

# Adams County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## AFB Foundation is Creating a Foundation Outreach Team



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU  
FOUNDATION AGRICULTURE

You can help others learn what the AFB Foundation has to offer by presenting at regional and state events. Outreach team members will receive advance notice on grants and new materials, be featured in new resources, have opportunities to pilot new programs and influence the development of new resources.

For more information, visit [www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team](http://www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team).

## Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Join us for Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8** at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

### Schedule of events

- 11 a.m. - Registration
- 11:30 a.m. - Opening program
- 11:45 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings
- 3 p.m. - Leave for the Capitol visits

Early registration deadline is **March 1**, \$25 per person; \$30 after deadline and at the door. Don't miss the opportunity to speak with your local legislators about issues affecting you and your farm.



# Summit 2017

Save the Date!  
March 10-11, 2017

Madison Marriott West, Middleton



#WAWS17  
[WIAgWomensSummit.com](http://WIAgWomensSummit.com)

## Ag in the Classroom Matching Grants Available

Ag in the Classroom will award up to \$500 to groups sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. Projects considered for grants must be targeted to grades pre-K through 12 and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture. Applicants must have a matching source for their project equal to the amount of the Ag in the Classroom grant. The application deadline for this grant is **March 1**.

For more information, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or contact Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.

Adams County and Juneau County Farm Bureau

## YFA BOWLING AND PIZZA NIGHT

Friday, January 13 • 7 p.m.

Anjeros Sports Bar and Grill

531 State Highway 82

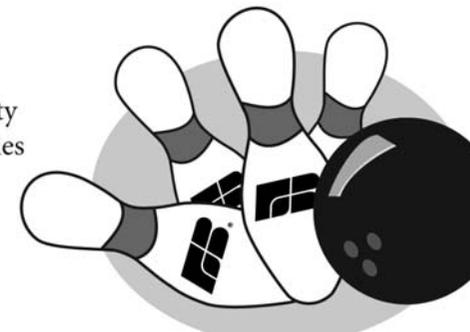
Mauston, WI 53948



## Details

Meet other YFA members from Adams County and Juneau County and learn more about opportunities with the Farm Bureau.

Free bowling and pizza!



## To RSVP

For more information, please contact Juneau County YFA chair Sally Turpin at 608.462.3387 or Adams County YFA chair Jeff Huber at 608.728.4143.



# COUNTYnews

ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Adams County Farm Bureau Continues to Expand County Ag in the Classroom

Adams County Farm Bureau is always looking for additional volunteers to help with ag in the classroom activities.

If you want to get involved, please contact Kay Olson-Martz at 608.572.1429.



Worm farming is a way to turn vegetable and fruit scraps into potting soil for house plants. The liquid can be used for fertilizer. Seven worm farms were donated by the Adams County Farm Bureau.



Adams County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom volunteer Barb Morgan taught students about conifers and demonstrated how to make evergreen wreaths.

## Adams-Friendship Teacher Recognized for Agricultural Literacy Work



Heather Grabarski, a fifth-grade teacher at Adams-Friendship Elementary School in Adams County, is the 2016 recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

"She also has used World Dairy Expo tours, science fairs, and other hands-on activities to enhance her student's learning experiences."

Grabarski will be Wisconsin's nominee for the National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award and will receive \$500 to attend the 2017 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation recognizes a teacher for their efforts educating students on the importance of agriculture. Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, with the exclusion of certified agriculture education instructors, are eligible to apply.

"Heather deserves to be recognized for her work as an educator," Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, said. "Kudos to her for teaching students about agriculture and where their food comes from."

Grabarski earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from UW-Stevens Point with a minor in music. She is working on a master's degree in professional development with an emphasis on challenging advanced learners at UW-Whitewater.

"Heather works with her local Ag in the Classroom program, county extension office, Master Gardener Program and others to build a network of resources for her classroom," Arneson added.



Heather Grabarski (center) stands with Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson (left) and Adams County Farm Bureau president Kay Olson-Martz (right).

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## President's Message



Greetings. As we are saying goodbye to 2016 and welcoming in 2017, I, like many others, wonder where this year has gone?

I can tell you that this year has been a very busy and productive year for the Adams County Farm Bureau.

Your Farm Bureau met their membership goals for 2016 and we are now working on our new goals for 2017. We need to get 20 new members and retain the memberships we currently have. When we reach our goals, it gives us approximately \$1,800 in bonus money.

What do we do with that money? We run our programs with it and it saves us from having to do fundraisers. Last year, the Ag in the Classroom program conducted many projects with students in Roche-A-Cri, Grand Marsh and Adams-Friendship Elementary Schools.

We worked on projects from teaching about Earth Day to teaching about conifers, dairy, beef and crops. We teamed up with Land Conservation and had Conservation Days at Castle Rock Park.

Now, we are teaching about vermicomposting and vermiculture. We put seven worm farms, we call them 'worm condos' in the schools and about 8,000 worms. We sponsored scholarships, 4-H Key Award, tractor safety and Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.

We were active at the Adams County Fair, sponsoring the livestock show, the tiny tots with our ice cream and of course doing our only fundraiser, the ice cream booth.

We are excited that local teacher Heather Grabarski was named the WFBF Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Heather goes above and beyond teaching her students about agriculture and will compete at the national competition in June.

Look for related articles and photos elsewhere in the newsletter about Heather's accomplishment, the *Rural Route* and the

Adams County Facebook page.

We finished another WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference; the Adams County Farm Bureau is pleased to sponsor the YFA members who attended.

I have highlighted a few things that your organization did this last year. If you are ever bored and looking for something to do, know that we need volunteers. We need know and fresh ideas so never hesitate to call and let us know.

I want to thank Nathan Bula and Jimmy Bays for their work as directors on the Adams County Farm Bureau board and Michelle Bula for her time and talents as the WFBF Women's Committee representative for District 5; and to welcome Ethan Olson as he joins the board of directors.

Wishing you a very blessed, happy and healthy new year,

**Kay Olson-Martz**

Adams County Farm Bureau President

## District Director Report



**District 5 Director Kevin Krentz led the district caucus meeting during the WFBF Annual Meeting.**

*Always have your elevator speech ready.* Everyone has heard this saying, meaning always be ready to speak with someone on a topic. For farmers, it's about always being ready to engage someone about your farm and what you do.

Consumers want to feel comfortable where their food comes from and is the practice the best for the animals and the environment. A major part of engagement is listening to their questions. Listen and then share your passion for farming the way you do. Most consumers do not want you to change your farming practices, they simply want to understand why you do things differently than your grandfather did.

You may also have the opportunity to speak with elected officials. Many times, this will be a very short meeting. Stay on topic and share how particular policy affects your farm. This allows them to use your story to help persuade their colleagues as they develop the law.

I also want to encourage you to run for an office. Many local boards are per-

petually short of hard working people who understand the infrastructure and environment around them. If that is not possible, invite them to your farm to help them understand what you do and what your farm means to your community.

Talking to the media or going to schools are other ways to engage consumers on a broader scale. This may be well planned or at short notice. Either way people need to feel your passion as you care for your cattle, your crops, the environment and the people that you feed.

There are many ways to engage the public. Whether you are talking to media, schools, individuals or government officials, Farm Bureau has the resources to help you be successful with your elevator speech.

Farm Bureau continues to work for you. Through WFBF Institute, Ag Day at the Capitol, leader trips to Washington, D.C., Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs and Ag in the Classroom programs, we continue to provide opportunities to our members so that you can share your stories and your passion for agriculture with people around you.

Remember, always be positive. With current low commodity prices that is tough. But remember tough times don't last, tough people do!

God bless and have a prosperous new year!

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Director

## WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Successful



**Adams County YFA members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells included (L-R) Eric Wallendal, Zach Olson, Ethan Olson, Jeff Huber, Michelle Bula and Nate Bula.**

Almost 500 YFA members attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The WFBF Annual Meeting was held in conjunction on December 3-5. More than 1,000 members attended.

Highlights included Saturday entertainment by the musical group Tonic Sol Fa and Sunday morning motivational speaker Aaron Thomas.

## Ag in the Classroom Volunteers Make Holiday Wreathes



The Adams County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program has a core group of volunteers who conducts hands-on ag education activities in the elementary schools in the county each month.

As the Ag in the Classroom program continues to grow, additional volunteers are always needed and appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved in assisting in classroom presentations, please contact Kay Olson-Martz at 608.572.1429.



**Ag in the Classroom volunteers taught the Grand March, Westfield and Oxford Girl Scouts about conifers at the Westfield Community Center. They made wreaths to hang at the nursing home and door swags to take home. Thank you to Barb Morgan for teaching the students.**

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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

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

## Delegates Set Policy for 2017 at WFBF Annual Meeting

Delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 5.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2017. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Recognizing the importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates opposed any type of blanket regulation that would encompass the entire state because of the variations in karst types throughout Wisconsin. Regulations should be specific to the unique areas affected.

Delegates displayed frustration with the current federal Dairy Margin Protection Program. After considerable in-depth discussion, they concluded the need for an improved program leading up to the 2018 Farm Bill.

Delegates supported an increase in the overall appropriation for the broadband grant program. They supported improving and upgrading the strength and reliability of coverage to enable efficient use of technology in farming practices in rural areas.

Delegates supported disclosure of wolf incidents on farms in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The public information should be located on the DNR website, establishing warning areas when wolf packs are involved and providing instant email notification of all incidents.

In regards to livestock and animal welfare, delegates supported farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for their farm. They also supported more education for consumers on the merits of common animal husbandry practices.

In addition, delegates supported the use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.

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



Kay Olson-Martz (left) and Ethan Olson served as delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

- Support the state's livestock premise registration program.
- Support the state's fence law.
- Support a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed.
- Support the inclusion of wild parsnip on the state's noxious weed list.
- Support funding for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count limit to 400,000.
- The use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.
- Farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for the farm.
- Requiring Congressional approval of any new federal regulation before final implementation.

The federal resolutions will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual meeting next month.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm families and other individuals who support agriculture.

Made up of 61 county Farm Bureaus, it represents farms of all sizes, commodities and management styles.

## Adams County Farm Bureau Contacts:

<b>President &amp; Women's Co-Chair,</b> Kay Olson-Martz	608.564.7359	<a href="mailto:kolsonmartz@gmail.com">kolsonmartz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President, Dick Huber</b>	608.586.5485	
<b>Secretary/Treasurer, Aaron Bonnett</b>	715.347.1415	<a href="mailto:aaronjbonnett@gmail.com">aaronjbonnett@gmail.com</a>
<b>Women's Co-Chair, Lynda Bula</b>	608.339.9211	<a href="mailto:tater@maqs.net">tater@maqs.net</a>
<b>YFA Chair, Jeff Huber</b>	608.369.2995	<a href="mailto:huberj@uwplatt.edu">huberj@uwplatt.edu</a>
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<b>District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki</b>	866.355.2029	<a href="mailto:bhibicki@wfbf.com">bhibicki@wfbf.com</a>
<b>RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak</b>	715.630.4801	

## Farm Bureau Dues Explained By Kay Olson-Martz



There has been much confusion about our dues. Our annual dues for Adams County are only \$50. I, along with our Rural Mutual Insurance agent, receive many calls about this when you receive your membership billing statement.

On the billing, it will show the amount due as \$65. This was voted in by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors. If you look closely, and in very small print, it will tell you what the extra \$15 is for: \$10 is for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Volunteers for Ag, which is the political part of the organization. If you choose to donate the \$10, your name will be given to political action groups (this is by law). The other \$5 is for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, which supports the educational part of the organization, such as the Leadership program, Ag in the Classroom, and other Foundation activities.

You do not have to pay the \$65 if you don't want to. You only need to send in \$50, or the amount that you wish to. If you do not want to be billed for the \$65 in the future, then you can send a note along with your dues statement asking them to only bill you for \$50. If you have insurance through Rural Mutual and it is taken directly from your account, then you should call and ask for the \$15 refund.

I hope this explanation helps and prevents future confusion in the future.

## Farm Bureau Sponsors 4-H Key Award



Adams County Farm Bureau president Kay Olson-Martz (left) presents Brittany Sunderlage (right) with the 4-H Key Award.

Adams County Farm Bureau President Kay Olson-Martz presented this prestigious leadership award, sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK to Brittany Sunderlage at the Adams County 4-H awards banquet.

She also presented Brittany with a plaque, which was sponsored by Adams County Farm Bureau along with a plaque from the State of Wisconsin Legislature.

As Kay presented Brittany her award, she told the audience that 4-H provides youth with a unique opportunity to develop leadership skills, which are important to success and achievement in every facet of life.

As sponsors of the Key Award, Kay commended Brittany for her growth, involvement and leadership skills that she has shown throughout her involvement with the 4-H program.

This is the 42<sup>nd</sup> year that Farm Bureau has sponsored the 4-H Key Award.