

# Vernon County Farm Bureau

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District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville Update

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau has more than 60 members and continues to grow. It is one of the fastest growing organizations on campus.

I believe that this is due to the large number of opportunities that this organization offers to get students involved.

During every meeting, which is normally scheduled every other Thursday, we try to have an event or guest speaker to provide members a benefit in attending.

During this spring semester, we have scheduled a showing of "Farmland," which is a view of what it takes to grow our food.

Many of us know firsthand what challenges we endure to make this happen but so many people don't. Ag in the Classroom and Ag Day on Campus are two other events that we are sponsoring this spring.



Collegiate Farm Bureau members attended the WFBF Annual Meeting Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Conference.

This semester we look forward to meeting new guest speakers involved in agriculture and setting up agriculture-related tours for the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau. Be sure to "like" the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville Facebook page for updates.

**Ethan Olson**  
Collegiate Farm Bureau President

### Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit March 13-14

Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

To register and see the full schedule, visit [wiagwomenssummit.wordpress.com/register](http://wiagwomenssummit.wordpress.com/register). The deadline to register is **March 5**.





# COUNTYnews

VERNON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Estate and Succession Planning Workshops Available



Is retirement in your future? Do you have questions about the future of your farm and the estate you leave behind?

Attendees will discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face.

The presentation will explore how to be fair to children in passing the business to heirs, while also providing a fair inheritance to non-active children, how to surmount common estate-tax traps; making sure attendees and their spouses are prepared for retirement and the potential need for long-term care; and how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors.

A complementary lunch will follow the seminar for all who attend.

This event is sponsored by your local Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents.

Please save the date and join us on the day that works best for you!

### Thursday, March 12

#### The Kickapoo Inn

827 W. Kickapoo St. (Highway 14), Readstown  
11 a.m.-12 noon with lunch to follow **or**

#### Seneca Town Hall

21041 Town Hall Road, Seneca  
3-4 p.m. with light refreshments after

### Tuesday, March 17

#### The Sports Page

117 Commerce Street, Belmont  
11 a.m.-12 noon with lunch to follow **or**  
3-4 p.m. with light refreshments after

## National Ag Day Haiku Contest

Most of you have long since left elementary school, which was probably the last time that you heard mention of a particular kind of poem, the Haiku.



Now is your chance to hop back on the poetry bandwagon! Vernon County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a National Ag Day Haiku Contest.

Rather than rhyming like many forms of poetry, a haiku focuses on the number of syllables used. True Haikus must follow the pattern of 5-7-5. It is only a three-lined poem, with the first and third lines having five syllables, and the second having seven. An example would be:

**Cows, kids, calves, farm life  
Ag is everywhere I go  
Ag Day EVERYDAY!**

So use your head, ask your children for help, think poetry while you do your chores and send us your best National Ag Day Haiku.

Please submit your entry by **March 17** to [DaisyChick80@hotmail.com](mailto:DaisyChick80@hotmail.com) or [gkamps@wfbf.com](mailto:gkamps@wfbf.com) or mail it to Rural Mutual Insurance Company Office: Haiku Contest, 520 North Main, Suite B, Viroqua, WI 54665.

## Ag Day at the Capitol - Save the Date

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

# AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

March 11, 2015  
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

**Schedule of Events:**  
11:00 a.m. Registration  
11:30 a.m. Opening Program  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing  
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

**Early Registration Deadline: March 5**  
**Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.**  
**\$30 after deadline and at the door.**

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Join your fellow Vernon County Farm Bureau members for the annual Ag Day at the Capitol. The cost is \$30 per person and includes lunch. There will be speakers updating participants on issues that are taking place in the state and then participants will have a chance to walk up the hill to the Capitol and visit with legislators.

Pre-registration is requested, but walk-ins are welcome. Payment can be made on-site. To pre-register, please contact District Coordinator Gretchen Kamps at 866.355.7343, [gkamps@wfbf.com](mailto:gkamps@wfbf.com).

Join us for a day learning more about what is happening at the Capitol and enjoy and opportunity to talk with your legislators!



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## Our Food Link – Super Bowl Grocery Store Promotion

As farmers and members in the esteemed field of agriculture, we have a pretty good grasp on where our food comes from. But does the average consumer in Vernon County?

The distance that separates most people from a farm is growing from a mere ditch into a ravine, which is becoming increasingly hard to jump. As part of the Women's Committee activities in our state; Our Food Link is designed as year round program with many activities to effectively reach our consumer friends and provide them with information about today's agriculture.

District 3 Coordinator Gretchen Kamps and I set up our

"ag shop" at Hillsboro's County Market on the afternoon of January 30, the eve of Super Bowl weekend. We offered free samples of delicious dairy product laden cheesy potatoes and mini-meatball appetizers, a beefy delight.

Shoppers were invited to take one of our personalized recipe cards. They not only had copies of the tasted recipes, but little educational facts that will remind the cook how important beef is to your diet every time they glance at the card, or how much milk it takes to make a pound of butter.

The event was deemed a success! Only a few recipe cards were left and a handful of meatballs. Some customers no doubt pur-

chased the ingredients to prepare the dishes at their Super Bowl parties. It also opened the door to future Farm Bureau activities at our local grocery store. If you have any ideas or would like some Farm Bureau members to deliver some tasty samples to your store, please let us know!

**Jacqui Davison**  
Women's Committee Chair  
daisychick80@hotmail.com



## District Coordinator Update: What's In a Number?

Every farm has a unique livestock numbering system. At our farm, we use numbers to help us track when animals arrive at our feedlot.

For example, a steer tagged 9-32, means he arrived at our farm in September and he was the 32nd animal to come through the chute that day. You might be wondering, what does this have to do with Farm Bureau? Well, it has a lot to do with it.

While you might not be walking around proudly displaying your Farm Bureau Member number, those six digits are the key to unlocking many parts of your Farm Bureau membership. They are randomly generated and assigned to you and it is a tool that you will always have in your toolbox.

For starters, you need your membership number to unlock your membership benefits. Those six numbers unlock hotel discounts, car rentals, AAA, savings at Grainger and Office Depot.

If you plan on making a larger purchase, don't forget to look for our Polaris, GM and Case IH member benefits as well.

Your membership number also is a great reminder that you are part of the largest farm organization in Wisconsin helping support farms and agri-businesses of all kinds. Our organization works to educate, inform and represent our members.

I'm not advocating for you to go out and write your Farm Bureau member number on a tag and wear it as a necklace, or put it in your ear, but I am hoping that you will look at your insurance statement or membership renewal and use those six numbers to unlock all of the potential that they have. My cattle bare their numbers with pride and I hope you will too.



## Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

It's write, yes write, around the corner!

Attention Farm Bureau members or anyone with children in fourth or fifth grade. It's time for the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. *The Beeman* by Laurie Krebs is the Book of the Year and also helps with the essay topic; 'Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?'

As a child learns from his beekeeper grandpa in the book, you will learn about bee's social life, how they make delicious honey—just enough to give you an appetite to learn more about these fascinating creatures and what they do for agriculture.

Check with your school or local librarian for a copy of the book. If your library doesn't have a copy, please contact me at 608.604.8619.

The contest is open to students in public, private, homeschool or after school programs. The essays must be 100 to 300

words, handwritten in ink or typed on a computer and fit on a single-side of one sheet of paper.

Please make sure that your essay includes the student's name, grade level and parents' names; teacher's name, email and county; school name, telephone number and address on the back of the essay. Please do not put names on the front side.

The essays will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

The essay entries need to be postmarked by **April 1** and sent to Jacqui Davison-Vernon County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, E15427 Burr Salem Rd., Hillsboro, WI 54634.

Winners will receive a Ag in the Classroom presentation in their classroom in May, and receive other tasty prizes!

Get BUZZY writing!

## WFBF Delegates Set Policy for 2015

Delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 8.

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

To address a shortage of agricultural agents in the UW-Extension system, delegates suggested that ag agents should not be required to have a master's degree and should be encouraged to work across county lines.

Furthermore, the UW-Extension system was asked to establish regions in which specialized ag agents are assigned.

In regards to laws pertaining to high capacity wells, delegates opposed defining multiple small wells on contiguous land as a high capacity well.

They also supported grandfathering in existing high capacity wells under the laws in which they were installed or upgraded including:

- Renewal of existing well permits and transfers with the sale of the land.
- Reconstruction or repair of an existing well, and the ability to replace a well if there is nominal movement from the original well location.

## Sponsored Rotational Grazing Pasture Walk on May 22

The Vernon County Farm Bureau is bringing together local members, farmers, NRCS staff, and conservation organizations to showcase the economic and environmental benefits of rotational grazing.

The event will be held on **May 22**, from 1 to 4 p.m. at E10194 State Highway 56, in Liberty which is eight miles east of Viroqua and four miles west of Viola.

Speakers will include county NRCS staff showing live examples of the EQIP fencing and other cost share programs. DNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Vetrano will explain the science behind how trout habitat benefits from rotational grazing.

Delegates went on record supporting the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) for commercial and agricultural purposes; however, they want drone operators to be required to gain consent of the land operator before flying over it. Any information collected should be the sole property of the farmer-land owner and only be used by others with signed consent of the farmer-land owner.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to:

- Support limiting the bear population to the state's original goal and support combining the authorization on one form to trap and hunt bear on a renter's property.
- Support under-documented workers being able to obtain a provisional driver's license with the completion of an instructional course.
- Oppose mandating labeling of genetically modified organisms (GMO) products or ingredients in Wisconsin.
- Oppose any municipality or county having the ability to levy a special assessment on agricultural property for constructing any public work or improvement.
- Support development of technical standards for the irrigation of manure and processed waste water.
- Support the concept of credit trading and adaptive management between municipalities and the agricultural community to reduce phosphorus discharge into surface waters.

The Kickapoo Grazing Initiative staff will update landowners on leasing options should they wish to consider grazing their own property. Examples of pasture leasing rates and contract options also will be discussed.

The event will include a free grilled grass-fed hamburger supper for attendees following the event.

Other sponsors for the event include the Wallace Center Pasture Project, the Kickapoo Grazing Initiative, Vernon County Land and Water Conservation and the Wisconsin Grass-fed Beef Cooperative.

Space is limited. Please RSVP by **May 1** to [rod.ofte@willowcreekfoods.com](mailto:rod.ofte@willowcreekfoods.com), 608.452.2861.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

<b>Auto</b> .....	<b>Communication</b> .....	<b>Financial</b> .....
• General Motors Discount	• AgriVisor	• AgriPlan Medical
<b>Health</b> .....	• The Country Today	Reimbursement Program
• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card	<b>Insurance</b> .....	• Farm Bureau Bank
• Stroke Detection Plus	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	<b>Protection</b> .....
<b>Supplies and Products</b> .....	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	• \$500 Reward Protection
• Case IH	<b>Travel</b> .....	Program
• FS-GROWMARK Patronage	• AAA	• Accidental Death Policy
• Grainger	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program	
• Polaris	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.	
• Office Depot	• Wyndham Hotel Group	

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

## Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department Contest Winners!

The Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department hosted various contests for youth throughout the county. Below is a listing of all the winners in the different divisions. Congratulations!

Additionally, there were some awards given to adults in our county! Conservation Farmer of the Year: Ralph and Sheila Petersheim, also winner of the State Conservation Farmer of the Year Award; Conservation Landowner of the Year: Randy Nigh, Conservation Teacher of the Year: Sue Berg, Viroqua Middle School Science Teacher.

### Youth Conservation Poster Contest Winners

*Kindergarten through First Grades*

1<sup>st</sup>: Clover Wojahn, Viroqua Montessori School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ilise Olson, Viroqua Montessori School; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Tyson Young, Prairie View Elementary

*Second through Third Grades*

1<sup>st</sup>: Breanna Schneider, Viroqua Montessori School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Zachary Whitaker, Viroqua Montessori School; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Elijah Anderson, Viroqua Montessori School

*Fourth through Sixth Grades*

1<sup>st</sup>: Karissa Alexander, Kickapoo Middle School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Raelynn

Doch, Viroqua Middle School; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Montaija Elmore, Viroqua Middle School

*Seventh through Ninth Grades*

1<sup>st</sup>: Tava Howell, Kickapoo Middle School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Josefina Jaynes, Kickapoo Middle School; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Rebecca Baker, Kickapoo Middle School

*Tenth through Twelfth Grades*

1<sup>st</sup>: Noel Strait, Kickapoo High School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Karma Maule, Kickapoo High School; 3<sup>rd</sup>: Nikita Sprangler, Kickapoo High School

### Youth Conservation Speech Contest

1<sup>st</sup>: Abby Severson, Viroqua Middle School; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Amayah Burks, Viroqua Middle School

### Conservation Photo Contest Winners

*Adult*

Mark Sandberg, Carolyn Sandberg, Angela Storbakken, Carla Wojahn, Pat Oldenburg, Wayne Oldenburg,

*Youth*

Naia Sandberg, Ambrosia Wojahn, Clover Wojahn, Briar Wojahn, Ayden McDowell, Benson McDowell, Serena Storbakken

## Vernon County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships for High School Seniors

The Vernon County Farm Bureau will award a \$250 scholarship. This scholarship application is due on **April 17**.

General Requirements:

1. Open to any area high school senior residing in Vernon County. Preference will be given to students pursuing a post-secondary education in an agricultural field.
2. The applicant or their parent(s)-guardian(s) must be a Vernon County Farm Bureau Member.

To apply, please include your name, address, high school name, area of agriculture you plan to pursue, a copy of your high school transcript, listing of extra- and intra-curricular activities, accomplishments, awards and leadership activities, listing of community leadership activities (4-H, church, etc.).

## YFA Bowling Date Scheduled, March 22!

The Vernon County Farm Bureau YFA Committee is hosting a bowling event on Sunday, March 22, starting at 1 p.m. and ending at 3 p.m. YFA members are those members between the ages of 18 and 35 that are involved in agriculture.

We will be bowling at Nordic Lanes, 511 N. Main St., in Westby. Shoe rentals are \$1 and bowling is \$3 per game. Vernon County Farm Bureau will sponsor shoe rentals and one

Also include a personal letter telling about yourself, what your career goals are and how your education will help you achieve them. Include any information that the selection committee could consider when reviewing your application.

Provide three letters of recommendation including one from a high school principal or guidance counselor and two from other non-relative adults or community leaders.

Winners will be notified after **May 10**.

### Send your application and all materials to:

Vernon County Farm Bureau Scholarship  
520 North Main, Suite B  
Viroqua, WI 54665

game for each member and their family. You are welcome to bowl more than one game if you want to. This event will be child-friendly, so please bring your children along!

Pizza will be sponsored by the Vernon County Farm Bureau.

To RSVP, please call or text Alex Bringe at 608.606.9182 or Dan Obert 608.343.3867.

## Vernon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steve Wagemester 608.675.3187  
Vice President, Robert Nigh 608.689.2633  
Secretary/Treasurer, Scott Sherry 608.637.7440  
Women's Chair, Jacqui Davison 608.604.8619  
YFA Chair, Alex Bringe 608.606.9182

Director, Dan Obert 608.489.3867  
Director, Rod Ofte 608.452.2861  
Director, Bill Putze 608.629.5455  
Director, Phil Solverson 608.637.3587

Vernon County Farm Bureau 888.830.2572  
District 3 Coordinator, Gretchen Kamps 866.355.7343  
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424  
RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson 608.935.9500

## Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department Will be holding Its Annual Spring Tree Sale

For more information or an order form, please contact Sarah McDowell at 608.637.5484, [smcdowell@vernoncounty.org](mailto:smcdowell@vernoncounty.org).

Trees are purchased on a first come, first serve basis. Anticipated tree pick-up dates are **April 30** and **May 1**.

## Tradition, Perseverance, Vision: Farm Bureau Proud

I'm writing this article as I travel home from the 96<sup>th</sup> AFBF Annual Convention in San Diego, California. As usual it was hard leaving the January temperatures of Wisconsin and spending six days in California, but we managed.

The theme for this year's convention was Tradition, Perseverance, Vision: Farm Bureau Proud.

As we approach our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, these three words speak to our storied history and our future. TRADITION is how and why our organization was created and structured. PERSEVERANCE speaks to the challenges we have faced and how we approach and manage the challenges. Our VISION becomes most important as we strive to ensure we are a relevant, progressive organization addressing tomorrow's farmers' needs.

Those are all great words and thoughts, but it was "Farm Bureau Proud" that was most noteworthy in San Diego. Watching and witnessing our young farmers and ranchers enthusiasm and passion always rejuvenates and inspires me.

Recognizing states and counties for their hard work on telling agriculture's story is a main part of the conference.

And finally, coming together as a Farm Bureau family with purpose and passion for agriculture is contagious.

We have a tendency some days of being consumed by what is going on in our daily lives and we forget how blessed we all are with the freedoms and choices we take for granted.

It's nice to get away from the daily grind to see how fortunate we, the American farmer, are and to be proud of what we do.

Take pride and make the most of 2015!

**Richard Gorder**  
WFBF District 3 Director