

# **Marathon County Farm Bureau**

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David Meihak - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Winter Doesn't Stop YFA Members from Enjoying District Events

District 8 YFA members were busy this winter, attending various county events. Portage County hosted the first event on February 8 at the Eron's pond outside of Junction City. Quite a few of our YFA families took part in the daytime event and tried their hands at ice-fishing. While members ended up getting skunked, they still had a great time taking in the fresh air and enjoying the company.

Taylor County YFA hosted the next event; a day of tubing at Perkinstown Hill in western Taylor County. Member families enjoyed the tubing hill and had some hot cocoa in the chalet. Finally, the district held a bowling night on March 1 in Marathon County. Members enjoyed the conversation and camaraderie of the evening.

Look in your mailbox for the next YFA events, including a return of the Night at the Ball Diamond!



Members of all ages had a great time during the Saturday afternoon ice fishing event held in February. Jeff Okonek and his daughter tried to catch the "big one".



A group of YFA members from across District 8 gathered for a fun afternoon at the Eron's pond outside of Junction City.

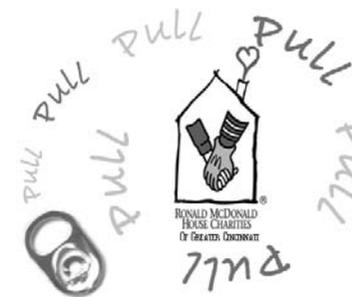
### District 8 Women's Program Serves Families at Local Ronald McDonald House

District 8 Women participated in a statewide event to promote healthy eating at the Marshfield Ronald McDonald house Friday, February 28. Ladies from Clark, Taylor and Wood counties made a meal for the families who use the house as their home when a child from their family is ill and needs to stay at the children's Hospital in Marshfield.



In February, Farm Bureau members Ashleigh Calaway, Deb Esselman and Susan Brugger prepared a meal for the families utilizing the Marshfield Ronald McDonald house.

**Don't Forget! County Farm Bureaus are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. Please continue to collect those tabs!**





# COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Volunteers Make the Difference

Helping Hands from the Heartland Benefit raises \$13,000 for South Dakota Ranchers

District 8 Farm Bureau members banded together after October's winter storm Atlas affected hundreds of ranchers in rural South Dakota to raise money to help their friends in agriculture in a great time of need.

Nine Farm Bureau members representing District 8 county Farm Bureaus formed a steering committee to develop the Helping Hands from the Heartland benefit.



benefit others! The committee hosted the country/rock band Tuscan Road, who played an awesome concert during the event from 8 p.m. to midnight.

District 8 members raised \$13,000 which went directly to the South Dakota Farm Bureau CARES fund, for ranchers affected by devastating losses due to that early winter storm.



Together the committee worked for three months to develop, raise funds and implement the one-night event at Dale's Weston Lanes



on Saturday, February 22. Through the hard work of many Farm Bureau members, a steak supper was offered, with more than 40 raffle items, all to

The Helping Hands from the Heartland committee would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors who made this Farm Bureau event a success. It was truly a grassroots effort!



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## Marathon and Lincoln County Farm Bureaus Work Together to Bring Succession Planning Workshop to Area

On March 17, farmers from Marathon and Lincoln Counties attended the first succession planning workshop hosted by Marathon and Lincoln Farm Bureaus at Willow Springs Garden, Northwest of Wausau. Members and non-members got insight from attorney Rick Bollebeck and Farm Bureau Life consultant Jared Nelson about viable solutions to the estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face.

More than 35 farmers attended the workshop, and there have already been requests from our members to dive deeper into this heavy topic. Please look for more opportunities to come in future newsletters.



Attorney Rick Bollebeck gave common sense principles and ideas about how to transfer a farm at the succession workshop on Monday, March 17.

## WFBF Seeks Photos for Rural Route

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).



## President's Message



The days are getting longer with light now. It was a very long winter with lots of snow and a lot of very cold days, which really began to wear on most people who would like to see some warmer weather. This winter was the coldest in more than 50 years. I think spring is

on everyone's mind. Being inside most of winter is not what most people had in mind for a way to pass time, or to get outside work done.

The price of gas seems to be gradually going up weekly. The price of diesel was more than \$4 per gallon at the pump at the beginning of March. That seems to be a little higher than a year ago. Just when the farmers will need to use it, go figure. Some farmers who do cash cropping are waiting to see what happens with the futures market. Some are thinking that with the lower prices and the higher land rent, it doesn't really pay

to do it anymore. Basically breaking even is not worth all the hassle. A few growers have told me that they will seed down alfalfa or other types of hay. Those prices would be better than for beans or corn. Good quality hay is always in demand.

Let's hope that this spring is better than last year, and everyone gets their crops in on a timely manner. Have a safe and early summer.

**Bill Mueller**  
Marathon County Farm Bureau President

## A Woman Rooted in Agriculture- Cheri Klussendorf



The Women's Program is featuring different women rooted in agriculture. This month meet Cheri Klussendorf from Taylor County. She is the office manager at Medford Co-op Feed and Grain Services and a grass-based dairy farmer. Her hobbies include traveling and reading.

### Tell us about your county Farm Bureau experiences:

I have been on the county Farm Bureau board for six years. I started as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair and have since been the vice president and now I'm in my third term as president. I have watched the dynamic leadership changes on the county FB board from the older to younger generation. We currently have seven Young Farmer and Agriculturist members on our board.

### What is your favorite Farm Bureau event or memory?

I personally love the WFBF Annual Meeting. I really enjoy watching the grassroots organization at its finest. I enjoy the policy development at the county level all the way to the state

Annual Meeting.

### Tell us about leadership roles with other organizations:

I am a co-general leader of Little Whispers 4-H club, where I also serve as the county clover buds leader. I serve on our county dairy breakfast committee and I'm a youth soccer coach.

### How has Farm Bureau connected you with other women in agriculture?

Last year I attended the Ag Women's Summit for the first time. I loved the interaction with other women in agriculture. Most farm women have one thing in common for sure: farm men. We are usually the sounding board when there are problems on the farm. It's nice to know that we aren't the "only one" who deals with the stressful problems. I have had a lot of fun with the women in our county during our women's events. It is nice to have other sounding boards to talk to and to understand what we go through as farm wives. I really enjoyed the wine tasting that



District 8 had this last year. After a little wine everyone starts talking and it was fun to see so many women let their "stress" go for a day!

### What bucket list item would you like to cross off this year?

I would love to take a vacation off the farm and be away from work for a while. When we won the Young Farmer Achievement award in 2011, we won a trip to Hawaii which was our first vacation away from the farm and our kids for more than a day. We both loved the trip and the time off the farm that we made an agreement that we would take a trip away from the farm each year. One year with the kids and one year without, last year we were able to take our first real family vacation with our three sons to

Disney World for eight days. This year I get to decide where we take our trip. I would like to go to Arizona for Brewers Spring Training. I don't really watch the Brewers a lot but my husband Ryan does, and with the winter we are having I would be happy anywhere warm!

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Members stopped for a quick picture before they made their way to the capitol building; from left to right: Joe Kaiser, Mike Mcquire, Don Radtke, William Litzer, Bill Mueller, Randy Wokatsch, Rita Mueller, Steve Schmidt, Ryan Prah and Mike Borchardt.



Above left: Members talked with Senator Jerry Petrowski on a number of agriculture items, with Implements of Husbandry being at the top of their list.

Above: Joe Kaiser explained how the new proposed laws would affect his custom combine business in Assemblyman Spiros' office.



Left: Members talked to their legislators about hot topic issues like Implements of Husbandry usage on roadways.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

### Auto

- General Motors Discount

### Communication

- AgriVisor (NEW)
- The Country Today

### Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

### Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Stroke Detection Plus

### Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

### Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

### Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

### Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit [wbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wbf.com/benefits-membership).

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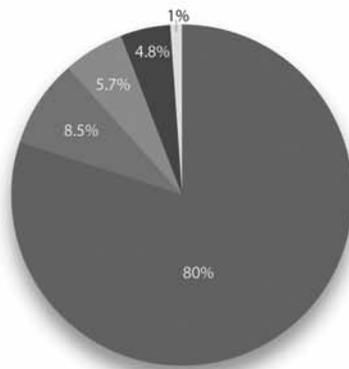
# Farm Bill 2014



## Summary

- This five-year bill provides certainty to Wisconsin farmers and consumers
- Significant dairy reform
- Funding for research and specialty crop research
- Strengthens livestock disaster programs
- Strengthens crop insurance
- Eliminates direct payments
- Creates payment limits
- Tightens eligibility rules for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- Consolidation or repeal of nearly 100 programs
- 23 duplicative conservation programs consolidated into 13

## What's included in the farm bill?



\$488.6 billion will be spent over 5 years.

- Food Stamps/Nutrition (SNAP), \$390.7 billion
- Crop Insurance, \$41.4 billion
- Conservation, \$28.2 billion
- Commodity Programs, \$23.5 billion
- Other 8 Program Titles, \$4.8 billion

## Dairy

- National monthly feed costs will be calculated based on the monthly market-reported prices for corn, soybean meal and alfalfa hay.
- Dairy production margin calculation is based on a consecutive two-month period. The two-month average feed cost will be subtracted from the two-month all-milk price.
- An administrative fee of \$100 will be charged to all participating dairies.
- Production history will be the highest base from 2011, 2012 or 2013. Annual adjustment will occur based on any increase in national milk production.
- Margin protection payments are based on a consecutive two-month period. Dairies shall determine their margin coverage level annually. Coverage levels are \$4 to \$8 in \$0.50 increments. Percentage of coverage ranges from 25% to 90% in 5% increments of the production history.
- Payments will be issued when, for a consecutive two-month period, the average actual dairy margin is less than the coverage level selected by the dairy.
- The first four million pounds will be calculated at a separate coverage level from any production exceeding four million pounds. The premium for the first four million pounds of milk will be reduced by 25% for 2014 and 2015.

- Must be established by September 1, 2014
- Voluntary program
- Margin Protection Program included
- No supply management

## Crop Insurance

- Price Loss Coverage (PLC) provides a payment to the grower when the market price is below a fixed reference price for covered crops.
- Agricultural Risk Protection (ARC) payments will be provided when either a farm's revenue from all crops or the county's revenue for a crop is below 86% of a predetermined benchmark level of revenue.
- Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) is an option to purchase area coverage with an underlying individual policy or plan of insurance.

## Marathon County Farm Bureau and Marathon County PPA Host Dairy Night with the Wausau Woodchucks

On Friday June 20, members of Marathon County Farm Bureau will be celebrating June Dairy month. First pitch is at 7:05 p.m. The evening not only includes a great baseball game, but dairy themed on-field activities and fireworks! If you are interested in participating in this great MCFB event, please contact any board member.

## Upcoming YFA Event - Don't Miss Out

Do not miss your chance to have a blast with your friends at the Wisconsin Woodchucks- Marathon County Farm Bureau and PPA June Dairy month game on **Friday, June 20**. District 8 YFA has reserved the Ministry Health Care Fan Deck for our use during this ballgame.



The night kicks off at 7:05 p.m. with the first pitch thrown. The deck includes all-you-can-eat-and-drink brats, burgers and beer, a great view of the ballgame and fireworks to end the night!

Please RSVP to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710. Cost is \$25.95 per person.



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