

# Taylor County Farm Bureau

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**Sam Scott** (715) 748-6464  
**Dave Meihak - District Manager**

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Helping Hands from the Heartland

*Benefit on February 22 to benefit our ranching friends affected by Snowstorm Atlas*

"A Helping Hand from the Heartland," a benefit concert and steak supper, will take place on Saturday, February 22 at Dale's Weston Lanes in Weston. This fundraiser is being organized by members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Proceeds from the benefit will go to the "South Dakota Farm Bureau CARES Fund" to help ranch families impacted by the devastating early October blizzard, Snowstorm Atlas.

We would like to invite you to join our effort in lending a helping hand to those South Dakota farmers and ranchers affected by Snowstorm Atlas. We would like to invite all Farm Bureau members to attend the benefit.

### Steak Supper Benefit, Concert and Raffle

Saturday, February 22

4-7 p.m. - Steak Supper • 8 p.m. - Concert by Tuscan Road

Dales Weston Lanes, Weston

All proceeds will go to the South Dakota Farm Bureau Cares Fund to help ranch families impacted by Snowstorm Atlas last October.

### Looking to come to part of the event but not the whole thing?

No worries, we have packages for everyone!

**Night Out Package:** \$25 per person (meal, two drink tickets and pass to the concert)

**Mmm Steak:** \$15 per person (meal only)

**Just Dance:** \$10 per person (concert only)

Pre-Sale tickets are available through our steering committee members. Taylor County's representative is MJ Zenner (715.748.9280).

Want to volunteer to help? Please contact your Taylor County representative MJ Zenner for details on how you can be a part of the big event!

Can't make it but still want to help? Go to [www.sdfbf.org](http://www.sdfbf.org) and click on South Dakota Farm Bureau Cares.



## Helping Hands from the Heartland Sponsorship Form

If you are interested in supporting "A Helping Hand from the Heartland" or have questions, please contact Beth Schaefer at 608.577.6845 or Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710. We are seeking raffle items, food donations for the steak supper and cash donations to help defray costs of the benefit.

Please return sponsorship form by Friday, February 14 to Beth Schaefer, P.O. Box 69, Hatley, WI 54440. Please make checks payable to the Marathon County Farm Bureau, memo, "Helping Hands." Thank you!

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to sponsor:

\_\_\_\_\_ Event Sponsor:

\_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib (\$500-\$999)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sirloin (\$250 - \$499)

\_\_\_\_\_ T-Bone (\$1-\$249)

\_\_\_\_\_ Raffle Sponsor:

I would like to donate the following item(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Valued at: \_\_\_\_\_



# COUNTYnews

TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## WFBF Annual Meeting Review

By Lindsey Prah, District 8 Coordinator

As I wound down from the WFBF Annual Meeting, I was very proud of District 8 and Taylor County Farm Bureau. The entire district was represented well throughout the event, and each county should be pleased with the members who attended.

At the Annual Meeting this year the delegates set the state policy for 2014, learned about the importance of communicating our personal message about agriculture, and recognized the top award winners throughout the state.



Even Taylor County Farm Bureau's youngest members got in on the fun at the Kalahari! Mark Brugger participated in James Wedgwood's ventriloquist act on Saturday night by giving him an unusual tongue twister. The crowd had a great time, listening to Mark and Mr. Wedgwood.

Beth Porior Schaefer from Marathon County and Mike and Susan Brugger from Taylor County who competed in the Final Four for the YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award. Our YFA members were so successful from District 8 this year! Congratulations to them all!

The district was represented well at the Producer Club luncheon, where members were recognized for their membership accomplishments. Members recognized included Lyle Weden and Randy Wokatsch from Marathon County, Dick Roth and Leonard Wiza from Portage County, George Blomberg from Price County and Ray Maciejewski from Wood County. A special congratulations

goes out to Randy Wokatsch for also being honored at the Sunday evening awards banquet for being in the Top Ten for membership volunteers again this year! He has had quite a streak of excellent membership performance and does a great job with membership work all year long.



Taylor County YFA members connected at the YFA Friday night Bumblefest concert. Plenty of networking opportunities were present for YFA members during the entire conference!



Taylor County members who attended the Annual Meeting were (standing L to R) Rob Klussendorf, MJ Zenner, Ryan Klussendorf, Mike Brugger, Dick Wesle, Jack Johnson, (sitting L to R) Nathan Eckert, Karyn Eckert, Brittany Zenner, Cheri Klussendorf, Susan Brugger, and Barb Wesle.

This year for the third time Taylor County Farm Bureau was recognized in the County Program of Excellence Award for their Just Beeing Around program and the first time Marathon County Farm Bureau was recognized for their Little Britches Kiddie dairy show program. The counties earned \$500 and a spot to share their program at the trade show with other Farm Bureau members. Their displays were the most interactive at the trade show for county programs, and I would like to acknowledge their great programs and presentations.

I would like to congratulate all of the District 8 counties in a job well done at the Annual Meeting! Your county accomplishments, both large and small, are a reflection of your county Farm Bureau's purpose, and the good work you do every year to make agriculture vibrant and keep it growing in your local community.



Taylor County delegate Jack Johnson spoke on behalf of Taylor County members during the policy session of the WFBF Annual meeting on Monday morning of the three-day conference.



MJ Zenner competed in the Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference. He was just one of five YFA members from Taylor County vying for an YFA award.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 President's Message
- Learning Opportunities
- YFA Bowling Event
  
- 3 YFA Contest Participation
- County Annual Meeting
- Pumpkin Pie Activity
- McDonald House Event
- Just "Beeing" Around
- Member Benefits

## President's Message - City Kid vs Farm Kid



While growing up I always wanted to be a city kid. I wanted to come home from school and be able to watch TV, play games and hang out with my family. Instead, I had to go out to the barn in the morning before I went to school and as soon as we got home from school. I will

admit I did get to spend time with my family... but I also worked my little nine-year-old butt off. I was the farm kid who said I would never be a farmer when I grew up and I wouldn't make my kids have chores! Boy, do things change!

Now I am the blessed mother of three boys. Believe it or not, Ryan and I do not assign chores to our boys every day. When we are a little behind, or need some help we do call upon the boys to come out and help with chores. For the most part the boys are free to play and imagine whatever their little brains can come up with. We do have a few rules: 1) you have to pick up what you drag out; 2) you have to play outside while we are outside and 3) everyone plays together or no one plays. I do feel bad for the boys sometimes when they come home and don't want to go outside, but I really don't want to clean up the mess I will have if they are allowed to be inside by themselves.

Kale, Owen and Max have lots of friends who have a Nintendo DS, Wii, X-box and just about every other game imaginable. My boys have one DS and the Super Nintendo I got for Christmas when I was their age. Many nights we have a fight about who gets to play the DS, but with time limits they get over it really fast. The Super Nintendo only gets played when they have friends over who want to play video games. It's hooked up all the time but no one seems to have time to play. Instead, they have the whole farm to play their own real life video game, or live their favorite reality TV show.

All summer long the boys mined for gold in my driveway like "Gold Rush". I have tons of little trenches in the driveway. It was like riding a roller coaster when I came home from work. Then they were in the pine trees "Swamp Logging", which was OK because there were a lot of little bushes growing where they weren't supposed to be till they started logging. I really wondered what they would get their selves into this winter when it was so cold.

After the first inch of snow this year I was walking to the house in the morning and could hear the boys outside. It was about 7 a.m. and I found it strange they would be outside. When I got to the house door I saw a red Post-It note stuck to the door. All it said was "gone sledding". There was barely enough snow to cover the ground and here they were all

dressed, ready for school, and having the time of their life. All I could think was how this is such an anomaly that this would never happen again. Well every day for a week there were little red Post-It notes. I'm sure you are all thinking what they could do next...

Well, the new season of Gold Rush is upon us so of course they are now mining for gold in the heifer pasture. There is about eight inches of snow where they are mining. This adventure usually starts after dark when they get their homework done and we are going out to the barn to start milking. So when you are looking out the north door of the parlor behind the shed you can see the sky lit up with flash lights stuck in the snow and hundreds of trails thru the snow and one massive pile of "pay dirt". I don't expect them to find a great pay-day from the gold, but I love to see their imaginations at work. The memories they are making with each other will last a life-time, and are worth more than any nugget of gold. I can honestly say I always wanted to be a city kid... but have you ever known one of them to mine for gold in the heifer pasture? I love my country kids and wouldn't trade them for any gold nugget in the world!

**Cheri Klussendorf**  
Taylor County Farm Bureau President

## Upcoming Agricultural Opportunities in the Area

Please take a chance to get involved in some of the nearby opportunities listed below:

### Heifers: The Next Generation

March 6 | 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Abbotsford City Hall

Cost: \$10 with registration by February 25, \$15 at the door. Lunch included.  
To register, call the Taylor County UW-Extension at 715.748.3327, ext 8.

- Real Herds, Real Heifers: the cost of raising heifers in Wisconsin, results of the 2013 survey
- New Concepts in Calf Scours: Don Sockett, DVM, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
- Raising Calves Right and Animal Wellbeing: Amy Stanton, PhD, Assistant Professor Dairy Cattle Wellbeing Specialist, Department of Dairy Science, UW-Madison

### Traits of High Profit Feeder Calves, Farmer and Cattle Friendly Facilities Highlight UW-Extension Cattle Feeders Clinics

In the last few years, cattle feeders have witnessed record high commodity cattle prices as well as continued volatility in the grain markets. Wisconsin cattle feeders who are seeking information on traits that high profit feeder calves have or are interested in improving their cattle housing and feed storage, handling and feeding facilities should attend this year's cattle feeder clinics. This workshop series is partially funded by a grant from the USDA Risk Management Agency.

The Cattle Feeders Clinics is held at seven locations around the state from **February 24-27**. Additional information will be available at the UW-Extension Wisconsin Beef Information Center Website [fyi.uwex.edu/wbic](http://fyi.uwex.edu/wbic) in early 2014.

Taylor, Clark and Marathon UW-Extensions will host the Cattle Feeder's Clinic on **February 26 beginning at 5:30 p.m.** at the Hayloft, County Road T and X in Withee. So we can plan the meal and handout material, please register by February 22, by calling UWEX Taylor County at 715.748.3327 ext. 8. There is a \$10 fee to attend when registered before February 22 and you may pay at the door. Late registrations or walk-ins will be charged \$15.

### Save the Date: Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference in Eau Claire

The Wisconsin Dairy Well-Being Conference will be held **Friday, March 7** in Eau Claire. Approaches to prevent animal cruelty will be discussed along with topics of the utmost importance to dairy farmers and the well-being of Wisconsin dairy cows.

Bruce Feinberg, McDonald's Corporation, will deliver the keynote address, "McDonald's Global Animal Health and Welfare - A Practical Approach." Other presentations will include "Animal Well-being: opinions, ethics, and science" by Amy Stanton, UW-Extension Animal Well Being Specialist, "Moving From Culling to Marketing" by Lilly Edwards-Callaway, JBS, "Replacing Outcry with Outreach" by Denny Harding, Iowa Farm Care Coalition.

For registration information, visit [fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/home](http://fyi.uwex.edu/animalhusbandryconference/home).

### Shifting Gears for Your Later Farming Years

*A program to help farmers plan for the future*

Join UW-Extension Taylor as we discuss: How much gold do I need? How much gold do I have? What will I spend in my later years? Learn practical advice about communication/lifestyle values, investment opportunities, tax considerations and estate planning presented by UW and local specialists. Take home program handouts, many publications including 'Family Estate Planning in WI', and your personalized Action Plan.

March 25 and April 1

USDA Service Center, 925 Donald St., Medford  
9 a.m.-3 p.m., both days

Advance registration with payment required by March 19. \$20 per person/\$35 two individuals from same family. Includes all materials and lunches both days.

Make checks payable to: "UW-Extension" and mail to UWEX Taylor County, 925 Donald St, Room 103, Medford, WI 54451

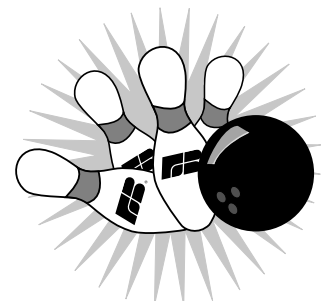
### District 8

Y F A B O W L I N G

**When:** March 1, 8 p.m.

**Where:** Marathon Lanes in  
Marathon

**Cost:** price per game and  
shoe rental



RSVP by February 26 to  
Melissa (651.380.1710) so

we know how many lanes to reserve. The whole family is welcome to attend.

## 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 [wbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Taylor County YFA Members Compete in WFBF's YFA Contests



Nathan and Karyn Eckert of rural Medford competed at the WFBF Annual Meeting as top ten finalists for the YFA Achievement Award. MJ Zenner of Medford represented Taylor County and District 8 in the YFA Discussion Meet held at the YFA Conference, while Mike and Susan Brugger of rural Rib Lake competed in the top four



for the YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award. They all did a wonderful job representing Taylor County and Wisconsin agriculture. Taylor County Farm Bureau looks forward to cheering them on in these awards next year! **Congratulations Nathan and Karyn, MJ and Susan and Mike!**

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Successful



Jack Johnson led the members thru the financial section of the county annual meeting.

and enjoyed a great meal catered by the establishment.

Members were elected to attend the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting as Taylor county delegates by the member-

Taylor County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on October 13 at BS Bar and Catering outside of Medford. At the annual meeting members were recognized for their service, resolutions were passed, and board members and delegates were elected. Members and guests were

greeted by their president, vice president and Women's chair



The Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors after the county annual meeting.

Door prizes were handed out at the conclusion of the meeting.

The annual meeting was well attended this year, and the newly elected Farm Bureau board looks forward to another successful annual meeting.

ship. One board member, Mike Brugger, was newly elected to serve a term on the board of directors.

The Service to Agriculture award was given to Ed Langteau, for his years of service to Taylor County Farm Bureau, and the agriculture community of Taylor County.

## Pumpkin Pie Activity- Big Hit as an Ag in the Classroom Project



Far Left: About 110 students learned the "easy" way to make pumpkin pie, and the importance of healthy vegetables in our diet! Taylor County Farm Bureau member Karyn Eckert coordinated the event.

Left: The entire Medford first grade class conducted the pumpkin pie project as a part of Taylor County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program this past November.

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Cheri Klussendorf 715.748.2101  
 Vice President, Mike Brugger 715.965.7763  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Timothy Wesle 715.678.2716  
 Women's Chair, Susan Brugger 715.965.7763  
 YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner 715.748.9280

Director, Karyn Eckert 715.748.4816  
 Director, Jack Johnson 715.785.7777  
 Director, Robert Klussendorf 715.785.5092  
 Director, Gary Kohn 715.748.2792  
 Director, Matthew Winnie 715.427.0227

Taylor County Farm Bureau 866.583.7597  
 WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke 715.573.7208  
 District 8 Coordinator, Lindsey Prah 866.355.7348  
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

## District 8 Women's Program Serves Families at Local Ronald McDonald House

District 8 Women are invited to participate in a statewide event to promote healthy eating at all Ronald McDonald houses during this coming February. Susan Brugger is collecting information for volunteers to help prepare, cook and serve approximately 25 individuals during the month of February, and for any county program to donate \$50 toward the donation materials. Please contact Susan if you are able to help by at 715.748.8411.



Throughout 2014, District 8 will also be competing against other districts in a "Pop Top Challenge". Ronald McDonald Houses across the nation collect pop tops as a part of an on-going fundraiser to help families use Ronald McDonald Houses. This year WFBF Women's programs are taking the challenge and collecting pop tops, with all proceeds going to the Ronald McDonald House program. Please collect your pop tabs throughout the year and contact Susan to arrange pick up. We will weigh District 8's pop tops at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December of 2014, so save up for the Ronald McDonald House!

## Just "Beeing" Around Recognized as a WFBF Top County Program



Taylor County Farm Bureau was recognized at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells for the new county program "Just Beeing Around".

Members Dick Wesle, Jack Johnson, Cheri Klussendorf, Rob Klussendorf and Susan Brugger all aided in setting up and staffing a display at the WFBF Trade Show as a part of their

program to reach out to members about the success of Taylor County Farm Bureau's newest program. The county earned \$500 reward for earning a top spot for this county program!