

Oconto County Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Oconto County:

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(715) 923-7708

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(920) 855-6960

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

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: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



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PROMOTION
BOARD, INC.



Russ Brock discussed ag issues with Assemblyman Gary Tauchen (left) at a previous Ag Day at the Capitol event.





COUNTYnews

OCONTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Estate Planning and Farm Succession Workshop

Oconto County and Marinette County Farm Bureaus partnered together to provide an estate and succession planning workshop for members interested in learning solutions to issues when passing on the family farm assets to the next generation.

Passing on a business to heirs can become complicated when parents want to be “fair” to all of their children, especially when one child, or even all, are not actively involved in the family business of farming.

About 40 people attended the seminar held January 14 at Romy’s Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake, which included a complementary lunch of chicken and tips courtesy of the Oconto and Marinette County area Rural Mutual Insurance agents.

Richard Bollenbeck, Attorney at Law from Appleton, spoke on how estate planning can help set up revocable trusts that protect investments from higher Wisconsin state death taxes or federal estate taxes. Revocable trusts help avoid the Wisconsin probate system which often delays passing on an inheritance for almost 12 months and the fees that go along with it. The revocable trust owner can maintain control of their assets up to the time of death and can be amended or changed at any time.

Senior Regional Financial Consultant Jared Nelson offered insight on building a long-term financial plan that addresses possibilities of long-term care, life insurance policies and long-range budgeting. He also explained differences in “whole” versus “universal” life insurance plans, which offer different investment, or non-investment, options.



Jared Nelson, Senior Regional Financial Consultant with Farm Bureau Life Insurance, helped attendees understand the many options that are available to make successful business transitions for farm families.

Dr. Sarah Mills-Lloyd, Oconto County Agricultural agent, gave a presentation on farm succession planning and its importance in order to ensure maintaining a thriving farming business. She addressed the necessity of incoming generations needing adequate management education to boost long-term profitability.

“Situations where aging farm owners remain dependent on business assets for long-term care or for covering unplanned and unexpected expenses need to be carefully addressed to promote open communication for sharing of information regarding protecting farm assets,” Mills-Lloyd said.

Family members engaging in discussion regarding present and future decisions about the family farm can sometimes initiate conflict, which can be resolved when an estate plan is developed and in place.

Bollenbeck and Nelson offered free consultations to workshop attendees interested in more information specific to their individual situations at the Farm Bureau office in Oconto Falls.

Mills-Lloyd is partnering with Marinette County Agricultural agent Scott Reuss, Attorney George Twohig from the law firm of Twohig, Rietbrock, Schneider & Halbach S.C. of Chilton and Greg Anderson, Certified Public Accountant from the Manitowoc accounting firm of Ihlenfeld, Skatrud, and Anderson to offer a second, more in-depth look at farm succession planning.

“It’s a strong need in our counties,” Mills-Lloyd said. “We wanted to continue conversation about the issue in a different setting.”



Attorney Rick Bollenbeck from Appleton addressed the 40 people in attendance about legal issues to consider.



Oconto UW Extension agent Sarah Mills-Lloyd dealt with the family and emotional aspects of the planning equation.

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District 7 Board Report By Wayne Staidl



My best wishes to you for a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.

It's a new year and a new set of challenges. Mother Nature hasn't been very kind. 2014 gave us short windows of time to empty the pits, spread the fertilizer and plant the crops in between rain showers. Harvesting was very challenging. Hopefully 2015 will be a better year for us.

Ag Day at the Capitol is coming up on Wednesday, March 11. It's important that we as farmers or as others involved in agriculture, let our assemblymen and senators hear our views. This one day carries a lot of weight throughout the year. I hope to see you there.

The Wisconsin Ag Woman's Summit is another important event that is coming up on March 13-14 at the Marriott in Middleton.

Scott Zimmer of Bridgeworks Communications will provide insight about how to communicate across generational barriers, and farmer and professional speaker, Laura Daniels, will show you how common items on the farm can help you get the most out of your most challenging busy days in her address, "Using Baler Twine and Barn Lime to Live a Life with Purpose."

Hope to see you at your county board meetings.

Wayne Staidl,
WFBF Director, District 7

In Memory of Vicky Harter

On Nov. 20, 2014, Vicky Harter passed away after more than a year-long battle with cancer and complications. She had been a board member of the Oconto County Farm Bureau for approximately seven years.

After remission from her first battle with cancer that was diagnosed about 10 years ago, she decided to become part of something local where she could use her considerable skills. Oconto County Farm Bureau was fortunate that she chose our organization.

Vicky and her husband, Ken, had been members for some time and she soon found herself on the board and became Women's chair and she also took over the Ag in the Classroom activities. She took on the task of spreading the word about agriculture and its importance in Wisconsin and Oconto County. Vicky had been involved with the ag community in many capacities during the years.

She was a vo-ag instructor, worked in the Oconto Falls veterinarian office, was a member of the fair board and the Oconto Falls FFA Alumni and had strong relationship with the Oconto County Dairy Promotions. She never went on a Farm Bureau membership drive as such, but brought many new young members to the Farm Bureau because of her associations with these organizations.

Vicky participated in the Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and served on the state Women's Committee representing our dis-

trict. She developed a very active Ag in the Classroom program in the county, providing educational materials to the schools and libraries and a display and activities at the Oconto Falls Fair.

She also was in charge of the Ag and Me essay contest for fourth and fifth graders. She also convinced several YFA members to participate in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet contest where they did very well.

Vicky will be remembered for her upbeat attitude and her refusal to let her illness slow her down. She revived the orange juice sales and organized a gardening class and plant sale with the Oconto Falls Vo-Ag Department.

At the OCFB Fair booth it seemed she knew everyone and always had time to visit. She will be missed on the board for her vibrant attitude and her ability to expect and bring out the best in the people around her.

Dennis Jahnke, OCFB president



95th WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights By Russel Brock

Thank you for the privilege of again representing you as a voting delegate at the 95th WFBF Annual Meeting. It was once again held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The answer to your question is no, I did not make it to the water park as I was much too busy lobbying to get our resolutions passed. I was able to have a nice visit with WFBF Board President Jim Holte to make sure he was aware of the concerns of Oconto County.

I also had a nice visit with Jeff Lyon, Deputy Secretary to the Wisconsin Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and I voiced our concerns about funding for the adult ag education programs at Northwest Technical College.

I also spent time with WFBF's Executive Director of Governmental Relations Paul Zimmerman. I never claimed to have changed anyone's position, but they need to know what we are thinking. I can only say that these are all men that I know quite well and I know they will act whenever they can on our behalf. I consider it a privilege to be a friend of theirs.

These are the visits that I used to gauge whether the meeting

was worth my time and once again I believe that it was. The state board had a nice tribute to Vicky Harter and all of the effort that she put forth for us at both the county and state level. She will be missed!

Barb and I always contribute something to the silent auction fundraiser for the WFB Foundation, which funds the YFA and the educational programs of the Farm Bureau. There were 475 YFA members at the meeting and 1,184 members present in total. We took some of our maple syrup and a set of oven ware. They sold for \$65, so we are happy about that.

This is the seventh year that membership has increased in voting and non-voting members, 760 for a total of 45,270 members. With the decreasing farm numbers in the state it shows that our organization is doing something right.

The Rural Mutual Insurance report also showed an increase. Rural insures 35 percent of farmers in the state and has 275 agents.

It's always a joy to meet old friends and make new acquaintances at our annual Farm Bureau meeting.

District 7 YFA Report

2014 was another great year for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program! Once again we had nearly 500 attendees at the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells. District 7 had 37 members attend so our goal for 2015 is to get 50 attendees.



New this year was a corn hole (bean bag toss) tournament and for entertainment, the Mantz Brothers Band performed.



Both were a big hit. If you know someone who is involved in the agriculture industry and is interested in Farm Bureau, encourage them to become members. Remember that if they want to attend the YFA Conference and if they have not attended

before, they can apply for a Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship for the event. This year it will be held December 4-6 at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells.

Tickets are on sale for the YFA Gambler Hockey Game in Green Bay on Saturday, February 28 at 7:05 p.m. Cost is \$15 per ticket. It is the Green Bay Gambler's Dairy Night so please wear your Farm Bureau or dairy shirts to help promote dairy. **Please RSVP to kfiedler@crinet.com or text 920.737.7640 by February 14;** make checks payable to Wisconsin Farm Bureau and send to the state office.

After the hockey game, we will be going to Gallagher's Pizza, 2655 W. Mason Street, Green Bay. Food and beverages are at your cost.

Have a wonderful 2015!

Brian and Kristi Fiedler
District 7 YFA Representatives

Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz

**In the winter the dog wears his coat.
In the summer he wears his coat and pants.**



**Two blondes were going to Disneyland.
They were driving on the Interstate when
they saw a sign that said DISNEYLAND
LEFT. They started crying and went home.**



**Opportunity knocks but once.
Temptation leans on your door bell
incessantly until you answer.**

District 7 Women's Fall Summit Recap



Jay Moynihan, Shawano County UW Extension community resource development agent spoke at the fall summit.

Moynihan, Shawano County UW Extension Community Resource Development Agent, addressed the topic of homelessness and hunger versus ag production and world-wide distribution in the future.

The District 7 Women's Fall Summit was hosted by the Shawano County Farm Bureau Women's Committee last October at the CRI Resource Center, Shawano. Jay

After lunch, Tim Ewing, Director of the Navarino Nature Center and Wildlife Area, talked about the nature Center's and the Navarino area's past development and highlighted the Center's present programs for both school age students and adults.



Tim Ewing, director of the Navarino Nature Center and Wildlife Area, talks about the Center's past development and programs.

In Memory of Dolores Schroeder

On Dec. 2 Dolores Schroeder, a long time and very active Farm Bureau member, passed away at St. Clare Memorial Hospital. Dolores and her husband Alvin owned a dairy farm in the town of Morgan. She was active in her church, the Oconto Falls Women's Club and sold Avon products until a few years ago.

Dolores also was active in many organizations associated with the agriculture community including being a long time leader of the Morgan Badgers 4-H club, holding offices on the Oconto County Dairy Promotions and the Breakfast on the Farm Committee.

Dolores was very active on the Oconto County Farm Bureau Board for many years. She held the position of Secretary-Treasurer for at least a dozen years. For approximately 15 years she ran the June Dairy Month recipe contest. Women from all across the county submitted dishes, ranging from desserts to casseroles, based on dairy products that were then submitted to a taste test. Dolores put these recipes in a cookbook that the Oconto County Farm Bureau sold as a fundraiser.

She also served on the state Farm Bureau Dairy Committee and was the first woman to serve on that committee.

Dolores will be remembered for her community activities and her dedication to Farm Bureau and the ag community as a whole.

Dennis Jahnke, OCFB president



Oconto County Farm Bureau Needs You

Farm Bureau is NOT an "end" in itself. Farm Bureau IS the "means" by which you may be able to achieve the "end" you have in mind.

Farm Bureau is the vehicle that can empower you through its resources to achieve the ideas you wouldn't be able to, or would find it much harder to accomplish on your own.

Farm Bureau's "Voice of Agriculture" slogan really means YOUR voice amplified by more than 24,000 other farmer and agriculturist member's voices statewide, and by more than 5.5 million nationwide.

There is an old ag policy saying, "Put 10 farmers in a room together and they'll never agree on anything." There may be a little truth in that, but Farm Bureau provides the means through which farmers and agriculturists can find the common ground they need (no pun intended) to be able to make things better for their farms and agri-businesses in the nation, this state, this county and their local area.

At the 95th WFBF Annual Meeting, Chad Hymas was the keynote speaker. He was severely injured at age 27 when a big square bale of hay fell on him and broke his neck. His address was entitled, "Who needs legs, when you have wings." Those of

you reading this probably have the use of your arms and legs, and by becoming actively involved in Farm Bureau you also can take wing.

The Oconto County Farm Bureau has four vacancies on the board of directors. This is a great opportunity for a person from the District 1 area north of Highway 22, a person from the District 2 area south of Highway 22, a woman to serve as a board member as chair of the OCFB Women's Committee and a person age 18-35 to serve as a board member and as chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee.

Board members are paid a per diem of \$10 per meeting attended and are reimbursed for their mileage to board meetings at the rate of \$0.30 per mile. Chairs of the Women's and YFA Committees receive an additional \$200 annual per diem if they attend or send a written report to at least 50 percent of the board meetings. Board meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except May and December) at the Oconto Falls Rural Insurance office.

To serve in any of these positions or for more information, please contact any member of the board of directors or District Coordinator Wes Raddatz at wraddatz@wfbf.com, 866.355.7346.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dennis Jahnke 920.834.4707
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Secretary, Treasurer & Women's Chair Denise Langlay 920.848.3891

Director, Russel Brock 920.842.2257
Director, Maryann Monette 920.826.7703

Oconto County Farm Bureau 888.377.0295
WFBF Board Director, Wayne Staidl 715.582.3671
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz 866.355.7346

2014 Orange Juice Sale Update

Thank you for all who ordered orange juice this year! In past years, the Oconto County Farm Bureau planned their annual orange juice fundraising event to coincide with the Oconto Falls FFA annual fruit sale. By combining the sale events and using the Florida Farm Bureau as the distributor, the orders from both organizations shipped together, saving on costs.



This year, the Oconto Falls FFA opted to use a different supplier for the fruit sale, requiring the Oconto County Farm Bureau to seek other shipping options. In essence, the Oconto County Farm Bureau needed to work with another county Farm Bureau organization in order to have orange juice shipped to our area.

Vicky Harter, an Oconto County Farm Bureau board member until last November, found a way to do this by engaging assistance through the Outagamie County Farm Bureau so that our county was able to continue offering orange juice as a purchase item.

Sales increased slightly from last year. Because of the adjustment made in shipping arrangements, the Farm Bureau had less time to take orders. As a result, all sales were made by phone or by word of mouth in less than two weeks.

The Outagamie County Farm Bureau provided a delivery point and the pickup for Oconto County's order was accomplished by our wonderful volunteers.

Thank you to all who helped make the orange juice fundraiser continue to be a success for Oconto County Farm Bureau!

Beverage can tab project report

A special thank you to Lloyd Kirsch from the Oconto County and the WFBF Women's Committees, for your support of collecting the tabs from beverage cans.

The money from this project is donated to the Ronald McDonald house. About 734 pounds were collected and donated.

That is a lot of tabs, a lot of cans and a lot of work. Thank you again for your effort.

The Oconto CFB Women's Committee

