

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Trempealeau County YFA Members YFA Conference By Brian Maliszewski

Growth is happening with the YFA group or, as I see them, "The future leaders of Farm Bureau." This year's YFA getaway was a bin buster! We exceeded last year's participation with record attendance once again. Trempealeau County had eight YFA members in attendance and one Discussion Meet finalist. My goal as our Trempealeau County YFA chair and District 4 YFA representative is to continue being able to send YFA candidates each year.



District 4 YFA Representatives Brian and Sara Maliszewski led the District 4 YFA meeting.

The Trempealeau County YFA members will once again plan a milkshake fundraiser at this fall's tractor pull in Galesville. This fundraiser provides money to support events in our county as well as sending our local YFA members to state events.



Dan Filla (middle) represented Trempealeau County in the Discussion Meet.

It is exciting to have so many eager young agriculturists around but we still need everyone's encouragement to keep the younger generation alive. Together we will make a positive difference for Farm Bureau.

This is mine and my wife's last year serving on the State YFA Committee representing District 4. We have some fun-filled events planned for the year. On March 7 we took a charter bus tour to

the Agco Manufacturing plant. Before planting begins, we want to take a group to Action City in Eau Claire and complete a community service event. Stay tuned for more details.



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau YFA members Broc Kensmoe and Kayla Halama had fun at the YFA Conference.



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau members Crystal and Ryan Johnson relaxed during the band at the YFA Conference.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

To be eligible you must meet the following qualifications:

- 1) Must be a family member of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau.
- 2) (1) \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior going into an agriculture field of study.
- 3) There is also an annual scholarship of \$500 for those who are graduating college and continuing their studies to become a veterinarian.



The application is available from Trempealeau County guidance counselors and agriculture teachers.

Applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2014 to:

Celeste Schank
W26426 County Road X
Independence, WI 54747-9040

For more information or questions, you may contact Celeste Schank at 715.985.3187.



COUNTYnews

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

Members of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau attended the WFBF Annual Meeting December 7-9 at Wisconsin Dells. Members in attendance were: Shane and Melinda Goplin, Jamie and Darcy Goplin, Todd Quarne, Dawn Lunde, Brian and Sara Maliszewski, Amber and Tim Radatz, Crystal and Ryan Johnson, Broc Kensmoe, Kayla Halama, Roger and Charlotte Dahl, Jason Pyka, Melissa Dziak, Phil Pyka, and Dan Filla. Delegates representing Trempealeau Farm Bureau were Shane Goplin, Todd Quarne, Jamie Goplin, Roger Dahl and Yvonne Shepherd.

During the Annual Meeting members were treated to workshops on topics ranging from learning more about Farm Bureau to



Farm Bureau members Todd Quarne and Dawn Lunde during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

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.



Producer Club Member (obtaining at least five new memberships) Shane Goplin and District 4 Coordinator Steve Boe.

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



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting were (back L to R) Jamie Goplin, Roger Dahl, Todd Quarne, (front L to R) Yvonne Shepherd, Charlotte Dahl and Shane Goplin.

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 passed at the state level. 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!



Legendary Trempealeau Farm Bureau member Yvonne Shepherd accepts the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau, the highest award that is bestowed to Farm Bureau members.



Dennis Frame accepted the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

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Update from your Ag Promotions Chair



(2005). We are on my husband's home farm south of Osseo. We have two young boys who keep us entertained. I am eager

Greetings to all! My name is Crystal (Heath) Johnson, and I am the newly-elected Ag Promotions chair for Trempealeau County. After spending seven years teaching high school agriculture in Montana, my family has returned to west central Wisconsin to try our hand at dairy farming. I am a graduate of Whitehall High (2001) and UW-River Falls

to take on this role and to keep the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau moving forward.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Ag Promotions position, let me explain. The board decided to streamline the Women's chair and Ag in the Classroom chair, thus the creation of the Ag Promotions chair. My role will be to guide the women in our organization by promoting and attending various events and networking with other women in agriculture.

In addition to my tasks with the women, I hope to create a strong network of men and women throughout the county who will facilitate our Ag in the Classroom program. Ag in the Classroom provides teachers and K-12 students an understanding of how their food is produced. By providing teachers

a qualified person AND the materials needed to teach hands-on, engaging, agriculture-based lessons, we are helping teach our youth the vital role agriculture plays in our society. I am here to serve our county, so if you know a teacher who could benefit from the addition of some agricultural lessons in their classroom OR if you have a student who would be interested in learning about agriculture through their classroom, please contact me and I will work with the teacher to provide lessons and supplies for a variety of wonderful activities.

Until next time,

Crystal Johnson
Trempealeau County Ag Promotions Chair

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.

During our trip we visited the New Zealand and Netherlands foreign embassies. The nice young ladies made us feel at home while they taught us about agriculture in their home countries. They compared their economy to the U.S. as we discussed trade policies and tariffs of imports and exports. It was interesting 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 upcoming changes in crop insurance and conservation compliance. The only thing bad about our visit to the USDA was that it wasn't long enough.



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau president Todd Quarne went with Steve Strey and Joe Bragger to represent District 4 on the Washington, D.C. Trip.

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 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.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Women Attend Fall Summit

On Saturday, October 26, seven Trempealeau County gals joined ranks with some of the other District 4 women at the Foster Cheese Haus to hear words from Brandie Frees, enjoy the delicious food at the Haus and tour the Castle Rock Organic dairy processing plant in addition to the cheese caves just outside Foster.

Brandie talked with attendees about the sisterhood that exists between ladies in agriculture, and how in today's society it is often overlooked. She encouraged women to keep that sisterhood alive by helping each other when able.

At the processing plant attendees learned how Castle Rock processes their milk into pasteurized (but not homogenized) milk, many different flavors of cheese, and ice cream. At the caves we viewed the cheese aging storage area and we tasted the cranberry, orange, blue and cheddar varieties of their cheese. Doris Anderson, Charlotte Dahl, Debbie Fremstad, Gretchen Erickson, Crystal Johnson, Yvonne Shepherd and Kristin Woodard represented Trempealeau County at the event. Buffalo County will be hosting next year's Women's Fall Summit and we look forward to more women joining us for the fun!



Doris Anderson, Charlotte Dahl, Yvonne Shepherd, Gretchen Erickson, Crystal Johnson and Debbie Fremstad. Not picture: Kristin Woodard.



(L to R) Charlotte Dahl, Gretchen Erickson, Debbie Fremstad and Yvonne Shepherd conversed during the Women's Fall Summit.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- 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 Hericks (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@triwest.net

Rob Richard Hired as Senior Director of Governmental Relations



Rob Richard has been hired by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation as its senior director of governmental relations.

As a registered lobbyist for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Richard will assist grassroots Farm Bureau members in working with local, state and federal lawmakers to advance the policy directives for Wisconsin's largest general farm organization.

"Growing up in rural southwest Wisconsin I learned the importance of agriculture to this state. I look forward to advocating on behalf of Farm Bureau members," Richard said.

Richard comes to the Farm Bureau from the State Capitol where he served as deputy chief of staff for Senate Majority

Leader Scott Fitzgerald. He previously worked as the assistant director for Circus World Museum and also as legislative aide for both State Representatives Mark Gottlieb and Steve Freese. The Kieler native has a degree in history from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

"Rob's background as a legislative aide in the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate make him an outstanding asset to our team," said Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Executive Director of Governmental Relations. "With his experience he will be able to hit the ground running to lobby on behalf of Wisconsin farm families. He understands the importance of Wisconsin agriculture and will be an asset for advocating our position to legislators, state agencies and other farm commodity groups."

Richard and his wife, Carrie, live in the Sauk Prairie area with their two young children.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Ag Promotions Chair, Crystal Johnson 406.480.0729
YFA Chair, Brian Maliszewski 715.530.1107

Director, Thomas Bice 608.539.3172
Director, Chuck Johnson 608.863.2530
Director, Broc Kensmoe 715.533.2355
Director, Bruce Prudlick 715.797.1130

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau 888.830.2573
District 1 Coordinator, Steve Boe 866.355.7344
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board members (L to R) Crystal Johnson, Celeste Schank, Brian Maliszewski, Jamie Goplin, Chuck Johnson, Todd Quarne, Tom Bice, Bruce Prudlick and Broc Kensmoe.

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, understand 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 available at wisagclassroom.org.