



Marquette County Farm Bureau

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Tim Retzlaff (608) 297-2120

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



Marquette and Green Lake County YFA members met on February 11 at Brantley's Bowlarama in Green Lake. If you want to get more involved in the county YFA program and be notified of upcoming events, please contact county chair Kalie Christensen at 920.765.3048.

Be Farm Bureau Proud

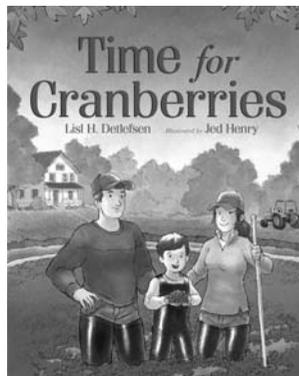
Take advantage of every opportunity you have to invite your friends and neighbors to join the Farm Bureau. As a thank you for membership workers, there are many incentives for signing up new Farm Bureau members:

- **\$20** for each new member signed.
- **2x4:** Sign up two new members by **April 1** and you will be awarded with Farm Bureau work gloves.
- **5x5:** Sign up five new members by **May 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest.
- **8x8:** Sign up eight new members by **August 1** and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau farm sign.



For more information on membership, contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445.

Agriculture Essay Contest Deadline is April 1



ing 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. All 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 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2017 book of the year, "Time for Cranberries" by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. The book and essay topic will allow students to learn about cranberries and the important role they play in agriculture.

One county winner will be selected and will be

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are being encouraged to participate in the Wisconsin Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin dur-

forwarded on 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 WFB Foundation.



Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

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



COUNTYnews

MARQUETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Marquette County Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy at WFBF Annual Meeting

Tradition

Delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 97th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 5.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2017. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Recognizing the importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates opposed any type of blanket regulation that would encompass the entire state because of the variations in karst types throughout Wisconsin. Regulations should be specific to the unique areas affected.

Delegates displayed frustration with the current federal Dairy Margin Protection Program. After considerable in-depth discussion, they concluded the need for an improved program leading up to the farm bill of 2018.

Delegates supported an increase in the overall appropriation for the broadband grant program. They supported improving and upgrading the strength and reliability of coverage to enable efficient use of technology in farming practices in rural areas.

Delegates supported disclosure of wolf incidents on farms in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The public information should be located on the DNR website, establishing warning areas when wolf packs are involved and providing instant email notification of all incidents.

In regards to livestock and animal welfare, delegates supported farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for their farm.

They also supported more education for consumers on the merits of common animal husbandry practices. In addition, delegates supported the use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.

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

- Support the state's livestock premise registration program.
- Support the state's fence law.



Marquette County Farm Bureau members Brad Kolpin (left) and Al Klapoetke served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting held December 3-5 in Wisconsin Dells.

- Support a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed.
- Support the inclusion of wild parsnip on the state's noxious weed list.
- Support funding for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count limit to 400,000.
- The use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.
- Farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for the farm.
- Requiring Congressional approval of any new federal regulation before final implementation.

The federal resolutions will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual meeting next month.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm families and other individuals who support agriculture. Made up of 61 county

Farm Bureaus, it represents farms of all sizes, commodities and management styles.

Farm
Bureau
Proud

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President's Message

As I write this, I'm busy packing and getting ready to leave on a week-long vacation to California. I'm looking forward to visiting family, sightseeing and of course, the warmer weather.

This year's Wisconsin winter has been an odd one to say the least. With the constant fluctuation in temperatures and lots of ice, I'm sure many of us are looking forward to spring.

As your county, Farm Bureau president, I'm also looking forward to Farm Bureau activities in the upcoming year. Our largest activity is our County Dairy Breakfast, which will be **June 11**. Watch your next newsletter coming in May for the event details. The committee is working to finalize a location for this year's event. We are also looking for some new people to help serve on the dairy breakfast committee. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me.

I'm also excited for our county's Ag in the Classroom program. The county organizes a fall farm tour for fourth grade students to the Borzick Family Farm.

The county is also active in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. This year's topic is on cranberries. The contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students and the deadline is **April 1**.

Please check out the newsletter for more details on this program. Last year the county had over 90 essays submitted.

The County Farm Bureau is also looking for ways to get more active in local issues facing farmers and working to be a proactive voice for agriculture. On the state level, the WFBF is working hard with other agricultural commodity groups to pass high-cap well legislation that will address the repair and transfer of high-cap well permits.

I would like to invite everyone to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8**. This is a great way to get updated on current legislative issues facing agriculture and a good opportunity to meet face-to-face with our area legislators. If you are interested in attending and would like to car pool with other Farm Bureau members in the area, please contact me.

And finally, this is the time of year when the county focuses on membership. Maintaining a strong membership is vital to the continued success of our organization. Thank you to everyone that is a current member. If you know of anyone that would benefit from a membership, please ask them to become part of our Farm Bureau family.



WFBF President Jim Holte (right) recognized Al Klapoetke as a top 10 membership worker at the WFBF Annual Meeting held in December. Al signed 11 new voting members.

Thanks again, and until next time ... *"Lead from the back and let others believe they are in front!"* Nelson Mandela

Al Klapoetke
Marquette County Farm Bureau president

District Director Report



District Director Kevin Krentz led the district caucus meeting at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Always have your elevator speech ready.

Everyone has heard this saying, meaning always be ready to speak with someone on a topic. For farmers, it's about always be ready to engage someone about your farm and what you do.

Consumers want to feel comfortable where their food comes from and is the practice the best for the animals and the environment. A major part of engagement is listening to their questions.

Listen and then share your passion for farming the way you do. Most consumers do not want you to change your farming practices, they simply want to understand why you do things differently than your grandfather did.

You may also have the opportunity to speak with elected officials. Many times, this will be a very short meeting. Stay on topic and share how particular policy affects your farm. This allows them to use your story to help persuade their colleagues as they develop the law. I also want to encourage you to run for an office.

Many local boards are perpetually short of hard working people that understand the infrastructure and environment around them. If that is not possible, invite them to your farm to help them understand what you do and what your farm means to your community.

Talking to the media or going to schools are other ways to engage consumers on a broader scale. This may be well planned or at short notice. Either way people need to feel your passion as you care for your cattle, your crops, the environment and the people that you feed.

There are many ways to engage the public. Whether you're talking to media, schools, individuals, or government officials Farm Bureau has the resources to help you be successful with your elevator speech.

Farm Bureau continues to work for you. Through WFBF Leadership Institute, Ag day at the Capitol, leader trips to Washington, D.C., young farmer programs, and Ag in the Classroom programs, we continue to give opportunities to our members to share your stories and your passion for agriculture with people around you.

Remember, always be positive. With current low commodity prices that is tough. But remember tough times don't last, tough people do.

God Bless and have a prosperous new year.

Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Board Director

Marquette County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

The Marquette County Farm Bureau is offering a \$250 scholarship.

Application deadline: The application must be postmarked on or before **March 31**.

Selection criteria:

- The applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a current member of Marquette County Farm Bureau. Due to financial operations of our organization it was felt that a person should have membership involvement with Farm Bureau prior to applying for education funds.
- Although pursuing a career in agriculture is not

a requirement, preference will be given to a student applicant who's course of study is agriculture related.

- This scholarship is also available to home schooled students.

For more information or to request an application, please contact District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445.



Celebrate National Ag Day March 21!

Join Ag in the Classroom and the Farm Bureau to celebrate National Ag Day on **March 21**.

- Celebrate by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, college students, agri-business employees and others by reading books about agriculture to students, home school families, nursing home residents, day cares and others.

- Share agriculture facts from the Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page that will be given on the hour.

- Have students in your county participate in an Ag Day coloring contest.

- Organize a pizza party on a farm, in a classroom or at a mall. Explain how ingredients come from farms and ranches and how each is processed and delivered to the grocery store or restaurant.

- Host a classroom field trip to a local farm or to a university's agricultural research farm.

- Distribute information about agriculture or other information through local stores. Ask your grocer to feature the Ag Day logo or other positive messages about agriculture on grocery bags or signs used during Ag Week.

Share your photos from National Ag Day with Farm Bureau. Email your photos to darneson@wfbf.com.



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
 - Office Depot

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

District 5 Holds Leader Meeting

Over 30 members from multiple counties attended the District 5 Leaders meeting on February 7 at the Pizza Ranch in Fond du Lac. The event was hosted by District 5 Board of Director Representative Kevin Krentz.

Presenters included Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Lege. Bob discussed a variety of topics related to Farm Bureau membership. Attendees learned why maintaining a strong is vital to the future success of the organization, who should be involved in the county membership process, how to develop a prospect membership list and when to conduct a county membership program.

Executive Director of Governmental Relations Paul Zimmerman also presented at the meeting. He discussed current legislative issues facing the agricultural industry and how county Farm Bureaus can become more active in local issues.



Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 8**, and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Schedule of events

- 11 a.m. - Registration
- 11:30 a.m. - Opening program
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings
- 3 p.m. - Capitol visits

It's important for us to raise our voice on issues. Take a few minutes to be familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Winnebago County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm.

If you are interested in attending, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com or 920.517.2445.



Upcoming Events

March

- 8 Ag Day at the Capitol
- 10-11 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit
- 28-30 WPS Farm Show
- 31 Early bird membership deadline

April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay contest deadline

Plan to Attend WPS Farm Show

Plan to attend the 57th annual WPS Farm Show on **March 28-30** at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh. Stop at the Farm Bureau booth (booth number 6571) in hanger D. Visit with Farm Bureau volunteers and learn more about Farm Bureau programs and member benefits.



Marquette County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Al Klapoetke 608.296.3435
 Vice President, Aaron Wachholz 608.297.7109
 Secretary/Treasurer, Brooks Buchholz 608.369.0366
 YFA Chair, Kalie Christensen 920.765.3048

Director, Jordan Bittelman 608.296.2262
 Director, Bob Blum 608.369.1436
 Director, Dennis Fenner 920.293.4331
 Director, Tom Hell 608.617.7174
 Director, Josh Knoch 608.369.1321
 Director, Chris Smith 608.369.1041

Marquette County Farm Bureau 888.644.8366
 WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.361.7380
 District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029
 RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson 608.828.5734

Save the Date

The Marquette County Farm Bureau June Dairy Breakfast will be **June 11**. Watch your next newsletter for event details.



Plan to Attend Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting

When: August 23, 2017

Where: Gooseblind Restaurant
 512 Gold Street
 Green Lake, WI 54941

Cost: \$12 per person. All you can eat pizza and pasta buffet.

District Discussion Meet: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

District Policy Development Meeting: 7:30-9:30 p.m.



Attend the Ag Women's Summit

Join us at the Ag Women's Summit on **March 10-11** at the Madison Marriott West. The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and University of Wisconsin-Extension to host an event focused on engaging and supporting women in agriculture.



For more information or to register, visit wiagwomenssummit.com or to view the agenda, visit wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda.

Welcome New Members

Jeremy Albright, Courtney Baran, Allan Dreyer, Joseph Hauser, Robert Heiman, Corey Krentz, Lawrence Kush, Suzie Maier and Michael Przytulski.