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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Shawano County Farm Bureau's Kristi Fiedler Wins WFBF Discussion Meet

Congratulations to Kristi Fiedler, a Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA member, winner of the 2016 WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Discussion Meet at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-5 in Wisconsin Dells.

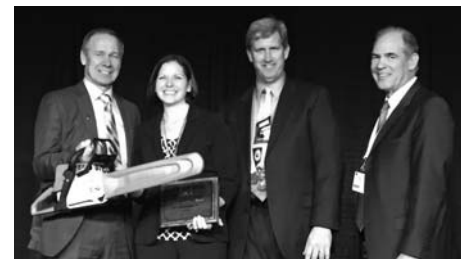
The Discussion Meet consists of a discussion panel where Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are judged on their ability to express ideas and opinions to reach a solution on agricultural issues.

Kristi is associate vice president of U.S. Technical Services for Genex. She earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-Platteville and a master's degree in management from the University of Phoenix. She served on the YFA Committee from 2013 to 2015 with her husband Brian.

Kristi received a chain saw from Midwest Stihl and a free financial plan, provided by Rural Mutual Insurance.

In January, Kristi represented Wisconsin and competed in the national Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

She also qualifies for the YFA trip to Washington, D.C., in 2018; as a guest of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation during the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference and in August of 2017, as a special guest at the annual meeting of GROWMARK, Inc., in Chicago.



WFBF President Jim Holte, Kevin Malchine from Growmark and Peter Pelizza from Rural Mutual Insurance presented Kristi Fiedler with a Stihl chain saw and other prizes as winner of the 2016 WFBF YFA Discussion Meet.

Meet Adam Kuczer, the New District 7 Board Director



Adam Kuczer and his wife Becky have five children including: Nicholas, 11; Sawyer, 9; Clara, 6; Cadence, 6; and Andrew, 3.

County near Pulaski. The crops include corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

Adam was elected to serve a three-year term on the WFBF Board of Directors representing District 7 (Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano and Waupaca counties).

He succeeds Wayne Staidl of Peshtigo, who retired from the WFBF Board of Directors in December after 17 years of service.

The family custom raises 270 heifers and grows crops on 900 acres in Shawano

Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

By Jon Bauer

Join us for Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8** at the Monona Terrace Conference Center in Madison. Get out and support agriculture with your legislators. Be the voice that makes a difference.

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau will cover your cost to attend this one-day event. The schedule for the day is:

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

For more information or to register by **March 1**, please contact me at sackett50@hotmail.com or 920.538.3515. We will arrange to car pool to the event.





COUNTYnews

WAUPACA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

District 7 WFBF Board Member Retires

During the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, District 7 Board of Director Wayne Staidl announced his retirement. He represented District 7 for the last 17 years. Wayne and his son Ryan own and operate a crop and beef farm near Peshtigo in Marinette County. They own multiple parcels and rent additional acres where they grow corn, soybeans, hay and wheat.

Wayne and his wife Mary have three two other children and six grandchildren. Mary worked at the Rural Mutual Insurance Company office in Pound for many years. The couple started farming with his parents the same year he earned a degree in farm management from UW-River Falls and that they were married.

As a young member, he participated in Farm Bureau's Achievement Award, served as the secretary and treasurer of the Marinette County Farm Bureau and coordinated fruit sale fundraisers. He later served on the state Dairy Committee.

Wayne served on the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association and as the co-chair of Farm Bureau's special state transportation task force

looking at ag transportation issues. Also interested in local government, he has served four terms as chair of the Town of Grover in Marinette County.

"My town board experience has made me a better WFBF Director and vice versa," said Wayne. "I've learned to see the other side of the story and I enjoy helping others solve problems and concerns and seeing them satisfied with the results."

Wayne continues to be active in the Marinette County Farm Bureau, serving as vice president and membership chair.



WFBF President Jim Holte recognized retiring WFBF Board of Director Wayne Staidl and his wife Mary. Wayne represented District 7 for 17 years.

Apple Ag in the Classroom By Helen Heise



Helen Heise helped Manawa students make apple muffins.

On November 1, I had the opportunity to visit the classroom with Sandy Cordes at Little Wolf High School in Manawa.

I shared several recipes to make with apples including apple muffins, apple cookies, cream cheese dip for apple slices and baked apples.

I had fresh cookies and muffins that the students could taste test.

The students divided into four groups, each making a different recipe during the 42-minute class period.

The students enjoyed the variety of apple recipes. Many had never heard of baked apples. They enjoyed eating apple slices with dip.

The hot cookies and muffins also were happily consumed by the students.



Manawa students tasted apples and cream cheese dip.

WFBF Discussion Meet By Kyle Much

I was honored to represent Waupaca County Farm Bureau and District 7 in the Discussion Meet.

After receiving the list of questions, I was a little nervous about discussing topics like immigration or intellectual property, but with a little research and a lot of encouragement from other young farmer and agriculturist members, I was ready.

It was a great experience to have open discussion about so many important topics and not only learn from others, but also add in my experiences from working around the state. After the first two questions, I had even more fun watching everyone else and I am encouraged and excited to try again next year.

Overall the conference was a valuable experience but also fun. From the complimentary beverages to the trivia contest, and the delicious food and fun entertainment. This conference is such a great way to see and talk to other YFA members who are the future of agriculture.



Kyle Much (third from right) explained his ideas to the discussion panel during the YFA Discussion Meet quarter-final round.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Report
- YFA Report
- Rural Health Initiative

- 3** District YFA Report
- 4-H Key Award
- 'Playbook' Resource
- Planting Party
- Member Benefits
- Board Contacts

President's Report



2016 sure did fly by. Sometimes, things in life just happen too quickly. Now is the time of year to sit back and relax a little and reflect on what happened this year and look to the future.

For me it was losing my job as a milk hauler in mid-June, due to downsizing, and acquiring a dream job as second shift herdsman on a 300-cow robotic dairy.

Thank you to Craig and Kyle for giving me this great opportunity. Yes, there are still plenty of things to do on the farm, or at any job, but there are just times that you need to step back for a while and catch your breath.

Looking out of my office window, I see a tree we planted 'yesterday' (actually it was a few years ago) and realize how much it has grown. This is the second year we have decorated it and it takes a longer string of lights. It is things like this that we need to appreciate more. It's the little things in life that give us real pleasure in our daily lives.

The WFBF Annual Meeting was very productive. The moti-



YFA members and the Waupaca delegates participated in the Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest.

There were some great workshops, and time to reconnect with friends. There also was time to enjoy the water park at the Kalahari Resorts.

The WFB Foundation trivia contest was fun and our team, the Waupaca Wizards, placed fourth. Thank you to team members Jon Bauer, Lori Steingraber, Brian Preder and Dan and Karen Hintz. We placed well with everyone's input.

Waupaca County Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members had a team and did a fine job. We had a great time raising money for the WFB Foundation and look forward to the trivia contest next year.

The business meeting was productive. There was good discussion on a proposed by-law change and a few resolutions. The

result was that we came out with policy that is best for the future of our great organization. This is proof that the grassroots process does really work.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and spent time with family and friends. I enjoyed time with family on Christmas, since it was the first time I had it off in many years.

Now the new year has arrived, and it is time to set goals and make plans for 2017. The board of directors will be doing that during the first meetings. Each of us needs to have some goals set to keep the farm moving forward. Also, in our personal lives we need to set goals to have a feeling of accomplishment.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy 2017. Until next time, may God watch over you.

Wayne Steingraber
Waupaca County Farm Bureau President



Brian Preder addressed the delegate body. Other delegates included Tim Bowers, Wayne Steingraber and Dan Hintz.



Chuck McDaniel, Waupaca County Rural Insurance agent, was recognized for signing 62 new Farm Bureau members last year, placing him as one of the top agents in the company.



Waupaca Farm Bureau members and delegates stand with the Ron Brooks Family. Brooks Farm was presented the 2016 Aldo Leopold Conservation Award at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Waupaca County Farm Bureau member, Jon Bauer (fourth from right), served on the WFBF Policy Development Committee this year.

YFA Report By Jake Hoewisch and Jared Manske

Happy New Year!

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Conference in Wisconsin Dells was a great success this year. We had five members from Waupaca County YFA attend. On Friday night we had a few teams that played in the corn hole tournament. This is always a blast. We enjoyed the band and beverages that night and it is always nice to meet people your age with the same passion. **Jake**

This year I attended the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells courtesy of the Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsorship.

First we met with other YFA members from our district and got to know each other while playing trivia skee ball. It was nice to meet other people with the same interest. We also networked and participated in a corn hole tournament. My team made it pretty far.

It was interesting to sit in on the Discussion Meet. I cheered for Kyle Much from Waupaca County. It was informational to hear a variety of points on various agricultural topics that impact the dairy and grain marketing industries.

Vance Crowe was a keynote speaker at the WFBF Annual Meeting. He talked about GMOs and the controversy with them and the millennial generation. He talked about the importance of sharing your story and what you are doing on the farm.

Saturday night we listened to the a cappella Tonic Sol-Fa. They were very entertaining and interacted with the crowd in a comical way.

Thank you to Rural Mutual Insurance for sponsoring me. I look forward to attending more Farm Bureau events. **Jared**

With winter upon us, we are planning a bowling event at New London Lanes in January or February. We will join the Outagamie County YFA again this year. We don't have an exact date yet, but it will be on a Thursday night.

We also will take a group to the District 7 Gamblers Game on **February 18** at 7 p.m. If you are interested, please contact Jake Hoewisch.

We hope that you had a great Christmas and New Year. Have a safe and blessed winter season.

Rural Health Initiative Fundraisers are Coming

Please support the Rural Health Initiative and help raise money for health screenings in Shawano, Waupaca and Outagamie counties.

Note: The Rural Health Initiative will have another event in New London on **April 21**.



13th Annual Fundraiser to benefit Rural Health Initiative

WINE & Cheese TASTING

FEB 10 2017 7:00 PM

The Main Event
7 PM-10 PM
206 N. Lemke Street, Cecil, Wisconsin

\$30 PER PERSON
(in advance or \$35 at door (until capacity is met))

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MUSIC, GREAT PRIZES, RAFFLES & GAMES

The Rural Health Initiative is a non-profit program designed to address growing concerns regarding health and safety issues facing today's farm families. At the center of this program is a professionally-trained staff member who makes "house calls" to interested farm families providing "Kitchen Wellness."

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- Financial**
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For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District 7 YFA Report

By Brian Preder



Waupaca members who attended the YFA Conference were: (L-R) Jon Eckelberg, Jen Van Asten, Jacob Hoewisch, Kyle Much, Katie Much and Jared Manske.

to see during the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

More than 450 YFA members attended the conference and listened to a great keynote speaker Vance Crowe, who shared his experience as the director of millennial engagement for Monsanto. He encouraged us to tell our story of tradition.



Katie Much took a shot at the skee ball ramp during the District 7 'ice breaker' at the YFA Conference.

Hello District 7 YFA members. As we start the new year, I hope that you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

It was another great year of Farm Bureau tradition. In December, that tradition was easy

Attendees built on their knowledge during breakout sessions ranging from how to get the most out of Farm Bureau to getting hands-on exposure to some of the newest apps for agriculture. Attendees networked and met YFA members from around the state.

Thank you to Kristi Fielder from Shawano County, Kristy Erickson from Outagamie County and Kyle Much from Waupaca County for representing District 7 YFA in the Discussion Meet. Kristi Fielder and Kristy Erickson advanced to the Elite 8 round.

For the second year in a row, District 7 had a YFA member advance and win the Final 4 round. Congratulations to Kristi Fielder on winning the coveted STHIL chain saw! In January, Kristi represented Wisconsin during the AFBF Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

Our first District 7 YFA event is **February 18**. We scheduled the annual Green Bay Gambler's hockey game as a joint event with District 6. After the hockey game, we will enjoy pizza and soda at Green Bay Distillery. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow YFA members. To purchase your tickets, please contact me or your county YFA chair by **February 1**.



Green Bay Gamblers versus the Sioux City Musketeers on Saturday, February 18; game time 7:05 p.m. at the Resch Center, 1901 S. Oneida Street, Green Bay.

Tickets
\$16 - adults
\$13 - children ages 4 to 14
Free - children 3 and younger

As always, if you have ideas for events or want to help with a county event, please let me know. Stay warm and keep the Farm Bureau tradition alive.

Key Award Presented at 4-H Banquet

By Ethan Riley



Ethan Riley (right) was presented the 4-H Key Award by board member Arnie Heise during the County 4H Banquet.

I'm the son of Tom and Kari Riley, and I'm attending the UW Madison Farm and Industry Short Course, which has condensed classes from November 7 to March 17.

My certificate will be in pasture based dairy.

I eventually want to work in the dairy industry or to go back to our family dairy, Riley Crest Farm.

I have been an active Casey Lake 4-H member for 13 years and showed dairy cattle for 8 years at the Waupaca County Fair and the Wisconsin State Fair. I also showed market

hogs, steers and poultry.

Through 4-H, I traveled to the New England states on the American Spirit trip, attended 4-H Conferences and hosted Victor Anchia from Costa Rica through the 4-H International Exchange Program.

I also served as a camp counselor for four summers.

The 4-H Key Award is an honor to receive. Thank you Waupaca County Farm Bureau members for investing in the future.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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YFA Chair, Jacob Hoewisch	920.810.5640

AITC Coordinator, Kari Riley	715.258.2892
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Director, James Grant	715.258.5889
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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

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RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106
WFBF Director, Adam Kuczer	920.609.0718
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346

'Playbook' is a Great Resource

By Katelin Haglund

Are you looking for an idea for an activity and not sure where to start? Checkout the Promotion and Education Committee's 'Playbook.'

The 'Playbook' contains activities and events that other counties have held around the state for Ag in the Classroom, consumer outreach, education and ag promotion, fundraising, member development and policy and development implementation. The Playbook was created as a resource for members to share ideas. Look for the 'Playbook' link on the WFBF home page.

Do you have a successful event or activity (or even not-so successful)? The Promotion and Education Committee wants you to share your knowledge and submit your 'play.'

We want to keep the ideas flowing and will update the 'Playbook' quarterly so the next update will be **March 15**. Adding a play to the 'Playbook' is simple.

1. Visit www.wfbf.com.
2. Click on the 'Playbook' icon.
3. Download the 'play' submission page.
4. Fill out.
5. Email to Deb Raemisch at draemisch@wfbf.com.

If you have questions or want help, please contact me at 715.210.5384 or katelinhaglund@gmail.com.

Save the Date: Women's Spring Fling Planting Party

The Waupaca County Women's Spring Fling Planting Party will be **Saturday, May 13**, at the Waupaca High School Ag Department.

For more details, please watch the next newsletter.

SAVE^{the}
DATE