

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Sheboygan County:

Gary Fisher (920) 893-1811	Matthew Lueck (920) 893-1811	Adam McCabe (920) 893-1811
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John Quirk - District Manager
(608) 957-5509

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

March 4-5

Madison Marriott West, Middleton



Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Agenda Highlights

Friday, March 4

9-10 a.m. Registration
10-10:30 a.m. AgVocate of the Year Award Presentation
10:30-11:30 a.m. Keynote Panel: Women In Ag: Understanding
Where We've Been and Where We're Heading;
Moderator: Amy Pflugshaupt, Anchor and
Reporter, NBC 15 Madison
1-4:30 Breakout Sessions
7:30-10 p.m. Casino Night

Saturday, March 5

6:30-7:30 a.m. Workout: Water aerobics or boxing and cardio
8:30-9 a.m. Meet the 2016 AgVocate of the Year
9-10 a.m. Breakout Sessions
10:15-11 a.m. Brunch
11 a.m. Closing Keynote by Jerry Apps: The Importance of
Writing Your Own Story
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

For more information, visit wiagwomenssummit.com.

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.





COUNTYnews

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



Vice president Lloyd DeRuyter addressed the delegate body on Monday morning.



Congratulations to Ken Turba for signing five new members and being named a Producer Club member.



Sheboygan County had representation at the WFBF YFA Conference and the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 5-7 in Wisconsin Dells.



Marcia Fenner, chair of the women's committee, accepted a County Activities of Excellence Award for the Classroom on the Farm program.

Ag Day at the Capitol Held in January



Members of Sheboygan County Farm Bureau attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27. They joined more than 500 members from around the state who were first updated on legislative issues facing agriculture.

Topics discussed included high capacity well legislation, piping of manure and raw milk.

Membership Incentives Announced

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining Farm Bureau?

Feel good about helping your organization grow and get a chance to win some great prizes, too.

Sign up two members and you will be entered into a drawing for a \$150 gasoline card and a \$150 Fleet Farm gift card. One entry for the first two members that you sign and every additional member after that until **April 1**.

All members who sign up two members by **April 1** will be invited to a pizza party paid for by the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau in April.



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President's Message



I want to inform you about a topic that was brought up during the resolution portion of the WFBF Annual Meeting that was held December 5-7.

It is about transportation funding and looks like it could be one of the next big issues in the state legislature.

The state does not have enough money in the transportation fund to keep up with road repairs. During the last state budget process more money was added to the fund through borrowing. This doesn't solve the problem because now a portion of the money coming into the fund must be used to service the debt instead of fixing roads.

A resolution was presented to the delegates during the resolutions session stating: We recognize the need to increase transportation funds to insure that we have an adequate transpor-

tation infrastructure and a significant portion of new funding needs to go to local roads. Thus, we support a combination of raising the gas tax, vehicle registration fees, farm truck registration fees and the environmental fee. We also support establishing a dyed diesel fuel tax, local sales tax, tolling and a new vehicle tax.

Sheboygan County introduced a resolution to eliminate establishing a dyed diesel fuel tax from this resolution and reinstated wording that states, we support the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes.

This resolution passed so establishing a dyed diesel fuel tax is not in the new policy but the rest of the resolution was approved and is now part of our policy.

I personally don't like the idea of toll roads nor do I agree with establishing a local sales tax to fund road repair. I don't like raising any taxes but if we must raise more money, I believe we should stay with raising the funding mechanisms that we have for funding our highways that include gasoline tax, vehicle registration fees, and yes, also farm truck registration fees.

What is your opinion? If you want to let me know your opin-

ion, please email me at mramel@wi.rr.com. Or better yet, call or write your legislator and explain your opinion.

This will not be dealt with quickly. I do not believe that there are proposals in front of the legislators at this time and I don't foresee anything being done in this legislative session. Legislators don't want to raise taxes or fees just before an election.

Several of our county's resolutions that we approved during the county annual meeting were included in the proposed state policy booklet and received approval by the delegates.

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau is planning Implements of Husbandry legislation meeting with township officials. We want to have a conversation on what the rules are for issuing no fee permits for overweight agricultural equipment and answer any questions that they may have. No date has been set for this meeting.

As we enter the spring planning and planting season remember to put safety first. Have a happy and prosperous spring.

Mark Ramel
Sheboygan County Farm Bureau President

Preparing for National Agriculture Day



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 helps teach 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.

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

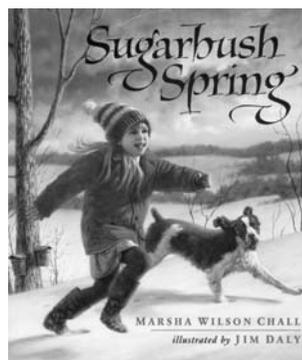
Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

Download more helpful tools at www.agday.org! You'll 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/programmevents/nationalagday.

Essay Topic and Book of the Year Announced



Maple syrup flows through this year's book of the year and essay contest from Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

Sugarbush Spring by Marsha Wilson Chall is the 2016 Book of the Year. 'Tell us about

producing maple syrup in Wisconsin' is the topic of the annual essay contest.

Third and fourth grade essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting 608.828.5719.

Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1** to the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau essay coordinator, Liz Gartman.

In May, a state winner will be selected from nine district winners by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class.

The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, nearly 2,900 students participated in the contest.

In this year's Book of the Year selection, *Sugarbush Spring*, introduces young readers to the process of taking sap and making it into maple syrup. The hardcover book comes with an activity/lesson plan packet that teachers, students and home school parents can use to enhance the reading experience. Book order forms are found at www.wisagclassroom.org under Order Forms.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

John Quirk Named Eastern Shore District Manager



John Quirk has been named the district manager for the Eastern Shore District.

Quirk has been with Rural Mutual Insurance since October of 1988. During his tenure he has held positions in personal and commercial lines underwriting, senior product specialist and director of marketing.

Prior to joining Rural Mutual Insurance, Quirk worked as a commercial lines underwriter with Sentry Insurance. He also served as an independent insurance agent for six years.

Quirk lives in Green Bay with his wife Nancy. The couple has two sons, Andrew and Michael.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products**
- Case IH
 - Caterpillar
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Polaris
 - Office Depot

- Communication**
- AgriVisor
 - The Country Today
- Insurance**
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
 - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel**
- AAA
 - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
 - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
 - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial**
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
 - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection**
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
 - Accidental Death Policy

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District 6 YFA Bus Tour Planned for April



Join District 6 Farm Bureau members as we board the bus for three agricultural tours. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Friday, April 8**, the bus will leave from Bondes Q-Mart in Cleveland.

The first stop is Eastern Wisconsin DHIC in Waldo. This modern milk testing laboratory runs milk samples from Brown, Manitowoc and Calumet counties.

The second stop is LaClare Farms in Pipe. Tour the state-of-the-art facility where they milk more than 400 goats twice a day. Tour the farm and the creamery that makes more than 10 different types of cheese using goat, sheep and cow milks. The LaClare Farms Café will provide lunch.

The final stop is Robinway Dairy LLC, in Kiel where they milk



1,150 dairy cows, raise 700 steers and grow crops on 1,400 acres.

Robinway Dairy is working with Livestock Water Recycling Systems to install the newest technology for converting manure to clean water.

Space is limited so reserve your space by contacting District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 920.253.5303.

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Mark Ramel 920.994.2022
 Vice President, Lloyd De Ruyter 920.668.6207
 Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Turba 920.894.3858
 YFA Co-Chair, Nick Entringer 920.980.1664
 YFA Co-Chair, Ryan Ernst 920.207.4324
 Women's Chair, Marcia Fenner 920.467.6750

Director, Donald Fenner 920.467.6750
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 Director, John Fischer 920.893.5117
 Director, Fritz Johanning 920.467.4559
 Director, Adam Mc Cabe 920.889.8535
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Sheboygan County Farm Bureau 888.830.2575
 WFBF Board Director, Rosie Lisowe 920.849.4413
 District 6 Coordinator, Becky Salm 920.693.8467
 RMIC District Manager, John Quirk 920.893.1811

facebook

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming Sheboygan County Farm Bureau events by liking us on Facebook!

Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau board of directors is offering a \$1,000 scholarship for a student entering as a freshman enrolled in a long- or short-course at any accredited school of higher learning in any field of study.

The family must be members of the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau.

The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau women's committee also is offering a scholarship for a student entering as a freshman enrolled in a long or short course at any accredited school of higher learning in Wisconsin.

The family must be members of the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to the top candidate.

To get a copy of either application, please call District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 866.355.7345. The application deadline is **March 20**.



Upcoming Events

February

- 19-20 FFA Farm Forum
- 26 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit final registration due

March

- 4-5 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit
- 15 White-Reinhardt mini-grant application due

April

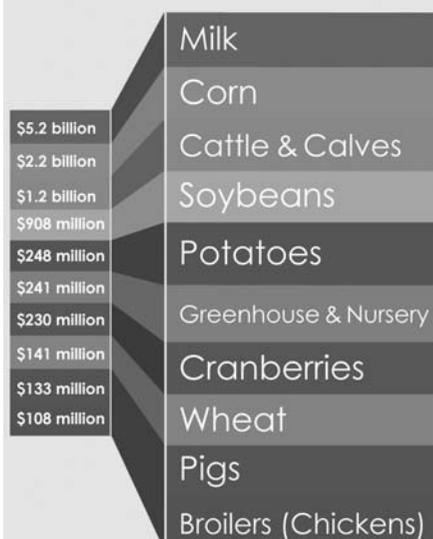
- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay's due to Liz Gartman
- 1 Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant application due

July

- 1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag Award application due

Did You Know?

Wisconsin's Top Commodities



Source: Wisconsin 2014 Agricultural Statistics

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...With WIFarmBureau