

Winnebago County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Winnebago County:

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Tom Gustafson - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Local Students Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum



Winneconne FFA members were among the more than 160 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 20-21.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended workshops including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media,

advocating for agriculture, leadership and more. Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Kaitlyn Riley, WQOW multimedia journalist and 2014 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs and Gretchen Kamps, a beef farmer and Wisconsin Farm Bureau District 3 Coordinator.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 43rd year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

A Member Benefit the Whole Family Can Enjoy!

Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks ready!

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company are teaming up for a special Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Day at the ballparks of the eight Wisconsin Northwood's League teams.

"This will be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members to take part in a member event and enjoy America's favorite past time," said Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

From, May through August, there will be three Farm Bureau Member Appreciation games at each of the eight Wisconsin teams. This will be a special event for Farm Bureau members with deals on game tickets that will include a team hat, soda and a hot dog.

There also will be special recognition of Farm Bureau during the game as well as advertising in the program book and radio ads so support your local North-

wood's League team!

The Northwoods League teams in Wisconsin include Eau Claire Express, Lakeshore Chinooks, Madison Mallards, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Green Bay Bullfrogs, Kenosha Kingfish, La Crosse Loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafter.



"Nothing beats sitting in your favorite ballpark, watching your favorite team on a hot, sunny day, with a hot dog smothered with all the goods in one hand and an ice cold drink in the other," said Todd Argall, Vice President of Customer

Acquisition and Service with Rural Mutual Insurance. "We are looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark."

Tickets can be purchased by ordering from each team's website or by calling their ticket office. To receive the discounted price use the promotion code 'farmbureau'.

To see the list of Farm Bureau games, visit wbf.com/benefits-membership.



MAY 2015

COUNTYnews

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Winnebago County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day At the Capitol

Members of Winnebago County Farm Bureau, along with nearly 400 other farmers and members from various farm and commodity groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 11 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening to learn more about issues in agriculture as well as meeting with their state representatives.

Attendees listened to Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, attorney with Dewitt Ross & Stevens who

spoke to the group about high capacity wells and the UW System budget and Bob Welch, The Welch Group, Inc., who spoke about transportation.

In addition, the WFBF Government Relations team including Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed everyone about wolves, Implements of Husbandry and the proposed budget.

Following the briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to the Capitol to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to our agriculture industry.



Winnebago County Farm Bureau members (L-R) Charlie Knigge, Kevin Radloff, Jim Kasten, Randi Brooks and Stacy Freund posed with "I am WI Ag Proud" signs at Ag Day at the Capitol held March 11.



Winnebago County YFA members Charlie Knigge and Brittany Teske at the 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol.

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YFA Stompin' at the Shed Event a Success

The Winnebago County YFA committee organized a successful Stompin' at the Shed party on January 31 at Brighton Acres in Oshkosh. More than 215 people attended the event!

Thank you to the Winnebago YFA committee for their work in organizing the event including Charlie Knigge, Russ Kriha, Jade Buchholz, Neil Stone and Brittany Teske.

Also, thank you to the many area businesses that made the event possible.

The committee is already making plans for next year. If you having suggestions or want to get involved in the planning process, please contact Charlie Knigge at 920.379.3934.



Winnebago County Farm Bureau: 866.666.8015

wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/winnebago

President's Report



As the busiest time of year for many of us in the agricultural industry unfolds, I have a lot on my mind, a lot on my list of "it needs to be taken care of," a farmer's belief that this is "the year" and a little anxiety.

I bet most everyone reading my statement is thinking, me too!

Let's join forces and make this a great year for our farms, families and our organization. Here are a few suggestions for a successful year.

When we have a lot on our mind we must respect ourselves enough to take the time to think through the important tasks ahead of us. Find a place that you can let your mind wander and think about the next moves that you want to make.

Many farmers do their best thinking while driving tractor, I

do it while milking the cows. Remove distracting stimulation to give your mind a break. When you are not coming up with a solution on your own, look for resources to help you with a decision.

It seems that the "it needs to be taken care of now" pile is endless in all aspects of our lives. It can be stressful to try and prioritize when we have many important things to do. Most of us have family, farm and community in this pile, which leads to more complication and hurt feelings when others in our lives think we have not prioritized correctly.

I suggest that at different times each should be a priority for a truly successful life. Make sure it really belongs in this pile, ask for help when you can and remember a balanced life is important.

In agriculture optimism reigns supreme. We face many negatives as we go forward. Weather, markets, regulations, changing social views, overwhelming workloads and of course taxes!

The absolute best thing about agriculture, as a community, is when our expectations are not achieved, we get right back up

and face the horizon convinced next year is "the year." That makes agriculture admirable and forward thinking.

Lastly, anxiety is a tough one to deal with. It usually sneaks in and ruins a good party! If we have done all that we can to ensure success we should not need it, but there it is sitting at the head of the table. It is hard to ignore. Sometimes it can be harnessed and used to drive you to the finish line, sometimes you must look away and focus somewhere else for success. It is a tricky one!

As you read through this newsletter, I hope you can commit some time to help your community in the coming months. We have the "biggies" coming up including Breakfast on the Farm and the Winnebago County Fair Food Booth. Your help contributes to showing our important and special way of life.

I do hope this finds you with a clear mind, short "to-do" lists, upbeat attitude and a little time to offer the organization!

Agriculturally yours,
Jim Kasten
Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

Meet Your District YFA Reps: Amanda and Josh Knoch



Tell us about yourself including background, jobs, where you live, family and hobbies.

My name is Amanda Knoch and my husband's is Josh. We live just north of Westfield. I'm a farm insurance underwriter and my husband Josh works on our family's farm in northern Marquette County. We crop 1,300 acres and milk 300 cows. Josh and I have been married for two years and have a little farmer boy expected to make his appearance in June of 2015. Josh also is an emergency medical technician and fireman. During the summer, we enjoy gardening and canning.

How long have you been a Farm Bureau member?

Officially I have been a member of Farm Bureau for six years; however, unofficially I have been in Farm Bureau since birth because my parents were active members and so we were at the Farm Bureau events throughout the county.

Why did you first join Farm Bureau?

I first joined Farm Bureau because my brother was the county president and I wanted to attend a meeting to see what it was like on the adult level instead of just being the helper for the adult members.

Little did I know that I would be elected to the board that first night.

Why did you decide to apply to be the district 5 YFA chairs?

In June of 2014, Josh and I attended the Washington, D.C., fly-in and we saw a glimpse of the importance of Farm Bureau on the national level. This was a great experience for us as it opened our eyes to what we can do on a local and state level to help our nation level Farm Bureau succeed. This made me want to become more involved in Farm Bureau at the state level to bring the local, state and national levels closer.

What is one of your goals as the district YFA chair?

My goal as district chair is to work with counties to become active participants in the state competitions and to work to bring attention to District 5's YFA program.

What advice do you have for other YFA members that want to be more involved in Farm Bureau?

My advice for anyone interested in getting more involved is to contact your county YFA chair to learn about events, activities and opportunities that are hosted in our district or county. This will help you learn what you enjoy about Farm Bureau the most and continue to help build and improve the event, activity or opportunity.

Anything else you want readers to know?

I want to let others know that I look forward to working with them and I am excited to see all of the counties and their YFA programs flourish during the upcoming years. If any has any questions or concerns do not hesitate to give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to working with a great district!

District 5 Discussion Meet Scheduled for August 24

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, August 24**, at the Marquette County UW-Extension Building in Montello. The cost for the meal is **\$12**.

For more information, please contact District YFA Chair Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091.

Discussion Meet Questions for 2015

1. How should Farm Bureau protect and encourage producers' ability to use new technology? How can Farm Bureau work with government and the public to ensure public acceptance while encouraging innovation?

2. Should we draft policy to protect livestock producers from false accusations regarding animal welfare? What could it look like?

3. How do we balance agriculture's water needs with maintaining vibrant communities? How do historical water rights influence this discussion?

4. How do we get the public to support right-to-farm laws? Should these laws be determined on the state or the federal level?

5. How can we influence state and local policy that more effectively balances the social and economic interests of farmers and ranchers versus burdensome federal regulation?

The District 5 discussion meet question will be #5.



Welcome New Farm Bureau Members

Benjamin Lipinski
James Schuld
Ronald Banker
Thomas Ruck
Shelly Paulick
Samantha Kops
Joseph Rogers
Brian Marx
Todd Purdy

Jeff Thurk
Chad Shaw
Stephen Koeppel
Jamie Stobbe
Andrew Mentzel
Amber Wachowski
Heidi Norris
Justin Geise
Carol Neuser

Mitchell Kunde
Jacque Gibson
Megan Clark
Melanie Andrew
Diana Cram
Bruce Brazee
Herbert Berendsen

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products**
- Case IH
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Polaris (NEW)
 - Office Depot

- Communication**
- AgriVisor
 - The Country Today
- Insurance**
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
 - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel**
- AAA
 - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
 - 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.

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, Carol Ihde	920.809.4117
Director, Charlie Knigge	920.279.3934
Director, Russell 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

Come to the Winnebago County Fair!

The Winnebago County Fair will be August 4-9.

Once again, the Winnebago County Farm Bureau will operate a food stand; however, this year the committee will be making some major changes to the menu!

Make sure to check out the Farm Bureau food stand at the fair and be prepared to experience something new!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Russ Kriha at 608.436.4764.



Plan to Attend the Winnebago County June Dairy Breakfast

On June 13 is the Winnebago County Breakfast on the Farm. This year the host is Mike and Jane Pamer and family in Winneconne.

The breakfast has a revised menu that includes an egg omelet, sausage, pancakes, fruit salad, Wisconsin cheese, cheese curds, milk, chocolate milk and ice cream.

There will be music performed by Star Fire Family Band.

Other events include kid's games, educational displays, antique tractor display and modern day equipment and tractor display.



If you can volunteer on June 12 and 13, please contact Amy Zentner. This is a big event and we need all of the volunteers that we can get.

Thank you and hope to see you at Pamer Farms!

Winnebago County
**Dairy Breakfast
on the Farm**

**Saturday, June 13 2015
8 am to 12 pm**

Hosted by Pamer Farms
Mike, Jane, Justin, Breanna, and Mollie
Neighbors Feeding Neighbors

**PRICE: Adults: \$7
Children: \$3**

6619 County Road M, Winneconne, WI

County Annual Meeting Date Set

The Winnebago County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held October 8 at Wedgewood Supper Club in Omro.



Watch your mail for more details.

District Director Report



Why are you a member of Farm Bureau? Farm Bureau means many things to different people. This is important not only for your own success but in how you communicate with volunteer leaders and new members. Sustainability is key to any organization. Finding and keeping strategic people is an intricate part of the success of Farm Bureau.

Many people join because of our relationship with Rural Insurance or the member benefits that Farm Bureau offers. But others join and find success in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs and the leadership programs that Farm Bureau offers.

If you talk to members, they express the need for socialization. Many find meeting and networking with other like-minded people is important to their own leadership successes. Many members also understand the value of Farm Bureau being a collective voice for the members.

Wisconsin's largest ag organization means different things to everyone. As we work with volunteers or approach new members it is important to realize what drives them. We also need to communicate why we are members in order to build relationships and make county Farm Bureaus thrive.

Membership is key to a growing organization. I want to thank everyone who has asked someone to join Farm Bureau. It helps in your leadership and in the continual transition of a prosperous Farm Bureau. Keep up the good work!

Have a blessed and safe growing season!

Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Board Director

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

- August 24** District 5 Discussion Meet - Montello
- June 13** Winnebago County Dairy Breakfast - Mike and Jane Pamer's Farm, Winneconne
- August 4-9** Winnebago County Fair - Sunnyview Expo Center, Oshkosh
- October 8** Winnebago County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Wedgewood Supper Club, Omro