

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

2015 District 4 Girls' Day Out Submitted by Crystal Johnson

Trempealeau County hosted this year's Girls' Day Out in October. The 26 attendees from District 4 made stops at the Maliszewski Dairy in Arcadia to view their new robotic milking system.



Abby Maliszewski showed how the robots milk the cows at their farm.

We toured Harvest Home in rural Whitehall to learn about their fiber production and use as well as a herding demonstration by their border collie.

During our last stop at Falls Meat Service in Pigeon Falls we toured the facility, enjoyed a bratwurst-making demonstration and learned about the history and evolution of the business.



Tour attendees gathered inside a cooler at Falls Meat Service.

Thank you to all of the women who attended and toured the diverse agriculture that our county has to offer. Next year Monroe County will host the District 4 event. We hope you can join us!



Attendees gathered after watching a sheep herding demonstration at Harvest Home Farm.

Trempealeau County Ag Promotions Doing Great Things



The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is quickly approaching! The event is March 4 and 5 at the Madison Marriott West.

This farm-focused, forward-thinking, fulfilling summit is a collaborative effort among the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Badgerland Financial and the UW Extension. This year's itinerary looks better than ever!

To view the complete agenda, please visit wiagwomensummit.com. The Trempealeau County Farm Bureau has funds set aside to assist members in attending this event. To register and reserve your spot, please contact Crystal Johnson at 715.597.2411.

Calling all fourth and fifth grader students! The Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is hosting an essay contest. This year's topic is 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

Each county selects a winner. The county winning essay then goes to a district contest for a chance to be selected as the state winner.

For more information, please visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

Contest rules

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public schools, private schools or home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs also are encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100- to 300-words in length (using MS Word word count).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parents' names, teacher's name and email, school name, address, phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entry deadline: Postmarked by **April 1**, and sent to: Crystal Johnson, N44866 County Road E, Osseo, WI 54758.





COUNTYnews

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Trempealeau County YFA Members Attend Conference

By Derek Husmoen



During the District 4 scavenger hunt members posed for a photo: (L-R) Rosli Bragger, Brian Maliszewski, Crystal Johnson and Derek Husmoen.

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference was held on December 4-6 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The theme for this year's meeting was 'Farm Bureau Proud' and it kicked off on Friday with a meal and district meetings, followed by music from Rockstar Rodeo and a corn-hole tournament.

Saturday morning's brunch featured the Peterson Farm Bros., who have become known for their YouTube parody videos. They told their story of how it began and entertained us with a few of their parody videos.

Saturday also featured the quarterfinal and semifinal rounds of the Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag presentations, Achievement Award interviews and breakout sessions.

District 4 is extremely proud of our Discussion Meet contestants. Trenton Bemis (Jackson County), Rosli Bragger (Buffalo County) and Kyle Danzinger (Buffalo County) did a great job. I want to thank them for the work they put forth in representing the counties in our district.

The Extravaganza on Saturday night brought more than 500 YFA members and more than 600 Farm Bureau members for a meal and entertainment by magician Rick Wilcox.

The YFA Conference wrapped up on Sunday with brunch and keynote speaker Lowell Catlett who is the Dean of New Mexico State University's College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences. In the words of Dr. Catlett, "This is a great time to be in agriculture!"

Are you looking to become more involved as a YFA member? If so, I encourage you to consider participating in some of the events offered through the YFA program. These events include the Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag Award and Achievement Award. This summer we will look for individuals to represent Trempealeau County and District 4. For more information, please contact myself or a YFA representative if interested.

I hope everyone had a great holiday and am looking forward to planning some fun YFA events in 2016!



Annaliese and Tom Wegner joined Dwight Weisenberger during a banquet session.



Sara and Brian Maliszewski (far left and right) talked to Buffalo County YFA co-chairs Dustin and Ashley Ellis (center).



WFBF Director of Leadership and Training Wendy Kannel helped Rosli Bragger, Brian Maliszewski and Crystal Johnson make the letters YFA for the photo scavenger hunt.



District YFA Representative and Trempealeau County Farm Bureau director Derek Husmoen led the District 4 YFA meeting.



Crystal Johnson tossed a bean bag during the corn hole tournament.



Callie Herron, Jim Herricks and Ashley Ellis made the letters YFA for the photo scavenger hunt.



Ryan Johnson developed strategy during the corn hole tournament.

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District Board Report



I recently had a conversation with a Farm Bureau member who posed the question; why do we sell milk with the labels 1% fat, 2% fat, skim and whole? The member went on to say, "Who else sells their product advertising on the label something people have been thought to avoid, even when you purchase ground beef it is labeled 70% lean not 30% fat." Would anyone buy beef if it were labeled 30% fat?

So I did some experimenting. I attended a meeting at our school and was working on an issue with an accountant from a company that does work with school districts in Wisconsin when I noticed a health bar. You know the ones I am talking about (all natural/non GMO, gluten free; the fastest growing market in the food industry, I mean even beer is going gluten free for crying out loud), low glycemic, good source of fiber (my cows or horse might be interested) very low sodium, dairy free (God help us), cholesterol free, no soy, no trans fats, no sulphur dioxide, no hydrogenated oils. Can this product be any more complete? They covered all of the market fads, I thought; but wait there is more. 'Ingredients you can see and pronounce,' when I looked at the ingredient list I did see it contained to my horror D-alpha tocopheryl acetate and ascorbic acid. I don't know about you, but I struggle with the pronunciation.

Back to the aforementioned lady with the health bar; I asked her if she drank milk, she said yes that she often drinks milk. Skim I asked? To which she replied yes because she was concerned about ingesting too much fat. I was delighted with the response, so I queried how you would feel about 98 or 99% fat free, after all, whole milk is for sure 96 to 96.5% fat free? She was immediately excited and asked me if this was available and where? I assured her I was working on getting this new product to market.

I have been doing my own research buying up milk and health bars (health bars that I will never eat, they scare me) so that I can compare labels and advertising. I have noticed some interesting trends. Most of the bars have somewhat of a nature 'outdoorsy' label and will not only make me a better person (good luck), they will improve the environment and society with their ethical processes. Most of them put considerable effort into describing what they are not and of course they always contain whole grains. (Remember whole milk?) On one box

it states; 'contains no sugar alcohols' I wasn't interested but apparently this is critical information to some consumer somewhere. Every one of the health bars that I have read the label on contained more fat per serving than a serving of milk, yet consumers gobble them up in search of a better life while we restrict the serving of extra milk in our schools. I recently turned off the milk dispenser in our school after listening to it running empty of milk, humming away for months in not so silent protest to the new rules that no longer make it possible offer more than an eight-ounce serving to students.

I once bought several pallets of sugar in 50 pound bags and even they stated on the bag that sugar contained 0% fat with a heart healthy symbol. With such a public aversion to things fat, why do we continue the nonsense, why do we not use the same tactics our competitors use and start to market this new healthy 95 to 99% fat free milk? (Side note: on one jug of milk it states '2% fat reduced: 37% less fat than regular milk,' my god how much is there in regular milk? This label is not helping!)

I recently started to discuss this with leaders in agriculture and the dairy industry and they indicate that there is a rule they know about somewhere but can't find it for me. A rule somewhere? Does this sound like a reason to just roll over and take it? Folks we have been able to get the powers that be recognize the importance of skid steers to our farms and the necessity of safety training for our youth younger than 18 even though the former interpretation of the RULES said we could not. Farm Bureau members spoke and our excellent staff got it changed. Maybe we need to step up and change the rule on how we label milk?

Next time you have a glass of wholesome milk, (one ingredient, pronounceable) think of me and please share your thoughts as I would like to keep the discussion going.

As always, "enough is too much."

Joe Bragger

District 4 WFBF Director
715.985.2314
braggfam@trivest.net

Partnering for Safety By Shane Goplin

Just when the machinery for field work is tucked in for a winter rest, it is time to start thinking about the safety aspects of what we do on a regular basis.

We are usually in such a hurry to get everything done in a timely manner, too often we forget that others are watching our every move. Those 'others' who I'm referring to are our children. They start by watching closely, then imitating our daily life in the sandbox, then often they want to play a bigger role and try things out for themselves.

Most of us remember doing the same thing when we were young. It was those experiences that helped us to develop the passion for agriculture that we have today.

As technology gets bigger and more technical, it also becomes more dangerous. According to the National Ag. Safety Database, approximately 300 youth die from farm related accidents while another 23,500 suffer from non-life threatening injuries each year.

These numbers seem to be on the rise. It doesn't take long for each of us to think of someone close to us who has

been affected by an accident or close call.

This year, the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau is teaming up with a committee of volunteers from Buffalo and Trempealeau County to assist in sponsoring the annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Day from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Saturday, May 7**, at Pietrek Park near Arcadia.

This day is organized to promote safety among our children by teaching them aspects of safety, common rules given by parents with explanations of why those rules should be followed and hands on activities for them to practice their new safety knowledge.

Each participant receives a t-shirt, gift bags and a first aid kit made possible by the sponsors. Farm Bureau is excited to be part of this worthwhile effort.

Please stay tuned in the future for ways in which you can help and consider sending your own children or grandchildren to this event.

Together we can keep our next generation of farmers safe so they can continue building those sandbox dreams!

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Hosts 5K Run/Walk

By Annaliese Wegner



Moo-vin' with Milk 5K and dairy day co-chairs included: (L-R) Ingrid Husmoen, Annaliese Wegner and Crystal Johnson.

In June, the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau hosted its first Moo-vin' with Milk 5K and dairy day.



Participants received a 'Moo-vin' with Milk' t-shirt and the first place male and female each won a cheese basket and a cow bell.

More than 50 participants enjoyed Moo-vin' with Milk 5K at Game Time Park. After the race, participants enjoyed ice cream and 'dairy-good' activities.

Activity stations included, meet a calf, what does a cow eat?, rethink your drink, a coloring station and many more. Local 4-H and FFA groups also showcased what they know about agriculture and dairy.

Moo-vin' with Milk 5K received a County Activities of Excellence Award at the state level. The county Farm Bureau received \$500 and showcased the event during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

This year, we hope to make the event bigger and better. We aspire to host more people and offer more activities and hope that you will join us in June as we run through the countryside of Ettrick and enjoy plenty of dairy-good activities and treats.



Ag Promotions chair Crystal Johnson painted the finishing touches.

We're on Facebook!

Make sure to 'like' Trempealeau County Farm Bureau on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trempealeaucountyfarmbureau.



Trempealeau County Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting By Derek Husmoen

Several members of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau attended the 96th WFBF Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 5-7. The theme for the meeting was 'Farm Bureau Proud' and the events kicked off mid-day Saturday with the Producer Club luncheon. The Saturday night Extravaganza featured entertainment by magicians Rick and Suzan Wilcox.

Sunday morning's brunch included an address from keynote speaker Lowell Carlett, who is the Dean of New Mexico State University's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

During the afternoon, members attended breakout sessions with topics focused on farm succession planning, agro-terrorism, *Farmland* and county fair food stands. Sunday evening featured an awards banquet and reception. Loren Wolfe of Buffalo County received the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award, the highest award that a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member can receive.

On Monday following breakfast, the resolutions and business meeting, which is arguably the most important session of the weekend, was held. Todd Quarne, Shane Goplin, Jamie Goplin, Crystal Johnson, Annaliese Wegner and myself were Trempealeau County delegates.

The delegates discussed policy resolutions that were submitted from each county's annual meeting. Resolutions from Trempealeau County as well as other counties throughout the district and state were voted on and passed at the state level, therefore becoming WFBF policy.

One unique aspect about the Farm Bureau organization is that its members set the policy. By voicing our opinions, we can put forth resolutions at the county level that not only goes to the state, but that can go to the American Farm Bureau as well.

As we welcome 2016, think about what makes you 'Farm Bureau proud' and what you can do to make a difference in Farm Bureau!



Delegates were: (L-R) Crystal Johnson, Shane Goplin, Todd Quarne, Annaliese Wegner, Derek Husmoen and Jamie Goplin.



Members who joined the Producer Club were: (L-R) Crystal Johnson, Shane Goplin, Todd Quarne and Derek Husmoen.



Seated (L-R) Shane Goplin, Todd and Dawn Quarne and Crystal Johnson met during one of the banquets.



Jamie and Darcy Goplin (center) chatted with Cassie Olson (left) of Eau Claire County.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Offers Market Animal Grants

The Trempealeau County Farm Bureau has always been great supporters of the 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors at the Trempealeau County Fair. This year we are sponsoring ten, \$50 grants to youth who improve their projects.

The grant is open to any junior livestock exhibitor who is enrolled in the following projects beef or dairy steers, sheep or swine. The grant may be used to purchase feed, animals or equipment needed for the project.

Project participants must show their animals at the Trempealeau County Fair and keep records on what it takes to raise an animal for the fair. Such as feed cost, bedding, supplies, etc.

To apply for the grant, submit a completed form along with a brief essay about how the grant will help improve your project.

All applications must be submitted by closing time on Sunday, **July 24**, at the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Milkshake Stand located across from the dairy barn at the fairgrounds.

Winners of the grant will be notified after the fair and must attend the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **August 23** at 6 p.m. at the Blair Park in order to receive their check.

For more information, please call Jamie Goplin at 715.530.0875.

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Parent/guardian _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Township _____ Name of 4-H club/FFA chapter _____

4-H leader or FFA advisor _____

Name of farm _____ Years in 4-H _____ Years in FFA _____

Animal projects _____

Other projects _____

Number of brothers/sisters _____

Parents' signatures _____ Member's signature _____

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Todd Quarne 608.484.1105
 Vice President, Shane Goplin 715.533.4218
 Secretary/Treasurer, Brian Maliszewski 715.530.1107
 Ag Promotions Chair, Crystal Johnson 406.480.0729
 YFA Chair, Broc Kensmoe 715.533.2355

Director, Jamie Goplin 715.538.2602
 Director, Callie Herron 828.320.2485
 Director, Derek Husmoen 608.863.0105
 Director, Chuck Johnson 608.863.2530
 Director, Bruce Prudlick 715.695.3446
 Director, Amber Radatz 608.317.0001
 Director, Annaliese Wegner 608.386.7820

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau 888.830.2573
 District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe 866.355.7344
 WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466
 RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

To be eligible you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Parents or guardians must be Trempealeau County Farm Bureau member in good standing.
2. Scholarship is worth \$500 and will be awarded before or after second semester of the freshman year, must show GPA above 2.5 for first semester or first two semesters. Also, show re-enrollment for the next semester.
3. Students seeking an agricultural major are strongly encouraged to apply; however, all students pursuing secondary education are welcome to apply. Applicants can be enrolled at a university or technical college.
4. The winner and his or her family will be invited to the county annual meeting for a presentation of the award certificate. The annual meeting is **August 23** at Riverside Park in Blair.
5. Applications are due **April 1**. Please check with your guidance counselor or agriscience teacher for a copy of the scholarship application or visit www.wfbf.com/county-farmbureaus/trempealeau. Please direct questions about the application to Crystal Johnson at 406.480.0729.



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.

Engage as many volunteers as possible in WFBF's 2016 membership recruitment efforts by asking them to pledge to personally contact two people they know and sign them up as new Farm Bureau members by **March 31**.

