

Winnebago County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

District 5 YFA Members, Giebel and Zimdars Win Discussion Meets

Ethan Giebel of Juneau County was selected winner of the 2014 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet at the organization's 95th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on December 7.

The YFA Discussion Meet is a panel discussion in which Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions and reach a solution on current issues affecting agriculture.

Giebel is a senior at UW-Platteville where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural education. He enjoys working on his parents' farm in Juneau County, where they raise dairy steers, corn and alfalfa. He also works as a freelance writer for the *Wisconsin Agriculturist* and *Filament Marketing*. On campus, he is a member of the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA and Alpha



District 5 YFA members Ethan Giebel won the YFA Discussion Meet and Nate Zimdars won the Collegiate Discussion Meet. (L to R) Chris Pollack, 2013 WFBF Discussion Meet winner and AFBF Discussion Meet finalist with 2014 Discussion Meet winners Ethan Giebel and Nate Zimdars.

Zeta. He is also a member of the Juneau County Farm Bureau and a lifetime Mauston FFA Alumni member.

Giebel will compete in the national Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 96th Annual Convention in San Diego this January. He qualifies for the YFA trip to Washington, D.C. in 2016. Midwest Stihl awarded a chainsaw and Rural Mutual Insurance Company provided a free financial plan. Giebel will be a guest of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at next year's WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference, and a special guest at the annual meeting of GROW-MARK, Inc. in Chicago in August.

Other state finalists in the Discussion Meet were: Adam Wehling of Buffalo County, Jamie Propson of Manitowoc County, Peter Kimball of Pierce County.

Nate Zimdars was selected the winner of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Collegiate Discussion Meet at the organization's 95th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on December 7.

Zimdars is a junior at UW-Madison where he is earning a degree in history and education. He

grew up on a sheep and poultry hobby farm near Ripon.

His passion for agriculture grew from his involvement in 4-H and working on his grandparents' dairy farm, a strawberry farm and an apple orchard. Nate is a member of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau.

The Collegiate Discussion Meet is a panel discussion in which collegiate members are judged on their ability to lead a committee discussion on current issues affecting agriculture and to develop consensus on an action plan to effectively address issues.

By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

Zimdars will represent Wisconsin in a national collegiate Discussion Meet contest at the American Farm Bureau FUSION Conference in Nashville this February.

Other finalists included Emily Selner of UW-Madison, Rachel Leege and Kallie Jo Kastenson from UW-Platteville, and Kaylin Spaeth and Aaron Zimmerman from UW-River Falls.

Dairy Breakfast – Save the Date!

Mike and Jane Pamer and their children, Justin, Brianna and Mollie will host the 2015 Winnebago County Dairy Breakfast. **The date is set for Saturday, June 13.** The Breakfast Committee is starting to plan for this year's event. If you'd like to get involved contact Dan Hinz at 920.376.0371.

Farm Bureau Receives Dairy Promotion Award

At this year's WMMB (Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board) County Dairy Leaders Group meeting, the Winnebago County Farm Bureau was awarded \$750 for the County Award Recognition Program. The county received the award for the 2014 Dairy Breakfast held at the Radloff Farm.





COUNTYnews

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



STOMPIN' THE SHED AT



SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2015

7:30 P.M.  **BRIGHTON ACRES**
4057 Fisk Avenue • Oshkosh



TICKETS:
For ticket information contact
Charlie Knigge 920.379.3934.

LODGING ARRANGEMENTS:
 For lodging
information call the
Cobblestone Suites
at 920.230.7400.

FEATURED BAND:



Hosted By: Winnebago County Farm Bureau YFA

District 5 Tops Pop Tab Challenge in Donations

This past year the WFBF Women's Committee organized a state-wide challenge to each district to collect pop tabs that would be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House? Once the pop tabs are collected and turned into a Ronald McDonald House, they are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars, which support the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses in Madison, Milwaukee and Marshfield.

A total of more than 700 pounds of pop tabs were collected. Districts 5 lead the way with collecting 306 pounds of pop tabs.



District 5 Women's Committee representative Michelle Bula posed proudly with the pop tabs that were donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

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Winnebago County Members Attend YFA Conference

The WFBF YFA Conference held December 5-7 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells was attended by 475 YFA members. District 5 had the highest district attendance with more than 80 members attending. Winnebago County YFA members who attended included: Jade Buchholz, Brittany Teske, Charlie Knigge, Neil Stone, Jordan Stone, Sam Sattler, Joey Treu, Tyler Zimmer and Anthony Dempsey.



Kasten, Brooks and Radloff Serve as Delegates to WFBF Annual Meeting



(L to R) Jim Kasten, Randi Brooks, Kim Radloff, Kevin Radloff served as delegates from Winnebago County at the WFBF Annual Meeting

Delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 95th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on Monday, December 8.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization over the next year. Resolutions were submitted by farmers from across the state through Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

To address a shortage of agricultural agents in the University of Wisconsin-Extension system, delegates suggested that agents should not be required to have a Master's degree and should be encouraged to work across county lines. Furthermore, the UW-Extension system was asked to establish regions in which specialized agents are assigned.

In regards to laws pertaining to high capacity wells, delegates opposed defining multiple small wells on contiguous land as a high capacity well. They also supported grandfathering in existing high capacity wells under the laws in which they were installed or upgraded including:

- Renewal of existing well permits and transfers with the sale of the land.
- Reconstruction or repair of an existing well, and the ability to replace a well if there is nominal movement from the original well location.

Delegates went on record supporting the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for commercial and agricultural purposes. However, they want drone operators to be required to gain consent of the land operator before flying over it.

Any information collected should be the sole property of the farmer-land owner and only be used by others with signed consent of the farmer-land owner.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to:

- Support limiting the bear population to the state's original goal and support combining the authorization to trap and hunt bear on a renter's property on one form.
- Support under-documented workers being able to obtain a provisional driver's license with the completion of an instructional course.
- Oppose mandating labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) products or ingredients in Wisconsin.
- Oppose any municipality or county having the ability to levy a special assessment on agricultural property for constructing any public work or improvement.
- Support development of technical standards for the irrigation of manure and processed waste water.
- Support the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipalities and the agricultural community to reduce phosphorus discharge into surface waters.

District Director Report



Recently I was asked about my experience on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board. It has been time-consuming and challenging at times but it is a true honor to serve agriculture in this manner. My main objective in this position is not only to advocate for agriculture but to raise the success in District 5.

This past year we spent countless hours on the strategic plan. One of the main goals of this plan is to continue to build the bridge of communication between members and staff. WFBF has many resources for us as members and the greatest resource is the staff. The strategic plan lays out potential new ways of bringing information to members. My goal is to continue to hold leadership sessions within the district in order to give members the opportunity to interact with many of WFBF's staff.

I also believe in putting the right people in the right place. Throughout the year I have asked our nominated members to be a part of many aspects of this organization. These include the strategic plan, congressional forum, leadership trips to Washington, D.C. and committees and workgroups of the Farm Bureau. Recently a few select members met with Congressman Elect Grothman to discuss pressing issues moving into a new year.

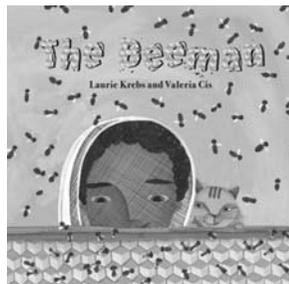
I want to thank everyone who is active in this organization. Being active has been instrumental in such things as new legislation that allow higher axle weights for implements of husbandry and maintaining higher weights on 41 as it becomes an interstate, along with many other regulations that affect us as farmers.

I believe the success of Farm Bureau comes from its members. We have an opportunity in Wisconsin Farm Bureau because we have one of the premier leadership training programs in the country. I will continue to do my part to help each county grow its leadership potential and strive in their unique ways. It is a true honor continuing to serve agriculture and Farm Bureau!

Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Board Director

Winnebago County to Participate in 2015 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

This year's essay contest topic is "Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?" Our 2015 Book of the Year is "The Beeman" by Laurie Krebs. The book and essay topic will allow us to educate students about bees, beekeeping and the pollination process. All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons, activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.



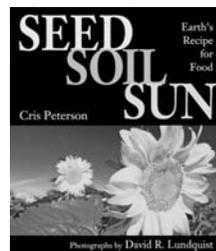
Contest Rules:

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.

- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100 to 300 words in length (using common MS Word "word count" methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parent's name, teacher's name, school name and address, school phone number, teacher's email address and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entry deadline - **Postmarked by April 1, 2015** and sent to: Cecelia M. Brooks 5223 Rushford Ave Omro, WI 54963
For more information contact Cecelia at 920-420-3660 or moobrooks@gmail.com.

Ag in the Classroom Books Available

The Winnebago County Farm Bureau purchased a complete set of the current Ag in the Classroom books. This set of seven books includes the following: *First Peas to the Table*, *How Did That Get in My Lunchbox*, *Seed Soil Sun*, *Farmer George Plants a Nation*, *A Young Shepherd*, *Fantastic Farm Machinery* and *The Beeman*. These books are available to members to conduct Ag in the Classroom presentations. If you'd like to volunteer your time with the county Ag in the Classroom program, contact Cecelia Brooks at 920.420.3660.



Calendar

- January 31** YFA Stompin' at the Shed - Oshkosh
- March 6** District 5 Bus Tour to Northcentral Technical School Farm and Mullins Cheese
- March 11** Ag Day at the Capitol
- March 13-14** Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit
- April 1** Deadline for Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest
- June 13** Dairy Breakfast at Mike & Jane Pamer's Farm

SAVE the DATE

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 - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial**
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
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 - Accidental Death Policy

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

Five dollars cannot buy much anymore.

That is, unless we're talking about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation; then \$5 can make a huge impact.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation provides the funding for the Ag in the Classroom program, collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at three Wisconsin universities, Farm Bureau's leadership Institute, as well as the Women's and Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs.

Keeping these programs financially viable is critical to growing future farm leaders and educating consumers about agriculture. To help fund the Foundation, in 2015 you will notice a \$5 voluntary contribution line-item for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation on your Farm Bureau dues renewal statement or Rural Mutual Insurance bill. We hope you'll view this as an investment in farming's future and choose to make a contribution.

Why is this necessary?

Aside from contributions from generous supporters, the Foundation has traditionally relied on two annual fundraisers: the Wisconsin Ag Open golf outing and a silent auction at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.



5 for Farming's Future

Programs like Ag in the Classroom and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program were moved under the Foundation's umbrella a few years ago. While this has

provided a tremendous cost savings to our bottom line, it also means that additional funds are needed to keep these programs sustainable.

We in the agricultural community have always seen the importance of growing our future.

Moving forward, we want young students to know that farmers grow their food. We want college students from all backgrounds to see agriculture's opportunities. We need to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders and help Farm Bureau members find their voice. The Foundation and this \$5 contribution is our vehicle to make these things happen.

In closing, we are asking you to:

- GIVE** to a way of life you love.
- ENRICH** the education of young people through agricultural education.
- PLEDGE** to get young people started in agriculture.
- COMMIT** to tomorrow's leaders.
- INVEST** in the future of farming.

Winnebago County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jim Kasten 920.658.3036
 Vice President, Randi Brooks 920.420.2634
 Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Hinz 920.376.0371
 Women's Chair, Carol Ihde 920.722.2961
 YFA Chair, Charlie Knigge 920.685.5531

Director, Cecelia Brooks 920.420.3660
 Director, Jade Buchholz 608.369.1044
 Director, John Egan 920.379.3800
 Director, Russ Kriha 608.436.4764
 Director, Becky Mills 920.279.5732
 Director, Kevin Radloff 920.589.5515
 Director, Brittany Teske 920.379.0419
 Director, Amy Zentner 920.426.1056

Winnebago County Farm Bureau 866.666.8015
 WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.361.7380
 District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029
 RMIC District Manager, Chuck Reitz III 920.921.6402

Farm Bureau Bus Trip



Join other Farm Bureau members from the district for a bus tour to Northcentral Technical School farm near Wausau and Mullins Cheese in Mosinee.

When: Friday, March 6

- 8 am: Leave Green Lake Courthouse parking lot (571 County A Green Lake)
- 10:30 a.m.: Tour Technical School Farm
- Noon: Lunch
- 1 p.m.: Tour Mullins Cheese
- 4 p.m.: Arrive back in Green Lake

Cost: \$25 per person

RSVP by March 1 to District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com or 920.517.2445.

Winnebago County Farm Bureau Members Participate in First-Ever Trivia Contest



Winnebago County Farm Bureau members Jim Kasten, Stacy Freund, Randi and Cecelia Brooks competed in the first-ever trivia contest at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Winnebago County was one of 24 teams that competed.

Proceeds from the contest were donated to the WFB Foundation.



Farm Bureau Donates Milk

The Winnebago County Dairy Promotion Committee sponsored chocolate milk as a recovery drink at the Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services 12th annual Race for the Light Run/Walk that went through the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights. Chocolate milk was a hit for the almost 900 runners in the event.



Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** at the Monona Terrace in Madison.

Tentative schedule:

- 11 a.m. - Registration
- 11:30 a.m. - Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - Legislative Briefing
- 3 p.m. - Capitol Visits

Individual registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 after March 5. For more information contact Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com.

Wednesday,
March 11

Register by
March 5
to Save

