



# Washington County Farm Bureau

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<b>John Quirk, District Manager</b> - (920) 893-1811	

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Your Donations Helped Fill Ronald McDonald House Wishes

Many thanks to those who dropped a few dollars in the bowl during the Washington County annual meeting last October.

We decided to try something new this year – Farm Bureau matched the dollars collected and used this total donation to purchase Neonatal Intensive Care Unit items on the Ronald McDonald's wish list.

More than \$350 helped families in need while their child is being cared for at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.

Our Food Link is a year-round program that Farm Bureau uses to effectively reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with informa-



Sherry Miller shopped for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit items.

tion about today's agriculture. Throughout the year, members help people connect with sources of clothing, food, shelter and energy in their communities.

### County Membership Goals Set for 2017

By Mike Strupp, membership chair

As another year ends, we look towards 2017. Our new voting goal is 30 new voting members.

Volunteers who sign five or more voting members will receive a one-night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Our county will reimburse each volunteer \$20 per member signed.

The state also will reimburse volunteers \$20 per member signed. Volunteers who sign five

or more members also will be recognized in the Farm Bureau Proud Club at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The membership year runs October 1, 2016 thru September 30, 2017. These incentives are open to any Farm Bureau member. If you know someone who is interested in becoming a member, contact Mike Strupp at 262.305.0418.

Thanks for your support.

### District 1 YFA Spring Fling Planned

**Date:** Saturday, March 18

**Time:** Doors open at 7:30 p.m., band plays from 8 to midnight

**Band:** FM Rodeo

**Location:** The Columbian, West Bend

**Tickets:** \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

To get your advanced tickets, please contact YFA chair Jesse Weber at 262.222.5560.

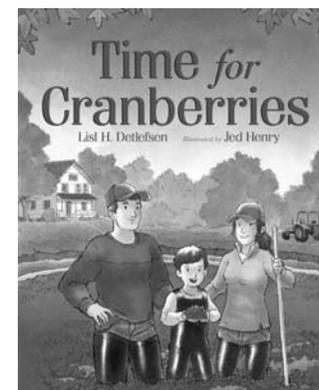


### Essay Contest Focuses on Cranberries

Each year, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations. The 2017 topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

The essay contest theme coincides with the book of the year *Time for Cranberries* by Lisl H. Detlefsen. This book follows a boy and his family through the process of collecting cranberries all the way to eating the delicious treat. County contest entries are due by **April 1**.

For more information visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or contact Washington County Farm Bureau's essay contest coordinator Mariann Gundrum at 262.334.0114 or [lmacres@charter.net](mailto:lmacres@charter.net).



### DID YOU KNOW?

The cranberry became Wisconsin's official fruit in 2004. The result of a class project of a fifth grade student from Trevor Grade School in Kenosha County.



# COUNTYnews

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Washington County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

By Mike Strupp, voting delegate



Front row (L-R) Ross Bishop, Dan Duthie, Peter Muth, Allen Dornacker, Mike Strupp and Ken Falk; back row (L-R) George Muth, Marcy Bishop, Kathy Muth, Stephanie Egner, Marian Strupp and Ellen and Greg Goeller.

The 97<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting was on December 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Five delegates representing Washington County Farm Bureau were Ken and Wendi Falk, Mike and Marian Strupp, George and Kathy Muth, Greg and Ellen Goeller and Peter Muth. Also attending were Allen Dornacker (alternate delegate), Ross and Marcy Bishop (Farm Bureau Proud Club member), Stephanie Egner (promotion and education chair) and Dan and Katie Duthie.

Saturday's banquet featured the Farm Bureau Proud Club members enjoying a steak dinner in the front of the room. Mike and Marian Strupp and Ross and Marcy Bishop enjoyed this dinner. This format was done to give the Farm Bureau Proud Club members more recognition for their efforts in signing new members in the past year. The banquet was followed by the Tonic Sol-fa, a four-person a cappella group who have performed on NBC's *TODAY* show. Their performance was well received and included holiday songs.



Trivia team members included Marian and Mike Strupp, Ken and Wendi Falk and Kathy and George Muth.

history. Our county came in 16<sup>th</sup> place out of 31 teams. Funds raised from the trivia contest go to the WFB Foundation.

Sunday mornings' brunch was followed by keynote speaker Aaron Thomas, who is a high school principal and coach in Iowa. His topic was: 'Opportunities and Platforms: Overcoming Adversity.' Aaron presented 'Holding true to what you believe is important in life and it will be tested in the most difficult situations.' He reminded attendees not to forget where you came from, anyone can lead when things are going well and true leadership comes from when things are going wrong.

After a Green Bay Packer win, the Sunday afternoon breakout sessions included Estate and Business Succession Planning, Grain Marketing Alternatives, How Farmers Lead Water Quality Discussions

and Ideas that work for Membership Campaigns.

Mike Strupp was one of the four panel members who shared ideas on how to make the county membership drive a success. It was good to learn how other counties conduct their membership drives. The other workshops were also very well received. WFBF does a good job in having different breakout sessions.

The awards banquet was on Sunday evening. The banquet showcased the WFBF Institute members and presented two top awards. Sam Skemp was the winner of the 'Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture' award. The winner of the 'Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau' award was Dave Kruschke from St. Croix County.

On Monday, the business session was held. Some highlights were:

- WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty is working on the 100<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting. He also discussed statements of belief: Freedom, Representative Government and Farm Bureau.
- Rural Mutual Insurance CEO Peter Pelizza talked about membership growth for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; number of claims due to inattentive driving and as of January 1, Rural Mutual Insurance will be paying dividends to the farm policy holders. It is projected that \$2.5 million will be paid; there are 160 insurance agents.



Delegates included: Allen Dornacker (alternate), Peter Muth, Greg Goeller, Mike Strupp, George Muth and Ken Falk.

During the resolution session, Taylor County Farm Bureau presented a by-law change to remove the Promotion and Education Committee chair from the state board of directors. After lengthy discussion, it was voted to keep the position on the board due to responsibilities and representation.

Overall the WFBF Annual Meeting was very good. The state does an excellent job in putting this event together. There were 461 Young Farmers in attendance at the Young Farmer Conference and 650 attendees at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Please note any Farm Bureau member can attend the WFBF Annual Meeting. You can come to participate at the workshops, banquets, resolution session and business session.

For arrangements for any of the three days, please contact District 1 Coordinator Patti Roden. You can choose what you want to attend. Keep in mind, if you sign five or more voting members, you receive a one-night stay free. Don't feel that this event is for voting delegates or board members only. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mark your calendars for the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting on December 2-4.

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## Mariann Gundrum Awarded Friend of Agriculture



Mariann Gundrum received the Washington County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award at the annual meeting in October.

Mariann has been involved in several agriculture related organizations including: Farm Bureau, Washington County Dairy Promotion and 4-H.

As a member of Farm Bureau, she has been involved with the Farm Bureau Food Stand at the Washington County Fair since 2000. She goes to the fair each morning

to prepare the stand for the day and most recently took on the task of organizing the volunteer schedule.

Mariann also is the Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator as well as having participated in Ag in the Classroom and Ag Day at the Capitol.

Being a Washington County Dairy Promotion Committee member for more than 30 years, she has been a part of every Breakfast on the Farm, Ag Day on the Farm for elementary school students and always

makes sure that there are enough promotional items on hand.

Lastly as a 4-H adult volunteer for 33 years, Mariann has volunteered in many ways including being general leader for the Badger Boosters 4-H Club, 4-H food stand co-coordinator, achievement committee and celebrate families.

Congratulations to Mariann Gundrum on receiving the Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award.

## New Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair Elected

By Jesse Weber, YFA chair



I am happy to announce that I was elected as the YFA chair for Washington County Farm Bureau.

I grew up on a dairy farm north of Hartford.

My family retired from dairying in 2014 and now we raise Holstein steers and cash crop. After graduating from Hartford High School, I earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural engineering from UW-River Falls.

I worked at a cooperative until I was hired at an equipment dealership, where I was a parts manager and worked my way to being an agricultural salesman for Mid-State Equipment in Jackson.

When my wife Beth and I are not working, we enjoy helping on the family farm, which some day we hope to run.

I am excited to be the YFA chair for Washington County Farm Bureau and look forward to working with the young farmers and spreading the word about the Farm Bureau and agriculture.

Stay tuned in for county and district YFA events that are being planned. If you are interested in the Farm Bureau and are between the ages of 18 and 35 or want more information, please contact me at 262.222.5560.

Thank you and I hope to see you at an event in the future.

## Good People Helping Others: Lunch-2-Go Program A Success

Washington County Farm Bureau Lunch-2-Go volunteers Tim, Noah, Allison, Sam and Jennifer (Schulteis) Hardy prepared fruit, vegetables, sandwiches, snacks, milk and other items for families.

This program helps eliminate the worry and the cost of a lunch for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. Food items were purchased and delivered on one snowy Sunday in December. In February, the Promotion and Education Committee will volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House again.



## Raise Your Voice: Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 8**, and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

### Schedule of events

- 11 a.m. - Registration
- 11:30 a.m. - Opening program
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings
- 3 p.m. - Capitol visits



It's important for us to raise our voice on issues. Take a few minutes to be familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Washington County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm. Remember when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

If you are interested in attending, please contact District 1 Coordinator Patti Roden at 262.689.1838 or [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).

## YFA Conference

By Jesse Weber, YFA Chair

On December 2-4, I attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference in the Wisconsin Dells with nine other young farmers from Washington County.

I have attended the conference before, but never as a YFA chair. It was a great experience, especially for a newly elected county chair like me. On Friday, we enjoyed music by the Soggy Prairie Boys as well as our introductory meal, which was delicious.

On Saturday, there were Discussion Meets and I watched the contestants compete for the Excellence in Agricultural award. In the afternoon, there were different breakout sessions ranging from farm finances to how to be successful as a YFA county chair.

On Sunday, there were the Discussion



Washington County YFA members who attended the YFA Conference included: front row (L-R) Emily Schalla, Beth Weber, Tiffany Schowalter and Mark Schaefer; back row (L-R) Peter Muth, Jesse Weber, John Falk and Tyler Hetebrueg. Not included in the photo: Dan and Katie Duthie.

Meet finals and a farewell brunch. Everyone got home safely in the snow storm, and we are looking forward to attending next year's YFA Conference.

## County Annual Meeting Brings New Beginnings

The 73<sup>rd</sup> Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting was on October 4 at The Columbian in West Bend. It was well attended.

All of the resolutions presented at the meeting passed, in addition to a bylaw change renaming the name of the women's committee to promotion and education committee.

Elections were held for board members and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Board members who were re-elected to a three-year term include: Scott Schreffler, Dave Lettow and Mark Schaefer. Peter Muth also was elected to fill a two-year position. Jesse Weber was elected to serve as Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair and Stephanie Egner was elected to serve as promotion and education chair.



Washington County Farm Bureau is led by a dedicated group of leaders including: front row (L-R) Ken Falk, Peter Muth, Dave Lettow, Scott Schreffler; back row (L-R) Judy Kasten, Travis Krueger, Mike Strupp, Helmut Wagner, Stephanie Egner, Travis Krueger and Mark Schaefer.

After the meeting, a re-organizational meeting was held and the executive board was elected: Ken Falk, president; Peter Muth, vice president; Dave Lettow, treasurer; and Scott Schreffler, secretary.

## Ag Education Resources at Farm Bureau Office

Free ag education materials are available at the West Bend Farm Bureau office. Workbooks are geared towards pre-K, elementary and middle and high school students.

For information, contact promotion and education chair Stephanie Egner at 262.707.4906 or [stephanie.egner@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:stephanie.egner@co.washington.wi.us).



## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Life Line (NEW)
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - Caterpillar
  - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
  - Grainger
  - Office Depot

- Communication** .....
- AgriVisor
  - The Country Today
- Insurance** .....
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
- AAA
  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - Budget (NEW)
  - 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Jim Holte congratulates Peter Muth on completing his term on the WFBF YFA Committee.

Thank you to Peter Muth for completing his three-year term on the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee representing District 1. His term ended at the YFA Conference in December.

The new District 1 YFA chair is Charlie Oberhaus of Waukesha County.

Charlie was appointed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's YFA Committee by the Farm Bureau's state Board of Directors.

His term began at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, December 2-5, in Wisconsin Dells.

Charlie Oberhaus works on Cozy Nook Farm, a dairy farm near Waukesha managed by his parents Tom and Joan Oberhaus. Charlie is a graduate of UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course. After high school Charlie formed Cozy Nook Trucking LLC, a one-truck business that he operates full-time along with working at his home farm. He is a member of the Waukesha County Farm Bureau.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from across the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and involved in Farm Bureau. They carry out a variety of statewide initiatives, such as conferences, contests and award programs. The YFA Program is funded by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.



New District 1 YFA Chair Charlie Oberhaus.

## Caring for Calves By Nancy Dornacker

On December 16, I presented to the first grade students in Melissa Smith's class at St. Peter's Catholic School in Slinger. I presented as part of their 'Community Helpers' unit; my presentation was on 'Caring for Calves on our Farm.'

The kids must have loved it because they had lots of questions. I was there for 45 minutes and I think we needed more time. They even had questions before I started.

I brought a one-gallon bottle and a baby bottle so that they could see the difference in calf versus human. I also brought hay, straw, starter grain, buckets, calf pill, syringes, IV lactated ringers bag with venoset and catheter, hypertonic saline, 60



mL syringe, empty penicillin bottle, tube feeder and calf coat. Everyone loved touching and examining the items. They had so many questions; it was a great experience.

## Washington County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applications Due in April

- Five \$750 scholarships will be available to students who will be in higher or continued education.
- Awarded to students of families who are Washington County Farm Bureau members.
- Applicants 22 years of age or older must have their own membership.
- May be used at any accredited technical school or university.

- Priority given to those in agriculture or an agricultural related field.
- Applications will be available on the web ([wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/washington](http://wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/washington)) by Monday, February 27.

Applications are due to the Washington County Farm Bureau scholarship committee by **Friday, April 21**.



## Washington County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ken Falk 262.675.6291  
 Vice President, Peter Muth 262.689.2536  
 Secretary, Scott Schreffler 262.224.9781  
 Treasurer, Dave Lettow 262.385.0474  
 YFA Chair, Jesse Weber 262.222.5560  
 Promotion & Education 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

## Key Award Goes to Four

Back in October, Washington County 4-H held its annual Achievement and Recognition Program to honor the accomplishments of the previous year by members of the county's 4-H organization.

Washington County Farm Bureau president Ken Falk presented the Key Award. Members in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and older who show consistent growth in their 4-H program, developed their leadership ability and had been helpful to other members in their club and community were eligible.



(L-R) Joanne Duffek, Frances Duffek (award winner), Don Duffek; Mariann Gundrum; John Smeaton, Riley Smeaton (award winner), Sara Smeaton; Ken Falk; Randy Mihm, Mariah Mihm (award winner), Barb Mihm; DiAnn Schowalter, Luke Schowalter (award winner) and Rob Schowalter.

## Ag in the Classroom Gears Up

Farmers will visit classrooms and children will come tour our farms during March and April.

Nearly 25 of the 39 elementary schools participate in our fourth grade Ag in the Classroom and Food for America programs each spring.

Let's welcome Green Tree Elementary (West Bend) and Holy Trinity (Kewaskum) to our agriculture adventures.

If your school wishes to be added to the list and take part in this FREE ag opportunity, contact Stephanie Egner at [stephanie.egner@co.washington.wi.us](mailto:stephanie.egner@co.washington.wi.us) or 262.707.4906.

