



Barron County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOYALTY!



Rural Mutual Agent in Barron Co:

Eva Curtis (715) 736-2498	Greg Hayes (715) 736-2498
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Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (608) 347-0383

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Members become 'Lobbyists for a Day'

Members of Barron County Farm Bureau, along with nearly 400 other farmers and agriculturists from the entire state of Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 24 in Madison.

Attendees began the day at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center where they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy and signed an executive order that will support rural economic development. He stated, "We want more reasons for our children to stay in our communities."

Members were also briefed about hot topics in agriculture including implementation of industrial hemp

legislation, CAFO transfer from DNR to DATCP and Wetland legislation.

Following the briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members converged at the Capitol to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to their farms and Wisconsin agriculture.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest lobby day for Wisconsin agriculture. Each year, farmers and agriculturists representing all facets of the state's diverse agriculture landscape come to Madison to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.



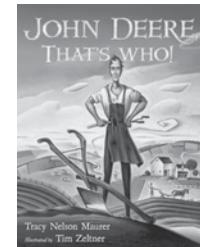
Joe Braml and Julie Wadzinski attended Ag Day at the Capitol representing Barron County Farm Bureau.



Joe Braml met with Representative Romaine Quinn's (R-Barron) office staff to talk about issues that are important to Barron County and Wisconsin agriculture.

Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Essay Topic and Book of the Year

The 2018 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year is "John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer. Tracy is a native to Wisconsin, growing up near Superior; she resides in Forest Lake, Minnesota.



home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs also are encouraged to participate.

Students and schools interested in participating need to submit essays

by **April 2** to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator. For questions or to obtain materials, please contact Barron County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Teresa Marker at tmhanson_98@yahoo.com or 715.829.5584 or visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

This year's essay topic 'Inventions that have made agriculture great,' is linked with the book of the year and students will be using the book as one resource. The essay contest is open to all fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and

Watershed Conference Slated for March 8

2018 marks the seventh annual Red Cedar Watershed Conference, when people from across the Red Cedar Watershed can come together to discuss soil health and water quality. The event is from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on **Thursday, March 8**, at the Memorial Student Center at UW-Stout in Menomonie.

Barron County Farm Bureau will sponsor any Barron County Farm Bureau member who wishes to attend this conference and registers by **March 1**.

If you are interested in attending this conference, please contact Karyn Schauf at 715.537.9376.



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



More than 1,100 Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Farm Bureau Members converged on the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-4 for the 98th WFBF Annual meeting

and YFA Conference, and 83rd Rural Mutual Insurance Company Annual Meeting. More than 500 of the total attendees were Young Farmer and Agriculturist members attending the YFA Conference.

Some of the best and brightest YFA members competed in a variety of contests, attendees had the opportunity to learn new things at by attending breakout sessions and listening to excellent keynote speakers, members were recognized and awarded for their hard work and member delegates made their voices heard by setting policy that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization over the next year.

Of the 1,100 plus members, more than 100 of those members were from District 9 including members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter at UW-River Falls.

Here is a list of more District 9 highlights:

- Representing District 9 in the YFA Discussion Meet were: Laura Benitz, Pierce County; Isaac Christenson, Polk County; and Nathan Kringle, Barron County.
- Barron County Farm Bureau member and current District 9 YFA chair, Julie Wadzinski, was elected Chair-elect and will serve as the 2019 WFBF YFA Chair.
- Members who signed five or more new members during the last membership year enjoyed being part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club (formerly known as Producer Club), where they received preferred seating for the Farm Bureau extravaganza, a special meal and a thank you gift. Farm Bureau Proud Club members from District 9 were: Kay Gilbertson, Jerica Meyer, Dale Quilling, Dean Bergsens, Peter Kimball, Jim Melin, Terry DuSell and Paul Hetke.
- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President.



District 9 was well represented by Young Farmers and Agriculturists at the YFA Conference.



Nathan Kringle represented Barron County Farm Bureau in the quarter finals of the YFA Discussion Meet.



Julie Wadzinski was selected as Chair-elect and will serve as the 2019 Chair of the YFA Committee. She is pictured with 2018 YFA Chair, Brian Preder.



Barron County Farm Bureau members attending the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference were: (from left) Julie Wadzinski, Heather Ripplinger, Daniel Ripplinger, Nathan Kringle holding Remington, Kayla Kringle holding Elnora, Joe Braml, Ginger James, Teresa Marker and Dustin Marker holding Jared.



Representing the UW-River Falls Collegiate Chapter at the YFA Conference were: back row (from left) Kati Kindschuh, Sally Albers, Matt Kortbein, Jacob Timm, Alex Bacon, Jared Mack, Joelle Liddane; front (from left) Beth Zimmer, Abby Sabel and Ashley Bergsbaken.

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Barron County Farm Bureau members,

The ag industry often feels like a big family. So, it is a mixed bag of emotions that ripples through when one of our key members makes a change like retirement.

We in Barron County have been very fortunate to have a county board that over the years consistently recognized the importance of supporting our ag industry by budgeting for and hiring the best individual possible to fill the position of

extension ag agent. Thank your supervisor next time you get a chance. We wish Tim Jergenson our best for a long and satisfying retirement. He did an outstanding job for us as agriculturists and he will be greatly missed.

So often we feel powerless to affect our own future. One opportunity to positively do just that is **March 20**, National Ag Day. Brush up on some interesting tidbits. Be prepared to share them when the opportunity arises, even with friends and family. Open your business to non-ag folks or

school kids and be ready to share your great story. Volunteer to visit a classroom to read the ag book of the year we present to each school district in our county. This year it is "John Deere, That's Who!"

And take your pastor or banker to an Ag City Banquet. Each of us can make a difference in our own county.

Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau President

Rooted in Positivity

By Julie Wadzinski, Barron County Farm Bureau member and District 9 YFA Chair



District 9 leaders Julie Wadzinski, Dale Wester, Jim Melin, Marv Prestrud and Dave Kruschke sat in on Governor Scott Walker's State-of-the-State address while at Ag Day at the Capitol.

When I signed up for Farm Bureau five years ago, I wanted to compete in Discussion Meet. I had a fondness of speaking contests from my time in FFA and was eager to get involved. After the district level contest, we were given a critique as a group that consisted of mentioning sponsors and the fact that Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization.

From that day on, my involvement started expanding as my curiosity in this grassroots organization and policy development process led me to local policy development meetings, which branched into my first Ag Day at the Capitol in 2017. What an experience! Meeting with my legislation to discuss issues that are important to me at the Capitol, sign me up again next year.

This year's Ag Day at the Capitol was the best yet. First off, myself and a room of more than 400 farmers and agriculturists witnessed Governor Scott Walker sign an executive order that expands resources for Wisconsin Farmers to access markets across the country and the world.

After lunch, I had the opportunity to sit in the Assembly Chambers of the Capitol and listen to Governor Walker give his State-of-the-State Address. The State-of-the-State Address experi-

ence was inspiring, enlightening and nostalgic for different reasons. The marble columns and gallery seating in the Assembly Chambers of Capitol building gave me a feeling of historic significance imagining what others in these seats might have witnessed. Watching a quorum be called, attendance and seeing the parade of the State Justices and Senators as they found seats to watch the speech was enlightening. The inspiration can be sourced back to Governor Walker's main message, "We are getting positive things done for the people of Wisconsin."

The State-of-the-State Address carried a lot of hope for me and rural Wisconsin. Agriculture has an \$88 billion impact on Wisconsin and rural Wisconsin sees that, to hear what proposals are coming down the turnpike such as increasing scarcity aid to our rural schools, increasing rural broadband budget dollars, prioritizing local, city and town roads in the

transportation budget. The most exciting proposal to me was the \$50 million Rural Economic Plan.

This proposal has scholarship money for young people who want to take over a family farm and additional funding for small farms to assist them to incorporate conservation practices that help to maintain water quality.

An opportunity like this would not have happened if it was not for getting involved with Farm Bureau at the local level. Knowing that our voices are being heard and our efforts are being seen adds clout to the opportunities that Farm Bureau has offered me.

I'd say this State-of-the-State Address is not only getting positive things done for people of Wisconsin, but it's getting positive things done for the farmers and agriculturists of Wisconsin.

Girl Scouts Learn about Agriculture



On January 19, Girl Scout Troop #3260 participated in an Ag in the Classroom activity led by Lisa Barta. Troop members learned more about the dairy industry and made ice cream in a bag. All troop members enjoyed the ice cream once it was made.

Barron County Ag in the Classroom is happy to support organizations such as Girl Scouts in spreading the word about the agriculture industry while participating in fun activities such as ice cream in a bag.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website, wiagclassroom.org, has numerous hands-on activities that children can enjoy while learning about agriculture.

If you want to participate in or have an idea for a future Ag in the Classroom activity, please contact Teresa Marker at tmhanson_98@yahoo.com or 715.829.5584.

You Could Win a Gun for Signing Up New Farm Bureau Members

Agriculture is a major driver of Wisconsin's economy. We all have a vested interest in helping to maintain a safe, affordable, and abundant food supply. As a member of Farm Bureau, you help support programs and policies that ensure that farmers can continue to feed and clothe us, while helping keep Wisconsin's economy strong.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots membership organization that relies on membership dues as a primary source of revenue.

By joining Farm Bureau, you become part of an organization that provides numerous member benefits while helping to support Wisconsin's agriculture industry.



- **Prize:** Savage Axis II XP rifle w/scope (Winner has the choice between: .25-06; .30-06; 270; 243; 308; 7mm08)
- **Dates:** October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018
Drawing will be held at the District 9 Policy Development meeting on Wednesday, August 1.
- Members get **1 entry for every 2 new members** they sign up and **1 entry for every 2 past due members** renewed (a form must be completed and given to the District Coordinator to receive credit for the past due members).



You can get involved with membership and earn great rewards at the same time.

- For every new member you sign, you get \$20.
- For every two new members you sign, you will get an entry to win a gun.

If you have questions, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison>wfbf.com).

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

Greetings Farm Bureau members,

For those of you I haven't met, let me introduce myself. I am Laurie Peterson, the Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager for the northwest district.

My territory consists of 18 counties and I have the pleasure of working with WFBF members and District Coordinators in Districts 4, 8 and 9. Although I have met some of you and attended several annual meetings, it was not possible for me to attend all meetings because of scheduling conflicts.

The meetings I attended allowed me to meet with hard-working members and celebrate their successes. It was evident at these meetings the impact that this organization has on individuals, communities and schools. I look forward to meeting more of you in the years to come. I started in this position on January 1,

2016, and what a year of learning and growth it has been. Prior to becoming the district manager, I was a Rural Mutual Insurance agent for 10 years with an office in Medford where I worked with the Taylor County Farm Bureau board.

I believed then and still believe that there is a great deal of value in the relationship between Rural Mutual Insurance and WFBF. I took every opportunity to align myself and my agency to reinforce that strong relationship. Although my position with the company has changed, my approach to the relationship we have with the WFBF remains the same.

With my first year in this position coming to a close, I believe I have a better understanding of the time required and the responsibilities. I believe as district manager, it is my responsibility to encourage our agents to continue

their work helping each county to meet membership goals, but I want to see that taken to the next level.

Beyond signing members, if there is an opportunity for myself or an agent to volunteer at a dairy breakfast or work a shift at the food stand at the Dunn County Fair, please contact them or me. We will do our best to see if we cannot get you the help and support you need to continue the good work you do.

The agents and my contact information is published in each edition of the newsletter or contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison. Together, we can make great things continue to happen.

Laurie Peterson
Rural Mutual Insurance Company,
District Manager

Membership Dues Increase on April 1

At the August 2017 Barron County Farm Bureau annual meeting, the Barron County membership voted to increase the county membership dues by \$5. The dues amount will increase to \$55 effective **April 1**. The additional \$5 will go to WFBF, as they are increasing the dues amount. When you join Farm Bureau, you not only become a member of Barron County Farm Bureau, but also the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau. Currently, your cost to be a Barron Farm Bureau member is \$50. That is broken down as follows:

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation = \$36, \$41 on April 1** State activities, conducting programs and staffing. Consumer and youth education, issue advocacy, leadership development and member publications are services that are furnished with state dues.
- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program = \$3** When county secretaries retired, Farm Bureau offered a services program to counties. Barron county is a part of this program in which the district coordinator acts as the county secretary. There are three portions to the program that include administrative, financials and the newsletters.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation = \$4** A portion of your dues are forwarded to support Farm Bureau activities at the national level. These funds support agriculture's voice in our nation's capital as well as the many programs that AFBF has to educate consumers, share the message of agriculture and provide online resources to its members.
- **Accidental Death Policy = \$1** \$1 of your dues is applied toward an accidental death insurance policy that is a benefit of membership that covers you as a member, your spouse and eligible children. Coverage begins at \$500 and increases in value for the member and spouse with each consecutive year of membership up to \$3,500.
- **Barron County Farm Bureau = \$6** Funds local events and activities. This includes county meetings, scholarships, ag in the classroom and many more to promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in Barron County.

Funds local events and activities. This includes county meetings, scholarships, ag in the classroom and many more to promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in Barron County. The Barron County Farm Bureau dues will be \$55 effective **April 1**. Anyone whose membership dues are due on that date will receive an invoice in mid-February reflecting the increase in dues.

Thank you for being Barron County Farm Bureau member.

Do You Know Someone Who Should Be a Farm Bureau Member?

The dues in Barron County are \$55 per year. Below are a couple of quick hints for you as you go through the membership application. **Membership applications can be found at www.wfbf.com or by contacting District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.**

1. Can my spouse and I share a membership? Yes. Each membership is one vote for the county Farm Bureau. If you and your spouse have a shared opinion on county happenings, then you can have a shared membership. If you'd rather have two votes, you each have to buy a membership.
2. Why do you need my date of birth? Your birthday is used for the accidental death benefit that comes with your the membership. It also helps us target Young Farmer and Agriculturist members so we include them in activities that are specific to them. We won't sell it to anyone, it just helps us.
3. What is the Ag Newswire? The Ag Newswire is produced by WFBF each Friday and it is a summary of agriculture news for the past week.
4. How do I know what my membership type is? Barron County Farm Bureau has established that a voting member is someone engaged in agricultural purposes, actively engaged in the business of producing agricultural products or owners of property where such business is conducted and that an associate member is persons, partnerships, unincorporated associations and corporations interested in the philosophy and objectives of this association can be a member, but without the right to vote or serve as a director.
5. Who is the membership worker? At Farm Bureau, we like to reward those who help us grow our membership. So, if you are giving this membership newsletter to someone in hopes that they will join, please write your name in the membership worker blank. We will send you \$20 for each new member that you sign.
6. Where do I mail my application? Mail it to WFBF, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705 or drop it off at the Rural Mutual Insurance office in Balsam Lake.
7. When should I send in my payment, when it's due? Your membership starts on the day we receive your membership application and that will remain your renewal date. So, if you know that your cash is tight in the summer, but you can manage the renewal in September, send it in September. We are glad to have your membership anytime.

Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf 715.537.9376
Vice President, Trevor Kodesh 715.931.7490
Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker 715.829.5584
YFA Chair, Joe Braml

Director, Craig Hamernik 715.418.0053
Director, Nate Kringle 715.418.0536
Director, Samuel Olson 715.837.1861
Director, Dan Ripplinger 715.296.4176

Barron County Farm Bureau 877.483.5447
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski 715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education
Chair, Kay Gilbertson 715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 715.514.4477

'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.

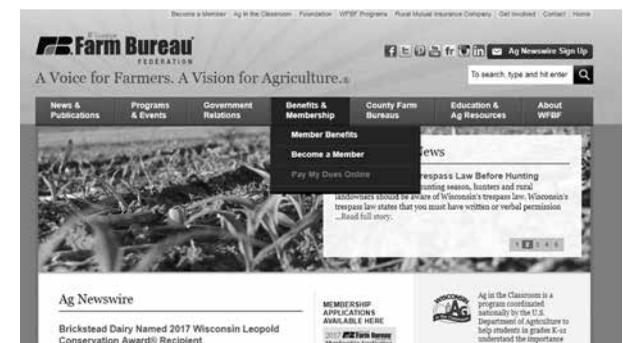


Welcome New Members

David Bisson*, Steven Carlson*, Lysle Roseman, Leslie Smith* and Chelsea Thompkins.

*Denotes voting membership.

You Can Renew Your Farm Bureau Membership Online



Renewing your Farm Bureau dues is easy and convenient. All you need is your Farm Bureau member number. Don't know what yours is? Contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.

Visit www.wfbf.com to renew your membership.

Scholarships Available from Barron County Farm Bureau

The Barron County Farm Bureau will be awarding three (3), \$250 scholarships for high school seniors. This scholarship is open to students with preference given to students from Farm Bureau families. This scholarship is based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education and a recommendation.

For an applications, visit the Barron County Farm Bureau website at wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron or contact Karyn Schauf at 715.537.9376 or Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349. The deadline to apply is **April 2**.

