, search for Meadowbrook Family Farms, LLC on Facebook or visit www.meadowbrookfamilyfarms.com.

Rusk County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Paul Hetke 715.532.7707
Vice President, James Meng 715.532.0971
Secretary-Treasurer, Bruce Nelson 715.532.3819
Women's Chair, Cindy Meng 715.532.0971
YFA Chair, Danny Krajewski 715.403.3265

Director, Eva Curtis 715.403.2223
Director, Amber Long 715.418.2138
Director, Terry Du Sell 715.828.1617
Director, Walter Stanger 715.532.3638

WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 Women's Chair, Amber Cordes 715.357.3444
District 9 YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget 866.355.7349
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 715.505.7676
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

Ag in the Classroom Workshop Set

Are you interested in learning more about Ag in the Classroom? Do you want to know what resources are available? Do you want to meet and talk with others about how they use the resources?

Then this workshop is for you!

When: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on August 29

Where: White Pine Berry Farm
1482 Oak Drive
River Falls, WI 54022

Cost: \$10 for lunch



Please RSVP to Amber Cordes by August 24 at 715.781.3236.

Farm Bureau Annual Meetings Scheduled

Rusk County

Date: Saturday, September 21

Time: 7:30 p.m., meal followed by the business meeting

Location: Rusk county Senior Center

Cost: Free

Please RSVP by September 14 to Jim or Cindy Meng at 715.322.4423.

Sawyer County

Date: Saturday, September 19

Time: Noon, meal followed by the business meeting

Location: Stone Lake Fire Hall, Stone Lake

Cash door prizes will be given away.

Please RSVP by September 14 to Dale Beissel at 715.266.3414.

Mark your calendars and please plan on attending and let your voice be heard.

Welcome New Members!

Rusk County:

D C Crete*, Christina Armstrong*, Robert Begalke*, Jonathan Henk*, James Kuchta*, Ronald Nesler*, Steve Rank, William Vanark*, Philip Verdegan*, Roger Wallace* and Philip Wester*

Sawyer County:

Christopher Berglund, William Mc Alear, Susan Roppe and Lauren Rusin

*Denotes voting member.

Welcome
to Farm
Bureau

Bourget Babbles

By Cindy Bourget, District 9 YFA Representative



I hope that everyone is enjoying their summer!

I know that calendars are filling up with the wonderful event that come with summer: barbecues with family and friends, fun on the water and fieldwork.

The District 9 YFA also has wonderful opportunities for some summer fun. We have summer socials and some great professional development opportunities.

September 10: Discussion Meet, 7 p.m., Dunn County Community Service Building, Old Health Care Center

September 12: Farmer Frolic 5K run/walk, paired with Farm City Day in Chippewa County. Please watch for more details. All proceeds will fund YFA events in District 9.

I also encourage you to take a look at attending your county's policy development meetings. This is a great way to get your voice heard and find out what issues are pertinent in your area.

I can't wait to see all of you this summer. If you have ideas for other activities or want to help with these events, please contact Al Bourget or myself at 715.505.7676 or cindy.m.bourget@gmail.com.

Happy summer!

What's the Big Deal with Implements of Husbandry?

Submitted by Andy Bensend, Barron County Farm Bureau Member

Wisconsin has been making news around the Midwest since it passed legislation that finds a balance between protecting our transportation infrastructure and allowing heavy farm machinery to operate legally and safely on our roadways.

Farm machinery and agricultural equipment had similar footing as other over size and overweight equipment on the roadways; however, Wisconsin Act 377 changed that.



Even with the increased allowances in weight, width, length and height, many farmers who own and operate large farm equipment may still find themselves at odds with the law.

The Implements of Husbandry (IOH) law isn't all that new, but is really an effort to update decades-old laws that haven't been enforced nor have they kept up with the size and scale of modern agriculture equipment.

As a result of this legislation, farmers and custom farming operations enjoy a higher weight limit per axle on many Wisconsin roadways and relaxed restrictions regarding width, height and length. Also included are mandates for lighting and guidance for situations where a pilot vehicle is needed.

The law (Wisconsin Act 377 and its follow-up legislation, Wisconsin Act 15) and its details can be understood better by visiting <http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/dmv/agri-eq-veh>.

An excerpt from the website follows:

In April 2014, several changes were made to Wisconsin laws directing the way agricultural vehicles operate on public roads. The most significant change was increasing the weight limits for these vehicles.

In general, under the new law, vehicles defined as Implements of Husbandry (IOH) and Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicles (Ag CMVs) are allowed to operate at 15 percent higher weight limits than previously allowed.

The agricultural weight limits are now 23,000 pounds per axle or 92,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW), dependent on number of axles and axle spacing and subject to seasonal or special postings. Certain IOH (Category B) may be given an axle weight exemption on local roads. The new higher weight limits are not allowed on interstate highways.

Other changes included:

- Creating a new "no-fee permit" issued by the WisDOT and local authorities for agricultural vehicles that exceed statutory length or weight limits.
- Granting local governments the authority to adopt a resolution or ordinance setting maximum gross vehicle and axle weight limits allowable on roads they maintain, if different than the weight limits existing in current law.

Act 15 took effect on April 30, to clarify and modify certain provisions. The most significant changes include:

- Modified the definition of an Ag CMV and allows Ag CMVs that harvest farm products, distribute feed to livestock or apply lime, spray, seeds or fertilizer (but not manure) to have the same axle weight exemption of Category B IOH.
- Requiring farm implement dealers to disclose the axle weight and gross vehicle weight at the time of sale.
- Authorizing IOH with rubber tracks to operate on the road as long as it does not damage the highway.
- Allowing for the transport of IOH and Ag CMVs by trailer or semi-trailer at the increased agricultural vehicle weight limits from farm to farm. A trailer or semi-trailer that is hauling an IOH or Ag CMV and exceeds the agricultural weight limits may apply for a no-fee permit.
- Allowing a vehicle authorized by permit or local resolution-ordinance to cross an intersecting highway under a different jurisdiction.
- Changing the date by which a local government must adopt an ordinance for it to be effective in the following year to November 30. A copy of the ordinance must be sent by January 20 of that year.

Farmers may be reluctant to apply for these new permits because they want to wait and see if anyone really will get charged with being overweight. I encourage farmers to apply for the permits without delay. It is important for farmers and our officials to understand that even though these permits are free, the time and effort to apply and the time and effort for officials to respond makes them anything but free.

My fear is that if we ignore the law and find ourselves in a situation where everyone thinks it's no big deal because few have requested permits. The need for protection of our roadways is real, but it must be balanced with the need for farmers to access the fields and farms that is critical to our state's economy.

Enrollment Period for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Safety-Net Programs Underway

Submitted by **Katie Stariha**, Farm Service Agency County Operations Trainee

Eligible producers may now enroll farms in the 2014 and 2015 annual agriculture risk coverage (ARC) and price loss coverage (PLC) programs. The enrollment period started June 17 and will end September 30.

The new programs, established by the 2014 Farm Bill, trigger financial protections for agricultural producers when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices or revenues.

More than 1.76 million farmers have elected ARC or PLC programs and producers can sign contracts for the 2014-2015 program years.

We have set appointments for most of our Rusk and Sawyer farmers. If you do not have an appointment or cannot keep the appointment time set, please contact the Ladysmith office at 715.532.3786.

Producers enrolled in ARC or PLC are reminded that they must protect all cropland and noncropland acres on the farm from wind and water erosion and noxious weeds. A list of noxious weeds can be found at <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>.

Enrollment for Dairy Margin Protection Program for 2016

The Margin Protection Program is a voluntary program established by the 2014 Farm Bill that provides financial assistance to participating dairy operations when the margin-the difference between the price of milk and the feed costs- falls below the coverage level selected by the farmer.

The program gives participating dairy producers the flexibility to select coverage levels best suited for their operation. Enrollment started July 1 and ends on September 30. Participating farmers will remain in the program through 2018 and pay a \$100 administrative fee each year.

Producers also have the option of selecting a different coverage level during open enrollment each year. Margin Protection Program payments are based on an operation's historical production. An operation's historical production will increase by 2.61 percent in 2016 if the operation participated in 2015, providing a stronger safety net.

USDA also has an online resource available to help dairy producers decide which level of coverage will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. By using the tool at www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool dairy farmers can easily combine their unique operation data and other variables to calculate their coverage needs based on price projections.

Farmers enrolling in the program must meet conservation compliance provisions. Farmers participating in the Livestock Gross Margin Insurance program may register for the Margin Protection Program, but the new margin program will only start once their livestock dairy insurance coverage has ended.

Producers also must submit form CCC-782 for 2016, confirming their Margin Protection Program coverage level selection, to the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. If electing higher coverage for 2016, dairy farmers can pay the premium in full at the time of enrollment or pay a minimum of 25 percent by February 1, 2016.

The deadline to enroll in the program is September 30. If you have enrolled for the 2014 and 2015 program years, you can make your 2016 election coverage level during the scheduled ARC/PLC enrollment appointment.

For more information, contact the Ladysmith County FSA office at 1120 Lake Avenue West, Ladysmith, at 715.532.3786 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy.

Do You Know Someone Who Should Be a Farm Bureau Member?

To the right is a membership application for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The dues in Rusk and Sawyer counties are \$50. Below are a couple of hints for you as you go through the membership application.



conducted and that an associate member is other persons, partnerships, unincorporated associations and corporations interested in the philosophy and objectives of this association can be a member, but without the right to vote or serve as a director. Typically associate members are those without direct ties to agriculture, but carry a Rural Mutual Insurance Policy.

- 1. Can my spouse and I share a membership?** Yes! Each membership is one vote for the your county Farm Bureau. If you and your spouse have a shared opinion on county happenings, then you can share a membership. If you want two votes, purchase two memberships.
- 2. Why do you need my date of birth?** Your birthday is used for the accidental death benefit that comes with your county Farm Bureau membership. It also helps us target our Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members so that we can be sure to include them in activities that are specific to them. We won't sell the list to anyone, it just helps us.
- 3. What is the Ag Newswire?** The *Ag Newswire* is produced by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation each Friday and it is a summary of agriculture news for the past week.
- 4. How do I know what my membership type is?** Both Rusk and Sawyer County Farm Bureau have established that a voting member is someone engaged in agricultural purposes, actively engaged in the business of producing agricultural products, or owners of property where such business is

5. Who is the membership worker? At Farm Bureau, we like to reward those who help us grow our membership. So if you are giving this membership newsletter to someone in hopes that they will join, please write your name in the membership worker blank. We will send you \$20 for each new member who you sign up! It's a great way to be rewarded for taking time out to make the visits and help us grow our membership.

6. Where do I mail my application? You can mail it to WFBF, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705 or you can drop it off at a board member's home.

7. When should I send in my payment, when is it due? Your membership starts on the day we receive your membership application and that will remain your renewal date. So, if you know that your cash is a tight in the spring, but you can manage the renewal in June, send it in June. We are glad to have your membership anytime.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dale Beissel	715.266.3414
Vice President, Mike Roberts	715.943.2645
Secretary-Treasurer, Sherrie Mataczynski	715.943.2353

Director, Marty Ewert	715.558.3524
Director, Jim Henschel	715.462.4608
Director, John Kauffman	715.943.2285
Director, Ted Mataczynski	715.943.2353

WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
Women's Committee Chair, Amber Cordes	715.357.3444
YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget	715.505.7676
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477



Rusk County Farm Bureau
Sawyer County Farm Bureau
Young Farmer & Agriculturist Program.

Welcome to the Farm Bureau Family

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive Ag Newswire, the weekly email newsletter from WFBF? ☐ Yes

Would you like a Rural Mutual Insurance agent to contact you? ☐ Yes

Membership Type: ☐ Associate ☐ Voting

County: _____ Township: _____

Amount Paid: _____ Date: _____
Make checks payable to Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Membership Worker: _____

1.2015

For office use only.

Member #	County #	V/A
_____	_____	_____



A Voice for Farmers. A Vision for Agriculture.®