



# Barron County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Platteville, WI 53818  
Permit No. 124

**THE #1 INSURER OF FARMS IN WISCONSIN IS REWARDING POLICYHOLDERS**  
Introducing the Rural Mutual Farm Dividend Program



For more information about the farm dividend program and how you may qualify, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

**Rural Mutual**  
Insurance Company  
www.ruralmutual.com/farm-dividend

**RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN BARRON COUNTY**

**Eva Curtis**  
(715) 736-2498

**Greg Hayes**  
(715) 736-2498

Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (715) 514-4477

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



## Calling all Young Farmer and Agriculturist Members!

**Join us for a FREE concert featuring Blackhawk!**



**When:** Saturday, June 10; gates open at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Cinder City Days, Cinder City Park, 1904 Spooner Avenue, Altoona.

**Who:** District 9 YFA members receive FREE general admission tickets to the Blackhawk concert. Each additional ticket is \$11.

**Details:** Join District 9 YFA members for fun, great company and of course Blackhawk. We will meet at the gates at 4:30 p.m. to distribute tickets.

This event is FREE to the first 25 YFA members who RSVP by **June 5** to District 9 YFA Chair Julie Wadzinski at 715.432.8740 (call or text) or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 (call or text).

## Barron County Farmers Assist with Wildfire Relief



Members of the Barron County farming community raised more than \$10,000 for wildfire relief efforts in the Southern Great Plains. On March 27, Kaitlin Hanson, Brittany Olson and Kurt Wohlk coordinated donations of hay, fencing and calf supplies that were sent on three semis to Ashland, Kansas. There was enough interest to make a second trip with four semis to the same location a couple of weeks later. Barron County Farm Bureau donated \$250 towards the trucking expenses to Kansas.

## Plan to Attend the Policy Development Meeting

**When:** Thursday, August 3

**Where:** 11:30 a.m. -Tee Away Golf Course, 1401 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street N., Ladysmith

or

7:30 p.m. - Stout Ale House Banquet Center, 1501 N. Broadway Street, #1500, Menomonie

### Your Voice Matters

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm

families and individuals who support agriculture. That means that we need to hear what is important to you. Please plan to attend one of these important meetings and let your voice be heard. The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet will precede the policy Development meeting at the Stout Ale House starting at 6:30 p.m.

For directions, questions or to RSVP, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) or 866.355.7349.

## Barron Chapter Attends FFA Farm Forum



Seth Hunt represented the Barron Chapter.

Seth Hunt from the Barron FFA Chapter was among the more than 200 high school students who attended the event in Wisconsin Rapids on February 17-18.

During the two-day event, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Mark Holley, Sunrise 7 Meteorologist and Chris and Amy Blakeney, owners of Amazing Grace Family Farm.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 45<sup>th</sup> year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



# COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Barron County Farm Bureau Members Advocate for Agriculture in Madison

Members of the Barron County Farm Bureau, along with nearly 400 other farmers and members from various farm groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 8 in downtown Madison.

Attendees started at the Monona Terrace Convention Center where they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. He stated, "Farming isn't just a business, it's a way of life."

Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, attorney with Dewitt Ross and Stevens who spoke to the group on groundwater legislation; Bill McCoshen, Capitol Consultants, who spoke on transportation funding; and Bob Welsch, The Welch Group, Inc., who spoke on potential changes to the agrichemical management fund and the agricultural chemical cleanup program.

In addition, WFBF Governmental Relations staff Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed the group about hot topics in agriculture including proposed budget items, rural broadband and new farmer

student loan assistance program.

Following the briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to Capitol to meet with legislators and speak about issues important to 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.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., were major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation included the Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.



Pictured: (from left) Marv Prestrud, Julie Wadzinski, Mary Prestrud, Romaine Quinn and Karyn Schauf.



Attendees of Ag Day at the Capitol visited with their legislators to discuss agriculture policies and issues affecting agriculture in Wisconsin.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 President's Message
- Scholarships Announced
- Fair Help Needed
- Tractor Safety
- National Ag Week
- 3 Essay Contest Winner
- Discussion Meet
- Upcoming Events
- Board Contacts

## 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Barron County June Dairy Breakfast, June 3

The 44<sup>th</sup> annual Barron County June Dairy Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, June 3**, at Gehl Acres Farm near Cameron. The hosts this year are the Moen and Huth families. The Barron County June Dairy Month Breakfast is hosted by a different farm each year; however, the breakfast menu always includes pancakes, real maple syrup, all-Wisconsin omelet, applesauce, cheese, Culver's frozen custard sundaes, coffee and milk. Serving begins at 6 a.m. and continues to 11 a.m. The celebration also includes door prizes, horse wagon rides, a petting zoo and music.

Gehl Acres is home to a 140-cow dairy herd. The Moen and Huth families have blended many new technologies into a traditional Midwestern-style dairy operation. One such feature is a 'Smart Feeder' that travels around the barn riding on a rail suspended from the ceiling. The 'Smart Feeder' makes four trips a day around the barn stopping in front of each cow to deliver feed.

The 'Smart Feeder' is programmed to feed just the right amount of protein supplement based on that cow's production and stage of

lactation. Cow health and comfort are a high priority at Gehl Acres. The dairy barn features a combination of roomy comfort stalls and ties stalls. You don't know the difference between a comfort stall and a tie stall? Come to the dairy breakfast and you will learn what the differences are.



Gehl Acres is east of Cameron two miles on U.S. Highway 8 and then north approximately one mile north on 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Watch for the dairy breakfast signs posted along the way.

The Barron County June Dairy Breakfast recognizes the contributions that dairy farmers make to the local economy. Barron County ranks among the top 10 Wisconsin counties in total value of agricultural products sold. Milk and turkeys are the main commodities. Family-owned farms, food processors and agricultural related businesses generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic activity in Barron County.

## President's Message



Change. How do you like it? Sometimes it may depend on whether the change is by choice or not. Even then it may be hard to predict until you experience it.

As you may know, my husband and I dispersed our herd of registered Holsteins. So, my heart has been pretty heavy since that last load went out of the yard. But I must admit the change from our identity as dairy farmers only added to the distress and anxiety felt in the past three years as I have observed the changes taking place in our ag economy.

Thousands of acres of our precious Barron County farmland continue to be purchased quietly by an outside entity, effectively closing the door for our next generation to own and operate a farm. Cooperatives, machinery dealerships and ag finance are merging and consolidating. And then the news that one of our historic Wisconsin dairy processors was dropping many of their patrons with a month's notice. Big changes

are taking place and fast. How you feel about these changes is probably influenced by what affect they have on you and your family personally ... if you were the high seller or the low buyer. And the response I frequently hear is, "What can you do? It's a free country."

What I think needs to be done, what I wish would be done, both at the local level and higher is to get some heads together and ask the question: "What do we want rural America to look like in the future?" Is it important to maintain a healthy economy in our small towns? To keep our local schools open? And I pray those heads are attached to some hearts that are willing to put their personal gains aside and look at the larger good to say, "What do we need to do?"

Our rural economy is based on a vibrant agriculture and right now I'm afraid we are gutting our ag economy. We saw an example of this when 'big' was bought out by 'bigger' in the turkey industry. When 'bigger' moved in, many of our middle-class jobs moved out and we lost so many good people who were our Boy Scout leaders, little league coaches, donors and volunteers. How many years it has taken our communities to adjust.

We need to recognize that big is not synonymous with better because we often see 'big' eliminating jobs to be faster, more profitable and eventually eliminating competition as well. It isn't too long down the road when the tail begins to wag the dog. Who does 'big' sell to when they get tired of being in agriculture or it doesn't make the returns they want? Already several purchases have been made by foreign countries.

As elite, political figure Henry Kissinger remarked in 1970, "Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people." Research places multinational corporations behind the push toward controlling global food supplies.

Answer? I'm not trying to provide answers. That responsibility belongs to us collectively, as American farmers. What I am doing is planting seeds as so many of you have been doing.

My seeds are ideas, thoughts, questions that I hope you will give some thought to and Farm Bureau can be fertile soil for such 'thinking out loud.' I hope we have a chance to make some good decisions... before we don't have a choice.

**Karyn Schauf**  
Barron County Farm Bureau president

## Barron County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

Barron County Farm Bureau is proud to announce that we awarded three Barron County students with \$250 scholarships.

The applicants completed an application including their education plans, community and school activities and recommendations from teachers.



**Marty Anderson** is a senior at Shell Lake High School and the son of Boyd and Cheryl Anderson. He plans to attend the UW-River Falls for animal science/preveterinary medicine and attend veterinary school. He wants to be a large-animal veterinarian.



**Lucas West** is a senior at Cumberland High School and the son of Thomas and Victoria West. He plans to attend the UW-River Falls to major in horticulture and music education. He wants to be a band teacher and have a greenhouse business.

**Congratulations to the recipients!**

**Abigail Solum** is a senior at Rice Lake High School and the daughter of Wayne and Cathleen Solum. She plans to attend the UW-River Falls for food science and technology. She is interested in a career in agriculture within the food science industry focusing on health, safety and quality management.



## Barron County Fair Help is Needed

This year, the fair will be **July 19-23**. Barron County Farm Bureau will once again have their Farmers Café featuring local foods. We encourage you to volunteer to work a shift. It's a great place to see, as well as serve, friends and neighbors. Plan now to volunteer to flip those cheese sandwiches and top those 'taters.

If you want to help or make extra money as manager, contact Karyn Schauf at 715.537.9376 or [kshauf@gmail.com](mailto:kshauf@gmail.com). If you can't help, at least make sure to stop by and have a bite to eat. We will see you at the fair.

## Successful National Ag Week

By **Teresa Marker**, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



On National Ag Day, several volunteers read the book of the year, "Time for Cranberries," to classrooms. Volunteers brought treats and activities relating to cranberries to enhance the student's learning experience. Copies of the book were donated to school districts in Barron County.

Essay contests were due on April 1. The Barron County Essay Contest winner was Kylie Segebrecht from Prairie Farm. Her essay was titled 'Cranberries in Wisconsin.' Kylie received a \$20 cash prize and her teacher received \$50 for Ag in the Classroom supplies.

This was a successful spring educating grade school students on agriculture in our state. This wouldn't have been successful if it were not for the volunteers who visited the schools and coordinated the activities. Thank you.

If you are interested in the helping with Ag in the Classroom activities, please contact me at 715.829.5584 or [tmhanson\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:tmhanson_98@yahoo.com). Upcoming activities include the June Dairy Breakfast and Barron County Fair. We appreciate any help that you can provide.

450. What does this number represent? This number represents the number of students Barron County Ag in the Classroom volunteers reached during National Ag Week in March.

Every school district in Barron County, along with students from Shell Lake and Spooner participated in either the coloring sheet activity, essay contest or "Time for Cranberries" book reading. Coloring contest sheets were hung at the Rural Mutual Office in Rice Lake and at the nursing home in Prairie Farm. Thank you to Rural Mutual Insurance Company for taking time to display these coloring sheets.

## Tractor Safety and Farm Machinery Certification Course Set

By **Tim Jergenson**, UW-Extension Barron County agriculture agent

The Barron County Tractor Safety Certification Program will run from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on **June 19-22** at the Barron High School each day. The cost for the course is \$20 per student.

Tractor Safety Certification is designed to meet state and federal requirements for youth younger than 16 years old. The program covers 12- and 13-year olds operating tractors or self-propelled implements on public roads under direction of their parents or guardians or for work related to their family farm. The Tractor Safety Certification also is for youth who are 14-15 years old who will be employed (or working without pay) for someone other than their own family farm.

Youth attending the Tractor Safety Certification Program will learn how to safely operate a tractor and how to identify potentially hazardous situations and how to reduce the risk of injury in those situations.

Young people will be given the opportunity to practice their driving skills and safely handle tractors towing farm equipment hands-on learning. To pass the Certification Program, youth must successfully and safely operate a tractor and two-wheel implement through an obstacle course.

To successfully complete the Tractor Safety Certification Program youth must be at least 12-years-old at the time of the course, attend 24 hours of instructional training, pass a written examination with a minimum score of 70 percent and pass a practical driving exam that demonstrates their ability to safely drive a tractor.

Registration for the Tractor Safety Certification Program is open. Contact any of the high school ag instructors in Barron County or contact Tim Jergenson at the Barron County UW-Extension at 715.537.6250.

## Prairie Farm Student is Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner



Kylie Segebrecht, a fourth-grade student from Prairie Farm Elementary School, is the Barron County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest.

Kylie Segebrecht received a cash prize from Barron County Farm Bureau for writing the winning Ag in the Classroom essay. Kylie's teacher, Zachary Rozmiarek also was presented with a certificate for \$50 to use towards Ag in the Classroom resources.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about cranberry production during one of the four seasons in Wisconsin.'

Kylie is the daughter of Jeremy and Becky Segebrecht. Zachary Rozmiarek is her teacher.

*Kylie's winning essay:*

## Cranberries in Wisconsin

*Did you know that cranberries are harvested in the fall? Well, Americans consume about 400 million pounds of cranberries each year. Generally, Americans consume 2.3 pounds of these cranberries as juices and juice blends each year. On Thanksgiving, we use 20% of the 400 million cranberries harvested each year.*

*During fall is when the cranberry production is most exciting because the cranberries are being harvested. Cranberry production in Wisconsin has changed a little over time. We have newer tools, newer equipment, bigger factories and more cranberry farmers. Some tools, such as the bog boom reel is used to round up the cranberries and guide the berries to the corner. This is where they go on a conveyor belt and they fall into the truck. If the berries are bad they will go into the trash truck behind the first truck.*

*If cranberries are picked right, they will be bright red, bitter and delicious. Cranberries are good when they are in pies, sauces, juices and just by themselves. But my favorite is cranberry sauce, it goes very good with turkey and stuffing on Thanksgiving Day.*

*This makes me think ... cranberries in Wisconsin are very popular and tasty. We've changed our techniques and equipment over time, and made more progress with picking cranberries.*

## District 9 YFA Discussion Meet Set

**Date:** Thursday, August 3

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.; light hors d'oeuvres will be served. The YFA Discussion Meet will be followed by dinner and the District 9 Policy Development meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Stout Ale House Banquet Center, 1501 N. Broadway Street, #1500, Menomonie

**Question to be discussed:** Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.



If you are interested in participating or attending this fun event, please contact Julie Wadzinski at 715.432.8740 or julie.wadzinski@gmail.com.

## Upcoming Events

### June

- 3 Barron County Dairy Breakfast, Gehl Acres Farm, Cameron
- 10 District 9 YFA Blackhawk Concert
- 17 Pierce County Dairy Breakfast, Huppert Brothers Farm, River Falls

### July

- 10 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 11-13 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Kewaunee County
- 12-16 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 19-23 St. Croix County Fair
- 19-23 Barron County Fair; we are looking for volunteers to help at the food stand
- 26-30 Dunn County Fair
- 27-30 Polk County Fair

### August

- 3 Policy Development Meetings and YFA Discussion Meet  
Policy Development: 11:30 a.m. at The Tee Away, Ladysmith  
Discussion Meet: 6:30 p.m. at the Stout Ale House, Menomonie  
Policy Development: 7:30 p.m. at the Stout Ale House, Menomonie

### September

- 10-13 Pierce County Fair
- 15 2017 WFBF Leadership Institute applications due
- 15 YFA Conference Sponsorship forms due
- 19 St. Croix County Farm City Day, Harsdorf's, Spring Valley
- 25 Barron County Farm Bureau annual meeting
- 11 Wisconsin Ag Open
- 8-9 Chippewa Valley Farm City Day, Bears Grass Dairy, Eau Claire County

## 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, Kim Barta 715.234.4808  
Director, James Kusilek 715.205.8840  
Director, Samuel Olson 715.837.1861  
Director, Dan Ripplinger

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 to Holly Taylor

Special guest at our April board meeting was Holly Taylor, the new and much needed state vet heading up our Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Barron. She earned a bachelor's degree in animal bioscience from Pennsylvania State University and her DVM from the University of Tennessee.



She completed her specialty training in anatomic pathology at the University of Missouri Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Columbia.

Taylor's specific areas of interest are bovine infectious diseases and poultry pathology. She looks forward to heading the necropsy service in Barron and working with clients to support animal health in northwestern Wisconsin.

## Pathology Services Available

We are excited to announce that pathology services have resumed at the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Barron as of **November 7, 2016**.

For more information or to schedule necropsies, please contact 715.637.3151, 800.771.8387, Fax: 715.449.5052. Please note that the Barron location does not accept live animals for necropsy.

## Medicare Savings Program

You may be eligible for programs that could save you money. Get help enrolling in the Medicare Savings Programs.

Call a benefit specialist at the Aging and Disability Resource Center of Barron, Rusk and Washburn counties at 888.538.3031.

## Welcome New Members

Dan Cherney\*, Justin Crotteau\*, Ashley Erickson, Jason Gehrman, Greg Hayes\*, Dora Hershberger, Maynard Hoff\*, James Ladd, Keatin Lebrocq, Lorrie Meister\*, James Neuman\*, Carlton Olson\*, Ashlee Riddle, Robert Stoeklen\*, Lily Swanson and Traci Tucker.

\*Denotes voting membership.