

Green County Farm Bureau

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Kurt Johnson - District Manager
(608) 828-5734

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



We invite you to come celebrate our Green County Farm Bureau year and take part in our annual business meeting . . .

Green County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Tuesday September 27

The Green County Farm Bureau is proud to welcome Pam Jahnke, aka The Fabulous Farm Babe, as the guest speaker for the annual meeting. Pam brings years of wit, knowledge, a 'get er done' attitude and a background of agricultural second to none.

Voting members will decide on policy resolutions and delegates who will represent the Green County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting. We also will vote for new board directors.

Join us for this epic evening filled with local flavor as Jeff Ditzenberger will be dropping the gavel for the last time after 13 years as president.

Time & Cost

- 6:30 p.m. Registration and meal
- 7:30 p.m. Meeting
- \$10 at the door

Location

Ludlow Mansion
1421 Mansion Drive
Monroe, WI 53566

RSVP

By **September 20** to
gcfbrsvp@gmail.com or
608.325.4052.

WANTED Board Members & Voting Delegates Nominations Open

Calling those interested in becoming a board member or being selected as a voting delegate.

Board member expectations include attendance at a monthly meeting and assistance in leading committee work. Green County is looking to fill four board positions at the **September 27** Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Voting delegate expectations include attendance at policy development meetings and vote as a Green County Farm Bureau delegate on Monday, December 5, of the WFBF Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

If you are interested, please contact president Jeff Ditzenberger by **Tuesday, September 20.**



COUNTYnews

GREEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Green County Farm Bureau Hosts Ag Open By Ken Schlapbach



And they were off to start a beautiful day on the golf course.

The annual Green County Ag Open was at the Edelweiss Country Club on June 17. We had 36 golfers since a few groups cancelled due to haying and other obligations. The weather was very nice, with clear skies and temperatures in the mid 80s.

When the golfing was completed, lunch was served including brats, burgers, potato salad, chips and baked beans. After the meal, Justin Munson led the group discussion on the Farm Bureau resolutions. There was good participation from the attendees. Door prizes followed.

About \$2,900 was raised for Green County youth programs. Plans are underway for another outing again next year, possibly in August in hopes of better attendance.

Rich Gordee was so close with this shot.



Rich Gordee was so close with this shot.



Green County Farm Bureau board member Ben Huber.



Vice president Alissa Grenawalt and president Jeff Ditzenberger enjoyed the day.



Justin Monson lead the discussion for Policy Development after the Green County Ag Open.

Essay Contest Winners Announced By Carmen Montgomery

Green County fourth and fifth grade students were invited to participate in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. There were more than 91 entries for this year's contest that focused on the theme 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'



Katie Brooks read her essay during the breakfast on the farm.

Winners included:

- **First place:** Katie Brooks, fourth grade student in the Juda School District.
- **Second place:** Kaylie Bruggeman, fifth grade student at Northside Elementary School in Monroe.
- **Third place:** Hayden Jackson, fourth grade student at Northside Elementary School in Monroe.

On May 28, the winners read their

essays at the Green County breakfast on the farm at the Twayne View Farm in Blanchardville. They were also recognized with a plaque sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance agent Craig Kamholz, JBM Insurance Group. They also were presented with Farm Bureau's book of the year *Sugarbush Springs* by Marsha Wilson Chall and illustrated by Jim Daly.

In addition to the three winners, the Ag in the Classroom committee sponsored an incentive to the classroom teachers who had a student with a winning essay, which included money for them to purchase supplies for their classrooms.



Back row: (L-R) Carmen Montgomery, essay contest coordinator; Craig Kamholz, JBM Insurance Group; front row: (L-R) Hayden Jackson, Katie Brooks and Kaylie Bruggeman.

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Join Us at Leatherberry Acres for the District 2 Corn Maze



When: Sunday, October 23, meet at 2 p.m. The maze takes two hours to complete.

Where: Leatherberry Acres, S4067 County Road A, Baraboo.

Cost: Adults \$10, kid friendly event, pricing tiered by age; pumpkin included with paid admission.

Bring your family and have fun with friends from District 2! Fourteen-acre corn maze, pumpkin patch, wagon rides and yummy eats and treats.

For more information, visit www.leatherberryacres.com. Please RSVP to District 2 YFA Representative Alison Kepner at 608.354.9232 or alison.kepner@badgerlandfinancial.com.

A Message from the President...



It just hit me that this is my last president's letter as Green County Farm Bureau president.

Earlier in the year when I announced that I was going to retire and step down, in my mind, I already knew what it would look like when I left and what I would say with my final words as I left.

I had visions of grandeur and a red ticker tape parade and the paparazzi and red carpet and Joe Montana delivering my 'see you later' speech. Ok, I'm kidding, but that would have been pretty cool.

I came into this organization a little known name, green and wet behind the ears and I was elected during the annual meeting at the VFW while a train from the ethanol plant tooted its horn. We've always joked since that I was railroaded into this. I also had a lot more hair; it was also brown with no gray highlights. And, I was 40 pounds lighter, which I am glad to say I weigh less now than when I was elected, but it wasn't for lack of amazing food at every Farm Bureau related event I went to.

But, I am glad I was 'railroaded' because this has been one of the greatest things to ever happen to me, next to the birth of my children. This turned into a family, a support network that picks you up, encourages you and lets you know when you're not doing things exactly right, but in an encouraging way.

They say that whatever you do in life, do with your everything. I've always wondered if that was the same for making

mistakes, because I seem to excel at those, too. And that's ok. Gramps always said, "If you don't mess up ever, you haven't ever tried."

When I was given the 'helm' of this ship, I told myself I was going to do my best to educate myself and to surround myself with amazing people.

I've seen a lot of changes during my tenure with this organization. I have worn out four district coordinators (was working on my fifth but she is a crafty one), two district directors, three state CEOs, a state president and eight board members.

I have watched our board get younger, and honestly, a lot prettier and smarter with us now being split almost even with the ratio of men to women. I also have seen our board get smarter, more diverse with ag business people as well as knowledgeable farmers. I have seen our membership rise every year and I have seen the involvement of Green County Farm Bureau be one of the best in the state in my opinion.

We have a radio spot, a newsletter and an amazing golf outing. We increased annual meeting attendance from 30 to more than 100. We have gone from one meeting area, to multiple meeting areas, involving local businesses, which led us to be the first county to have local discounts for Green County Farm Bureau members.

We sponsor the Green County Fair, Master Showman contest and other county and state events. We are financially sound and we are making contributions to improve our community.

I can't take credit for this though. I have told people that I model my leadership style to that of Ronald Reagan. I can

give a good speech and do great public relations. I know how to pick a team and let them pick more members, and they make me look good.

I am proud of this board and that is not a secret. They are the heart and soul and backbone of this organization because they aren't afraid to work, to take chances, to get their hands dirty and to continue to fail until they succeed. They have more heart and compassion and drive than I could ever hope for and I thank them for putting up with me. Some of them the entire time I was president. I am sure that they all deserve sainthood.

I have many emotions and words going through my mind that I can't even describe it. So I will leave you with this: In life, believe in yourself and believe in others, praise openly those who deserve it and encourage those who need it, take chances, love your family and friends, laugh when you want, and cry when you need to, take every opportunity given to you, give credit where credit is due, admit when you are wrong, listen to differing opinions and respect them, don't ever sacrifice your integrity, and live your life in a way that when your time is done, you can smile and say, "I have no regrets."

It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president these past years and I look forward to seeing you at the remaining community activities this year and the years to come. I will be the guy enjoying the events, not looking quite as frazzled.

God bless you and keep you safe.

Jeff Ditzenberger

Green County Farm Bureau President

Young Farmers and Agriculturists Visit Capitol Hill



Green County Farm Bureau members Aimee and Dustin Williams participated in the Washington, D.C., fly-in with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members on June 6-10.

The group met with groups learning about agricultural issues and seeing the sights and sounds of our nation's capital. Many memo-

ries were made catching up with friends and making new ones.

The first two days consisted of briefings at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, New Zealand Embassy and the American Farm Bureau headquarters.

During discussions, participants learned more about the Dairy Margin Protection Program, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, broadband access, Trans-Pacific Partnership, agricultural labor issues and GMO labeling.

"It was a great opportunity to hear the real agricultural issues from the people that work so hard every day in Washington, D.C., to defend our right to farm and to protect the entrepreneurial spirit of the American farmer," said Dustin Williams.



The next day, attendees organized into small groups to visit with their respective congressmen and women. The group also met with Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin. Each spent a significant amount of time with the group.

"Although, not every legislator was accepting of the ideas that we presented in our small group meetings, it was still important for us to be there," said Williams. "Because if we weren't there, they might think that we don't really care. It was the most important part of the trip."

The remaining portion of the trip was spent sightseeing. The group traveled to the Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln Monuments.

We also were reminded of the sacrifice of so many at Arlington



National Cemetery and the World War II, Vietnam and Korean War memorials. Time was spent at the Air and Space, American History and the Natural History Museums.

We also toured the Supreme Court and the National Archives. And we even attended a ghost tour of Capitol Hill.

The final part of the journey was to George Washington's Mount Vernon farmstead. It was a significant stop and very important for the group to recognize the significance of President Washington's passion for agriculture and his vision that someday we would be a country, self-sufficient and without worry of where our next meal may come from.

George Washington said, "I know of no pursuit in which more real and important services can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture."

"This was an excellent trip and I encourage other young farmer and agriculturalist members to become involved in the Farm Bureau organization," said Dusty. "Apply for the Excellence in Ag award, or the Ag Achievement award, or participate in the discussion meet or institute class. There is something for everyone and so much opportunity just sitting there waiting to be used."

Aimee agreed and added, "Consider getting involved, it's been a great opportunity for me to travel and learn more about the agriculture industry."



District 2 Director Report



Hello again! I hope that you are having a good summer.

I had the pleasure to participate in many agricultural events these past few months. One of my favorite summer activities is going to county fairs.

I enjoy working in the Farm Bureau food stands and I like supporting the 4-H and FFA exhibitors. It's so important that youth learn responsibility, work ethic, dedication, leadership and the other qualities they learn from these experiences.

I am proud that Farm Bureau and you, our members support them. 4-H and FFA represent two things that we strongly believe in: youth and agriculture.

It won't be long and county annual meeting season will be here. I encourage you to attend yours. Annual meetings are a showcase of what the organization has been involved in. You may learn about things that interest you. Also, it's important to be involved in the resolution process, and the election of your delegates and directors. More information about your annual meeting can be found in this newsletter.

Hope to see you soon!
Arch Morton, Jr.
 WFBF District 2 Director

Farm Bureau to Host Family Farm Adventure at Green County Cheese Days



The Green County Family Farm Adventure will make its return to Cheese Days for its 102nd anniversary on **September 16-18** in Monroe's historic square showcasing the rich agriculture heritage

in Green County as well as in Wisconsin.

Sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau, the Family Farm Adventure includes educational and hands-on stations designed to help educate festival attendees about agriculture in a fun and hands-on format.

Visitors will see how they measure up to farm animals, learn breeds of dairy cattle and what they eat, test their dairy knowledge to win fabulous prizes. Also back by popular demand, youth and adults can show off their 'Milk Moo-Stache' by taking their own 'selfie' and posting it on the Green County Farm Bureau Facebook page. As always, there will be a lot to do and learn about Green County and Wisconsin Agriculture.

Green County Farm Bureau was awarded grant money from the 2007 Green County Farm Technology Days to aid in developing the Family Farm Adventure into a mobile educational

display that can be used at future agriculture based events and for years to come.

The Family Farm Adventure will be open during Cheese Days weekend.

For more information, please contact Green County Farm Bureau president Jeff Ditzenberger at 608.214.9137 or vice president Alissa Grenawalt at agrenawalt@wisc.edu.

You also can visit the Green County Cheese Days website at www.cheesedays.com and 'like' Green County Farm Bureau to see photos from the event and other activities we do each year.



Farm Bureau 5K Run/Walk Successful

By **Andrea Brossard**, District 2 Promotion and Education Representative

The fourth annual Dane County Farm Bureau Fueled by Farmers 5K Run/Walk was on June 11 at the Roger Rebout and Sons dairy farm in Janesville, during the Rock County Dairy Breakfast.



There were 25 runners and walkers who participated in the 5K featuring country air and scenic views.

Donations from registration fees were made to the Susan G. Komen Madison chapter to contribute to breast cancer research, the WFB Foundation to support Ag in the Classroom activities and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program and Promotion and Education program.

After the run/walk, participants were encouraged to stay for the breakfast. Thank you to the sponsors: District 2 County Farm Bureaus (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk), Kwik Trip, RaceWire.com, Amazing Grace Family Farm (Chris Blakeney), Janesville Athletic Club, Sentry, Arch Morton, Jr., and Keith Engel.

Welcome NEW Members

Argyle Adams Fire Department, Paula Bahler, Shauna Bergemann, Neal Boeke, Daniel Crandall, Wendy Crum, Kevin Donahue, Aaron Duecker, Timothy Feller, Taylor Jackson, Robin Jerdee, Randy Kesler, Gabrielle Lindsay, Caleb Matzke, Dylan Mc Cullick, John Meier, Roger Nonn, Gary Peterson, Jodie Pflingsten, Logan Phillips, Ty Powell, Bret Riese, Jonathon Steiner, Judith Thompson and Taylor Vincent.

Tour of Empire Media Group

Before their May meeting at Bullets in Monroe, the Green County Farm Bureau board members toured Empire Media Group.



Empire Media Group was formed in 2011 on the promise of bringing world-class marketing products and services to the businesses and organizations of Green County and beyond.

Green County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jeff Ditzenberger	608.214.9137
Vice President, Alissa Grenawalt	608.921.1847
Secretary/Treasurer, Carmen Montgomery	608.293.2905
Ag Promotions Chair, Alissa Grenawalt	608.921.1847
Co-YFA Chair, Justin Monson	608.558.3807
Co-YFA Chair, Sarah Sacker	608.214.1650

Director, Devan Brugger	608.558.2646
Director, John Dieckhoff	608.897.3637
Director, Ben Huber	608.323.0061
Director, Kelsi Mayer	608.290.5855
Director, Ken Schlapbach	608.293.0361
Director, Cal Wasserstrass	608.293.1346
Director, Dustin Williams	608.391.0238

Green County Farm Bureau	877.483.5481
WFBF Board Director, Arch Morton, Jr.	608.931.0558
District 2 Coordinator, Amy Blakeney	866.355.7342
RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson	608.828.5734

Board Tours Minhas Brewery

By **Ben Huber**

Every month the Green County Farm Bureau rotates monthly board meeting sites by visiting Green County businesses to show support for the local community.



In June, we visited Minhas Brewery in Monroe. The brewery is a tremendous asset to Green County, providing job opportunities and quality products to consumers and farmers. Some area farmers use brewery by-products from Minhas in their daily rations.

The newly renovated visitor's center at Minhas is a great site for an after-hours meeting, and the tour was one of the best. Minhas offers a regular tour schedule, and is a great place to spend an afternoon learning about the rich history of the Minhas Brewery and the Monroe community.

For more information, please visit minhasbrewery.com or contact 608.325.3191.



District 2 Discussion Meet

Thursday, August 25

5:30 pm Registration
 6:00 pm Presentation
 7:00 pm Discussion

**Badgerland Financial
 Sun Prairie**

Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food.

For more information contact District 2 YFA Rep.
 Alison Kepner at 608.354.9232 or
alison.kepner@badgerlandfinancial.com or District 2
 Coordinator Amy Blakeney at 866.355.7342 or
ablakeney@wfbf.com