



# Shawano County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Shawano County Farm Bureau Promotes Dairy Products in Local Community

By Ashley Schugel



Shawano County Farm Bureau will help the city of Shawano kick off the start of summer by promoting dairy products during the first annual Sundrop Dayz held on **June 2-3**.

The inaugural two-day outdoor music festival hopes to draw crowds to downtown Shawano through a variety of activities

including bands, kids' activities, food vendors and a 5K run/walk.

Shawano County Farm Bureau was selected as one of a limited number of



Drop by Sundrop Dayz for some Farm Bureau dairy treats from the Little Red Barn.

food vendors as it plans to serve ice cream floats mixed with Sundrop from their Little Red Barn food stand.

Farm Bureau members are excited to promote healthy, tasty dairy products and interact with consumers during what is sure to be a highly-attended community event.

### Shawano Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



Shawano Farm Bureau sponsored Shawano FFA students Brynn Huntington, Kaitlin Peschinski and Sarah Benzinger to the FFA Farm Forum in February. Zena Giese and Kendra Riechert from Bowler FFA also were sponsored.

Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm

Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 17-18.

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

Joining WFBF president, Jim Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Mark Holley, Sunrise 7 meteorologist and Chris and Amy Blakeney, owners of Amazing Grace Family Farm.

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

### Ag in the Classroom Summer Classroom Training Scheduled

Ag in the Classroom summer classroom training is scheduled for 8:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on **Thursday, July 6** at West Madison Research Station and Gardens in Madison.

Join us for a day of learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels. We welcome classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff and volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy to participate.

The registration deadline is **June 20** and for registration materials visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org). Cost is \$20 which includes lunch, refreshments and materials.



For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wbf.com](mailto:darneson@wbf.com) or 608.828.5644. Space is limited so register today.



# COUNTYnews

SHAWANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Ag Day at the Capitol Report By Deb Mielke



Shawano Farm Bureau members discussed farm issues with Representative Tauchen at Ag Day at the Capitol.

On March 8, four members of the Shawano County Farm Bureau attended the annual Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison.

Following a dinner and briefing at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, we walked to the Capitol to meet with our legislators.

The members attending from our county were John Ainsworth, Adam Kuczer, Dale Mielke and me. The issues we took to our representatives included the following: funding the transportation budget, high capacity

wells, rural broadband and industrial hemp along with a couple budget items.

The representatives that we contacted were Representative Gary Tauchen, Senator Rob Cowles (aide), Representative Mursau and Senator Tiffany.

This is such an important event for those of us involved in agriculture. Your county board has voted to pay for our county Farm Bureau member's registration to the event. Next year, when you see this on the calendar, plan to attend.

## Two (Additional) Reasons to Attend the Ag Women's Summit By Becky Kuczer



Becky Kuczer (left) with Ag-Vocate of the Year Carrie Mess.

I had the pleasure of attending this year's Ag Women's Summit for the second time. If you remember, last year, I gave you three reasons to attend the summit. They were food, fun and friends. This year, I have two additional reasons: mindfulness and meditation.

Just as last year, the food, fun and friends were great. This year, there was a new face. Her name is Hannah Smith and she is a yoga instructor in Middleton. I had the pleasure of attending her breakout session on Saturday morning. In this session she shared tips on creating space in your life through the practices of mindfulness and meditation.

We can have a tendency in our busy, full lives to think a weekend away is what we need. And sometimes it is. What about those times you can't take a vacation? Here are the explanations for techniques that allow a break in our busy days, right here, right now.

**Mindfulness.** This is the quality or state of being conscious or aware of something. It is a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts and bodily sensations, used as a therapeutic technique.



Becky Kuczer (fourth from left) participates in the casino night at the Ag Women's Summit.

*Here's a mindfulness exercise for you to try:*

While eating a meal, chew each bite completely before taking the next one. During the bite notice the taste, texture, flavor and temperature of the food. Not only will you more thoroughly enjoy your meal, you will have a better sense of when to continue and when to stop eating. Practice often.

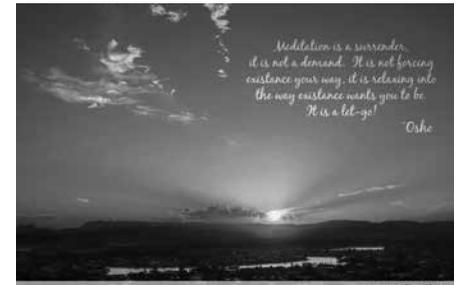
**Meditation.** This is the action or practice of meditating. Meditating is to think deeply or focus one's mind for a period of time, in silence or with the aid of chanting, for religious or spiritual purposes or as a method of relaxation.

*Here's a meditation exercise for you to try:* Find a comfortable place to sit, with your back straight. Narrow your gaze to the floor. Take a breath in through the nose. Let the air back out through your mouth. Then, continue to breathe, while counting slowly in your head...1...2...3...4, then back down...4...3...2...1. Continue for several minutes, build up your stamina. Practice daily.

Hannah explained each technique to us, gave examples and we practiced together. She made it clear that certain misperceptions about meditation could be why some people don't practice. Like yoga, you cannot do meditation wrong.

So, this year I am bringing home new ideas from my weekend away, ideas that build my life into a pleasurable vacation. The emphasis here is that both of these practices help improve your mental, physical and emotional health.

I am now up to five reasons YOU ought to attend Ag Women's Summit in the future. Please attend and let me know what reasons I overlooked.



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## Fourth Annual Dairy Dash and Stroll 5K Run/Walk

By Ashley Schugel



Run or walk, the Dairy Dash will be a wonderful experience. Sign up today!

The fourth annual Dairy Dash and Stroll 5K Run/Walk will be held in conjunction with the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm held this year at the farm of Dale and Deb Mielke in Marion (W12675 Keller Road).

This 5K course will be held on the farm, so it will consist of a trail, off-road course accompanied by a series of hills and rolling terrain. We encourage people of all ages to join us in this fun and unique event. Participants will enjoy some scenic views of the dairy farm including barns, dairy cows,

wooded areas, crop fields and other events at the Brunch on the Farm.

After the run/walk, each participant will receive a free ticket for a hearty farm breakfast. After the race, participants can enjoy the other events that Shawano County Brunch on the Farm has to offer.

All race event proceeds will be donated to the Shawano Area Food Pantry and Resource Center. Last year we donated nearly \$300 to SAFFARC and we hope to surpass that this year. Come and

support a great cause that works hard to provide sustainable food to those in our local communities.

For more details on the Dairy Dash and Stroll 5K Run/Walk, visit the Shawano County Farm Bureau Facebook page. Be sure to 'like' our page to stay updated on the latest information involving the 5K Run/Walk as well as many other events involving the Brunch on the Farm.

We hope to see you there.

## District 7 Director's Report

It has been a very busy few months. The Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., was a great experience with the members of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class X. It was great getting to know the Institute class members.

District 7 representative Kristy Erickson did an excellent job speaking up for agriculture when we visited with legislators. AFBF President Zippy Duvall was with President Trump when he signed the Presidential Order to repeal WOTUS. We had a director from EPA that said his agency would follow suit.

There is lots of talk regarding the 2018 farm bill so please voice your concerns to your legislators.

The WFBF Council of Presidents was very well attended, lots of talk on membership and there was a friendly reminder about the \$5 dues increase coming this fall. This was approved at the WFBF Annual Meeting a few years ago.

Ag Day at the Capitol was the highlight after the Council of Presidents. We had a great group of people from District 7 to walk to the Capitol and speak with their legislators.

This year, hot topics were high capacity wells, transportation funding for roads, rural broadband internet accessibility and a few more.

It is great to see how well agriculture is represented by our Farm Bureau members. It was also nice to see the amount of time that legislators and their staff took to listen to us.

I am on my way to visit all of the counties in District 7 to take time and listen to your concerns.

Please take time out of your busy schedule to come to District 7 meetings as they come up this year. Feel free to contact me anytime.

**Adam Kuczer**

District 7 Board of Director



Senator Tammy Baldwin discussed issues with the WFBF Leadership Institute Class X members who attended the Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.



Members of the WFBF Leadership Institute and Board members from Districts 6 and 7 met with Representative Mike Gallagher in his Washington, D.C., office to discuss ag issues.



The WFBF Leadership Institute Class X and some of the WFBF Board of Directors met with Senator Ron Johnson in Washington, D.C., in March.

## District 7 YFA Report

By Brian Preder

# Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program

The annual Gambler's game is always a great time for members to socialize and gather with members from around this district.

Following the game, we met with District 6 YFA members at the Green Bay Distillery for pizza and the chance to meet fellow YFA members from our neighboring district. We had more than 100 people attend this year's game and can't wait until next year.

With spring upon us, we are looking forward to the upcoming year. This means it is never too early to be thinking about the chance for a free trip to the Kalahari Resorts for the YFA Conference.

How do you get a free trip to the YFA Conference? Be sure to participate in one of the YFA contests. You can find information about the Achievement Award, Excellence in Ag, and Discussion Meet on the YFA page of the WFBF website.

If you have questions about the contests, we have you covered. We will have a contest training session on **May 23** starting at 7 p.m. at the CRI Resource Center in Shawano. It will be a great opportunity to answer questions about the applications and discussion meet. There also will be the chance to get tips from past applicants and winners. The district will provide food and beverages.

For more information, please contact me or your county YFA chair.

I can't wait to work with the talented group of YFA members in our district throughout the upcoming year. Have a safe and early planting season.



After a delicious meal at the River Rail in Shiocton last fall, District 7 YFA members participated in the District level of the YFA Discussion Meet. Kristy Fiedler (left at head table) went on to win the state contest.

## Ag Award Banquet Held in April

On April 17, more than 120 people packed The Main Event in Cecil for the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Outstanding Young Farmer and Friends of Shawano County Agriculture Awards Banquet.

This year, the following farmers, students and industry professionals were recognized:

**Outstanding Young Farmer:** Jacob Roth

**Friend of Agriculture:** Kay Reminger

**Second Milers:** Dale and Deb Mielke

**Outstanding Tree Farmer:** Dean Mehlberg

**Outstanding Conservation Farmer:** Goers Family Dairy

**Shawano County Farm Bureau Scholarship winners:** Brooke

Breitrick, Emma Gwidt, Dawn Mroczkowski, Harmony Riemer, Jacob

Strassburg and Deanna Zernicke



Congratulations to the 2017 Shawano Ag Award winners and scholarship recipients.

## Shawano County YFA Contest Information Night

By Ashley Schugel



(from left) Brian Preder, Peter Schmidt and Christa Hoffman participated in the 2015 District 7 Discussion Meet. Christa went on to win the state contest.

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the various YFA contests that so many of your fellow YFA members seem to be participating in? Do you want to become involved but just aren't sure where to start or who to contact?

Come join us for a fun information session on **Tuesday, May 23**, to learn about several of these YFA contests including the Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and the Achievement Award.

Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are invited to attend this laid-back, relaxed info session to learn about these awards from several other YFA members who have had success in participating in these events.

More information to follow as we get closer to this event. For more information or if you are interested, please contact the Shawano County YFA chair Ashley Schugel at [ashley.schugel@gmail.com](mailto:ashley.schugel@gmail.com).

## 2017 Brunch on the Farm Fast Approaching

By Sheri Beilke

Just as the farmers are busy getting crops planted this spring, so too has the Farm Bureau dairy committee been busy planning for this year's Shawano County Brunch on the Farm.

The Dale and Deb Mielke family of Mielke's S Curve Dairy by Marion are our hosts this year and they are eager to welcome you to their farm.

This year, once again we will feature the Dairy Dash and Stroll 5K Run/Walk, have a worship service, serve our delicious

brunch consisting of scrambled eggs with diced ham, sausages, hash browns, cheese, cinnamon bread with butter, milk, juice and ice cream with strawberries or maple syrup, have children's games, a bouncy house, wagon rides and farm tours, music, some new activities and much more.

So mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 25**, when people from throughout Shawano County come together to celebrate everything that is good about agriculture and spend an enjoyable day on the farm.



A crew of volunteers set up the chairs, tables, serving line and food preparation area the day before last year's Brunch on the Farm.

## Kids' Dairy Bar Bake-Off at the Shawano Brunch on the Farm

**When:** Sunday, June 25

**Where:** Shawano Brunch on the Farm, W12675 Keller Road, Marion; at the Farm Bureau women's committee booth.

**Time:** Registration at 10 a.m., judging begins at 10:15 a.m.

**Details:** There will be three entry age groups: ages 8-10, ages 11-14 and ages 15-18. Prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third place winners in each age group.

### Rules

1. The entries must be brought pre-made to the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee booth no later than 10 a.m. Refrigeration is available for early arrival.

2. All bars must include two or more dairy ingredients.
3. Bars must be cut into 2 inch by 2 inch squares.
4. Three bars per plate: paper plates preferred, no glass please.
5. One entry per person.
6. Write or attach name and age to bottom of the plate for each entry.
7. The recipe must be submitted with the bars.

The winning recipes will be published on the Shawano County Farm Bureau Facebook page, website, in the newsletter and possibly other local media.

For more information, please Facebook message Angie Schultz.

## Shawano County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, David Henselin 715.754.5243  
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 Director, Ken Matyas 920.810.2245  
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 Director, Monica Vick 715.524.8784  
 Director, Gordon Wesener 715.851.2249

Shawano County Farm Bureau 877.583.4438  
 WFBF Board Director, Adam Kuczer 920.609.0718  
 District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz 866.355.7346  
 RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson 920.420.1106

## Building Farm Bureau Membership Challenge



(from left) Kevin Bonnin, Bob Krause, Scott Breitrick, Dave Henselin and Adam Kuczer met the 2x4 membership challenge to get two new members by April. Not pictured is Neil Christianson.

Six Shawano County members who took the 2x4 membership challenge by signing their names on the District 7 membership challenge board, achieved their goals of signing two new members by April 1. They were honored at the District 7 Building Farm Bureau pizza party on April 18 at the Four Seasons Resort in Shawano. They are Kevin Bonnin, Scott Breitrick, Neil Christianson, Dave Henselin, Bob Krause and Adam Kuczer. A special thank you to these Farm Bureau proud membership volunteers.

## 2017 Brunch Volunteers Needed

It takes a lot of helping hands to make the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm happen. If you are interested in helping at the brunch, please contact Lindsey Ard at 715.853.9012 and she will match you up with a job where help is needed.

## Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

"Well Doctor, what did the x-rays of my head show?"  
 "Absolutely nothing."

What is the center of gravity?

The letter V.

Dad, can you help me find the lowest common denominator?

Haven't they found that thing yet? I remember looking for that when I was in school, too!

If a frog parks illegally, does it get toad?

