

Buffalo County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124



**For information on crop hail insurance, contact
your local Rural Mutual agent.**
Find an agent near you:
www.ruralins.com
Ken Truax - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Fall Washington, D.C. Trip By Steve Strey, Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President

From September 17-19 I had the honor of being in Washington, D.C. with about 30 people consisting of my fellow farmers and WFBF members, staff and the state board. We flew in to D.C. in small groups from several locations in Wisconsin, and with the help of our guides Karen Gefvert and Casey Langan rendezvoused at Regan National Airport. The purpose of our visit was three-fold. We were to lobby our representatives in Congress and the Senate on topics important to Wisconsin agriculture, visit foreign embassies to discuss trade policies, and meet with officials at USDA to discuss problems with current rule implementations.

WFBF arranged meetings with our respective legislators to discuss our concerns, but first we were briefed at the nearby AFBF. At AFBF, every topic we needed to talk to the law makers about had its own expert. They did an excellent job bringing us up to speed on all the information, right up to the bill that would hit the floor that day with an expected vote. Our District 4 group had appointments with Congressman Kind and Senators Johnson and Baldwin to discuss immigration, trade, the Water Resource Development Act, Dairy Policy, and most importantly the farm bill. Unfortunately, all our elected officials were double booked and we didn't see any of them, but we did relay our information to the appropriate staffers. Our WFBF staff informed us that this was okay because most of the time the staffers know just as much if not more than the legislators themselves do.



Eau Claire County Farm Bureau president Steve Strey went with Todd Quarne and Joe Bragger to represent District 4 to the Washington, D.C. trip.

and unbelievable to hear that according to New Zealand, their dairy imports to the U.S. didn't affect our market or policies.

Another opportunity to learn and discuss happened at the USDA. We met with officials from NRCS, FSA, DNR and Federal Crop Insurance. I was surprised that these people wanted to listen more than talk. After introducing themselves they asked if anyone had any concerns or questions. Every farmer in the room had their hand up. I was glad to learn about positive up-coming changes in crop insurance and conservation compliance. The only thing bad about our visit to the USDA was that it wasn't long enough.

We kept a busy schedule working hard, but did have some time to enjoy the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C. On one evening several of us took a night tour of the monuments. The

tour ended late and we hadn't eaten supper yet, so we ventured into downtown D.C. for some fine cuisine only to learn that all the restaurants close their kitchens at 11 p.m. After wandering the streets and getting lost, we settled for Dominoes carry out pizza and beer at midnight.

Navigating D.C. subways and taxi cabs proved to be exciting and a source of entertainment for us. We learned that even with GPS, cab drivers get lost. It didn't help even though we kept telling the cabbie the name and address of the building because he didn't understand much English. I became a renegade when I put my subway pass in the wrong slot in the toll gate and it didn't come out. The rest of the day two of us would sneak through at the same time when the guard wasn't looking. We also spent much time walking between appointments, which proved to be much safer for me, and allowed us to view the amazing Capitol and beautiful buildings on the Mall and Hill. I managed to get into the Library of Congress for a few minutes. It made me feel like Nicholas Cage in the National Treasure movie, although I didn't steal the Declaration of Independence or find the President's secret book. It was easy to have a good time and laugh when we were with our fun-loving District 4 Board member Joe Bragger.

It was interesting and it was interesting to hear that according to New Zealand, their dairy imports to the U.S. didn't affect our market or policies.

It truly was an honor to represent Wisconsin farmers in our nation's Capitol. I will never again have to wonder if being a Farm Bureau member is important or worth the dues. It definitely is. It's hard to comprehend how hard our WFBF and AFBF work to protect our right to farm. I urge all of you to become more involved with the your county Farm Bureau. It does make a difference, even in Washington, D.C.



COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

Members of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting December 7-9 in Wisconsin Dells. Members in attendance were Joe and Noel Bragger, Loren and Ruth Wolfe, Joe and LaVae Wantoch, Ray Liska, Dustin and Ashley Ellis, Julie Lindstrom, Adam and Katie Wehling, Pat and Stefanie Danzinger, Phil Reuter and Matt Sendelbach. Delegates representing Buffalo Farm Bureau were Loren Wolfe, Joe Wantoch, Julie Lindstrom, Ray Liska and Dustin Ellis.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting were (back row) Julie Lindstrom, Joe Wantoch, Joe Bragger, Ray Liska, Dustin Ellis, (front row) LaVae Wantoch and Ruth and Loren Wolfe.

During the Annual Meeting members were treated to workshops on topics ranging from learning more about Farm Bureau to learning about state road funding and issues regarding implements of husbandry on the roadways. Those in attendance also heard from Dr. Jude Capper, an adjunct professor at Washington State University and affiliate professor at Montana State University. She is also a consultant for Livestock Sustainability Consulting. Her message talked about how things are not always as they seem when dealing with livestock and the sustainability of producing it. Jude's talk wasn't pro-conventional farming, nor was it pro-organic or pro-grass-fed. What she really wanted us to think about, as farmers, was that there is more to the story than just simple misleading facts. One example she gave was when she talked about how when making comparisons of grass-fed vs. conventional beef. Jude confirms that it is absolutely true that grass-fed beef does have more omega 3 fatty acids (which are good for you) than conventional beef, but what Jude says doesn't get mentioned is that grass-fed beef also takes more water and land to produce the same amount of meat. So her question was, which one is really more sustainable? These were the types of issues that Jude brought up and it was fascinating to see the science behind her conclusions.

For the Farm Bureau Extravaganza, members were treated to ventriloquist James Wedgwood and an evening of laughs and funny skits. Members were then able to attend a reception for the Distinguished Service to Agriculture recipient Dennis

Frame (Trempealeau County) who worked for Discovery Farms, Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau recipient Yvonne Shepherd (Trempealeau County) and retiring Chief Administrative Officer Roger Cliff.

We also had the great pleasure of having American Farm Bureau Federation's President Bob Stallman come to address us. It was both intriguing and exciting to hear his message. His message was one that was both realistic of the extraordinary challenges that agriculture has in front of it, but also the opportunities that will be in store for us. He talked about the lack of a farm bill and immigration policy as some of the biggest let downs of this congress. He reiterated AFBF's commitment to seeing the introduction and passage of legislation that will help agriculture and farmers grow into the future.

The most important job of members attending the WFBF Annual Meeting is to discuss policy resolutions that have been submitted from the county level. Many resolutions that were passed at the Buffalo County annual meeting also passed at the state level, becoming Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy. It's a true testament that our organization relies on its members to set our policy, not only on a state level, but submitting resolutions that go all the way to the American Farm Bureau.

We make a difference and we have a voice!



Buffalo County Producer Club members (obtaining at least five new memberships) were Joe Bragger and Dustin Ellis pictured here with District 4 Coordinator Steve Boe.

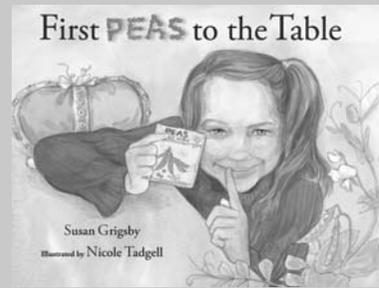


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Essay Contest
YFA Conference

- 3 Director's Message
Welcome New Members
Ag Women's Summit
Member Benefits

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



“Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us” is the topic of the essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau’s Ag in the Classroom program.

Our 2014 Book of the Year is “First Peas to the Table” by Susan Grigsby. The book and essay topic will allow us to educate students about where food comes from, learn about Thomas Jefferson and his gardening research, under-

stand how plants grow and how to make healthy food choices,” said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. “We will again link the book, the accompanying lessons that we write for our Book of the Year, various Wisconsin educational resources, and other Ag in the Classroom lessons into resources for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.”

Essay submissions must be between 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 located at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Arneson at 608.828.5719 or darneson@wfbf.com. Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1 to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator. A list of coordinators is also available at wisagclassroom.org.

Buffalo County YFA Members Attend YFA Conference

The YFA Conference was held Friday, December 6 through Sunday, December 8 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. As the Buffalo County YFA chair, I had the opportunity to go to the YFA Conference. What a great experience! The Conference was packed with tons of great things including meeting other YFA members from around the state, great contests, speakers, workshops and entertainment, just to name a few. Buffalo County YFA members who attended the Conference were Ray Liska, Dustin and Ashley Ellis, Phil Reuter, Matt Sendelbach, Adam and Katie Wehling and Pat and Stefanie Danzinger.



Buffalo County native Emily Pronschinske (left) mingled with Buffalo County YFA member Ashley Ellis (right).

Visiting and mingling with other YFA members was definitely one of the greatest highlights. This included catching up with those individuals I knew from college as well as other organizations. It was great to see what others have been up to, whether it be the next steps of involvement on the family farm or perhaps their current career in the agricultural community. The conference also gave everyone the chance to spend time socializing and meeting new people on the county, district and state level.

We had the fantastic opportunity to see one of our own, Adam Wehling, make it into the state Discussion Meet finals! While Adam didn't win, we are extremely proud of his accomplishment.

Great speakers are an important part of every great conference and the YFA Conference had just that. Attendees had the opportunity to listen to speakers such as Dr. Jude L. Capper on “Livestock Myths and

Misconceptions.” This was a great presentation for the Conference because as more and more people become removed from farming, it becomes more and more important to make sure that we are educating the public about the facts and importance of agriculture. Dr. Capper went over controversial topics such as “Meatless Mondays”, grass-fed versus corn-fed beef, and the impact of buying local foods on our carbon footprint.



Buffalo County YFA members prepared to play Wheel of Fortune, Farm Bureau style.

Workshops were another highlight to the YFA Conference. No matter what your interests, there was a workshop for you. Workshops included anything from Farm Bureau 101 for newer members, to Financing a Start-up Farm for those wishing to get personally involved in production agriculture, to Farm Bureau 202 for those looking to get even more involved in Farm Bureau.

Last but not least, you can't forget about entertainment! While mingling Friday night attendees had the chance to see the performance of Bumble-



Adam Wehling competed in the semifinal round of the state Discussion Meet. Adam made it all the way to the finals.

fist, a rock band out of Eau Claire. They provided a great show and everyone had their opportunity to show off their dancing skills (or lack thereof) out on the dance floor. On Saturday night there was a performance by James Wedgwood, a talented ventriloquist. The show provided a great performance which included both the use of his puppets as well as interaction with the crowd.

The YFA Conference was great for everyone who attended. It is definitely a great experience both for experienced YFA members, as well as a great event to get new YFA members interested and active on the county, district and state levels.

To sum the YFA conference up: If you weren't there you really missed out!



Former Buffalo County resident Mark Schaffner (center) with his wife Tiffany (left) talked with Jackson County YFA member Will Prindle (right).



Buffalo County YFA members Phil Reuter and Matt Sendelbach got ready for Bumblefist during the YFA reception.



Buffalo County YFA chair Dustin Ellis (left) chatted with YFA member Anton Kaltenberg.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto	Health	Supplies and Products
• General Motors Discount	• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card	• Case IH
Communication	• Stroke Detection Plus	• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
• AgriVisor (NEW)	Insurance	• Grainger
• The Country Today	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	• Office Depot
Financial	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	Travel
• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program	Protection	• AAA
• Farm Bureau Bank	• \$500 Reward Protection Program	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
	• Accidental Death Policy	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.
		• Wyndham Hotel Group

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

Director's Message



Greetings,

I recently got a call from Todd Quarne, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau president and Policy Development (PD) Committee member, thanking me for the opportunity to serve on the PD Committee. He had just completed 4-5 hours discussing policies on sustainability for agriculture. I feel he was truly sincere in his thanks but a little exasperation in his voice left me wondering?

I had the opportunity to serve on the PD Committee as well several years ago and can say that it was one of the most rewarding and challenging opportunities of my time with Farm Bureau. It was rewarding in the way I learned about all of the topics that faced farmers through-out Wisconsin. Topics included taxation, education, environment, production, natural resources and hunting and high on the priority list this year, transportation. The development of policy can at times be very challenging when you consider that Wisconsin Farm Bureau represents all types of agriculture in Wisconsin and is the largest general farm organization in the state. Getting a cash grain farmer from Dane County to understand the intricacies of dairy policy and how this affects a dairy farmer from Buffalo County can lead to an interesting discussion. From tree farming to aquaculture, the PD Committee goes through every policy that has been formulated and voted in at county annual meetings.

I am very proud of the efforts of District 4 members and their accomplishments this year. Counties attaining member-

ship growth include: Eau Claire, Buffalo, Jackson, La Crosse and Trempealeau Counties. Paul Wehrs and the gang from La Crosse County worked throughout the last few years to change their county's animal unit regulations to better reflect current farming practices. These efforts not only prompted change in county zoning, it earned them a County of Excellence Award. I would also like to recognize Steve Strey (Eau Claire) and Brady Laufenberg (Jackson) for drafting resolutions that have been accepted into the PD process for approval by our WFBF Annual Meeting delegates. This year's graduate from the leadership institute was Ray Liska (Buffalo County). Finally, many congratulations to Jack and Pat Herricks (Monroe) on being finalists in the Leopold Conservation Award.

This year is somewhat of a big deal for District 4 in that two of the major recognitions that Wisconsin Farm Bureau hands out each year have gone to members of Trempealeau County. The Distinguish Service to Agriculture Award, which recognizes individuals that have made outstanding dedication and service to farmers and agriculture in Wisconsin, was given to Dennis Frame. The Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award for outstanding service and support of agriculture through Farm Bureau has been received by Yvonne Shepherd.

Thank you Todd for your efforts on the PD Committee, and to all members of Farm Bureau for your support of agriculture.

Joe Bragger
Cell: 715.530.0466 | Home: 715.985.2314
braggfam@trivest.net

Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a time to connect with other women in the state. There are breakout sessions and opportunities for us to learn and network with other women from the same farming backgrounds we might also come from.

This year's Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be at the Madison Marriott West on March 14-15. The keynote speaker will be Chariti Gent Founder of Chariti Gent Life Coaching, Inc. The cost is \$115 per person by February 14 and \$140 per person after February 14. Final registration deadline is March 7. There is a block of rooms reserved at the Madison Marriott West for (up to 4 people per room) at a cost of \$116 per night plus tax.



To register for the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit visit wfbf.com/programmevents/event-registration.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Joe Bragger 715.985.2314
Vice President, Chris Ellis 608.323.7146
Secretary/Treasurer, Charles Rippley 608.626.3511
Women's Chair, Angie Bork 608.687.8384
YFA Chair, Dustin Ellis 608.797.0380
Membership Chair, Merlin Sutter 608.687.6021

Director, Patrick Danzinger 608.685.4147
Director, Mark Denk 715.926.6011
Director, LeeRoy Fernholz 608.863.1503
Director, Sharon Fernholz 608.863.1503
Director, Julie Lindstrom 715.495.2679
Director, Ray Liska 608.626.2280
Director, Doug Olson 715.926.5099
Director, Annegret Stolz 608.626.2052
Director, Merlin Sutter 608.687.6021
Director, Joseph Wantoch 608.687.6062
Director, Scott Werlein 715.946.3131
Director, Loren Wolfe 715.495.1719

Buffalo County Farm Bureau 888.644.8315
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466
District 4 Women's Chair, Jane Mueller 715.878.4058
District 4 YFA Chair, Brian Maliszewski 715.530.1107
District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe 866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477



(Back L to R) Merlin Sutter, Chris Ellis (vice president), Doug Olson, Dustin Ellis (YFA chair), Sharon Fernholz, LeeRoy Fernholz, Pat Danzinger, Julie Lindstrom, Charlie Rippley (secretary/treasurer), (front L to R) Joe Bragger (president), Loren Wolfe and Joe Wantoch.

Welcome New Members

Clyde Abts	Nathan Middleton
Dennis Baader	Blake Olson
Cody Bacech	Gary Pronschinske
Richard Bauer	Devin Pronschinske
Timothy Bauer	Cory Pronschinske
Drew Benish	Kyle Pronschinske
Michelle Bennett	Glen Pronschinske
Brogan Bolden	Phil Reuter
Dennis Bork	Greg Rotering
Rosli Bragger	Ethen Rotering
Raymond Brasda	January Schaffner
Randy Bremer	Brandon Schmidt
Kyle Danzinger	Mathew Sendelbach
Joshua Deetz	John Sobatta
Drew Ellis	Mandy Spearstra
Danielle Ellis	Peter Theisen
Richard Garcia	Andrew Tucker
Derik Grotjahn	Heidi Urness
Florence Gullickson	Paul Vine
Michael Kauten	Adam Wehling
Charles Kirchnen	Noah Weiss
Greg Konkell	Colin Yoder
Bridget Liska	Town of Chimney Rock