

Wood County Farm Bureau

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Kurt Johnson, District Manager - (608) 828-5734	

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

March 4-5

Madison Marriott West, Middleton





Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Agenda Highlights

Friday, March 4

9-10 a.m. Registration
10-10:30 a.m. AgVocate of the Year Award Presentation
10:30-11:30 a.m. Keynote Panel: Women In Ag: Understanding
Where We've Been and Where We're Heading;
Moderator: Amy Pflugshaupt, Anchor and
Reporter, NBC 15 Madison
1-4:30 Breakout Sessions
7:30-10 p.m. Casino Night

Saturday, March 5

6:30-7:30 a.m. Workout: Water aerobics or boxing and cardio
8:30-9 a.m. Meet the 2016 AgVocate of the Year
9-10 a.m. Breakout Sessions
10:15-11 a.m. Brunch
11 a.m. Closing Keynote by Jerry Apps: The Importance of
Writing Your Own Story
12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Register by **February 26**. For more information, visit wiagwomenssummit.com.

'All About Beef' App Has New Games

The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture released a new educational app, 'All About Beef,' funded in part by the Beef Checkoff.



App versions of 'The Steaks are High' and 'Grocery Grab' are STEM-based games funded by the Beef Checkoff Program and geared toward students in grades third through fifth.

The My American Farm games, including 'The Steaks are High' and 'Grocery Grab' are available on the iTunes store for iPhone and iPad, at Google Play for Android devices, on Amazon for the Kindle Fire and www.MyAmericanFarm.org.

The Beef Checkoff Program funded development of the game and supporting resources. The Beef Checkoff Program was established as part of the 1985 Farm Bill and assesses \$1 per head on the sale of live domestic and imported cattle, in addition to a comparable assessment on imported beef and beef products.

The My American Farm resource is a project of the Foundation and the site and resources are made possible through the generous support of title sponsor, DuPont Pioneer.

For more information and My American Farm resources, please visit www.MyAmericanFarm.org.



FEBRUARY 2016

COUNTYnews

WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

96th WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



On December 5-7, Farm Bureau members from across the state of Wisconsin gathered at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to take part in the 96th WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members took part in breakout sessions including a panel of county food stand chairs, Ag in the Classroom training and social media and advocacy training.

Delegates discussed and voted on hard-hitting issues for agriculture and passed the bylaw that changed the name of the Women's Committee to the Promotion and Education Committee.



2015 YFA Conference Wrap-Up



On December 4-6, more than 500 YFA members from across Wisconsin attended the YFA. This annual conference held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was a success.

YFA members took part in breakout sessions covering everything from the Peterson Farm Brothers to how to advocate for agriculture.

YFA members also competed in state-wide contests such as Excellence in Agriculture, Achievement Award and the Discussion Meet.



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Wood County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from around the state representing a variety of farm groups who wanted to learn more about state issues and meet with their legislators.

The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., are major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau include a variety of other dairy, beef, pork, horse, corn, soybean, cranberry, potato and vegetable groups.



Wood County Farm Bureau: 877.583.6897

wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/wood

Meet District 8 Promotions and Education Committee Chair: Lauren McCann



In December, Don Radke and Ashleigh Calaway met an energetic and passionate individual - Lauren McCann.

Lauren shared how she loved educating the public about where their food comes from and how important agriculture is. Don knew that he had found the right person to fill the district vacancy.

Lauren is originally from the Fort Atkinson area. She earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-River Falls and is working as a reproduction technician for North Star Cooperative/Select Sires.

Lauren is excited to build connections throughout the district as well as with area farms. Her excitement for what Farm Bureau has to offer is contagious.

If you are interested in getting involved in the Promotion and Education Committee, please contact Lauren at lauren.l.mccann@outlook.com or 920.728.4948.

Let's Talk Membership

The key to membership work is to go after potential members who you believe will leave a impact or help the organization make a difference for agriculture. Also, share the experiences that you have been through and what impact they had on you.

— Brad Weber

Membership is important because a healthy organization needs to maintain or increase its membership numbers. The keys to membership work are showing your passion for Farm Bureau. Also being prepared with information and knowing your perspective member as much as possible.

— Randy Wokatsch

2015 marked the last year of the long-standing Producer Club luncheon at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Just like those of us in agriculture continue to make changes to move with the times so does Farm Bureau.

On October 1, we kicked-off the new and improved Farm Bureau Proud Club along with the new district-wide membership incentives.

District-wide incentives still up for grabs:

I'll Get 2!

April 1: Take the 'I'll get 2' pledge and you are entered into a drawing for a \$50 Kwik Trip card and a \$50 Fleet Farm card (total \$100 prize).

**One entry for the first two members you sign and for every additional one after that. Starting now until April 1.*

5x5

May 5: Sign five members by May 5 and receive a Farm Bureau Proud jacket, that will be presented at your county Farm Bureau annual meeting and entry into the Farm Bureau Proud Club! Plus members of the 2016 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse or guest will receive exclusive recognition at the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

I'm a Rock Star

September 30: Sign five members between now and September 30 and you are entered into a drawing for a \$250 Visa gift card. Along with your entry into the Farm Bureau Proud Club.

**One entry for the first five memberships and then one entry for each membership after.*

For more membership information or if you want to go on a membership drive, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 866.355.7348 or acalaway@wfbf.com.



District 8 Producer Club members included: (L-R) Brad Weber, George Blomberg, Melissa Yates, Lyle Weden, Randy Wokatsch and Don Radtke, WFBF District 8 Director.

President's Message

Last month, a postcard was mailed to voting members highlighting the major issues facing agriculture in Wood County. I encourage you to get involved and make your voice heard.

As the Farm Bureau county board, we have worked on ways to address the issue. Ultimately our county supervisors and elected officials need to hear from you, our members, and those involved in agriculture.

I understand your time is valuable. Please take time to share what you are doing on your farm to preserve the land and care for your animals to help ensure your ability to farm tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Charlie Fox

Wood County Farm Bureau President

A 'How To' on Employee Management

In today's world, farmers have to manage people to get the job done. Managing people isn't easy, not to mention the rules to follow. There are human resources-related issues such as how to overcome communication barriers and tips for recruiting, hiring and training employees.

This seminar will equip attendees with a basic understanding of human resources and provide suggestions on how as an employer you can protect your interests and workforce.

When: Wednesday, February 24, 9:45 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: Country Aire Banquet Hall, F1312 County Road P, Stratford

Cost: Partners for Progressive Agriculture members: \$18 Class #64910; General rate: \$22 Class #64911

Agenda

9:45 a.m. - Registration with coffee available

10:15 a.m. - Welcome and introductions by sponsors

10:30 a.m. - Practical procedures for addressing employment issues

Kevin Terry and Dean Dietrich, Ruder Ware attorneys

Working with others is not always an easy thing. In a conversational format, Dean and Kevin will talk about the tools and knowledge you need to protect yourself from employment claims. Using examples they will show you how to ensure that you are properly addressing the issues that arise when dealing with employees. At the end of this conversation you will better understand the basics of employment law so that you can manage your employees and avoid liability of missteps.

12 p.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. - Worker's compensation basics for the farm

Russ Wilson, Ruder Ware attorney

Worker's compensation is part of the safety net for employers in the industrial age. Farmers get a break in the manner in which 'employer' is defined and in which 'employees' are counted, but protection in the form of a worker's compensation policy is critical where there is doubt. This presentation will not only define those terms and apply them to the agriculture industry but will discuss the merits of carrying worker's compensation insurance.

1 p.m. - Panel discussion

Kevin Terry, Dean Dietrich and Sara Ackermann, Ruder Ware attorneys, Heather Schlessler, UW-Extension and area farm leaders

Have you ever wondered how you should have handled a certain situation? Could it have been handled differently? Are there any potential legal ramifications that you need to worry about? During this panel discussion you get the opportunity to ask local farm employers and lawyers how a situation should have been handled. Get your 'what if' questions answered.

For more information, questions or to register, please contact 715.675.3331 or visit goo.gl/forms/TMWeaM2J9R.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto
• General Motors Discount
Health
• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
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Supplies and Products
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• Caterpillar
• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
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• 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.

Preparing for National Agriculture Day



March 15 is National Ag Day, a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber and renewable resources produced in the U.S. The National Ag Day program

a daily basis and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather to promote American agriculture. This effort helps teach millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in—or had relatives or friends involved in—agricultural-related endeavors.

Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that we join together at the community level...our voices, in concert, become a shout that carries our message a great deal further than any one of us can do alone! We are pleased that you have joined this effort to promote American agriculture.

Download more helpful tools at www.agday.org! You'll find:

- Talking points about the importance of agriculture.
- Ag Day logos.
- Sample presentation speech.
- Press release (to download and modify for your event).
- PSAs (to download and modify for your event).
- Print advertisements.

For more information, please visit wfbf.com/programmevents/nationalagday.



believes that every American should:

- Understand how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, fiber and renewable resource industries.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on

Heifers: The Next Generation to be Held in Abbotsford

When: March 3, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: Abbotsford City Hall, 203 E. Birch Street, Abbotsford

Cost: \$15 per person or \$25 for two from same farm or company, lunch included

Schedule:

10-10:30 a.m. - Changes to Farm Antibiotic Use, Sandy Stuttgen, DVM, UW-Extension Taylor County

10:30-11 a.m. - Successful Breeding Starts with Nutrition, Heather Schlessler, Ph.D., UW-Extension Marathon County

11-12:30 p.m. - Cleanliness is Important to Calves, Sarah Mills-Lloyd, DVM, UW-Extension Oconto County

12:30-1 p.m. - Lunch

1-2:30 p.m. - Practical Farm Cleaning/Sanitation, Don Sockett, DVM, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

2:30 p.m. - Wrap up

Registration with payment required by **February 23**. We reserve the right to cancel this workshop due to insufficient enrollment, refunding those who have registered.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment calculator:

• \$15 (1 or 3+) x _____ attendees = \$ _____ due

• \$25 (2 attendees same farm/company) = \$ 25 due

Make checks payable to Taylor County UW-Extension and mail to: Taylor County UW-Extension, 925 Donald Street, Room 103, Medford, WI 54451.

For more information, please contact Sandy Stuttgen at 715.748.3327.

Wood County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Charles Fox	715.569.4781
Vice President, Josh Calaway	715.781.1220
Vice President, Dale Denk	715.652.2143
Secretary/Treasurer, Loren Scheuneman	715.569.4455
Women's Chair, Kaitlin Hartkopf	763.268.9722
YFA Chair, Brad Weber	715.676.2476

Director, Jason Behrend	715.451.2291
Director, Clarence Boerboom	715.305.4934
Director, Leslie Ertl	715.305.2386
Director, Cindy Hardy	715.305.3836
Director, Dustin Huser	715.213.7693
Director, Raphael Maciejewski	715.435.3745

Wood County Farm Bureau	877.583.6897
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.539.2892
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

Wood County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

Scholarship guidelines:

1. An applicant must hold a current Farm Bureau membership, or have parent or legal guardian that is a current member to receive a scholarship.
2. The applicant or their parent or legal guardian must be a member of Farm Bureau as of April 30 of the year prior to applying for the scholarship.
3. A total of \$2,000 will be divided among two to four applicants at the discretion of the scholarship committee, with no more than \$500 awarded to one applicant.
4. The application must be complete, including a reference, letter of recommendation and essay in order to be eligible.
5. In case the recipient does not enroll the scholarship may be awarded to an alternate.
6. Payment of scholarship award will be made by the Wood County Farm Bureau upon receiving tuition receipt.
7. Recipients will be notified by **April 15**.
8. The applicant is strongly encouraged to volunteer in the Wood County Farm Bureau ice cream stand at the Central Wisconsin State Fair.
9. The applicant is required to write a 300- to 500-word essay on 'The Value of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.'

Applications are due to the scholarship committee chair by **April 1**. Applications are available from the Wood County Farm Bureau wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/wood. Return completed application to:

Loren Scheunemann – Scholarship Committee Chair
5618 Grant Road
Vesper, WI 54489

For questions, please contact Loren Scheunemann at 715.569.4455. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Each year Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools programs, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations. The 2015-2016 topic is 'Tell us about making maple syrup in Wisconsin.' Wood County contest entries are due by **April 1**.



For more information about Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, please visit www.wisagclassroom.org or call 608.828.5644.