

Grant County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Ag Day at the Capitol Review



Grant County Farm Bureau members are pictured here with Representative Tranel.

On January 29, 420 Wisconsin agriculturalists descended on the Capitol to visit with their legislators and get caught up on some of the current topics facing Wisconsin agriculture. Governor Scott Walker served as the keynote speaker. He focused on how important agriculture is to our state's economy as well as discussing the LP fuel shortage that was taking place.

The biggest issues that were discussed were the future of high capacity well regulation in Wisconsin as well as clearly defining implements of husbandry and how they can be used on the roads. Additionally, attendees heard about the importance of animal welfare, oversized loads of hay and straw, phosphorus, raw milk, foreign ownership of land and the importance of use value assessment.

Mark your calendar for next year's Ag Day at the Capitol, which will take place on March 11, 2015.

Grant County YFA Update

Grant County was well represented at the annual Wisconsin Farm Bureau YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells in December. Friday night we socialized while listening to the rock band Bumblefist. One of my favorite things was listening to Jude Capper on Saturday as the keynote speaker and then attending her breakout sessions. When so many activists are out there trying to stop animal agriculture and giving undeserved negative attention to farmers, Jude Capper is out there talking about the myths and misconceptions. She gave us great positive facts we can relay back to consumers.



Members tested their Farm Bureau knowledge during the trivia game on Friday night!

In January we had a District 3 bowling and holiday party. There was a great turn out and we signed up some new members. It's great to see our YFA members staying active. In February we had a sledding and ice fishing party at Blackhawk Lake. The kids needed a day out in the fresh air and had a blast riding sleds. Congrats to Kory Stalsberg on the biggest and most fish caught!

In March we are going to a Fighting Saints Hockey game in Dubuque, where we will all get some adult-only time in the Bud Light zone enjoying the game, snacks and drinks. This summer we will be doing a Night on the Farm with some new activities during the day. Also, we will be doing the Ag Tent again at the Grant County Fair. Look for more information on these events in the next newsletter.

Hope to see more young members at our events as we are trying to do more events this year and spread the word of what Grant County Farm Bureau YFA is all about. If you have any ideas for a YFA event please let me know!

Sarah Johnsen
Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Chair



COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County was well represented with 26 members attending the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Being recognized in many areas, you can see that Grant County was very successful this year! If you'd like to learn more about the Annual Meeting, resolutions process, or how you can get involved in the annual meeting, please contact a board member or attend one of our board meetings, the first Thursday of the month, starting at 7:30 p.m.



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1. Grant County delegates for 2013 were (L to R) Adam Steinbach, Don Steinbach, Jennifer A. Digman, Dick Johnson, Derek Orth, Peter Winch, Matt Adrian and Larry Jerrett.
2. Jennifer M. Digman graduated from the Farm Bureau Institute.
3. Andrea Stalsberg did a great job representing Grant County in the Discussion Meet!
4. Joe and Sarah Mumm were recognized as a Top 10 Finalist in the Achievement Award!
5. Grant County members Derek and Charisse Orth took over responsibilities as the District 3 YFA Representatives.
6. Grant County had a great delegation attend the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting!
7. Grant County was recognized as the leading county contributor for their \$1,100 donation to the 40 by 40 Campaign. Roger Cliff got his start in Grant County. What a privilege to help honor him!
8. Nicole Adrian was elected by the WFBF Women's Committee to serve as the 2014 Chair. She is shown here with the nine-member state Women's Committee.

President's Message



I've held many different jobs in the last two months.... plumber, electrician, lobbyist, feed mixer, cowboy, pig herder, purchasing agent and a few others. The winter has been semi tough.

The Grant County Farm Bureau had 10 members attend Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison on January 29. The group met with Senator Dale Schultz and Representative Travis Tranel. The group discussed a number of topics with our legislators including animal welfare, high capacity wells permits for farmers and

state laws pertaining to farm machinery; the Senate Bill # 509 and Assembly Bill # 648 which deals with implements of husbandry. By the time you read this the legislators may have acted on this bill (hopefully with some changes).

The Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors set up a committee to look at bylaws of the county Farm Bureau and bring them up-to-date with today's standards. The last revision was done in 1995. Some changes include use of electronic mail for meeting notices and communications. These changes will be voted on at the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting in September. Hope to see you there.

Some of the members attended a Tax Reform Roundtable facilitated Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch at the Pioneer Student Center in Platteville. It was very informative and interesting, and we gave our comments.

Hopefully the winter will finally relinquish into spring so I can start that other job I have, farmer. Good luck this spring.

Thanks,

Larry Jerrett
Grant County Farm Bureau President

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 YFA Representatives

Reminder to Call Before You Dig!

Building a shed? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.



A federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

District 3 Women's Message



As we are all waiting eagerly for spring to arrive there are many new activities going on in the Women's program. The first is the essay contest for fourth and fifth graders due to the counties on April 1. If you would like more information please visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

Our Food Link has replaced Food Check-Out Week. Information on this was mailed to county leaders and can also be found on wfbf.com. This year the state Women's Committee is having a pop top challenge between districts. We will be having counties in each district collect tabs and deposit them in containers at the WFBF Annual Meeting. After they are all collected they will be divided between the three Ronald

McDonald houses in the state. So start saving now for the December meeting. July Beef month information is also coming out. If you participate in any activities for Our Food Link or July Beef Month please let me know if I can help in any way.

In January I attended the AFBF Annual Meeting in San Antonio. I was elected as a delegate for the Women's Committee for the Midwest region. It was very informative and exciting to sit on the floor with other Farm Bureau members. It was a memory I will never forget. If you have any questions about the Women's program, please contact me at any time. Have a safe spring!

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

A Woman 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.

Grant County Women's Committee Update

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Grant County Farm Bureau Women's committee for placing in the top five for their 2013 Women's Program! For this honor they received a plaque at the WFBF Annual Meeting held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells in December. The Women's committee would also like to thank the board of directors and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee for their help with our 2013 program.



June Johnson accepted the recognition plaque for the Women's Committee finishing as one of the top five in the State!

Well, here it is, moving through March and we have a good start on our program for 2014. The Grant County Farm Bureau Women's Committee will be participating in a new program, 'Our Food Link'. This new program will replace 'Food Check-Out Week.' Our Food Link will be a year-round program. We are still in the planning stages and we plan to have more information in the next newsletter.

We are still taking the grocery survey. Listen for the reports on the local radio station and watch the reports in the Wisconsin farm papers.

Think Spring!

June Johnson
Grant County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair

Women's Committee Members

June Johnson	Chair
Pat Steinbach	Vice-Chair, ATIC Co-Chair, Fair Committee
Nicole Adrian	Secretary/Treasurer
Beverly Porter	Fair Committee
Christina Winch	AITC Co-Chair
Jennifer Bailie	Member
Virginia Freymiller	Member
Mary Ann Hoffman	Member
Lori Jerrett	Member
Charisse Orth	Member
Betty Winters	Member

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Director, Alfred Freymiller 608.533.3233
Director, Jason Heberlein 608.533.3233
Director, Richard Hoffman 608.723.4532
Director, Allen Johnson 608.348.7144
Director, Richard Johnson 608.348.7144
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Director, Morris Schauff 608.725.5490
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District Director's Message



Not everything is always as it appears. We've all heard that expression. The sun today is shining brightly and all appears to be good, but when you step outside you're quickly reminded it's below zero and the wind chill takes your breath away.

Agriculture over the last five to six years appears to be doing great. And we have been doing great with respect to prices paid, record receipts and record exports. But as Paul Harvey would say... "And now the rest of the story."

Agriculture has its challenges, always has and always will. Some of those challenges are of our own making, like the high land and land rent prices. Some are the creations of others like the long overdue farm bill, immigration and chronic budget shortages.

We like certainty... we like to know what all of the pieces of the puzzle are before we invest our time, money and energy.

Needless to say, Congress has neglected their responsibility and after nearly three years of discussion, the farm bill was just passed by Congress.

It will months before we understand all of the programs and changes to new and exciting programs.

Farm Bureau will be engaged to help with the deciphering the context of the new programs and how they may impact your farm.

New trade pacts are in discussions and will play an important role in our conversations when we go to Washington, D.C. and visit with our representatives this year.

Trade today is the greatest driver of our growth; agriculture exports are projected to be close to 140 billion dollars. It is critical we have fair trade policies that allow for tariff free access to the countries involved.

Further, we continue to challenge the Environmental Protection Agency and its unwarranted consideration of reducing the Renewable Fuels Standard production goals. Few programs have had a greater impact on meeting this country's energy independence, job growth and farmers' balance sheets.

There will always be more issues and you can be assured Farm Bureau will be part of extending your voice when agriculture needs to be heard.

Awaiting the warm spring rains...

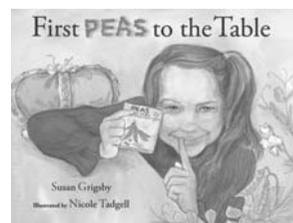
Be safe.

Richard Gorder
District 3 Board Director

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 Grant County Farm Bureau Women's chair June Johnson, 1831 Old Lancaster Road, Platteville, WI 53818.

Essays are due on April 1. They will be judged and the county winner will receive a prize. Their essay will also be forwarded to compete for top essay in the state. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact June Johnson at 608.348.7144, or visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org.



Introducing Our Food Link

Many of you might be familiar with a program called 'Food Check-Out Week'. Historically, this week has been used to celebrate the week that many families have earned enough income to buy their groceries for the year. As our Farm Bureaus are able to get more active and engaged and there are more opportunities to meet with consumers throughout the year, the American Farm Bureau Women's Committee worked hard to design a program that could meet the needs of Farm Bureau's that work tirelessly promoting agriculture all year at various events.



'Our Food Link' is a year-round program that county and state Farm Bureau volunteers can use to effectively reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with information about today's agriculture. It will take the place of Food Check-Out Week. AFBF has designed a planning toolkit to help counties get started thinking about projects that will engage people in their community. It includes sample activity ideas, media outreach sample text, program graphics and plenty of room to customize Our Food Link to your area. You can find more information about this program online go to www.fb.org and search 'Food Link'.

If you have an idea to help promote one of the many agricultural commodities in Grant County, please let us know. Maybe you're willing to host a farm tour for consumers, or maybe it is to write an article for the county newsletter to share more about what you do. Maybe you are not a farmer and you've got questions about how things on farms work or perhaps you are an agri-business owner willing to open up your doors and play host to some of our Young Farmer and Agriculturist members. Whatever your idea is, we'd like to hear it. The board meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month at the Grant County Farm Bureau building in Lancaster at 7:30 p.m. If you can't make it to the meeting, please feel free to email your comments to Gretchen Kamps at gkamps@wfbf.com. Our Food Link is full of opportunities and we're looking forward to using them to make agriculture stronger in Grant County!