

Wood County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Expedition to Expo

On October 8, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members from District 5 and 8 traveled to the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison.

YFA members spent the day exploring the trade show and watching one of the largest dairy cattle shows in the world.

A highlight of the day was the crowning of the Junior and International Show Supreme Champion dairy cows. Which turned out to be extremely special for one YFA member who got to see her family's International Guernsey Show Grand Champion walk the gold shavings of the International Supreme Champion on Saturday.



Thank you to the generous sponsors of the day United FCS, American Wood Fibers, VitaPlus and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Plans for a return trip to the 51st World Dairy Expo are underway. Watch for details in 2017.

District 8 Discussion Meet



Contestants included: (L-R) Will Litzer, Marathon County; Josh Huber, Marathon County; Katie Zoromoski, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; Lauren McCann, Wood County; and Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County. Josh, Lauren and Ryan will represent District 9 at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December. Ryan placed in the final four at the 2015 state Discussion Meet.

Welcome Wood County Farm Bureau New Members

The Hemlock Group LLC, Brings Cycling and Fitness, Eric Anderson, Lane Baasch, Darien Becker, Patricia Bennington, Laura Breu, Chase Brockman, Philip Brown, John Crump, Michael Duckett, Mitch Gehrke, Joel Hamilton, Tracy Harding, Debora Hatala, Justin Herman, Trae Hilgart, Luke Karl, Brian Kulinski, Evan Kulinski, Misty Manke, Robert Parks, Janel Rottscheit, Kelsey Ruggles, Mark Rusch, Amy Scheide, Eric Siler, Chris Stauner, Justine Welch, James Zimmerman and Wayne Zimmerman.

Welcome to Farm Bureau



COUNTYnews

WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Wood County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap Up

Did you know that once a year Wood County Farm Bureau hosts an annual meeting for its members. This year was no exception, more than 50 members throughout the county gathered in September to celebrate the county's accomplishments.

This once-a-year gathering also is a time for members to elect new directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organization.



Promotions and Education chair Kaitlin Hartkopf and Pat Fox greeted guests.



Director of Leadership and Training Wendy Kannel shared ways that you can be involved with Farm Bureau.

Portage County and Wood County Co-Host Focus on Farming



Focus on Farming 2016

Farm Bureau member Brad Kramer talked to Senator Julie Lassa.

In August, the Portage County and Wood County Farm Bureaus hosted their first Focus on Farming event. It offered elected officials a chance to meet farmers and hear first-hand how the decisions they make impact farmers.

With more people being multiple generations removed from the farm it is more critical to offer connections like this to elected officials. Attendees took a tour of three farms. They started their tour at Hillcrest Farms, home of Brad and Nicci Kramer and family. The Kramers grow crops in three counties and milk 200 cows.

The Kramer family welcomed the chance to show how they care for their cattle. They also showed how they manage manure and explained how their farming practices vary depending on the landscape. Brad shared what he is doing to ensure that their sons have an opportunity to carry on farming at Hillcrest Farms.

The next tour stop was Eron's Event Barn, home of John and



Melissa Eron and family. They are crop farmers on the Wood and Portage County line. John also is a member of the farmer-led watershed subcommittee of The Friends of Mill Creek Watershed.

John discussed what the farmer-led watershed group is doing to help improve water quality and quantity, along with pollination, and ways that they are trying to improve the environment for generations to come.

The last tour was of the Feltz Family Farms, home of Ken and Jackie Feltz and family. They are a growing and dynamic family farm. The Feltz family has embraced technology that allows them the opportunity to be better stewards of the land and animals.

Ken discussed what they are doing on their farm in regards to water quantity and quality, manure handling and what it is like to farm in the central sands area. The Feltz family milk 580 cows with plans to increase their herd by 100 more cows within the next few months.



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Four Ways You Can FUN'd the Foundation at the WFBF Annual Meeting

Did you know at the WFBF Annual meeting there will be multiple opportunities to win awesome prizes and support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation?

- 1. Silent auction:** We are soliciting for and receiving items for the silent auction. The auction will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday and will end at 5 p.m. on Sunday. For donation forms, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction.
- 2. 50/50 raffle:** The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee will be selling 50/50 raffle tickets but it will have a different format. They will hold two different 50/50 raffles. The first will be from Friday evening through the beginning of the general session on Saturday morning. The other will be from Saturday afternoon through the general session on Sunday morning. *The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee also will be having a corn hole tournament during the Friday evening entertainment.

- 3. Trivia contest:** The trivia contest will again be held on Saturday evening following the Farm Bureau Extravaganza. There will be three rounds of 25 questions and a 15-minute time limit for each round. To participate: Form a team of six people, and submit the registration fee of \$10 per person or \$60 per team. Registration can be mailed in through **November 25** and on-site registration will take place on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Space is limited to 35 teams so register early. Registration forms are posted at wfbf.com/programsevents/event-registration.

What does the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation do?

Supporting agricultural education programs and developing agricultural leaders is the guiding principle of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Foundation.

We couldn't do it without members like you.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Younger Farmer and Agriculturist program
- Promotion and Education Program
- WFBF Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

Besides funding the Farm Bureau programs listed, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation supports 4-H and FFA activities, scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin, Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Deadline is April 1



Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in the Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, "Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar,

spelling and neatness. Contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are at wisagclassroom.org. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1**.

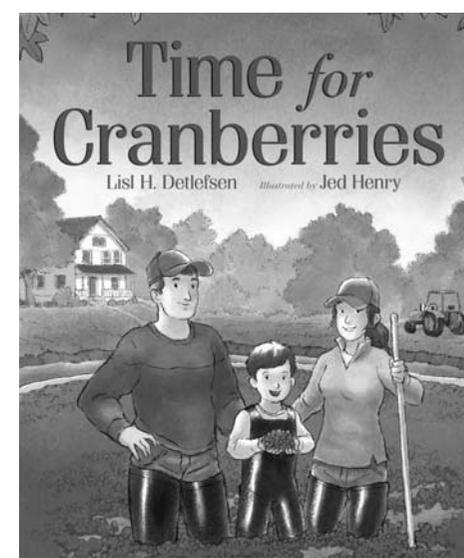
The essay contest coincides with the Ag in the Classroom 2017 Book of the Year, *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic allows students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will be forwarded to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Promotion and Education Committee. As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation.

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest. The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the WFBF in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with a grant from DATCP.

For essay contest information and rules, and more about Ag in the Classroom, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.



American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Focusses on Ag Literacy



Agricultural literacy is knowledge: "We believe everyone should have an understanding of where their food comes from."

The Foundation has taken steps to define 'agriculturally literate.' An agriculturally literate person understands the relationship between agriculture and environment, food, fiber and energy, animals, lifestyle, the economy and technology. These are the AFBFA's Pillars of ag literacy.

Agricultural literacy can be cultivated in any person, no matter the age or experience. Helping others understand the important role agriculture plays in their everyday lives is our goal. We work towards this by being a credible source for agricultural literacy information. Our materials and programs are designed not only to reflect reliable information, but also to meet today's standards of learning.

AFBFA has continued efforts to produce outstanding educational materials, create accurate resources and provide opportunities to tell the story. They are working toward making more of their materials free to educators and volunteers.

Thank you for wanting to get involved in helping others learn more about where their food comes from, how farmers

and ranchers steward the land, how agriculture is everywhere, and how farmers and ranchers feed the world. These are crucial pieces in creating ag literacy.



Here are some ideas:

- **Volunteer:** In a school, summer camp, fair or after school program. Use any of the ag literacy resources including My American Farm, Food and Science Day Camp or select an ag book to help make your presentations effective.
- **Tell your story:** Blog, post, tweet! Share information with the others who may not have a farm background so they can understand what you are doing on a farm.
- **Promote ag literacy:** Help spread the word about ag literacy and the AFBFA's resources by talking to teachers, volunteers, posting about them online or displaying banners at a fair.
- **Contact:** A local Farm Bureau or Ag in the Classroom coordinator to see if they have volunteer opportunities.
- **Stay connected:** Sign up for the AFBFA newsletter to get the latest information on programs.

For more information or to access resources, visit www.afbfoundation.org.

Forget the Phone in Construction Zones



As of **October 1**, it is illegal to talk on a handheld mobile device while driving in a Wisconsin road work zone when road workers are present. This applies to all roads of the state and also applies to farmers driving implements of husbandry and agricultural commercial motor vehicles (Ag-CMVs).

The only exception to this law is that a call can be made to report an emergency to 911.

The law does not apply to the use of a voice-operated or hands-free device if the driver does not use his or her hands to operate the device, except to activate or deactivate a feature or function of the device.

Reminder for those driving Ag-CMVs, the use of a hand-held mobile phone is prohibited at all times when used in the following manners:

1. Using at least one hand to hold a mobile phone.
2. Dialing or answering a mobile phone by pressing more than a single button.
3. Reaching for a mobile phone that requires the driver to maneuver so that he or she is no longer in a seated driving position.

Read more about our Transportation Tidbits initiative at: <http://bit.ly/TransportationTidbit>.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto

- General Motors Discount

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Polaris
- 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
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

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

Wood County Farm Bureau Members Develop Grassroots Policy

Below is the list of resolutions that the Wood County Board of Directors presented at the annual meeting on September 15. All resolutions passed and will make their way to the state Policy Development Committee., which is made up of volunteers from around the state. Last year the committee reviewed close to 500 resolutions that were submitted.

If you have questions, concerns or maybe you believe that there is another issue that needs to be dealt with, then be sure to make your voice heard by contacting your county board members.

State

1. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
2. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and fines across the state for farms that intentionally and willfully allow manure to enter waterways or wetlands and do not follow nutrient management plans.
3. We support a hunting season on cougars in the state of Wisconsin.
4. We are in favor of farmers cooperating with point sources such as municipalities and industrial waste providing farmers are not held liable for non-point sources out of their control.
5. We support a cap on the maximum fines to farmers by government agencies for potential environmental impacts.
6. We support a hunting season on sandhill cranes with ag tags available in problem areas.
7. We support DATCP to be required to repeal atrazine prohibition if three consecutive groundwater samples taken at intervals of at least six months show that the concentration of atrazine and its metabolites is below 50 percent of the enforcement. If there are other wells in the area, they are to be tested to verify that the concentration of atrazine and its

metabolites also do not exceed 50 percent of the enforcement standard.

8. We are opposed to stricter county regulations on manure handling than what the current state regulations are.
9. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles that transport people to have a reflective slow moving vehicle sign and legal lighting on public roads.
10. We support requiring all shod horses to wear rubber shoes when traveling paved roads.
11. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles that transport people to pay a registration fee to aid in the transportation budget.
12. We support more equal distribution of state road funds to rural areas.
13. We support all school busses flashing both amber and red lights 200 feet prior to a stop.
14. We support the aquaculture industry.

Federal

1. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list.
2. We oppose the EPA WOTUS
3. We encourage the EPA and American Farm Bureau Federation to meet to work out disagreements with WOTUS.
4. We support legislation to allow miscellaneous day labor, up to \$1000.00 without filing a W-4 form.
5. We oppose any requirement for a farmer to have a veterinarian administer all common animal health husbandry practices.
6. We oppose the EPA proposal to ban atrazine.

Internal Resolution

7. We encourage Wisconsin Farm Bureau to work jointly with commodity organizations for lobbying efforts to represent agriculture.

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Wood County Farm Bureau 877.583.6897
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Wood County Farm Bureau Elects New Executive Officer Team

At the October board meeting, the Wood County Farm Bureau board of directors elected a new officer team.

President: Charlie Fox

First vice president: Josh Calaway

Second vice president: Jason Behrend

Secretary- treasurer: Loren Scheunemann

Director-at-large: Dale Denk

Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair: Nate Huser

Dairy in the Classroom with Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

Did you know that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Dairy Farm Families of Wisconsin offer special opportunities for Wisconsin schools?

The Wisconsin Dairy Council (WDC), the school nutrition education division of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, works with Wisconsin's K-12 schools to offer free dairy and agriculture resources for Wisconsin classrooms.

The WDC has a wide variety of programs designed for kindergarten through high school that help students understand how dairy helps grow their bodies and drives Wisconsin's economy.

Each lesson is presented by WDC staff and features interactive presentations, a dairy snack and great support materials for teachers and students. Plus each lesson meets several of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for a variety of subjects including social studies, health, nutrition, science and agriculture, food and natural resources.

All presentations are free to Wisconsin schools. These lessons are a great compliment to your county's Ag in the Classroom program.

For more information, please contact regional program manager for Wisconsin Dairy Council Beth Schaefer at bschaefer@wmmb.org or visit www.wisconsinmilkmarketingboard.com.



WISCONSIN MILK MARKETING BOARD
 WISCONSIN DAIRY PRODUCERS

Tradition
 WFBF Annual Meeting & YFA Conference
 December 2-5, 2016