

# Iowa County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### District YFA Representative's Message



Hi there! As you open this month's newsletter, I hope it's a few degrees warmer than the day I wrote this. In December, while most attendees at the WFBF Annual Meeting attended workshops, listened to speakers, took in the contests or ate way too much, Charisse and I were diving in face-first in our newly appointed roles. We are the District 3 YFA Representatives for the next three years.

I'd like to use my column this month to take some time for you to get to know us. Charisse and I both grew up in central Grant County and graduated from Fennimore High School. I attended Utah State University for their one-year dairy herdsman program and returned home to our family dairy farm. Charisse grew up in the tiny village of Stitzer but became active in 4-H and showed cattle for a family friend outside of town. Charisse recently graduated from UW-Platteville with a double major in animal science and ag business. Over the past few years we have both become more involved in connecting with others throughout the world, amongst Jersey enthusiasts, agriculturists around Wisconsin and consumers with no connection to agriculture at all.

We hope that throughout our tenure on the state YFA Committee, we can connect with people in District 3, to get them more involved in championing for agriculture and using resources to inform the public about the food they eat, the clothes they wear and the fuel in their vehicles. We kicked off the year with a holiday party at Tower Junction. More than 40 people participated in bowling, an ugly sweater contest and plenty of good food! We are looking for many more events to get young agriculturists involved and we'd love to help in any way we can!

Hope to see you around,

**Derek & Charisse Orth**, District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Representatives

### District 3 Women's Message



I think by this time in the winter we are looking forward to spring. This year will be busy for me being elected the WFBF Women's Committee Chair and a busy spring for the Woman's Committee with many events coming up. The first is the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit being held in Madison on March 14 and 15. If you have not registered yet, you still have time to do so. If you need someone to room with please let me know and I will try to help you out.

The other event is the Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. They are due to your country coordinators on April 1. Food Check-Out Week has also changed. The new program is 'Our Food Link' and information can be found on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau website. If you need help or have questions on these topics please let me know.

Lastly, I attended the AFBF Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. I was one of the four delegates for the Women's Committee and also learned many new ideas to bring back. It was warm there but I sure didn't bring that back with me.

**Nicole Adrian**, District 3 Women's Committee Representative and Committee Chair

### Save the Date - Farmers Appreciation Day Meeting

Want to get more involved in Farmer's Appreciation Day? We invite you to join us on **March 5, at 5:30 p.m.** at the Iowa County Farm Bureau Building at 401 Union Street in Dodgeville.

We're looking for ideas and volunteers to make the 2014 event a huge success!





# COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Board Member Highlight – Adam Heisner



My name is Adam Heisner, your current director on the Iowa County Farm Bureau board of directors. I am representing the southeast portion of the county, living in the Mineral Point Township. I have been married to Amanda Heisner for 17 years. We have two boys: Austin (14) and Andrew (13).

We own and operate Heisner Family Dairy in partnership with my brother, Cyrus, and his wife,

Joni. We are a certified organic dairy and have 100 cows and farm approximately 575 acres. Our certification has been continuous since November of 2000.

This is my first term as a director, and I have enjoyed being involved at the county level as well as serving District 3 on the Policy Development Committee. This is my first term serving that committee as well.

I believe that our presence in this organization is imperative to help shape the size and scope of our agricultural world. The ability to reach our elected officials can seem difficult on an individual basis, but with our dedicated Farm Bureau employees it is easier to make these necessary contacts. With this I believe this organization is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect our farms and our way of living that I know we all cherish.

## Iowa County Board of Directors



Sitting: Matt Limmex, John Meyers, Adam Heisner, Bob Daentl. Standing: Dan Adams, Ross Blotz, Ryan Dolan, Krista Dolan, Melissa Doyle, Jackie McCarville, Laura Daniels, Roger Schambow and Don Ley. (Not pictured: Justin and Livia Doyle.)

## Women Rooted in Agriculture

As a way to highlight the amazing things our Farm Bureau women do, we're beginning a feature in our newsletters to highlight 'Women Rooted in Agriculture.' This month we're going to introduce you to Jackie Miller, a dairy farmer from Cuba City and member of the Lafayette County Farm Bureau.



Jackie got her start in Farm Bureau when she and her husband attended a district YFA event. At first, she was hesitant to head to the restaurant because she wasn't sure what to expect and she didn't think she would know anyone there. All of those concerns were wiped away as soon as they walked through the door. The district YFA representative gave them a warm welcome and made them feel comfortable. Jackie's advice to anyone who is considering an event for the first time is to go and trust that when you get there you'll meet people with similar interests and backgrounds. They'll even understand if you're an hour late because the silo unloader broke!

Jackie serves at the Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom chair and essay contest coordinator. In this role, she works to promote agriculture to the schools in our county and helps out at the booth at the county fair. She recruits volunteers to help read essays and took time out of her day to visit the classroom of the essay contest winner and celebrate with an ice cream party. She also earned the distinct honor of becoming a member of the Producer Club. When asked how she found her success, she said that she simply started with family and friends, shared the membership benefits and found that many of them wanted to support an agricultural organization.

Farm Bureau has helped Jackie connect with other women in agriculture through attending county, district and state events. "The Farm Bureau is an amazing organization. I have met many amazing women in agriculture by attending events. I have made some awesome friends who are very supportive and definitely share my love for agriculture," she said. It is these friends and contacts that Jackie has built part of her support network through.

Jackie and her husband, John, are dairy farmers. In her free-time she enjoys sewing, reading and spending time with family and friends. They also have three children who are active on the farm being kids and spending time outside. Additionally, Jackie is a Sunday School teacher at her church and is a participant and board member in the local Mom2Mom group that helps stay-at-home moms connect. Still on her bucket list is to take her family to Door County. Having been there in high school she wants to share the beauty, scenery, various aspects of agriculture and the state's largest island with her children.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 President's Message  
WFBF Annual Meeting  
Ag Women's Summit  
Essay Contest
- 3 'Til it Shines  
County YFA Update  
AITC Training Session  
Photos Wanted  
Ag Promotions Update  
Member Benefits

## President's Message



As I sit here looking at my two boys, I realize how fast they are growing and changing and how fast this past year has flown by. My oldest son is already half way through his kindergarten year and my baby will soon be one! It doesn't seem possible.

As an organization we are growing and changing too! We are saying goodbye to more seasoned members who are stepping away from the board of directors and welcoming on the younger generation. We are always looking for new members

and for current members to be more involved.

This is going to be an exciting year for the Iowa County Farm Bureau. We are looking forward to Farmer's Appreciation Day and the opportunities we have to reach out to the general public and educate them about agriculture. Farmer's Appreciation Day will be held July 13 at the Harris Park Ley Pavilion in Dodgeville.

Do you want to be one of the people who are telling their story about agriculture, have a great idea that would be an excellent addition to this year's event, or want to be more

involved in helping others tell their story? Let us know, we are always looking for people who are passionate about agriculture and wanting to help out! Contact myself at 608.574.4565 or Laura Daniels at 608.513.0210.

I continue to see the years flying by and our organization growing and changing! This is what is in store for us this year who knows what will come with the next!

**Krista Dolan**  
Iowa County Farm Bureau President

## WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights

In early December, nearly 1,100 Wisconsin Farm Bureau members gathered at the Wisconsin Dells to hold the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. We set new records this year with the number of attendees. The conference was jam-packed with great speakers, fun entertainment, networking opportunities, a silent auction and trade show and awesome contestants in our YFA contests.

Additionally, Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization over the next year. Resolutions were submitted by farmers from across the state through Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

As a pair of state lawmakers prepared legislation to update Wisconsin's rules and definitions related to implements of husbandry (farm machinery), Farm Bureau members approved a variety of transportation-related resolutions:

- Support being able to transport farm machinery down roads without permits up to 22 feet in width, and if the implement is over 22 feet in width, an escort vehicle with flashing lights is needed.
- Support repealing the law that allows vehicles to pass implements of husbandry with slow moving vehicle signs on a yellow line.
- Support requiring a non-probationary driver's license to operate any agricultural equipment.
- Support increasing road weight limits for implements of husbandry to 23,000 pounds for axle weights and 92,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. They also supported category II self-propelled implements of husbandry being exempt from axle weight requirements.
- Support all oversized and weight penalties assessed on vehicles on town roads in a township should go back to that township.

Other transportation issues that delegates approved were:

- Support allowing local government to permit the piping of manure in road right-of-ways.
- Support requiring the Department of Natural Resources to maintain local roads adjacent and through DNR owned land.
- Support allowing counties to raise the sales tax by an additional 0.5 percent with funds



Iowa County Farm Bureau delegates were (L to R) Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Bill Hanson, Pete Haakensen, John Meyers and Laura Daniels.

being used for county and township roads. Additionally, the funding should be distributed on a percentage rate based on road miles between counties and townships.

Farm Bureau members encouraged farmers and consumers to be actively engaged in sustainability discussions. "Responsibility for a balanced approach must include all stakeholders contributing to an outcome that enhances the quality of life for present and future generations. We recognize there are three essential components to defining sustainability: social, environmental and economic," read a portion of the sustainability resolution.

Other items delegates support include:

- Requiring an agriculture impact statement be done to assist in the approval process and help determine compensation for projects that are using eminent domain.
- Support existing law that limits foreign nationals from land ownership in excess of 640 acres.
- Support requiring high capacity well permits being processed within 65 business days.
- Oppose regulating agricultural crops as an invasive species.
- Support funding students who attend technical colleges in other districts and allocating the property tax portion from their home district to the school the student is attending.
- Oppose the 12-ounce limit on milk sold in middle and high schools as a 'competitive food' as regulated by the federal Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act.

## 5 Reasons You Can't Miss the WI Ag Women's Summit

By Brianna Ditzenberger, District 2 WFBF Women's Committee Representative

The 2014 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is the premiere event for women in agriculture designed to energize and empower women of all ages. If you haven't attended the summit or are considering it, here are the top five reasons you should mark your calendar for March 14-15 in Madison.

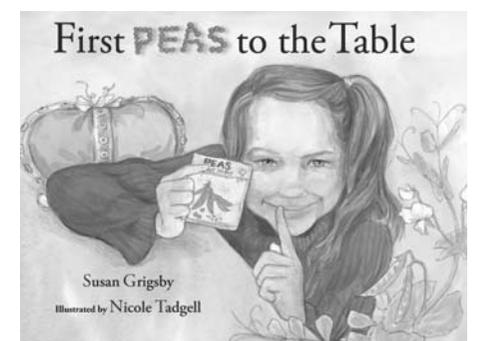
1. **Networking opportunities.** Meet other women passionate about agriculture during this two-day event. If you have a far distance to travel, carpool or share a hotel room and add even more time with inspirational women to your trip!
2. **Be inspired.** Through networking and social aspects of the Summit, you are guaranteed to leave with ideas and inspiration. Our keynote speaker, Chariti Gent, will help you identify the idea that means the most to you and create plan to make it a reality.
3. **Education.** With more than 17 new breakout sessions, there is something for everyone. Looking for creative ways to save money? We've got a session for you. Want to "ask a vet"? We'll have one on-call sharing stories from the field. Want to plan a "stay-cation" for your busy family? You're in the right place!
4. **Loads of Laughs.** They say laughter is the best medicine – get ready for a heavy dose with improv group Comedy City on Friday night. You'll bust a gut!
5. **Fun!** How often is it that women from all areas of the state come together to energize our spirits and celebrate our connection to the agriculture community? Once a year – at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.



Ladies enjoyed networking and cutting loose at the 2013 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Do you have a fourth or a fifth grader in your house? Perhaps you have a grandchild, niece or nephew who fits this description? If so, please encourage them to participate in the Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Essays should be 100-300 words and focus on the topic of, 'Wisconsin Gardens Provide Many Food Choices for Us.' Essays can be sent to Iowa County Essay Coordinator: Krista Dolan 5398 County Rd. ZZ, Dodgeville, WI 53533



Essays are due April 1. They will be judged and the county winner will receive an ice cream sundae party for their classroom. Their essay will also be forwarded to compete for top essay in District 3. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Krista Dolan or visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

|  |  |                                     |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Auto</b>                              | <b>Health</b>                                | <b>Supplies and Products</b>        |
| • General Motors Discount                | • ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card | • Case IH                           |
| <b>Communication</b>                     | • Stroke Detection Plus                      | • FS-GROWMARK Patronage             |
| • AgriVisor (NEW)                        | <b>Insurance</b>                             | • Grainger                          |
| • The Country Today                      | • Rural Mutual Insurance Company             | • Office Depot                      |
| <b>Financial</b>                         | • Farm Bureau Financial Services             | <b>Travel</b>                       |
| • AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program | <b>Protection</b>                            | • 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District Coordinator Message - 'Til it Shines



Like most couples, my husband and I have our own space to keep things in when it comes to the house. One such place is the shelves in the shower where he has a bar of soap and a bottle of shampoo. I, on the other hand, have five various bottles of shampoo and conditioner, two bottles of body wash and some face wash. We are again similar

to other couples because Josh can't understand why I need so much stuff, but I still argue that it just helps give me options.

Just like I can't get ready without having a variety of options to work with, our Farm Bureaus need a variety of volunteers to get things done.

Perhaps you are the exfoliator. You take things in their rawest form, get rid of the rough exterior and are left with an idea for a resolution, promotion or YFA activity. You're not really the type to make everything perfect, but you like to share your ideas. This is where the shampoo and conditioner comes in. If you're one of these folks, you like taking an idea, cleaning it up a little bit and making it light and fun. You're going to get the

grime off and make this event like no other, repeating as necessary. If you haven't found your place in this scheme yet, you must be the face wash. You're willing to take on the tough job of getting the final details in place, but you've got a gentle way of doing it and staying behind the scenes is where you want to be, but each day you'll give your best.

Whatever your personality strength is, use it. We're all different and that is what makes our Farm Bureau so incredibly successful. There are 728 members in the Iowa County Farm Bureau. With that many members, we've got the ability to take the roughest things and transform them into the most beautiful or handsome ideas that are out there. We can't do it alone, we need your input and; more importantly, we want it. I challenge you to contact one of your county board members, let them know your idea. Perhaps it is in rough shape, but don't worry, we've got the people to get rid of the rough spots, clean it, soften it, and put the final shimmer on it. I'm looking forward to your ideas, no matter what shape they come to us in...and the next shampoo sale.

**Gretchen Kamps**  
WFBF District 3 Coordinator

## County YFA Update



Happy 2014 everyone! We finished off 2013 rather well. In December, we adopted a family around Christmas time. We used money from our silent auction to purchase gifts for an Iowa County family. It was heart-

warming knowing we helped someone out this Christmas. Also I want to thank everyone who attended the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. We had around a dozen YFA members from Iowa County in attendance. It truly is a great bonding and learning experience. If you haven't ever attended, please try to sometime.

Currently we are planning an ice fishing and sledding party at Blackhawk Lake so please be on the lookout for a postcard in your mailbox for this event. It should be fun.

As always, if you have YFA event ideas please let me know as we are always looking for more ideas.

**Jackie McCarville**  
Iowa County YFA Chair

## Ag in the Classroom Training Session

Are you looking to learn more about the Ag in the Classroom program? If you answered yes, please join Vernon County Farm Bureau on **March 22** at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in LaFarge. We'll give you some tips and activities that you can take back and use in your classroom or the next time you have a chance to advocate for agriculture. **The workshop will begin at 10:30 a.m. and conclude at 1 p.m.** Lunch will be included. For more information, please contact District 3 Coordinator Gretchen Kamps at 866.355.7343.



## Photos Wanted!

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work on some of the most beautiful pieces of land. In Rural Route WFBF would like to highlight those sights and special moments with your families and friends.

**Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to [ssutton@wfbf.com](mailto:ssutton@wfbf.com).**



## Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| President, Krista Dolan                | 608.574.4565 |
| Vice President, Laura Daniels          | 608.513.0210 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Adams         | 608.623.2135 |
| YFA Chair, Jackie McCarville           | 608.604.0321 |
| Ag Promotion's Chair, Melissa Doyle    | 608.574.9884 |
| Ag in the Classroom Chair, Livia Doyle | 608.574.9882 |

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Director, Ross Blotz     | 608.574.6129 |
| Director, Bob Daentl     | 608.623.2731 |
| Director, Ryan Dolan     | 608.574.6280 |
| Director, Justin Doyle   | 608.574.9882 |
| Director, Adam Heisner   | 608.987.2613 |
| Director, Donald Ley     | 608.935.5036 |
| Director, Matt Limmex    | 608.588.7216 |
| Director, John Meyers    | 608.924.4746 |
| Director, Roger Schambow | 608.943.8546 |

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Iowa County Farm Bureau                | 888.644.8363 |
| District 3 Coordinator, Gretchen Kamps | 866.355.7343 |
| WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder    | 608.987.3424 |
| RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson     | 608.935.9500 |

## Agriculture Promotions Update

By **Melissa Doyle**, Ag Promotions Chair

This soup is another family favorite and a perfect recipe for a cold winter day. Using delicious Wisconsin cheddar cheese and a bottle of New Glarus Spotted Cow makes it even better. Enjoy!

### *Broccoli Beer Cheese Soup*

#### Ingredients

- 3 medium carrots, finely chopped
- 5 celery ribs, finely chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 4 cans (14.5 ounces each) chicken broth
- 4 cups fresh broccoli florets, chopped
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup water
- 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, cubed
- 1 bottle (12 ounces) beer or nonalcoholic beer

Optional toppings: cooked and crumbled bacon, chopped green onions, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream and salad croutons

#### Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or large pot, sauté the celery, carrots and onion in butter until almost tender; add the broth, broccoli, salt and pepper.
2. Combine flour and water until smooth; stir into pan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 30-40 minutes or until thickened and vegetables are tender.
3. Stir in the cheeses and beer; cook until heated through and cheese is melted, stirring occasionally (do not boil).
4. Serve desired amount with toppings of your choice.

