


Waupaca County Farm Bureau
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Presents the 6th Annual Spring Fling Planting Day



When: Saturday, May 14

Where: Waupaca High School, Agri-Science Department and Greenhouse, E2325 King Road, Waupaca

Time: Registration at 10 a.m., program starts at 10:30 a.m.
Lunch is provided after the event.

The featured project will involve doing something special with canning jars. If you have some pint-size jars, please bring a couple. Otherwise we will have some available.

Cost: \$5 per pot, includes soil and plants. Bring your favorite pots to plant some spring beauty!

RSVP: Please contact Terri Hamm at 715.256.9214 with number of people attending and the number of pots that you can bring.

Don't forget, lunch is provided and you are welcome to bring a friend or two!





COUNTYnews

WAUPACA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Have you wondered why your state legislators vote the way they do? Or where they get information about agricultural issues? You could be that source!

Ag Day at the Capitol encourages members

to meet with state senators and representatives to discuss issues and concerns that members have. Members can discuss concerns with representatives' votes and equally important, thank them for supporting ag issues.

At his event members learn more about bills that the legislators are working on and bills that will affect agriculture in the future.

Next year, please consider attending Ag Day at the Capitol.



Jon Bauer and Wayne Steingraber joined in the Ag Day briefing session with Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Ben Brancel at the Monona Terrace Conference Center in Madison on January 27.



County president Wayne Steingraber (left) and Jon Bauer (right) met with Senator Luther Olson.



Jon Bauer (left) and Wayne Steingraber (right) met with Representative Kevin Peterson.

Who is the Waupaca County Fair?

Now the county fair directors are from the Weyauwega area except for one. This is not fair to the county or to the families who are keeping the fair running smoothly. Also, with only Weyauwega directors running things it is easier for others to point fingers and question how and why things are done and where the money goes. Better county-wide representation is a must. The county fair needs to be run by representatives from the whole county. Input from all corners of the county with different mind-sets and ideas need to be brought together for the betterment of all, young and old alike.

The articles and by-laws of the Waupaca County Fair Association need to be updated every five years. This has not been done for many years. Now is the time to put your two cents in. There are members of the fair association who haven't been active and need to be, also new members need to join to make our fair the greatest ever.

The county board is planning to invest more than \$300,000 into the fairgrounds during the next several years. The money comes from our taxes, not just the Weyauwega area. We believe that directors should come from across the county, and since there are seven school districts in the county maybe it is a good idea to have a director from each school district, giving the fair board seven directors from throughout the county. This also may help the fair association to grow county-wide.

If you are interested in the youth of the county and how things are done at the fair, please show it and volunteer to help with updates to the articles and by-laws, which need to be done by June. Yearly membership dues that give you a vote are \$40 and can be purchased from March 1 to August 1.

Thank you, the Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Essay Contest Winner Announced

The winning Waupaca County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom essay was written by Elwood Riley, a fourth grade student at Waupaca Learning Center. His parents are Tom and Kari Riley and his teacher is Linda Easland.

Sweet Secret

Do you know a food product that's hidden in the woods? When it's cooked down you often eat it in the morning. It is maple syrup! In our family it's a family tradition. Every spring we go to my grandparent's farm to tap maple trees. Everyone helps, my cousins, siblings, aunts and uncles too!

We start to tap sap when it's three weeks before spring. Snow is still on the ground. First we look for 10-inch or larger maple trees. We drill the hole with an electric drill 2-inches deep. We insert the spile into the hole, hang the bucket on the hook, and put on the lid. We tap about 266 maple trees, 800 spiles. Then we wait until the nights are below freezing and the days are mild and sunny. We use a tractor to pull a wagon and us through the woods to collect sap. The wagon has a covered stock tank with a hole on top and screen to filter the sap from bark, moths, and mosquitos; so you won't eat them. Once the stock tank is full, we dump it into tanks at the sugar shack. Everyone helps collect sap because we need to carry and empty many five-gallon buckets. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

In the sugar shack we have an evaporator. The sap flows in and boils down to maple syrup under a very hot wood fire. When the sap reaches 219 degrees F. We draw off and filter the hot syrup. We blend all the maple season syrup and bottle the syrup in new Mason jars. We label it Eisentraut Farms Pure Maple Syrup. This year our family made 70 gallons of maple syrup. All that syrup was hidden in the woods. SWEET!

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President's Report



As I write this, we have experienced another late-winter, early-spring snowstorm. At least these don't stick around long. The morning sun is breaking the horizon. When I look out my office window I see the Robins have returned and the songbirds are filling the air with beautiful songs. Yes, after weeks of wondering, even with the occasional snowstorm, I think we can safely say spring is here to stay. Yes, once again God brings life back to our beautiful countryside.

In our neighborhood, tractors are in the fields, manure is being spread, it has been an easy winter. Not only did we have an exceptionally warm winter with little snow to move, saving us on our heating bills and backaches from shoveling. But also as I gaze out my window, I see the turkeys and deer have survived and are looking very healthy. I don't know where the deer were hiding last fall during hunting, but with the way it looks now, we should have plenty this year. The fawns have yet to be born, but will be by the time you are reading this.

Yes, spring is here. With it comes the work that we've been waiting and planning for. Are we ready? Yes, I believe we are. I look at the farmers around the county and they are well-rested from the easy winter. Machinery should be well maintained with the ability to work on the equipment during the winter. Hopes are high and attitudes are positive. This is going to be a great year.

This also is going to be a challenging year for Farm Bureau. They say there are two seasons in Wisconsin, winter and road construction. This year we can add voting to that. From the primary election this spring, to the presidential election this fall, it is going to seem like all we hear is campaigning, or complaining, all year. Yes, I am already sick of it, too, and it has hardly started.

One thing is for sure, we need to keep our voice heard across the state. The Farm Bureau VFA Committee will be supporting the candidates who will stand for our values. We need to support our VFA Committee. They don't have the needed funds to keep pace with this continual onslaught from those not supportive of agriculture.

If it is possible for you to help with an additional donation to the VFA Committee to help reelect and elect those candidates who will stand for our values, please do it soon. Now, is the time to keep our voice heard across the state.

Until the next time we cross paths. Keep yourselves safe this season and may God bless you and your farm. May God bless this country.

Wayne Steingraber

Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

News from the Food Stand

By Bonni Miller, Food Stand Manager



The 143rd Waupaca County Fair is coming up and we're wondering whether we are going to have enough help in the kitchen to maintain the menu that we will be serving.

We totally understand that everyone has a lot to do at the fair, and if people can't spend a few hours helping there, then that is the reality that we have to deal with.

I don't say this to be a nag and thank you to those who have volunteered for kitchen duty. I'm saying it because it means that there are choices that need to be made in order for us to be ready for the fair.

If we don't have the people needed, then we need to make changes to the menu. For

example, burgers could possibly be deleted from the menu because of the added work to prepare them.

We could add loose meat, hot beef or Sloppy Joe sandwiches, or we could add pulled pork or meatball sandwiches. Basically, any kind of sandwich where most of the work is done in advance would be more practical.

Malts, breakfast sandwiches and the fish fry could be deleted from the menu if we don't have enough help. We still need the help, but a lot of the work could be done before we are busy at the fair.

Also, I want to serve as much product grown or produced by Farm Bureau members as possible.

If you are interested in being considered as a supplier or if you are available to work, please contact me at bonnimiller@yahoo.com or 306 East Lake Street, Waupaca, WI 54981.



Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

If you can stay calm while everyone around you is in chaos and panic....

Then you probably don't understand the seriousness of the situation.

What gets wetter the more it dries?

A towel.

A reporter asked a man on his 97th

birthday, "To what do you credit your long life?"

"I'm not sure yet," responded the old-timer. "My agent is still negotiating with two breakfast cereal companies."

What is a nuclear scientist's favorite lunch?

Fission chips.



Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit Review

By Kathy Manske



Kathy Manske (center) got to know other summit attendees.

Once again, I was able to leave the farm to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit. It is always a great learning experience.

As a farmer and consumer, I attended a session by Kim Bremmer on GMOs. There are too many consumers making their food buying decisions for the wrong reasons.

GMOs are a tool we use to protect our crops, use fewer chemicals and lower our carbon footprint. This session was very interesting and I learned more about how people view GMOs and some helpful tools to explain the topic better. One source that I learned about is GMOAnswers.com.

I also attended the session about how to prepare for the bumpy ride in agriculture, which was interesting but depressing. No one

wanted to hear that the low milk price and commodities may take two years to rebound.

This year there was a session on eating and feeding on the go, which also was great. I'm always on the lookout for new, fast and healthy recipes to try.

There also was a panel discussion on farm tours that I enjoyed. We host tours on our farm to educate the public about the myths that they hear and to give attendees an opportunity to ask questions. How to explain what you do on your farm properly and correctly also was covered. It was nice to hear and gather some ideas from others who host tour groups.

Jerry Apps closed the summit with some of his stories and encouraged us to tell ours. He even gave us some writing tips as to how to start writing. Now just to find the time.

On Friday night, there was a casino night that was a hit. Several of us never left the black jack table the whole night. Our dealer, Jan, was a riot. Too bad the money wasn't real, though.

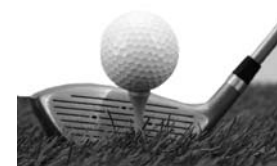
Thank you to Waupaca County Farm Bureau for sponsoring me. Next year the Ag Women's Summit is March 10-11 at the Madison Marriott West.

Register Now for the 2016 Wisconsin Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on September 12 at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

The event supports the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to expand agricultural leadership, 4-H and FFA program, agricultural literacy efforts, and other education, youth and leadership programs.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.



Waupaca County YFA Update

By Jake Hoewisch



Waupaca and Outagamie YFA groups got together for some fellowship at the New London Lanes February 4.



Waupaca County YFA members attended the District 7 Gamblers hockey game in Green Bay on March 19.

Things are going well as the new YFA chair. We had a great turn out at New London Lanes on February 4 for a night of pizza, beverages and bowling.

I am working with the Outagamie County chair Kelly Oudenhoven and our participation numbers are increasing. We had about 20 people who attended the event.

The annual Gamblers game on March 19, was a hit, too. It was a night filled with excitement with the Gamblers winning in overtime. About half of the group met up at a restaurant for pizza and soda. Between both counties, approximately 30 people attended the game.

Looking ahead to the planting season, we will take a break. We are planning another bowling event because the feedback on the first one was very positive. Other events for the summer and fall include a tour of a farm or brewery.

The outlook for Waupaca County YFA looks great, and I am excited to be serving as chair. Young farmers are our future and we need to stick together. If anyone has ideas for events that they want planned, please let me know. I am always open to suggestions. Have a happy and safe spring. Good luck planting!



Waupaca YFA members shared farm stories over pizza after the District 7 Gamblers hockey game in Green Bay March 19.

An FFA Farm Forum Experience

By Elisha Riley

I was among 200 high school FFA members who attended the Farm Bureau's 44th annual FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 19-20.

This is a two-day event that provides an opportunity for high school FFA members to learn more about careers in agriculture and explore their potential roles as future agricultural leaders.

The conference included three keynote speakers: WFBF President Jim Holte; Jonathan Eckelberg, a digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism; and Ethan Giebel, the director of education at Cooperative Network.

During the event, I attended other workshops about post-high school agriculture opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership. These workshops and speakers were educational, insightful, worthwhile and inspirational. I learned

different ways to be a proactive advocate in my community, all of which I brought back to my FFA Chapter. We were also updated on future agricultural concerns that will affect farmers and agriculturists.

The Farm Bureau also did a mock Discussion Meet. I've already applied the knowledge that I gained from this when I participated in the FFA Discussion Meet and received first at district and second at sectionals. Thank you to coach Brian Preder, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Discussion Meet winner for your assistance.

I am glad that I had the opportunity to attend this conference. Thank you to the Waupaca County Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation for sponsoring my FFA Farm Forum weekend.



Members of the Weyauwega-Fremont FFA chapter attended the FFA Farm Forum on February 19-20 in Wisconsin Rapids. They included: (L-R) Madison Lantvit and Jenna Mathwig. The students were sponsored by the Waupaca County Farm Bureau.



Members of the Waupaca FFA chapter attended the FFA Farm Forum on February 19-20 in Wisconsin Rapids. They included: (L-R) Rose Thielke, Elisha Riley, Raymond Ziller and advisor Rene Lehman. The students were sponsored by the Waupaca County Farm Bureau.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Wayne Steingraber	920.850.5778
Vice President, Jon Bauer	920.538.3515
Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Bowers	715.754.2381
Women's Chair, Terri Hamm	715.256.9214
YFA Chair, Jacob Hoewisch	920.810.5640

AITC Coordinator, Kari Riley	715.258.2892
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Director, Wayne Eisentraut	715.258.8481
Director, James Grant	715.258.5889
Director, Henry Haas	715.754.5589
Director, Arnold Heise	920.867.3948
Director, Daniel Hintz	715.754.5500
Director, Don Lutz	715.412.3686
Director, Richard Piechowski	715.258.2757
Director, Brian Preder	920.851.5776
Director, Tom Riley	715.258.2892
Director, Lynn Steingraber	920.596.3607
Director, Randy Steingraber	920.596.3607

Waupaca County Farm Bureau	888.830.2571
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106
WFBF Director, Wayne Staidl	715.582.3671
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346

Waupaca County Library Maple Syrup Presentations

By Kari Riley

I gave several maple syrup presentations at local libraries in Waupaca County to youth and adults.

The libraries visited were Waupaca, Fremont, Weyauwega and Clintonville.



The sessions that I did at the libraries correspond with the current Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, *Sugarbush Spring*. The theme for the Essay Contest was 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

Waupaca County's winning essay will be sent to be judged against other county winners in Farm Bureau District 7. The winning student's class will receive ice cream sundaes topped with pure maple syrup.



Equipment and product samples were part of Kari's maple syrup presentations at local libraries.