

# Winnebago County Farm Bureau

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**Chuck Reitz - District Manager**

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Pollack Wins YFA Discussion Meet Contest



Chris Pollack of Ripon won the YFA Discussion Meet contest at the WFBF YFA Conference held in Wisconsin Dells.

farm with his parents at Pollack-Vu Dairy LLC. They milk 150 cows and farm 700 acres. He also does custom baling and markets straw to local farmers.

He is involved with the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau's YFA program, Ripon FFA Alumni and coaches the Fond du Lac County dairy judging team.

Pollack qualifies for the YFA trip to Washington, D.C. in 2014. Midwest Stihl awarded a chain saw and Rural Mutual Insurance provided a free financial plan. He will be a guest of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at next year's WFBF Young Farmer & Agriculturist Conference, and a special guest at the annual meeting of GROWMARK, Inc. in Chicago in August.

Chris Pollack of Fond du Lac County was selected the winner of the 2013 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet contest at the organization's 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

The Discussion Meet contest is a panel discussion in which Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions and reach a solution on current issues affecting agriculture.

Pollack will compete in the national Discussion Meet contest at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting next month in San Antonio.

Pollack grew up on a dairy farm near Ripon. He attended UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course and then returned to

### Knigge Graduates from the WFB Foundation Leadership Institute Program

Winnebago County Farm Bureau member Charlie Knigge graduated from the WFB Foundation Leadership Institute Program at the recent WFBF Annual Meeting held December 7-9 in Wisconsin Dells.

The Farm Bureau Institute is a year-long premiere leadership training

course at a graduate level whose mission is to produce strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. The training focuses on personal growth and development, public speaking, working effectively with all forms of media, creativity training, understanding the role and functions of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, training on working with government at the local, state and national levels, working to bridge the generational divide among volunteers, consideration of current national and international agricultural issues and completion of a Farm Bureau Personal Development Leadership Plan.



Winnebago County member Charlie Knigge graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute at the recent WFBF Annual Meeting held in Wisconsin Dells.



# COUNTYnews

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual**  
**STOMPIN' AT THE SHED AT**  
  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014**  
**7:30 P.M.**  **THE SPORTS SHED**  
 4057 Fisk Avenue • Oshkosh

**TICKETS:**

Available at the door.

**Ticket Prices:** \$15 general admission. Everyone is welcome!

Ticket price includes band, drink tickets and snacks.

Tug-of-war contest at band intermission.

**FEATURED BAND:**



**LODGING ARRANGEMENTS:**

**Cobblestone Suites** - We have a room block setup under "shed party" on February 1 for \$68. The hotel will be offering a shuttle service to and from the shed. Reservations should be made by calling the hotel direct at 920.230.7400 and mention "shed party."



Fundraiser hosted by: Winnebago County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program

## Winnebago County YFA Members Attend YFA Conference

More than 500 YFA members attended the WFBF YFA Conference held December 6-8 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. More than 90 of those members were from District 5



including the following Winnebago County members: Charlie Knigge, Jade Buchholz, Brittany Teske, Emily Treu, Jason Kaufmann, Corrina Lystra, Josh Silverthorne, Neil Stone, Tyler Zimmer and Tim Borgardt.

Jason Kaufmann received sponsorship to attend the YFA Conference through the Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship program for first time attendees. Thank you Rural Mutual Insurance for your support of the WFBF YFA program.



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## WCFB Board Says "Thank You!"

The Winnebago County Farm Bureau board of directors would like to say thank you to Ron and Linda Wachholz for their years of service on the county board of directors. Ron and Linda have decided not to run again for a position on the board. Ron has served as the county membership chair for many years and has worked hard on signing new members. Linda is active on the county Women's committee and assisted with helping on many activities including the county fair food stand.



The board would also like to thank Dirk Binnema for serving on the board. Dirk also decided not to run again for a board position. Dirk continues to be an important member of the Dairy Breakfast committee and important to it's success!

John Egan, Jade Buchholz and Brittany Teske were elected as new county board members.

## District Board Member Report

The population of the earth is continuing to grow and is projected to grow to 9 billion people by 2050. To put this in perspective, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century alone, the earth has grown from 1.65 billion to 6 billion people, and has roughly doubled since 1970. Many parts of Asia and Africa are not only growing in population, but their economy is also growing. This means their diets will continue to shift from beans and rice to more meat, milk and eggs. Can farmers feed all the hungry children, feed 9 billion people and give everyone their choice of food by 2050? The answer is yes, and we will do it by being socially and environmentally responsible.



WFBF District 5 Board Director Kevin Krentz addressed county delegates during the District 5 caucus at the recent WFBF Annual Meeting.

With the help of technologies such as irrigation, fertilizers, tractors, GPS, seed breeding and resistant traits, average corn yield in the U.S. has risen from about 30 bushels in 1930 to more than 150 bushels in 2012. By doing this, farmers lower their carbon footprint by continuing to use less land, fertilizer and water per bushel produced. During the years farmers have moved from predominately moldboard plowing to a reduced or a no-till system of tillage on their land. This helps hold the soil and nutrients in place for the crops being grown. These vast improvements are not segregated to crops. Animal agriculture has also made numerous improvements during the years while greatly lowering its carbon footprint and use of natural resources. Since 1930, the U.S. has switched from a predominantly Jersey herd to a 90% Holstein herd. The bigger animal can produce more milk per cow.

Farmers have also made many advances in nutrition. Computers and TMR mixers help dial-in a diet for cows to maximize milk and meat production while at the same time lowering phosphorus output in the manure. These diets have also answered the call from consumers for leaner meats. Compare a 1950 fair grand champion steer to the leaner animal of 2013. Along with many improvements in cow comfort farmers have added many technologies to help keep the animal in

good health. Farms have added milk meters to help monitor milk production daily, pedometers to monitor foot health, and even microphones to help monitor the rumination of the cow. These tools help identify animals that may become sick before they show any physical signs, keeping them healthy and productive.

We must also identify the freedom of choice. Consumers should be able to choose from a verity of products. This may include organic, natural, grass-fed, gluten free or commercial products. I believe the market has a place for all products as long as it is not sold at the detriment of the others.

As one in seven children in the world go to bed hungry, I feel a personal responsibility to help feed the world. We must also be able to communicate with consumers about the individual improvements we have made on our farms to continue to improve the environment around us while producing a variety of products to satisfy everyone's appetite for choice.

Have a prosperous and productive New Year.

**Kevin Krentz**  
District 5 Board Member

## District 5 YFA

# TUBING PARTY

**When:** February 28

**Time:** 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$15 per person.

**Where:** Nordic Mountain  
W5806 County Road W  
Wild Rose, WI 54984

**RSVP by February 20** to District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or bhicki@wfbf.com.



To register for the 2014 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/event-registration](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/event-registration).

We'll see you there!

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

## AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 29, 2014  
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

**Schedule of Events:**  
11:00 a.m. Registration  
11:30 a.m. Opening Program  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing  
2:30 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

**Registration Deadline: January 23**  
Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.  
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

**Presented by:**  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

**Thank You to Our Sponsors:**  
Rural Mutual Insurance Company  
FS GROWMARK

## Wachholz is Producer Club Member



Ron Wachholz was recognized as a 2013 Producer Club member for having signed at least five new voting members.

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

The 2013-14 essay contest is now open for entries from fourth and fifth grade students. Entries must be post-marked by April 1. This year's topic is: "Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us."

The 2014 Book of the Year is "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby. The book and essay topic allows us to educate students about where food comes from, learn about Thomas Jefferson and his gardening research, understand how plants grow and make healthy food choices. The Ag in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by the Frontier Servco FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. For more information contact Winnebago County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Cecelia Brooks at [moobrooks@gmail.com](mailto:moobrooks@gmail.com).

## Save the Date – Winnebago County Dairy Breakfast

Plan to attend the 2014 Winnebago County Dairy Breakfast, **Saturday, June 7 from 7:30 a.m. to noon** at Kevin and Kim Radloff's farm located on James Road south west of Oshkosh.

Cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for kids.

If your business would like to be a sponsor, contact Dan Hinz at 920.376.0371 by April 1 to be included in event marketing.



## New Members - Welcome to Farm Bureau

Matt Armatoski	Robbi Cumbie	Susan Lindsey	Jordan Schade
Matthew Armstrong	Nick Davis	Daniel Lipinski	Alicia Smiths
Christine Baerwald	Lloyd Degroot	Matthew Miller	Marci Spencer
Allison Ballard	Robert Dohe	Maria Nason	Cory Stang
Katherine Baltus	David Draeger	Jason Norisada	Amy Thompson
Craig Bartelt	Ron Eake	Morgan Oakley	Chance Ujzadowski
Melissa Bertram	Benjamin Ernst	Raymond Pesselt	Pete Vanden Heuvel
David Buch	Jason Kaufmann	Nathan Potratz	Jeffrey Williams
Rick Buser	Richard Leib	Chad Rieckmann	Madeline Zastrow
Amber Chaplin	Ashley Lenz	Michael Rieth	Katherine Zastrow
Jeffrey Coe	Dan Lenz	Eric Salm	AMB Stables LLC

## Winnebago County Holds Annual Meeting

The Winnebago County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on September 26 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Oshkosh. Members elected board directors, delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting and passed proposed county resolutions.

### Bottom Captions (L to R)

Winnebago County president Jim Kasten addressed attendees at the county annual meeting.

County president Jim Kasten (right) recognized Eddie Egan of Omro as a 2013 scholarship recipient. Derek Potratz of Omro was also a scholarship winner, but was unable to attend.

Cathy and Al Silverthorne were recognized as the 2013 Dairy Breakfast on the Farm host family.



2013-2014 Winnebago County board of directors (L to R) Dan Hinz, Jade Buchholz, Charlie Knigge, Brittany Teske, Randi Brooks, Jim Kasten, Amy Zentner, Russ Kriha, John Egan, Joe Hughes, Kevin Radloff, Carol Ihde and Nick Schneider (Not pictured Cecelia Brooks).



## District 5 Women's Fall Summit Held in Marquette County

The District 5 Fall Women's Summit was held on September 21 in Marquette County. More than 30 women from all seven counties in the district attended. The group toured a variety of barn quilts in the county. Carol Ihde, Cecelia Brooks and Kim Radloff attended from Winnebago County.



## WPS Farm Show

The Winnebago County Farm Bureau will be teaming up with Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waushara and Green Lake County Farm Bureaus to sponsor a booth at the WPS Farm Show at the EAA Grounds, March 26-28. Be sure to stop by the booth, sign up for a door prize and say hi!



## Upcoming Events

January 29  
February 20-21

February 28

March 14-15

Ag Day at the Capitol – Madison  
FFA Farm Forum – Wisconsin Rapids  
District 5 Snow Tubing Event – Nordic Mountain  
Ag Women's Summit – Madison

## Winnebago County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jim Kasten 920.658.3036  
Vice President, Randi Brooks 920.420.2634  
Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Hinz 920.376.0371  
Women's Chair, Carol Ihde 920.722.2961  
YFA Chair, Charlie Knigge 920.685.5531

Director, Cecelia Brooks 920.420.3660  
Director, Jade Buchholz 608.369.1044  
Director, John Egan 920.379.3800  
Director, Joe Hughes 920.426.5898  
Director, Russ Kriha 608.436.4764  
Director, Kevin Radloff 920.589.5515  
Director, Nick Schneider 920.379.0720  
Director, Brittany Teske 920.379.0419  
Director, Amy Zentner 920.426.1056

Winnebago County Farm Bureau 866.666.8015  
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.361.7380  
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029  
RMIC District Manager, Chuck Reitz III 920.921.6402

## President's Report

The planet recently lost a person who was able to inspire many to put aside their differences and come together to work for the greater good. Nelson Mandela's life began humbly in a small African village where he would learn that life is not fair. As a young man he set about making things better. His anger and frustration caused him to work against his enemies and he resorted to violence and wound up in prison. Here he reflected. Upon his release he revealed to the world that he had realized that with forgiveness in his heart he would work with his "enemies" and bring about peace by working with them through peaceful methods. The rest is history.



We can use this lesson in all aspects of our lives. Those of us who use this inclusive solution process have been more successful in making changes to the betterment of our lives, jobs, organizations and yes government. To make these changes we must consciously be part of the processes that govern our lives such as schools, religion, our professions, family and, most notably, our government.

I hope you can take the first step and master "true" forgiveness in your life so you may embrace your enemies. Mandela's message is simple but not always easy to do. The reward is inner peace, respect from others, and a reason to sport a smile as iconic as his!

I invite you to join us at the Farm Bureau table to better our important industry.

Agriculturally yours,

**Jim Kasten**  
Winnebago County Farm Bureau President