

# Pierce | St. Croix County Farm Bureaus

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Rural Mutual Agents in Pierce & St. Croix County:

Pam Singerhouse (715) 796-2207  
Leah Close, Steve Jenkins (715) 425-8121  
Nick Jenkins, Tom Jenkins (715) 796-2207

Ken Truax - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Members Advocate for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol

Members of Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus, along with nearly 400 other farmers and members from various farm and commodity groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 11 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening to learn more about current issues in agriculture as well as meet with their state representatives.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked up to Capitol Hill to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to our agriculture industry.



Pierce County members met with Representative Warren Petryk to discuss important issues. Pictured (L-R): Dean Bergseng, Representative Petryk, Monica and John Krings, Eric Turner, Dianna and Rolland Reed and Peter Kimball.

important for all of us to raise our voice on topics that are important to us.

Take a few minutes to become familiar with a topic that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in your county and share your views on topics and how they affect your farm. Remember, when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support.

Be heard and raise your voice for agriculture!



District 9 Farm Bureau members who attended the 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol were (L-R): Kirsten Konder, Dave Kruschke, Kaitlyn Konder, Greg Zwald, Mikayla Doornink, Dennis VanRoekel, Amber Risler, Terry Mitchel and Lynn Brosi.

### YFA Members Try Their Skill at Bowling

More Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist events are coming soon! Watch for more information.

If there are events that you want to see or do, please contact your YFA chair and let them know.

**Pierce County YFA Chair:** Peter Kimball 715.307.3726, pk1234@live.com

**St. Croix County YFA Chair:** Mikayla Doornink 715.338.5666, mikayla.dornink@gmail.com.



YFA members from Pierce and St. Croix Counties met on March 13 for an evening of bowling at Strikers Lanes in Baldwin. Members who attended this event had an opportunity to network and enjoy an evening of fun with friends.



# COUNTYnews

PIERCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | ST. CROIX COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Field to Farm E-I-E-I-O

Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus helped promote agriculture at Hudson's Hot Air Affair on February 7.

The Hot Air Affair is an annual event where 35 hot air balloons from throughout the country launch three times during the weekend. The theme for this year was "Field to Farm E-I-E-I-O."

Katie Mattison, District 9 coordinator, Mary Brand, Pierce County Farm Bureau board member and two Ells-



Mary Brand, Pierce County board member, along with FFA students from Ellsworth answered questions about agriculture at the Hudson Hot Air Affair.

worth FFA students were on hand to hand out agricultural information. The hit of the day was the "My American Farm" kiosk from the American Farm Bureau Federation. Kids were able to play a variety of games to learn more about agriculture.

## Conservation Awareness Speaking and Poster Contest Winners

Submitted by **Aleisha Miller**, Information and Education Specialist, St. Croix County Land and Water Conservation Department

Fifth grade students from St. Croix Central Middle School participated in the St. Croix County Conservation Poster contest.

Carly Hetrick came in first and Hailey Schoonova came in second.

The theme for this year's contest was "Local Heroes: Your Hardworking Pollinators."

Carly's poster advanced onto the West Central Area Conservation Poster



Carly Hetrick and Hailey Schoonova.



Kiley Hoitomt, Abby Wagner and Morgan Prigge.

Contest and placed first and advanced to the State Conservation Poster Contest.

The St. Croix County Community Development Committee and Resource Management Department sponsored the 2015 Conservation Speaking Contest.

The first place winner was Kiley Hoitomt from Rocky Branch Elementary; Abby Wagner of Rocky Branch Elementary took second; and Morgan Prigge of Rocky Branch Elementary School took third place.

## Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus Annual Meetings

**Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting**

When: **Wednesday, September 9**

Where: **Martel Community Center**

**St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting**

When: **Thursday, October 8**

Where: **TBD**

Come celebrate with the Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus, network and discuss current policy.

Watch your mail for your formal invitation.

SAVE the DATE

## District Director's Message



Each year, as farmers, we look forward to winter declining and spring taking over. It is the time of optimism, the time of planting, and the time of high expectations. This process also seems to give us added energy to carry out all the tasks that come along with

the season. I hope you have a successful spring season.

Our county Farm Bureau's also have a wide variety of important activities taking place, and I encourage you to be a part of them. They range from supporting 4-H and FFA programs to informing the agricultural community on the new Implements of Husbandry law. Our local county Farm Bureau's play a large role in supporting Ag in the Classroom programs, Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities and the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau.

In mid-June, District 9 counties will be invited to an area wide event with opportunities to give direction to the District Director and to learn more about ways to make our organization even better. It will be located centrally to minimize travel times. Additional details will be available in the near future. I hope you can attend.

**Jim Holte**

WFBF President and District 9 Director

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Council of Presidents

## Pierce County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dean Bergseng 715.307.4976  
Vice President, John Krings 715.495.6285  
Secretary, Laura Benitz 715.220.8962  
Treasurer, Roy Swanson 715.273.3268  
YFA Chair, Peter Kimball 715.307.3726  
Women's Chair, Monica Krings 715.495.6286

Director, Mary Brand 715.307.0903  
Director, Eric Turner 715.307.7262  
Pierce County Farm Bureau 866.795.4792

**We are here for you. Call with questions or if you are interested in getting more involved in Farm Bureau!**

## Pierce County President's Message



Dear Farm Bureau Members,

This winter, we lost three people who had played integral roles in our county: Ed Hanson, Ken Hines and Joyce Herbison.

Ed served on what is now the Ag-Star Board and the Mid-Am Board in the 1980s. He also served on many local committees, including the River Falls Township and was a major player in getting exclusive agriculture zoning in place in the township.

Joyce Herbison was a former president of our Pierce County Farm Bureau. Joyce played a part in our milk stand and was active in state and local issues.

An tribute to Ken Hines can be found in this newsletter.

On March 11, seven Pierce County farmers were a part of the more than 400 farmers taking part in Ag Day at the Capitol. State budget, manure, wolves, implements of husbandry and groundwater were some of the issues discussed.

Mark your calendars for the Pierce County Dairy Breakfast. The breakfast will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on June 20 at the Peterson Farm located two miles southwest of River Falls on Highway 29. Looking forward to seeing you there.

I wish you a safe and prosperous spring.

**Dean Bergseng**  
Pierce County Farm Bureau President

## In Memory of Kenny Hines



Kenny was the full-time groundskeeper with Pierce County Fairgrounds for 18 years. He always worked at updating, maintaining and improving the fairgrounds.

In addition to groundskeeper he also trained and mentored a youth grounds crew during the summer months. Kenny played an integral part in keeping the Pierce County Farm Bureau's Little Red Barn in good working order for the fair.

Kenny was recently selected as the V.I.P. Award winner for District II (northwest part of Wisconsin) at the 2015 Wisconsin Association of Fairs annual convention held in Wisconsin Dells in January.

## 2014 Marketing Assistance Loans

Submitted by **Robert Forrest**, St. Croix County FSA Executive Director

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting requests for marketing assistance loans (MALs) for eligible 2014 commodities. MALs are nine-month loans with a locked interest rate of 1.25 percent (March rate).

MALs for the 2014 crop year become available after the harvest of a crop and extend through to the commodity's final loan availability date (see below).

MALs provide producers interim financing after harvest to help meet cash flow needs while waiting to feed or market a commodity. A producer who is eligible to get a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) if such a payment is available.

Final availability dates for MALs and LDP

• **June 1:** Corn and soybeans

For more information, contact the St. Croix County FSA Office at 715.684.2874 ext. 2.

## Welcome Pierce County Members!

Jeremiah Boles\*, Pete Christiansen, Luke Flynn, Marianne Gilbertson\*, Randy Heil, Kelly Heil, Michael Hildebrandt\*, Anna Hoey, Nicholas Huppert\*, and Michael Young

\* Denotes voting membership

## Ellsworth Student Attends Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum



Kim Hudson of the Ellsworth FFA Chapter was among the more than 160 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 20-21.

During the two-day event FFA members attended workshops including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, advocating for agriculture, leadership and more.

## Do You Want to Get More Involved With Your County Farm Bureau?

Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureau's host many events throughout the year ranging from dairy breakfasts to beef promotions, from county fair stands to Ag in the Classroom and many others.

We are always looking for individuals to help promote our agriculture industry at these events.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Katie Mattison, District 9 Coordinator, at 715.418.0975, kmattison@wfbf.com.



## Pierce-Pepin County Spring Clean Sweep

Submitted by **Darlene Dailey**, Pierce County Solid Waste



**PIERCE & PEPIN COUNTY'S 2015 SPRING CLEAN SWEEP  
HAZARDOUS WASTE AND PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT**

**Saturday • April 18, 2015 • 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Pierce County MRF/Recycling Center  
•707 N. Maple St./Hwy 65 N. •Ellsworth, WI.  
•Phone: (715) 273-3092**



## 2015 Acreage Reporting Dates

Submitted by **Robert Forrest**, St. Croix County FSA Executive Director

The deadline to report 2015 crops to Farm Service Agency (FSA) that had a November 15, 2014, reporting deadline (fall-seeded small grains, forage, hay and pasture) without paying a late-file fee has been extended for producers who do not have federal crop insurance or Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance (NAP) coverage on a crop.

Crops under this waiver include alfalfa, perennial forages, wheat, fall-seeded small grains and pasture. The late-filed report can be accepted as long as FSA can confirm the existence of the crop. The Risk Management Agency (RMA) did not grant a waiver so producers need to consult their crop insurance agent for deadlines for insured crops.

All 2015 spring seeded crops must be reported to FSA no later than July 15.

The following exceptions apply to this date:

• If the crop has not been planted by the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 15 calendar

days after planting is completed.

- If a producer acquires additional acreage after the above acreage reporting date, then the acreage must be reported no later than 30 calendar days after purchase or acquiring the lease. Appropriate documentation must be provided to our office.
- If a perennial forage crop is reported with the intended use of "cover only," "green manure," "left standing" or "seed" then the acreage must be reported by July 15.

**Late Filed 2014 Crop Reports:** Producers can still late-file their 2014 crop reports; however, the report has to be filed while there is still physical evidence in the field. Late file fees will apply and a complete farm report is needed for our programs.

NAP policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the reporting date for the crop or 15 calendar days before harvesting of the crop starts.

To schedule your crop reporting appointment, please contact the FSA Office in Baldwin at 715.684.2874 ext. 2.

## St. Croix County President's Message



Hello St. Croix and Pierce County Farm Bureau members!

Summer activities are coming up fast and it's never too early to start thinking about the county fair.

Please consider joining us for an hour or two in the food stand.

Funds raised here help support our programs throughout the year and it is always a fun time.

Farm City Day will be in August at the Rodger Neuman and family farm west of Cedar Lake.

Besides the regular Farm City Day activities, the Neumans have a large collection of international tractors that will be on display.

I hope you all have a productive spring!

**Dave Kruschke**  
St. Croix County Farm Bureau President

## Bourget Babbles: A YFA Update



Happy Spring! I know it might not feel like it (as I look outside its -6 right now!) but spring is coming.

Spring, a time of excitement, a time of new beginnings and a time to try those new things you have been thinking about all winter. Spring means all of the things in the agricultural industry that you love—through new crop rotations or meeting those animals that were all winter in the making.

It means taking advantage of the newness of spring for the Farm Bureau and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program.

The county YFA chairs and I have planned some great events for YFA members to have fun, learn something new and help our communities.

We've already held bowling events, tubing and even curling events! Later this spring we scheduled a Discussion Meet Training and for summer we are working on even more events!

Please share your ideas with us.

You may be thinking, "What? I didn't know all of this was going on! Why wasn't I invited?" Okay, so maybe that is a little dramatic, but you know what I mean. We want to make sure that all of the YFA members know about these events so here are ways to know what is scheduled.

1. 'Like' your county YFA's Facebook Page! All of the events will be posted and you can chat with others and see who is going and share other ideas about events that you would like to attend.
2. Share your email with us! We are working on an email list to share event and Farm Bureau information. We will not share your email or send you spam.
3. Let us know if you want a text! We are creating a list of members who prefer to receive a text, so let us know if that is more your style.

I know I keep saying, "Tell us if..." So, who is the us? You can contact me at 715.505.7676, cindy.m.bourget@gmail.com or you can contact your county YFA chair. Trust me, we love hearing from you!

The YFA program is a great way to have fun with the people who love agriculture. I can't wait to meet all of you 18- to 35-year-olds at all of the upcoming YFA events!

## In Memory of Carl Oehlke



St. Croix County Farm Bureau lost one of their long-time leaders with the passing of Carl Oehlke in January.

Carl served more than 60 years as a director and had been a past president, vice president and served 29 years as secretary-treasurer.

He also served on many of the state's Farm Bureau commit-

tees and as a delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Carl attended University of Minnesota Farming School, and used his knowledge and love of the land first in Cottage Grove and then in Hammond. Carl's passion was farming the land and producing a bountiful crop. Recently he had been making plans for what he would plant this spring.

His dedication to farming prompted him to commit much of his time to St. Croix County Farm Bureau. He served on the St. Croix County Farm Bureau board with hopes of advancing the needs of farmers through his activities.

## Upcoming St. Croix County UW-Extension Events

Submitted by **Ryan Sterry**, St. Croix County UW-Extension Agriculture Agent

### • Farm City Day

The 2015 Farm City Day will be hosted by Neuvieu Acres, the Neumann family, on **Saturday, August 8**. The Neumann farm is located west of Cedar Lake on the Polk-St. Croix county line. The Neumann's farm includes a cash grain operation along with a dairy herd. Rumor is there may be a little "Red Power" featured at this year's event. As always, it takes a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers to make Farm City Day a successful event year after year.

### • District 1 Holstein Show

The St. Croix County Holstein Breeders will host the District 1 show on **Monday, June 15**. This will be an excellent

opportunity to showcase dairy herds in the area and recent improvements to the fairgrounds. Help is needed to prepare the show grounds and during the day of the show. If interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Holle or Bonnie VanDyk.

### • Tractor Safety Class

**June 29-July 2, Woodville High School, Baldwin**

The St. Croix County Agricultural Tractor-Equipment safety Certification Class is available again this year. For more information, please contact Michelle Kamm, Baldwin-Woodville FFA advisor at 715.684.3321 ext. 4119 or Bill Emery, St. Croix Central ag instructor at 715.796.5383 ext. 145.

## St. Croix County Farm Bureau Contacts:

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| President, David Kruschke          | 715.246.6461 |
| Vice President, Randy Roquette     | 715.684.3303 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Jenny Mueller | 715.749.3583 |
| Women's Chair, Melanie Peterson    | 715.665.2142 |
| YFA Chair, Mikayla Doornink        | 715.338.5666 |
| Director, Fritz Anding             | 715.425.5058 |
| Director, Tim Bazille              | 715.698.2328 |
| Director, Lynn Brosi               | 715.425.5575 |
| Director, James Lund               | 715.684.3936 |
| Director, Dean Mueller             | 715.760.1501 |
| Director, Gary Peterson            | 715.665.2142 |
| Director, Greg Zwald               | 715.222.4349 |
| St. Croix County Farm Bureau       | 888.830.2574 |

## District 9 Contacts

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte         | 715.835.6708 |
| District 9 YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget    | 715.505.7676 |
| District 9 Women's Chair, Amber Cordes | 715.357.3444 |
| District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison | 866.355.7349 |
| RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax       | 715.514.4477 |

## St. Croix County Clean Sweep

By **Megen Hines**, St. Croix County Recycling Specialist



### St. Croix County Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Collection



#### Farms & Small Businesses

Friday May 15, 9 am-12 pm

- Farms & Businesses must pre-register by May 8
- For farms, the first 500 lbs of ag waste is free
- Businesses qualify to participate if they generate less than 220 lbs of hazardous waste per month and have less than 2,505 lbs in storage
- For businesses, this is a fee for service event

#### Household

Friday May 15, 1-5 pm & Saturday May 16, 9 am-1 pm

- Free disposal for most items

May 15 & 16,  
2015

St. Croix County Highway Shop  
666 US Hwy 12, Town of Hudson

For more information or to pre-register call 715-531-1907, visit [www.sccwi.us/recycling](http://www.sccwi.us/recycling) or our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/sccwrecycling](http://www.facebook.com/sccwrecycling)

## Farm Bureau Leaders Attend Council of Presidents



District 9 attendees were front row (L-R) Patty Mellin, Karyn Schauf, Mary Prestrud, Geri and Cletus Wolfe; back row (L-R) Jim Mellin, Jim and Cindy Meng, Marv Prestrud, Dave Kruschke and Dean Bergseng. Not pictured is Dale Beissel.

## Welcome St. Croix County Members!

Rene Lachaussie, Andrew Lauer, Rolland Smith\*, Doug Steiner and Bernie Wollerberg

\*Denotes voting membership

Welcome  
to Farm  
Bureau