

Superior Shores Farm Bureau

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Rural Mutual Agents in Your Area:

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Ken Truax - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Your Calendars for 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:



Ride the bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 11, in Madison. A bus from Northwest Wisconsin has been organized and will be making various stops including Baldwin, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Osseo, Hixton and Tomah.

The cost of the bus trip is \$30.

Note: The registration fee for the Ag Day at the Capitol program is separate.

To reserve your seat, contact **Katie Mattison** at 715.418.0975. Please indicate the county you are from and which location you would like to be picked up at.

Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today!

Thank you to Frontier Ag and Turf and AgStar for their support of the bus and refreshments!



COUNTYnews

SUPERIOR SHORES FARM BUREAU EDITION

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting



Amber Cordes (bottom left) began her three-year term on the WFBF Women's Committee.

More than 1,100 farmers and agriculturists attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and about 475 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members attended the YFA Conference. Some of the best and brightest competed in a

variety of contests and awards, and member delegates set policy directing our organization. Attendees were challenged by several excellent speakers including J. Scott Vernon, Ph. D, who spoke about becoming an AGvocate for agriculture, and Chad Hymas, motivational speaker, captivated the audience when he

shared "Who needs Legs, when you have Wings." The Farm Bureau Extravaganza took place on Saturday night with comedian Roger Radley.

Of the 1,100 members, more than 100 members were from District 9 including members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter at UW-River Falls. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized throughout the weekend! Here is a list of the District 9 highlights:

- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President
- YFA Discussion Meet participants: Peter Kimball (Pierce County), Kirsten Konder (St. Croix County) and Julie Wadzinski (Barron County)
- YFA Discussion Meet Final Four - Peter Kimball (Pierce County)
- Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Finals: Kaylin Spaeth (St. Croix County)
- WFBF Top 10 Membership Workers - Karyn Schauf (Barron County) signed 11 and Jim Meng (Rusk) signed 15!
- WFBF Women's Committee: Mary Prestrud retired from the WFBF Women's Committee. Amber Cordes of Barron County has been appointed to take her place
- Dan Ripplinger (Barron County) and Lori Gardow (Chippewa County) graduated from the leadership Institute Class VIII



(L to R) Mary Prestrud (Dunn County) Jane Mueller (Eau Claire County) and Kathleen Papke (Walworth County) retired from the Women's Committee. Amber Cordes (Barron County), Darby Sampson (Jackson County) and Amanda Carlson (Waukesha County) were appointed to take their places.



(L to R) Ethan Giebel (Juneau County), Jamie Propson (Manitowoc County), Peter Kimball (Pierce County) and Adam Wehling (Buffalo County) competed in the Final Four of the YFA Discussion Meet.



Above: Gregg Johnson and Linda Simmons represented Superior Shores Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Delegates voted on a variety of issues related to agriculture including UW-Extension, drones and Genetically Modified Organism labeling.



(L to R) Mary Prestrud and Geri Wolfe (Dunn County) Brenda Sikorski (Chippewa County) Greg Zwald (St. Croix County) Dean Bergsens (Pierce County) and Jim Meng (Rusk County) were recognized as part of the Producer Club for signing at least five new members during the year.



Left: More than 40 YFA members from District 9 attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



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Something Everyone Could Benefit From By Dan Rippliner, Leadership Institute Class VIII Graduate



"Something everyone could benefit from!" Is what I would say about my experience attending the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute this past year.

I have personally gained a greater appreciation for people and of their different points of view. No two people are exactly alike; everyone we meet in life has a different viewpoint. Every person we meet is at a different point in their lives and their viewpoints are reflective of that. Leadership Institute has taught me that in order to be the most effective leaders, we must understand where someone is. It will give us a much better opportunity to share what we see from our perspective without shutting them out. Respect others!

Another great aspect of the Leadership Institute was getting to know my fellow classmates and make new friends. I had a lot of great opportunities this past year from participating in a mock legislative hearing, to working with media, to learning more about working with different personality types. Leadership Institute provided me with many great things to improve my personal and professional lives.

I would challenge anyone to look into this experience. You will not regret it!

Upcoming Opportunities

By Jane Anklam, UW-Extension Horticulture and Agriculture Educator

• Managed Grazing and Healthy Forage

For those of you who are committed to increasing the value of your grazing and hay land, read on. Fencing, stocking rate, watering access, lane layout, water management and productive forage are all equally important pieces of a working, profitable system. Whether you have a specific problem to address on your farm (crossing, fencing etc.) or you would like some ideas on how to re-design a rotation or paddocks, now is the time to address. Douglas County and USDA-NRCS have staff available to listen to your goals and offer technical and monetary support to move ahead. Contact Jane to help you connect to the best resource available. In addition: Soil testing and forage sampling are both important for excellent forage. If you are considering renovation, grab a soil sample this spring so you at least know your pH. Forage samples can be brought in any time and can help you develop better forage and rations. Close the gap!

• Farm Succession

We have had some excellent discussions and actions coming out of the Farm Succession and Transition Workshops hosted this past year and half. Did you know that a planning specialist is available to meet with you to develop a firm strategy for you and your farm's future? Family farms are unique in transitioning and succession as a business and lifestyle. Contact the Wisconsin Farm Center at 800.942.2474 to set up an appointment. You will feel more confident in the year ahead.

• Winter Safari

Many of you are interested in the management options for crop production. That is the focus of this year's Crop Decisions Webinar Series. Topics include: tillage, GPS technology, selecting corn hybrids, diseases of field crops, managing fertilizer costs, and growing small grains and soybeans in the north. Thursdays, Feb. 26, March 5, 19, Rm. 107 Courthouse, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

• Meat Quality

When was the last time you "beefed" up your livestock handling skills? Join us in early April (TBA) for an evening review and discussion of Meat Quality Assurance. This is required of those who show at the fair, but is useful for all who handle livestock.

Call Jane for details on any of these programs: 715.395.1515 | jane.anklam@ces.uwex.edu

Donations Made to Local Organizations and Foundations

The Superior Shores Farm Bureau made donations to local organizations and state foundations. A total of \$1,100 was donated to Toys for Tots, The Brick, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.



Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast - March 29

The 2015 Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 28 at the Ashland Bay Area Civic Center in Ashland. The show will begin with the dairy breakfast being served from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Proceeds support Bayfield and Ashland County 4-H and Ashland FFA activities.

The 54-inch frying pan will again be used to prepare an "all Wisconsin scrambled omelet" that serves 100 people and weighs about 50 pounds. The omelets will be prepared in the exhibit area. It takes about 15 minutes to prepare each omelet which contains a half pound of butter, six pounds of cheddar cheese, six pounds of ham, 250 eggs, onions, mushrooms and salt and pepper. In addition to the omelet, 4-H and FFA members will serve fresh, cold milk, juice, hot coffee, muffins, donuts and sliced cheese. To top off the breakfast, everyone will be treated to ice cream with strawberry or chocolate topping. Cost of this delicious breakfast is only \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6 to 10.

In addition to the breakfast, participants will have a chance to visit the Farm and Garden Show where many area businesses will have booths promoting their prod-



ucts and services. This year's booths will represent farm and garden related businesses, conservation and environmental organizations and agencies, country crafters, educational displays and much more. There is no charge for the show which will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast are sponsored by Bayfield and Ashland County 4-H, Ashland FFA, Superior Shores Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

District 9 Fall Women's Summit Held

Women from across District 9 joined for the Fall Women's Summit on October 8 for a day of touring, tasting and fun!

Attendees to the event enjoyed lunch and a tour of fellow Farm Bureau members Greg and Irma Zwald's farm, White Pine Berry Farm. After that the group moved on to 65 Vines to hear from owner Scott Andrzejczak, to taste wine and learn about the wine making process.

To wrap up the day, the group visited the UW-River Falls Dairy Plant to watch ice cream being made. The group was able to enjoy fresh butter brickle ice cream as it came out of the mixer.

Thank you to Mary Prestrud, District 9 Women's Representative, for putting together a great event!



Women from District 9 attended the Fall Women's Summit. We even had visitors from Hancock, Iowa and Hastings, Minnesota!

Cordes Named District Women's Committee Representative

Amber has been a Farm Bureau member since 2005 and became a member after being asked to help at the county fair food stand by Karyn Schauf.



At the time, Amber wanted to get more involved in the community, which led to her next role as a member of the Executive Committee for the Barron County Farm Technology Days. Amber knows that it is important to be a part of the agriculture industry and the reason is simple, farmers feed the world and now that makes her want to be a voice that helps educate the public about where their food comes from.

"It is frightening to see how many people actually don't know where their food comes from," Amber said.

Amber and her husband, Will, own a 52-cow registered Holstein dairy near Comstock. They have two children, Nathan and Kathryn.

UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Update

By Jennifer Kuffel, UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau President

The Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter at UW-River Falls is off to another great start! With nearly 70 people attending the first meeting of the school year, we have been able to plan and implement a variety of activities.

During September, we assisted White Pine Berry Farm with their Family Fun Day. Members helped with pumpkin painting, a petting zoo and a variety of other activities held that day. During the evening, our chapter hosted a barn dance and cookout for all students from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

This was followed by our Collegiate Discussion Meet in which we had four contestants. Kaylin Spaeth and Aaron Zimmerman represented our chapter at the state meet that was held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. UW-River Falls was well represented during the state event as 27 members participated in workshops, listened to speakers and had a booth at the trade show. A big thank you goes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company which provided support for our members to attend this event.

Second semester will commence on January 26 and our biggest event of the year, Ag Day on Campus, will take place on



The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-River Falls had 27 members attend the YFA Conference. Members listened to keynote speakers, participated in a variety of workshops and networked with other Farm Bureau members.

Tuesday, April 21. Members have been working diligently planning the day's events, gathering donations and promoting on campus. Our theme this year will be Slow Moving agVenture (SMV) with hopes of educating the campus and community on farm safety. We already have one of the Peterson Brothers in line to speak at our Ag Day on Campus event. It is a great opportunity for us to tell our agricultural stories and be a part of the conversation. Throughout second semester we are also planning a few other activities including a showing of the movie Farmland, snow tubing and an end of the year picnic.

Thank you to all Farm Bureau members for your support of Collegiate Farm Bureau! We look forward to continued success!

District Coordinator's Message



Happy New Year Farm Bureau members!

This is the first newsletter of 2015 and I hope that it finds you well. District 9 has many accomplishments to be proud of this past year. I would like to thank all of those who devoted their time and talents to creating a positive impact in their county Farm Bureau.

I have only been employed with WFBF since last May and I have been extremely impressed with all that you have done in the short time that I have been here. I look forward to many years of working alongside you all. It is your dedication to agriculture and this organization that makes you shine. Agriculture is my passion and it is very evident that

it is yours as well. Communities are better places across our area because of your efforts in activities such as dairy breakfasts, 4-H and FFA support, county fairs, Women's programs and YFA events.

Thank you for your participation this past year and for making my first year a very memorable one. This new year brings challenges but with those challenges come opportunities to improve and exceed everyone's expectations. I look forward to working with you throughout the year as we continue to work together to promote and improve the agriculture community in Wisconsin. Please feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.

Katie Mattison
District 9 Coordinator

Register now for the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit!

Now is the time to make plans to attend the 2015 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit. Presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and University of Wisconsin-Extension, the forum will take place March 13-14 at the Madison Marriott West.

5 Reasons that you should attend the fifth Annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit:

1. Feedback – we listened to your feedback and are prepared to a better-than-ever schedule of topics, including adding value to your and farm and “upcycling” ideas.
2. Farm-Focused – The WI Ag Women's Summit is tailored to fit you, including sessions on how to ride the wave of farm finances, organizing your farm office and going from “farm to fabulous.”

3. Fresh – It's not just a food trend, it's our lineup of speakers, too! This year we're giving you both, including a breakout that takes you behind the doors of a grocery store.
4. Forward-Thinking – Farm women have a lot on their minds. We know it can be a challenge to plan what you need to accomplish today, much less developing a plan for years to come. At this year's summit, succession planning is a key topic to give you and your family tools for planning the future of your farm.
5. Fulfilling – Connect with women who share similar humor, challenges and aspirations to be advocates for our agriculture community.

To register go to www.wiagwomenssummit.com. Questions may be directed to Deb Raemisch at 608.828.5712.

Superior Shores Farm Bureau Contacts:

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| President, Gregg Johnson | 715.681.0492 |
| Vice President, Perri Shuga | 715.779.5756 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Verne Gilles | 715.682.4408 |
| Women's Chair, Robyn Lulich | 715.746.2444 |
| Director, Ella Teague | 715.682.9954 |

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| Superior Shores Farm Bureau | 866.355.7349 |
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| WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte | 715.835.6708 |
| Women's Committee Chair, Mary Prestrud | 715.455.1495 |
| District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison | 866.355.7349 |
| RMIC District Managers: | |
| Ken Truax (Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland) | 715.514.4477 |
| Dave Meihak (Iron) | 715.344.6220 |

Scholarships Available to Graduating Seniors

Superior Shores Farm Bureau will be granting one (1) \$500 scholarship for high school seniors. This scholarship is open to all students who will be pursuing a degree in the agriculture industry and entering a technical or four year program. Examples of eligible majors include traditional production agriculture majors like dairy science, soil science and agronomy. Other majors may also qualify including: biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, forestry, horticulture, environmental science and more. Preference will be given to students from Farm Bureau families. This scholarship will be based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education and recommendation.



Applications can be found on the Superior Shores Farm Bureau website by visiting wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/superior-shores or by contacting Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Application deadline is April 15.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

“Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?” is the topic of the essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program. Our 2015 Book of the Year is “The Bee-man” by Laurie Krebs and Valeria Cis. The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. 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 Superior Shores Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator Gregg Johnson at 715.682.2018 or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com. **Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1.**

New Members!

Leonard Castro, Clinton Goslin, Renate Hauser, George Johnson, Janelle Kearney, Jerome Kruzan, Elaine Larson, Ludwig Millhausen, Jonathan Nelson, Aaron Schiefelbein, Karen Veseling, Heather Wemmer-Lockburner, Town of Clover, Town of Hawthorne and Town of Oakland.

Welcome to Farm Bureau