

Shawano County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Dairy Dash and Stroll Recap

The Dairy Dash and Stroll had 100 participants who braved the wet gravel and soft dirt for exercise prior to the Brunch on the Farm.

Participants received chocolate milk for a quick recovery and tickets to the brunch. The winners in each gender and age category received a bag of cheese curds and a Farm Bureau cooler.



Participants enjoyed a challenging but beautiful route for the 2016 Dairy Dash and Stroll at the Brunch on the Farm.

Lead to Succeed Support By Deb Mielke

This spring, the board of directors learned about a class in Bonduel with Hank Wagner, who taught 'Tools for Leadership Skills' that can be used by students and adults. Leadership is important at all levels of relationships including friends, family, marriages, etc.

The board voted to pay \$50 towards registration,

provided that the student successfully completed the course and comes from an agricultural background. For this year, the board will pay for seven students to attend.

For more information, please visit www.becomebetterleaders.com.



Women's Committee Picnic Meeting Report

By Angie Schultz

To make summer special, the Shawano Farm Bureau women's committee held the July meeting at Twig's Beverage to visit the Sun Drop University museum, gift shop and tasting room before going to Sunset Island at Heritage Park for a potluck picnic to plan the July beef promotion event at Charlie's County Market.



The women's committee met at the Sun Drop Museum.

From the President By Deb Mielke

Due to health issues during the winter and spring, Sheri Beilke and Bob Krause were co-chairs for the county's Brunch on the Farm.

Thank you to them and everyone who stepped 'up-to-the-plate' to add to the success of the event and to the donors and volunteers. The brunch would not have happened without the leadership, donors and volunteers. Thank you to hosts, Kevin and Shawn Bonnin.

In Memory

In memory of Ruben and Betty Giese who died on July 7.

Ruben served as president of the Shawano County Farm Bureau for many years and Betty served as chair of the women's committee.

Their enthusiasm and leadership made a lot of good things happen in the Shawano County community.



COUNTYnews

SHAWANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

The 2016 Brunch on the Farm By Sheri Beilke, Shawano County Farm Bureau brunch co-chair

One of my favorite sayings is, 'How many times in your life are you given the opportunity to bring joy to thousands of people on one given day?' If you are the host for the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, that is exactly what you do. In spite of storms coming through at 3 a.m. with more than an inch of rain, the sun came out and 4,000 visitors came to the Bonnin Farm to celebrate everything that is good about agriculture. God is good to us in Shawano County and blesses us each year on the fourth Sunday in June.

Thank you to Kevin, Shawn, Libby and Cassy Bonnin for sharing their beautiful farm with us. Visitors were treated to a delicious brunch, informational farm tours and farm video, a 5K run/walk through the beautiful countryside, children's games, music and ice cream sundaes.

Some visitors were reminded of years ago on the farm and for others who didn't have the good fortune to grow up on a farm, it was

a wonderful experience to learn what a farm is about. One of the star attractions was a newborn baby calf, so appropriately named 'Stormy.' There is something special about new life on a farm. The goal of the brunch is teaching visitors about dairy farming and I believe we accomplished that along with help from Mike Austin and his wonderful news coverage.

Thank you to the volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you to the 4-H clubs and FFA chapters. It was nice to see young people working hard and making a difference in their community. I am proud of you.

All in all, the 33rd annual Shawano County Brunch on the Farm was a success. Through the combined efforts of the Farm Bureau dairy committee, the host farm, the volunteers, the businesses who supported the event and the visitors, we showed everyone in Shawano County what it truly means to be Farm Bureau Proud.



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District 7 YFA Report By Brian Preder

As I visit the counties of the district, I am impressed. What impresses me the most is the leadership of our county YFA chairs who volunteered time and skills to develop the next generation of Farm Bureau members. It also is awesome to see the support that the YFA chairs receive from the boards of directors in each county.

In February, we brought together this talented group of YFA leaders for the first District 7 County YFA chair meeting. It was a great opportunity for the YFA chairs to share their experiences and get to know their fellow chairs. We also started planning District 7 YFA events for the upcoming year. Be sure to watch for those. Thank you to the YFA chairs for taking time for the meeting.

The first District 7 event for the year was the Gamblers hockey game on March 19. About 30 members attended and enjoyed an exciting game and pizza afterwards. It was great to have this many members attend the first event of the year. Looking ahead to fall, how about participating in the District

7 YFA Discussion Meet at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 14** at the River Rail Bar and Grill in Shiocton?

The topic that we will discuss is: **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 and the other topics for discussion, visit wfbf.com and search 'YFA.'

Of course I can't mention contests without mentioning the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells during the first weekend of December. If you haven't attended the conference, we have the 'no excuse reason' to attend--the Rural Mutual Insurance YFA conference sponsorship.

If you want the opportunity to develop your leadership skills, network with YFA members and have a lot of fun, fill out the



District 7 YFA members at last year's District 7 Discussion Meet included Christa Hoffman (right) who won the state Discussion Meet.

application on the YFA web page and return by **August 15**.

I look forward to meeting fellow District 7 YFA members at upcoming events and contests. As always, if you have questions or ideas, please contact me and stay Farm Bureau Proud!

YFA Leaders Attend Washington, D.C., Fly-In

In June, Young Farmer and Agriculturist members Brad and Christa Hoffman of Gresham, visited Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In.

This bi-annual event allows selected YFA members from across the state to travel to Washington, D.C., to discuss emerging agriculture policy topics with legislators.

The 27 YFA members spent time with the American Farm Bureau staff briefing on topics such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, GMO labeling laws and immigration reform for agricultural workers.

Additionally, the group learned more about USDA program initiatives and visited the New Zealand Embassy.

The Hoffmans met with Representative Reid Ribble as well as Senator Ron Johnson and Senator Tammy Baldwin.

"We enjoyed the opportunity to share our story with our representatives and let them know how policy decisions in Washington impact our livelihood on the farm and across the agriculture industry," Christa said.

This unique event also allows YFA members to network while touring the nation's capital. The fly-in is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Growmark Services and Rural Mutual Insurance. The next opportunity to participate is in 2018.

"This was our first time visiting Washington, D.C.," Brad said. "It was a neat opportunity to learn about the political process first-hand and to see so much of the nation's history."

Brad and Christa Hoffman work on a 180-cow dairy farm in Shawano County with Brad's family. Christa also works at Cooperative Resources International.



Brad and Christa Hoffman at the American Farm Bureau office in Washington, D.C.



Brad and Christa Hoffman and District 7 YFA members met with Congressman Reid Ribble.

Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Why did the banker break up with his girlfriend?

He lost interest.

Everyone likes political jokes.

Until they get elected.

Where do cows go to have fun?

To a-moos-ment parks.

A nephew gushed to his uncle after the holidays, "Thanks for the electric guitar! It's the best present I've ever received!"

"Can you play it yet?" his uncle asked.

"No, I don't play it," the boy replied.

"Mom gives me \$10 a week not to play it in the daytime, and Dad gives me \$15 a week not to play it at night."

Fair Ice Cream Stand Sign Up and Planning Meeting

By Becky Kuczer

The next meeting of the fair stand committee is at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 27**, at the Shawano County Fair office on the fair-grounds. Everyone is welcome!

If this newsletter didn't reach you in time for the meeting, please visit the Shawano County Farm Bureau web page and find the

sign-up link to volunteer at the Shawano County Fair ice cream stand from **August 31 to September 5**.

For more information, questions or to volunteer, please contact Becky Kuczer at 920.609.0758.

District Meeting Announcement

You are invited to attend the District 7 meeting on **Monday, August 8**, at Anello's Supper Club (yes it is rebuilt) in Shawano on Green Bay Street. A family style chicken and fish dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

An educational and informational meeting will follow with ample time to ask questions. For more information or to make a reserva-

tions by **August 5**, please call Wayne Staidl at 715.582.3671. If there is no answer, please leave your RSVP with names of those attending and what county you are from. I hope to see you there.

Wayne Staidl
District 7 State Board Director

Promotion and Education Committee Meeting

By Katelin Haglund

The newly formed Promotional and Education Committee met for the first time in January.

One of the first projects that the committee is focusing on is the development of a 'Playbook' for Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The purpose of the 'Playbook' is to provide a way to share the great programs and activities that counties and districts have across the state.

The 'Playbook' will include information about the activity and a contact person to reach out to if they are interested in hosting an event in their area.

In April, a 'meetings of the minds' was held in Kimberly, which brought Farm Bureau members from District 5, 6 and 7. District 5 committee member, Michelle Bula, and myself along with Deb Raemisch presented the 'Playbook' to the group.

The 'Playbook' will be stored on the Promotion and Education web page on the WFBF website. The committee hopes to have enough activities to release the first edition in the fall.

All of the counties in District 7 have amazing activities that will make great additions to the 'Playbook.' If you have activity that you want to get into the first 'Playbook' or if you have questions, contact me at 715.210.5384 or katelinhaglund@gmail.com.



Policy Development Meeting Invitation By Adam Kuczer

It's an election year and politics are in the news! So is Farm Bureau policy. Let's get it started on our grassroots level.

Come and join other members for the Shawano County policy development meeting on 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday August 18** at the Shawano County Fair office.

Some topics that you might consider bringing your opinions to the meeting are:

- **Animal husbandry and welfare.** This might involve tail docking practices, cage-free egg production, commodity group recommended best management practices contracts, etc.
- **Atrazine Prohibition Areas.** Should they be repealed? Expanded? Is weed resistance to the chemical being created by lowered application rates?
- **Rural Broadband Internet Service.** Is it necessary? What about government mandates, funding, etc?
- **Wisconsin Fence Law.** Should the fence law be modified to require livestock farmers to be responsible for maintaining

fences to contain their livestock? Should non-farmers be able to require farmers who do not have livestock to construct or maintain their half of the fence? How should disputes be settled?

- **Wetlands issues.** Farm drainage, wetlands enhancement programs and funding, federal and state regulations.



The First Annual Kid's Dairy Bar Bake-Off Is a Success By Angie Schultz

I have to be honest with you, "It was very delicious," even though we only had five kids participate. The judges, Bill and Carrie Kolaske from the Red Rooster Cafe and Catering in Bonduel, did not have it easy. The talent that these kids have baking and knowing their dairy is amazing.

In the 15- to 18-year old category, Kathryn Kugel made a maple apple crumb bar. The apples in this dessert were not at all absent. The bar was full of apples and the taste had just enough tartness to leave you saying, "yummy."

The next age group, 11- to 14-year old, there were two great deserts and the judges had a tough time deciding between Brock Strassburg's chocolate caramel bar and Skye Breitrick's sour cream raisin bar. "Wow" from the judges about these bars.

The chocolate caramel had a good amount of chocolate and caramel blended in a handheld bar. The sour cream raisin bars had the judges wondering why squash or pumpkin was not in the ingredients list. The bar was creamy, the texture was great, and left us pondering and the judges at a tie. As a tie breaker, we asked a person who was walking by which one they liked. They had a hard time as well and asked a friend. After all was said and done, Skye Breitrick took first place and Brock Strassburg received second place.

The last age group was 8- to 10-year old, and there were two in this group as well with Brady Strassburg's chocolate raspberry bars and Sadie Ostrowski's lime bars. They had me wishing that we had asked for a pan of bars to judge. Brady's bars had equal layers of chocolate, raspberries, cream and crust. The bars were sweet, creamy and left a berry punch in one's mouth.

Sadie's Lime bars had a unusual crust made out of animal crackers and had a great aroma. The judges had a difficult time with this age group as well. Both bars packed a punch that held in your mouth for a long time, held together very well and tasted amazing.

The judges finally chose Sadie' Ostrowski's lime bars took first place and Brady Strassburg's chocolate raspberry bars took second place.

I want to thank the participants in the bake-off. I hope that you come back next year. Some of you did not pick up your prizes so please contact me to let me know where to send them or I can deliver. You did a great job. Thank you for sharing your talents.

Thank you to the judges for their time, tasting the bars, picking our winners, tips for next year and encouraging many other kids to participate. Thank up for volunteering for next year.

There was nothing left of the tasty bars after sharing them with others. Everyone left saying that they wished that they could have more. I am glad many of you stopped, asked questions and gave tips for next bake-off. I hope to see more participants next year.

Thank you to the Brunch on the Farm host family, Kevin and Shawn Bonnin, for sharing their beautiful farm with us.

The recipes are on the Shawano County Facebook page.



Kathryn Kugel, winner of the 15-18 year old class.



Skye Breitrick, winner of the 11-14 year old class.



Sadie Ostrowski, winner of the 8-10 year old class.

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Shawano County Farm Bureau	877.583.4438
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District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.4201106

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Thursday October 20 at the Woodland Restaurant, Gresham, 8 p.m.



A special video taken at the 2016 Brunch on the Farm will be shown.

Plat Books Available By Adam Kuczer

Deer season is fast approaching and it is time to get a plat book so that you know your hunting land owner's names. The color aerial maps are helpful, too. It's a must have for any hunter.

For information or to order, please contact me at 920.609.0718 or akuczer75@gmail.com. Mail inquiries to: Adam Kuczer, N1948 Elm Grove Road, Pulaski, WI 54162. Shipping is available.

Brunch Supports Area Big Brothers Big Sisters By Bob Krause

The Shawano Farm Bureau provided 70 Brunch on the Farm tickets to the Big Brothers Big Sisters to support the organization's have fun and educational group events. The board believes that the organization is a great pro-community group.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Shawano County is seeking volunteers in the agriculture community. It matches volunteer mentors (Bigs) with children (Littles). Although the organization has existed since the 1970s, Shawano County became part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Wisconsin Agency in 2014. Since that time, more than 70 matches have been made in Shawano. They hope to make 100 matches by the end of 2016. The Bigs make an impact upon their Littles and change their lives for the better, forever.

If you or someone you know is looking for a volunteer opportunity, please contact Big Brothers Big Sisters today. There are many Littles who are looking for Bigs who will teach them more about farming, animals, agriculture and outdoor recreation.

For more information, please contact Jen Bisterfeldt at 715.853.6456 or jenniferb@bbbsnew.org or visit www.bbbsnew.org.