



## Washington County Farm Bureau

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contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

### Rural Mutual Agents in Washington County:

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**John Quirk, District Manager** - (920) 893-1811

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Slinger FFA Students Attend Farm Forum



Members of the Slinger FFA chapter were sponsored to attend the FFA Farm Forum. They included (L-R): Ashley Polum, Jillian Bingen, Rachel Hau and Mikena Wantz.

agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Jonathan Eckelberg, digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Ethan Giebel, director of education at Cooperative Network.

Slinger FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of

### \$500 Donation Made For Grain Rescue Equipment



David Lettow presented a check to Chief John Breuer of the Allenton Fire Department.

Rescuers can then remove the grain around the trapped individual by using an auger that is run with a cordless drill.

"Right now the plan is to have it on Engine 1363 and it will be available for Washington County, eastern Dodge County and mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS). It is a piece of equipment that we need to have but hopefully never have to use," said Chief John Breuer. "We are very happy to receive the donation and it will help with training."

On February 17, the Washington County Farm Bureau presented a check for \$500 to the Allenton Volunteer Fire Department for grain rescue equipment.

The department plans to purchase a cofferdam. Cofferdams are usually made out of plastic or light metal and comes in sections to make it easier to get into small doors. The panels are slid together around the person to isolate the pressure of the grain.



The equipment that will be purchased is similar to what is shown, which is called a cofferdam.

### Membership Goal Achieved!

With the help of our membership workers, we reached our goal of 30 new voting members by March 31 to receive \$1,000 from WFBF.

Help was appreciated from the following volunteers: Mike Strupp, Peter Muth, Judy Kasten, Travis Krueger, Ken Falk, Scott Schreffler, Mark Schaefer and Ross Bishop.



APRIL 2016

# COUNTYnews

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Ag Day at the Capitol Held January 27



Members of Washington, Ozaukee and Sheboygan counties met with legislators.

Washington County Farm Bureau was well represented at Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27. Members in attendance were Ken Falk, Les and Marian Gundrum, Mike Strupp, Ross and Marcy Bishop, Greg and Ellen Goeller, George and Kathy Muth, Jeff Emmer and Carl Wolf.



Lunch was followed by the legislative briefing. Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Ben Brancel commented that Wisconsin is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in the country

for international trade of agricultural products.

Secretary Brancel pointed out two bills of importance, the Producer

Led Watershed Initiative, which accepted grant applications in March and the Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan in which the state is undergoing a process to develop a state voluntary pollinator protection plan for residents interested in pollinator health, habitat and conservation.

Other issues that were discussed included an agchemical cleanup program, minimum mark-up law, right-of-way in roundabouts, piping of manure along right-of-way, high-capacity wells and state transportation funds.

Following the remarks, attendees walked to the Capitol to share their comments and concerns with legislators. They met with Jesse Kremer and staff members representing Duey Strobel and Robert Brooks.



## 'Our Food Link' Project: Ronald McDonald House



The Lunch-2-Go program provides brown bag 'to-go' lunches for guests of the Ronald McDonald House. The goal

of the program is to eliminate the worry and the cost of a lunch for families residing in the House.

On March 12, our Lunch-2-Go volunteers including Butch and Kathy Schulteis, Tim Hardy, Karen Berg, Bonnie Monroe, Jena Monroe, Kerri Ast and Stephanie Egner prepared sandwiches, fruit, vegetables and snack items that families could pack into brown bags and take on the way out.



## District 1 Membership Meetings Bring Ideas

On February 9, Mike Strupp met with Robin Kinney, member relations director for American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), along with Bob Legee and Patti Roden from Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Bob Bartholomew from Waukesha County.

Ideas were shared about how new members are recruited and national level and local level methods were compared. It was an interesting conversation with Kinney and it was great to listen to her success stories with AFBF.

The group visited MorganMyers and promoted membership to the employees. The firm does the marketing for AFBF along with Kraft, Oscar Mayer, McDonald's and other food and agriculture companies.

Later that evening a District 1 membership meeting was held that focused on ideas with how to acquire members. Mike Strupp also was part of the panel discussion and shared stories about how our county acquires new members.

Washington County Farm Bureau was well represented by: Mike Strupp, Ken Falk, George Muth, Ross and Marcy Bishop, Helmut and Carol Wagner, Stephanie Egner and Peter Muth.



Panel members who attended the district membership meeting included: (L-R) Mike Strupp, John Scott and Rick Roden.

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## Hundreds Educated During Celebrate Families Event



On February 14, Farm Bureau brought Ag in the Classroom programs to Celebrate Families. Children and adults enjoyed hands-on opportunities growing soybeans, feeling corn, soybeans and wheat in bushel baskets and learning which grocery store product came from what crop. Connections with teachers and parents were made while educating about Farmer in the Classroom/Ag Day Farm Tours

for fourth graders. Thank you to Melanie Gierach, Marcie Bishop, Judy Kasten, Ross Bishop and Stephanie Egner for volunteering their time.

“Celebrate Families of Washington County has been a traditional event in Washington County for 25 years. It provided information and connections to county resources. It also encouraged collaboration among many family service organizations in the county. The goal of Celebrate



Families is to draw attention to the county’s most important resource-families-while creating hours of fun, educational, entertaining and quality family time. For its 25<sup>th</sup> and final year, approximately 1,500 participants attended.” --UW Extension

## So What Does A Farmer Do?



Farmers connected with county fourth graders, helping them understand where their food comes from. Once again Washington County farmers spent time at 17 schools speaking to 797 students giving them a taste of local agriculture.



Gierach, Melanie Gierach, Brittany Falk, Karen Hughes, Carl Wolf and Liz Kohl for spending time in the classrooms.

“I appreciate the farmers coming to visit our school prior to our trip to the farm,” said Linda Krohn from Rockfield Elementary. “They provided such good background information for our students, which makes the actual time on the farm more meaningful.”

Ross Bishop, Charlie Jones and Bob Falk were our fourth grade farm tour hosts on April 21-22 for 750 students. Sunset Farms owned by the Wolf family will welcome 250 students on May 13.



Ross Bishop



Charlie Jones

## We Want You! Apply by July 1



The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.



The Achievement Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

The WFB Program is funded by

Get your application here: [bit.ly/WIYFAContests](http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests)

Local contact information here:

## Breakfast on the Farm Scheduled for June 11

Tickets are available after April 21 at these locations: Farmers, Inc. and Romie’s Service, Inc. in Allenton; First Bank Financial Centre in Germantown; WTKM Radio in Hartford; Scheunemann TV and Appliance in Jackson; Kewaskum Frozen Foods and Marshalls Country Store in Kewaskum; State Bank of Newburg in Newburg; Associated Bank in Slinger; UW Extension, Reis’ Sausage Plus Spirits, Egbert

and Guido’s Citgo Express and Washington County Fair Park in West Bend.

The Washington County Farm Bureau donated \$500 to the Breakfast on the Farm.

For more information, visit [www.breakfastonthefarmwashingtoncounty.com](http://www.breakfastonthefarmwashingtoncounty.com).



Sponsored by Washington County Dairy Promotion Committee

**LEVEL ACRES DAIRY INC.**

Jim & Lucille Becker and Jim Weber and Family

6931 County Road S, Hartford WI

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES**

**Saturday, June 11, 2016**

from 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Tickets at the door - \$7<sup>00</sup> • Advance tickets - \$6<sup>00</sup> (No Refunds)  
Children 3 and under FREE

### Food

- Pancakes
- Plus a serving of:
- Scrambled Eggs with Ham
- Applesauce • Cheese • Sausage
- Milk & Coffee

For only \$1.00 each:

- Chocolate or Strawberry Ice Cream Sundaes
- or
- Root Beer Floats

### Activities

- Wagon Ride to Farm
- Barn Tours
- Petting Zoo
- Pedal Tractor Pull
- Live Music
- Antique Tractors and Much More!

**Breakfast will be served Rain or Shine!**

Call Mike Strupp (262) 644-0015 or Bill Hinckley (262) 365-9734 if you have any questions.

## New Faces at West Bend Rural Mutual Insurance Office

As a member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, you receive a lot of member benefits. One of the biggest benefits is insurance from our affiliate, Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

**Bill Dorrance** is a graduate of the UW-Madison. He has been in the insurance industry for 30 years. Prior to joining Rural Mutual Insurance, Bill worked as an independent agent in the Washington County area and as a district sales manager for a large regional carrier.

Bill earned insurance designations including the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, Certified Insurance Counselor, Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow and Associate in Claims.

Bill and his wife Sue live in West Bend and they have three adult children and one granddaughter.

**Dan Push** achieved the Farm Lines Leader award in recognition for his commitment to farmers in his third year at the West Bend office.

Dan earned a bachelor's degree in business and economics from UW-Oshkosh and joined J.J. Keller and Associates, the nation's leading authority on D.O.T, EPA and OSHA regulatory products. While at J.J. Keller, he consulted with fortune 500 companies on their complex governmental regulations and training equipment.

Dan was recruited by one of his clients and joined Ameritech as a regional manager. Then he started businesses in the automotive and recreational vehicle industries. After selling these businesses, Dan joined Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

Dan, his wife Cindy, and step-daughter Jennifer Sanders live in Beachwood. They enjoy the outdoors, time with their dogs, the local racing scene and community events.

In Washington County, we have four agents who are ready to get to know you. All four have an office in West Bend.

**Gina Fritsch** has been in the insurance and financial services industry since 1999 and has experience in the insurance and the financial services side. She graduated from Lakeland College with a triple major in accounting, business administration and marketing. Gina also earned a securities license,

which permits her as a registered representative to sell mutual funds and variable annuity products. Recently, Gina was appointed to serve a two-year term on the Agent Advisory Board for Rural Mutual Insurance.

"My goal for my agency with Rural Mutual Insurance is to build long lasting relationships with my clients. I love to help and I feel that it is my responsibility to have good listening skills and attention to detail, so that I can provide the most cost effective insurance solution for my

clients. My passion for customer service and commitment to excellence drives me to learn about new risks that are constantly emerging for clients."

When Gina is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family. Her daughter is a junior at UW-Madison and her son is a sophomore in high school.

**Sam Richison** from Belgium earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Platteville. After graduation, he worked for Eastern Wisconsin DHIC for two and a half years. Last December Sam started his career with Rural Mutual Insurance.

During his free time he raises lambs, hogs and poultry, and is a volunteer leader with Ozaukee County 4-H. Sam is excited to work for such a great company.



## Essay Contest Update

The theme for this year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest is "Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin" open to fourth and fifth grader students.



Each year the Washington County Farm Bureau women's committee donates a book to every school pertaining to the essay topic. In the fall, we delivered *Sugarbush Spring*, which introduces young readers to the production of maple syrup.

This year we received 87 essays from the following schools: Rockfield Elementary, Allenton Elementary, Amy Belle School, Rossman School, The Rodman Homeschool and St. Gabriel.

## YFA Discussion Meet Set

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.



**Date:** Wednesday, August 24

**Time:** Arrive at 6:30 p.m., discussion meet at 7 p.m., cookout afterwards

**Location:** Jelli's Market, N5648 S. Farmington Rd., Helenville

**Topic:** 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?

If you are interested in participating or attending this fun event, please contact Peter Muth at 262.689.2536 or [petermuth@bertramwireless.com](mailto:petermuth@bertramwireless.com).

## Washington County Farm Bureau Contacts:

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| President, Ken Falk            | 262.224.9782 |
| Vice President, Les Gundrum    | 262.334.0114 |
| Secretary, Scott Schreffler    | 262.224.9781 |
| Treasurer, Dave Lettow         | 262.385.0474 |
| YFA Chair, Peter Muth          | 262.689.2536 |
| Women's Chair, Stephanie Egner | 262.707.4906 |

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Director, Judy Kasten    | 262.628.9262 |
| Director, Travis Krueger | 920.251.9155 |
| Director, Mark Schaefer  | 414.640.7606 |
| Director, Mike Strupp    | 262.305.0418 |
| Director, Helmut Wagner  | 262.673.2809 |

|                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Washington County Farm Bureau       | 877.483.3556 |
| District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden | 866.355.7341 |
| WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels   | 262.878.5035 |
| RMIC District Manager, John Quirk   | 920.893.1811 |



For YFA event details, 'Like' Washington County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook and visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus.washington](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus.washington).

For Washington County Residents



**Clean Sweep**  
**Hazardous Waste**  
**Electronics & TVs**  
**Large Household Appliances**

Pre-registration & \$20 fee apply

**Used Tire Collection**

Additional disposal fees apply

**Pharmaceutical Collection**

Unlimited participation - Free

**Saturday**  
**May 7, 2016**  
**8am - Noon**

at the

**Washington County**  
**Slinger Highway Shop**  
**314 West Washington St., (Hwy 175)**  
**Slinger, WI 53086**



To PreRegister You may either:

1. Download and mail the Registration Form at [www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/cleansweep)
2. Visit the Planning & Parks Dept. at 333 E. Washington St., Ste 2300 West Bend; or
3. Call 262.335.4808 to get the form mailed.