

# Waukesha County Farm Bureau

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<b>Dashal Schopen</b> (608) 330-1470	<b>Linda Schopen, District Manager</b> (262) 522-8620	

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## District Go-Karting Event A Success



## 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 co-chairs Sam and Nicole Dempsey or district YFA chair Charlie Oberhaus.



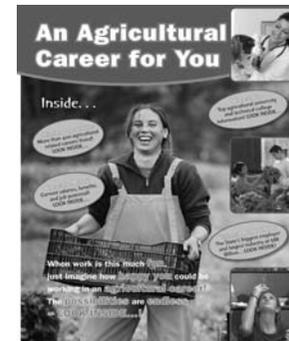
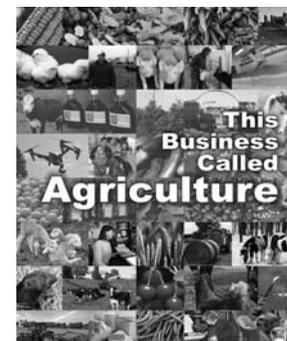
## FREE Resources Available from Ag in the Classroom

In 2016, the Waukesha County Farm Bureau donated money to FREE resources that you may find beneficial in your classrooms.

to use them in your classroom.

- *The ABC's and 123's of Agriculture:* Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.
- *This Business Called Agriculture:* Fourth grade students.
- *An Agricultural Career for You:* Middle school and high school students.

To order these resources and more visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org). The Ag in the Classroom program has a lot of free online and printed resources available, we hope you will be able



## AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 8 • Monona Terrace Convention Center,  
1 John Nolen Drive, Madison

It's important for us to raise our voices on issues. Take a few minutes to become familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Waukesha 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.

### Schedule of Events:

11:00 a.m. Registration  
11:30 a.m. Opening Program  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing  
3:00 p.m. Capitol Visits: Waukesha County is meeting in Room 300 NE

Register by Wednesday, March 1, to Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com) or 262.689.1838. The cost is \$25 per person prior to March 1, \$30 after the deadline.



# COUNTYnews

WAUKESHA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Waukesha County Farm Bureau Members Attend the WFBF Annual Meeting

By Ryan Brueggemann, Voting Delegate



Thank you to Bob Bartholomew for making the barn that the county donated to the WFB Foundation's silent auction. The barn raised \$175.

The WFBF Annual Meeting was December 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The WFBF Annual Meeting overlaps with the YFA Conference, giving attendees a chance to network with younger leaders throughout the state.

Members from Waukesha County who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting included Bob and Carol Bartholomew, Ryan and Hillery Brueggemann, Dave Morris, Tom Oberhaus and Lloyd Williams.

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.

The awards banquet on Sunday evening, showcased the graduating WFBF Institute members and the presentation of 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 morning, the business session was held. Some highlights were:

### Coming Soon: Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Education Center

The Wisconsin State Fair Dairy Promotion Board is making plans to build a permanent Dairy Education Center at the State Fair Park. Members of the Waukesha County Farm Bureau donated money to the Dairy Education Center.

Currently, the House of Moo is in the lower dairy barn. Each year, it is important to share information about the dairy industry to the thousands of State Fair attendees, reminding attendees of the nutritional values of dairy products. Dairy is a \$43.4 billion industry, which is important to the Wisconsin economy.

The Dairy Promotion Board is working with the State Fair Founda-

- 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 Company CEO Peter Pelizza talked about membership growth for the ninth consecutive year; number of claims up due to inattentive driving and as of **January 1**, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay dividends to the farm policy holders. It is projected that \$2.5 million will be paid throughout the state; there are 160 Rural Mutual Insurance agents in the state.

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

Overall the WFBF Annual Meeting was good. The WFBF staff does an excellent job in organizing this event. There were 461 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members in attendance at the YFA Conference and there were 650 attendees at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Attendees had a great time visiting, reconnecting and networking with friends. Mark your calendars for the next WFBF Annual Meeting on December 2-4.



Waukesha County Farm Bureau delegates included Tom Oberhaus, Ryan Brueggemann, Dave Morris and Lloyd Williams.

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## Randy Craig is Dedicated to Farm Bureau



Joining Farm Bureau in 1974, it didn't take long for Randy Craig to see the value of Farm Bureau.

Soon he became a board member and served for more than 25 years on the Waukesha County Farm Bureau board of directors, and served as the secretary and treasurer from 1992 to 2013.

He and his wife Jane farmed in the Town of Vernon and have

three sons. All three sons and their families live in the area so they see them frequently and Randy and Jane enjoy spending time with their 10 grandchildren.

Although both are retired, the original 470-acre farm continues to be farmed by their son Dan.

"If you were to ask me why I support Farm Bureau, I would answer that I believe in these times of fast changing agriculture we need to maintain a proactive stance to the issues affecting all of us in agriculture, particularly in the political and legislative arenas," said Randy. "Farm Bureau addresses these issues and provides the means for our ever-decreasing farm population to be heard."

Randy was and continues to be very passionate about agriculture and Farm Bureau.

"He served willingly and never complained about having to go to a board meeting," said Jane. "If he missed a meeting it was because he couldn't attend, not because he didn't feel like going. Like all volunteers, he did it because he wanted to."

In 2016, Randy retired from the Waukesha County Farm Bureau board of directors. During the annual Christmas party, the Board of Directors recognized his years of service.

**Thank you Randy for your dedication to Farm Bureau.**

## Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients Announced

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau scholarship committee has awarded three individuals with \$1,000 scholarships. The winners are: Heidi Tremaine, Oconomowoc; Derek Nelson, Waukesha; and Virginia Kuenzi, Waukesha.

This year, the scholarship committee awarded all \$1,000 scholarships; each of the winners submitted an excellent application that impressed the members of the scholarship committee.

Congratulations to the winners and the committee wishes them well in their future studies.

Scholarships are available again this year and are due **June 30**. For an application, please contact your guidance counselor, 4-H leader or scholarship committee chair Ken Rosenow at [ken@cedarhomefarms.com](mailto:ken@cedarhomefarms.com). The application also is available on the Waukesha County Farm Bureau, visit [wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/waukesha](http://wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/waukesha).

Please share the information with others who may be interested in applying for the Waukesha County Farm Bureau's scholarships. The committee is looking forward to receiving many applications.



## Waukesha County Fair Prepares for 175<sup>th</sup> Celebration

Did you know that the Waukesha County Fair is the oldest fair in Wisconsin?

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 175<sup>th</sup> Waukesha County Fair on **July 19-23**.

The Waukesha County Fair celebrates our rural heritage with barnyard animals, crafts, foods, farm displays—and, of course, the midway.

While you are at the fair, make sure to bring your kids, grandchildren and the neighbor's kids to the Ag Venture Playland. Waukesha County Farm Bureau donated money to the Ag Venture Playland, where kids have the chance to play in the sand, pet animals or play on the playground while learning about agriculture.

For more information and tickets, visit [WaukeshaCountyFair.com](http://WaukeshaCountyFair.com).



## Tradition: 2016 YFA Conference

By Sam and Nicole Dempsey, YFA co-chairs

The YFA Conference was on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The conference started with district meetings. In the District 1 meeting, we voted for the events we wanted to do in 2017.

On Friday night, the Soggy Prairie Boys entertained YFA members. They had a bluegrass-type sound and were nice to listen to while catching up with friends. On Saturday night, Tonic Sol-fa performed for the entire Farm Bureau group. There were quite a few laughs and we were all put in the holiday mood.

As usual, the keynote speakers and breakout sessions were better than the nightly entertainment. Director of millennial engagement for Monsanto, Vance Crowe, spoke on Saturday morning. In his position, Crowe focuses on how to promote agriculture in a positive light and combat the negative rumors about agriculture. He had some good take away points including:

- When humans hear something, they take that information back to their 'tribe' of family or friends to see what they think about it, then they present an answer. Most of us live our lives based on people loyalty, not facts. This is how rumors about agriculture are able to catch on so quickly among those who don't know any better – people do not bother to look up the facts, they check with their friends or family to see how it makes them feel.
- GMOAnswers.com is one of the most credible resources for any GMO questions that you or your family or friends may have. This website has GMO articles and facts from company experts and respected independent leaders.

Sean Beres and Jeff Debele competed in the Discussion Meet on Saturday. Both made it through two rounds of discussing issues in agriculture with a panel of peers. They did a great job representing Waukesha County Farm Bureau and District 1.

We attended two workshops on Saturday afternoon. The first session, 'What They Didn't Tell You About Being a County YFA Chair' was very informative and



**Waukesha County YFA members who attended the YFA Conference included: front row (L-R) Nicole Dempsey, Pam Debele, Charlie Oberhaus. Back row L-R: Sean Beres, Sam Dempsey, Jeff Debele, Jacob Kuehl. Not pictured: Jennifer Beres and Amie Simac.**

helped us grasp what our role as YFA co-chairs really is. In the second session, 'Going Beyond Google,' there were multiple apps presented and break-out sessions for each one. Some of the apps were Bean Cam, an app for estimating soybean replanting; and AgSource DM, a herd management software.

During Sunday brunch, we heard from the next keynote speaker Aaron Thomas. Thomas' father Ed was the high school football coach in Parkersburg, Iowa. He taught his players dedication, commitment and the importance of hard work. In 2008, Ed was instrumental in bringing Parkersburg together after an EF5 tornado destroyed it. The following year, Ed was killed by one of his former players.

Aaron spoke about the importance of forgiveness and understanding, and making the most of opportunities that life throws your way.

The YFA Conference was the third consecutive conference that we have attended, and it has become a post-harvest get away tradition. It was a great and refreshing way to start our roles as YFA co-chairs.

We are already excited for the next YFA Conference and can't wait to see what experiences this year offers.



**Sean Beres (right) competed in the Discussion Meet.**



**Jeff Debele (right) compete in the Discussion Meet.**

## Waukesha County Farm Bureau Announces Essay Contest

It's time again to announce the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom essay contest that is for fourth and fifth grade students. It is open to students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations.

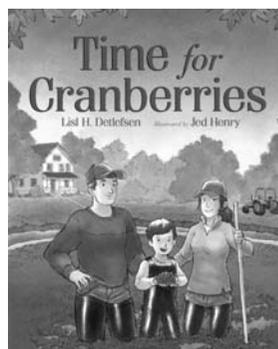
This year the topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The essays must be postmarked by **April 1**, and sent to the Waukesha County Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator Carol Bartholomew.

A county winner will be announced and will receive a cash prize of \$15, second place will receive \$10 and third place \$5. The first-place county winner will compete in the district contest, the winner at the district level will compete at the state level.

The essays will be judged by the Waukesha County promotion and education committee.

For more information, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

The essay contest theme coincides with this year's 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 to eating the delicious treat.



Happy writing and the best of luck.

**Carol Bartholomew**  
Waukesha County Essay Contest Coordinator  
W250S9560 Center Drive  
Big Bend, WI 53103  
[rbartholomew3@wi.rr.com](mailto:rbartholomew3@wi.rr.com)

## Discussion Meet is a Learning Experience By Jeff Debele

After moving from Minnesota to Wisconsin in the summer of 2016, I looked for different ways to get involved in Farm Bureau and in my new community.

I saw the advertisement for the District 1 Discussion Meet regarding food labeling, and given my background in food manufacturing, it was worth a shot. Little did I know that this event would lead me to the YFA Conference in December, and the other great experiences that came along with that.

The topics at the YFA Discussion Meet included immigration, natural resources, big data and again, food labeling. The competition was a great opportunity to meet the 27 finalists, engage in enlightening conversation and hone my speaking and analytical skills.

What I enjoyed most was listening to the diversity of opinions on each topic, and using the 25 minutes per round to learn from one another and create solutions that as Farm Bureau members, we can take to our counties and use to make progress on solving issues in agriculture.

One eye-opener was that given the diversity of farms and industries in Wisconsin, there isn't always a one-size-fits-all

approach, but there is always a benefit to sharing those opinions and hearing from one another. One of the hardest parts of the competition was summarizing our thoughts and getting to specific actionable solutions.



**Jeff Debele (right) competed in the Discussion Meet.**

I highly recommend participating in the Discussion Meet to anyone who is interested. It is a great way to meet others from the district and around the state, as well as to learn more about agricultural topics.

I want to thank the Waukesha County Farm Bureau for their support and for the opportunity for future leaders around the county and state.

## Building Farm Bureau...One Member at a Time

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member that they sign between **October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017**. Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **April 1** will receive a pair of Farm Bureau work gloves.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up five or more new members by **May 1** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest that will be presented at the Waukesha County annual meeting.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up eight or more new members by **August 1** will receive a personalized Farm Bureau farm sign that will be presented at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau

members during the membership year. Members of the 2017 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse or guest will receive exclusive recognition at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

Volunteer membership workers signing up past-due membership renewals or new members between **April 1 and September 30** will be entered in a drawing for one of five, \$100 cash awards.

Volunteers collecting 10 or more renewals or new members during this period also will be entered in the grand prize drawing for a trip for two (registration and lodging) to the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on **December 2-4**.

For every new or past-due member signed, the membership worker must complete and mail an entry card with the membership payment. Drawings will be held on **September 30**.



## Waukesha County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Lloyd Williams	262.646.2436
Vice President, Thomas Oberhaus	262.968.2573
Secretary, John Meissner	262.538.1313
Treasurer, David Bartholomew	262.366.2366
Promotion and Education Chair, Judy Porter	262.363.7397
YFA Co-Chair, Nicole Dempsey	262.719.4732
YFA Co-Chair, Sam Dempsey	262.470.4516

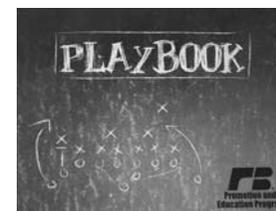
Director, Bob Bartholomew	262.662.2782
Director, Ryan Brueggemann	414.429.5499
Director, Kevin McCarthy	262.363.8769
Director, David Morris	262.367.3012
Director, Scott Porter	262.363.5925
Director, James Renn	262.367.4427
Director, Ken Rosenow	920.474.7128
Director, Alan Runyard	262.468.4408
Director, Robert Schuett, III	262.968.4348
Director, Bob Stigler	414.378.7659
Director, David Swan	262.691.0471
Director, Ronald Williams	262.968.3297

Waukesha County Farm Bureau	877.483.3674
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen	920.723.5108

## 'Playbook' Resource is Online

Did you know that the Farm Bureau collected events, programs and activities from throughout the state and put them into one resource for counties? Throughout the 'Playbook,' you will find activities and events for different ages, time frames and budgets in the following categories:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Consumer outreach
- Education and ag promotion
- Fundraising
- Member development
- Policy and development implementation



For more information, please contact Deb Raemisch at 608.828.5712 or [draemisch@wfbf.com](mailto:draemisch@wfbf.com).

## Attend the Ag Women's Summit

Join us at the Ag Women's Summit on March 10-11 at the Madison Marriott West. The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and University of Wisconsin-Extension to host an event focused on engaging and supporting women in agriculture.

The keynote speaker is Jane Jenkins Herlong, who will talk about 'Bare feet to high heels and the flip flops in between' and 'Don't throw tomatoes at my field of dreams.'

If you register before **February 13**, you will save \$25 on the \$155 registration fee. One-Day registration is \$115. Final registration deadline is **March 3**.



For more information or to register, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com), to view the agenda, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda](http://wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda) or if you are interested in attending, please contact Judy Porter at 262.363.7397.