

# Barron County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Membership, Membership, Membership



Farm Bureau is a membership driven organization, which means your membership is what drives Farm Bureau. Members like you want to see local businesses and rural communities prosper. You want to be heard when decisions that affect your farms, families

and futures are made by elected officials. This is why you join Farm Bureau.

Sign a NEW Member, Get \$20! You can get involved, too. County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new member who they sign between October 1, 2016, and September 30, 2017.

For membership year 2016-2017, volunteers are asked to help Farm Bureau grow it's membership by pledging to sign two members by April 1, 2017 (2x4 campaign). Will you help by Building Farm Bureau ... one member at a time?

- Volunteer membership workers that sign up two or more new members by **April 1** will receive a pair of Farm Bureau work gloves.
- Volunteer membership workers that sign up five or more new members by **May 1** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest to be presented at their county annual meeting.
- Volunteer membership workers that sign up eight or more new members by **August 1** will receive a personalized Farm Bureau farm sign to be presented at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

For more information, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) or 866.355.7349.

## Just Around the Corner...

### Ag Day at the Capitol – March 8, 2017



Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017** in Madison. A bus from northwest Wisconsin is being planned again for 2017.

This is a great opportunity to make contact with your local representatives and network with other Farm Bureau members.

Watch for more information to come soon.

If you would like to reserve your spot early, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) or 866.355.7349.

### Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit – March 10-11

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and UW-Extension.

It is our mission to support women in agriculture by providing a meeting place to learn, network and build friendships through peer-to-peer interaction. During the past six years, we've learned a lot and grown together, both personally and professionally. Join us for another top-notch program and event as we continue this journey, together.

For more information, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com).





# COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Barron County Annual Meeting Held



**Board of directors: back row (L-R) Joe Braml, Sam Olson, Trevor Kodesh and Dan Ripplinger; front row (L-R) Kim Barta, Teresa Marker, Karyn Schauf and Jim Kusilek.**

Members of the Barron County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 29 at Barron Electric. Joe Braml of Almena is the new Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair. Delegates elected to represent Barron County at the WFBF Annual Meeting are: Julie Wadzinski, Thomas Perlick and Eric Bechel.

policy goals of the state's leading farm organization. WFBF is asked to be involved in issues affecting agriculture and rural Wisconsin in Madison and Washington, D.C.

During the meeting, members discussed a range of issues including transportation funding, wildlife abatement and rural broadband. The following resolutions passed and will be forwarded for consideration to be presented to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We are in favor of streamlining the development costs of state funded road projects.
2. We support increasing broadband access to all of Wisconsin.
3. Amend page 7, line 48: We require using technology to monitor wildlife abatement traps and to access crop damage. We also believe that this technology should be at the DNR's expense.
4. Agencies governing wetlands should collaborate to establish a singular form and filing that satisfies requirements for all agencies.
5. We are opposed to the purchase of farmland by foreign investors.
6. We are opposed to the government providing subsidies to bring in foreign labor to work.
7. We are opposed to a wheel tax.

For information, contact 877.483.5447 or visit [wbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron](http://wbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron).

Attendees also listened to Eva Curtis with Rural Mutual Insurance talk about farm safety; Craig Hamernink talk about the Farmers of the Barron County Watershed; Clayton Wohlk talk about being a finalist for the Leopold Conservation award; Ryan Erickson talk about FFA Farm Forum; and Terry Mark talk about the outlook of the ag industry. James Meyer read his 2016 winning Ag in the Classroom essay.

As a grassroots organization, it is members who create and set the

## District Coordinator Message



**Thank you!** Two simple words that do not get said enough.

Thank you for all that you do for Farm Bureau and agriculture in Wisconsin. I am grateful for each and every one of you; for all that you do for agriculture, your communities and for Farm Bureau. Thank you for your passion for agriculture and your commitment to Farm Bureau.

The future of agriculture looks great because of YOU! Farm Bureau is successful because of YOU! Thank you for being a member of a 45,000+ member strong organization. Your membership matters and helps make a difference in agriculture across Wisconsin and the USA.

I thank you for being a Farm Bureau member. I thank you for your commitment to your county and Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Thank you for your time, your involvement and your dedication.

I am amazed by the accomplishments of our members and am very grateful to be a part of the Farm Bureau family. It is because of the

hard work and dedication of all of you, our Farm Bureau members, that Farm Bureau is able to thrive and the future of agriculture looks so great.

I am committed to working alongside you for many years to come to make Farm Bureau and Wisconsin agriculture amazing.

If you have any questions or comments throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would love to hear from you.

**Katie Mattison**  
District 9 Coordinator



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Message
- Director Message
- Essay Contest
- Meet Joe Braml
  
- 3** District Coordinator
- Transportation Tidbits
- Ag in the Classroom
- New Members
- Board Contacts

## President's Message



Barron County has just concluded their fiscal year (ending on September 30) and held what I considered a very interesting annual meeting.

Although weather and illness kept several away who we were expecting, it was a good mix of members, young and old, producers and agribusiness, and we are always happy for a great turn-out of young FFA leaders.

Elections were held and while you will read this president's message written one more year by me I am hopeful next year we will be ready to pass on the reigns.

If you know me, you know that I am a believer in Farm Bureau. During the past almost 100 years, Farm Bureau has grown into an extremely well developed organization that successfully represents us in agriculture in an effective and professional way. Farm Bureau is highly respected and fills the need

we as agriculturalists have to be represented. It is our responsibility to use it as our voice and determine its message.

You also know that I strongly believe that there are three areas that Farm Bureau works to deliver our message: through legislation, through ag education and through leadership development. While we successfully work to deliver our message through the three avenues, we realize a fourth benefit as well, a social connection among our members in a world where the opportunity for face-to-face relationships becomes less.

I also believe strongly that all of us (all of us) should be 'taking our turn' serving our communities in leadership capacities. I am truly excited about the make-up of our 2016-2017 board. It gives me enthusiasm and confidence for not only our organization but our industry as well.

We have a representation of the 'old guard' in Kim Barta and myself contributing (at least with Kim) a voice of experience. We have a couple board members established in the midpoint of their ag careers with Dan Ripplinger and Jim Kuselik, bringing perspectives from a smaller, entrepreneur farmer who farms in addition to a full-time, off-the-farm job and brings added knowledge as a successful custom operator (Dan) as well as a still growing and innovative operator (Jim) whose

operation uses custom operators.

Then we have our young end of the age perspective, Sam Olson and Trevor Kodesh, both newly-weds in the past year, both working with family, one as a smaller, father-son operation (Sam) and one in a larger, multi-family member farm (Trevor).

That brings us to our newest elected board members, Teresa Marker and Joe Braml, who you will read more about in this newsletter, both young and representing agri-business backgrounds, one in nutrition (Teresa) and one in farm equipment (Joe).

What a great group of members who stepped up to volunteer time and leadership for our county Farm Bureau during this season of their lives and careers. I appreciate each one of them and thank them for 'taking their turn' at leadership. I can confidently say, "look for great things to be done by the Barron County Farm Bureau in the next year." Think about when it will be **your** turn to step up to the plate of service through leadership.

**Karyn Schauf**  
Barron County Farm Bureau President

## District Director Message



I'm sure you've heard the phrase 'decisions are made by those who show up' before. No one knows this better than active Farm Bureau members like you.

In our high-tech, fast-paced world, it may seem a little old fashioned but your county Farm Bureau annual meeting still stands for what is right about a grassroots organization.

It is those of you who show up that determines the directions of our 61 county Farm Bureaus, and the legislative priorities that our state organization will work on in Madison and Washington, D.C. There is no shortage of challenges and opportunities facing Wisconsin agriculture these days.

For more than 90 years, Farm Bureau members have got the job done by rolling up their sleeves, looking for solutions and staying positive. My challenge to you is that you get involved in our policy development process.

Technology is great, but its power pales in comparison to what can happen when a group of passionate agriculturalists get together to share a meal and talk issues.

This year, items up for discussion include: rural broadband, animal husbandry, Wisconsin's fence law and atrazine and ATCP 30.

Farm Bureau is the best vehicle to ensure that your local, state and national concerns are heard. That's why your Farm Bureau membership remains a tool to ensure agriculture's future success.

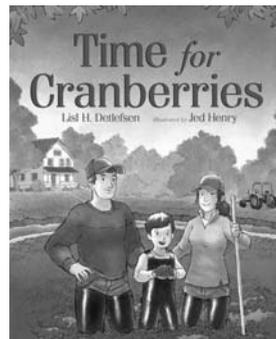
Those of you who show up at Farm Bureau meetings are the ones who have played the largest role in making this an honorable organization. Rest assured that other committed individuals like you are striving to make it even better.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member. Thank you for continuing to make Wisconsin agriculture stronger. Thank you for showing up.

**Jim Holte**

Dunn County crop and beef farmer  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President

## Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Essay Contest Topic



*Time for Cranberries* is the 2017 Book of the Year and "Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons" is the topic for the annual essay contest.

The essay contest is open to all fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate. Essay submissions must be 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 accessible at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).

Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1** to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator. A list is available at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).

• **Barron County Ag in the Classroom Essay Coordinator – Teresa Marker**

A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Promotion and Education Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest. In this year's Book of the Year selection, *Time for Cranberries*, introduces young readers to cranberries – from the bog to the Thanksgiving table. The hard-cover books come with an activity-lesson plan packet that teachers, students and home school parents can use to enhance the reading experience.

Book order forms can be found at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) under Order Resources, Order Forms.



## Meet: Joe Braml, Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair



Joe Braml is an integrated solutions specialist (precision ag) with Tractor Central. He lives in Almena and crop farms 210 acres of corn, beans and wheat, taps approximately 400 maple trees, has some bees, a few chickens and more. He also serves on the Turtle Lake First Responders.

**How did you become involved in Farm Bureau?** I pur-

chased crop insurance through Rural Mutual Insurance Company. I also went to the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference with a couple of friends and learned a little bit more about what Farm Bureau was.

**What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member of Farm Bureau?** The greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member are the YFA trips and farm tours. I met other individuals with similar farming types and I also learned what people are trying on their farms. Another benefit of Farm Bureau is being able to have an influence on the policies of Farm Bureau and in some cases laws being written.

## Vote Anyway By Karyn Schauf

I'm sure you are as disappointed and embarrassed by our Presidential options as I am. While voting for either may feel like endorsing corruption and sinfulness don't let it keep you from voting. Vote Anyway!

You may have to look hard to get past the dominating role media has played to find what looks like truth, but do it. This is what is at stake when you vote:

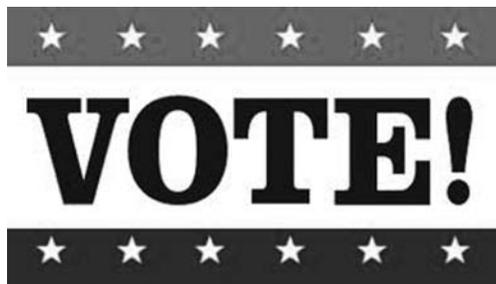
- All 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 34 (1/3) of the seats in the U.S. Senate.
- 12 governor races.
- The makeup of 87 percent of state legislative chambers nationwide.

But the most significant is the federal court system. Did you know that in an eight-year span, a President could make as many as 300 appointments to federal courts?

Rulings by these judges impact the moral climate of our nation as well as our daily lives through issues like the redefinition of marriage, mandatory taxpayer funding of abortion, parental rights in education, privacy rights and freedom of speech and religion. Bigger than any positions on ag, these decisions will more greatly affect our personal lives and who we are as a nation.

The vision of our Founding Fathers was for judges to see their role as interpreting an instrument framed by the people (our Constitution) in a detached and objective way. And this is why Alexander Hamilton called the judiciary, "the least dangerous branch." Judges are meant to be umpires. They simply call the balls and strikes; they are never meant to pick up the bat and swing.

There is a competing approach where the Supreme Court is seen as the voice and conscience of contemporary society. This is the vision of many on the modern political left who believe unelected, appointed judges should play a particular role in



solving society's problems. We now have a vacant seat due to Justice Scalia's death and in addition to filling that seat, it is very likely that the next President will have more vacancies to fill. By the end of the next president's term, five justices will be older than 70 years old; three will be in their 80s.

On the current court, there are four 'problem solvers' who vote to advance the liberal political agenda: Ginsburg, Breyer, Sotomayor and Kagan. There are three 'umpires': Thomas, Roberts and Alito. And there is one swing vote, Kennedy. He has cast the crucial swing vote against the right to life and for gay marriage.

Consider the impact of even one change. During President Obama's presidency alone, more than 50 Supreme Court cases were decided by a 5-4 margin.

The future makeup of the Supreme Court will probably be the most significant ramification of this election. At this point, a good guess can be made of what a Clinton Court would look like and we can imagine what it would do. Is a Trump Court as easily imagined?

Many commentators argue that it couldn't be worse than Clinton's but perhaps more can be said in its favor from a conservative viewpoint. Trump has said he would, "choose someone as close to Scalia as I could find."

Moreover, a list of judges he said would be his model for future judges is a list of experienced and respected jurists according to Cathy Ruse, senior legal fellow at Family Research Council Action. There is no evidence in their records that they decide cases according to their political preferences rather than the law.

So don't take the easy way out and stay home. VOTE!

**Note:** Information taken from September issue of *Decision*, a publication of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

## Why Do We Till Cover Crops in the Fall?

By Andy Bensend



It never ceases to amaze me that well-intentioned farmers would do an outstanding job of producing a cover crop after a vegetable crop or cereal grains and then perform tillage to incorporate the vegetative matter in September or October.

This practice is akin to walking off of the football after three quarters of play and hoping to win.

As the covers will often grow until freeze, the additional root growth and top growth will sequester additional nutrients and provide protection from erosion while allowing for microbial activity to promote soil quality and structure.

In the case of winter cereal grains, the process will continue in the spring through planting time.

I understand that spring is a short window of opportunity to



get a lot accomplished, but I absolutely think it's a bad idea that is contrary to long-term sustainability and sound economics, just like fall nitrogen application and abandonment of crop rotation.

Feedback welcome!

*'Soil thoughts' from the Farmers of the Barron County Watershed.*

## Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf 715.537.9376  
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Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker 715.829.5584  
YFA Chair, Joe Braml

Director, Kim Barta 715.234.4808  
Director, Trevor Kodesh 715.931.7490  
Director, James Kusilek 715.205.8840  
Director, Samuel Olson 715.977.1060

Barron County Farm Bureau 877.483.5447  
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708  
District 9 YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget 715.505.7676  
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 866.355.7349  
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.



## New Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Elected



Teresa Marker was elected to serve as the Barron County Ag in the Classroom coordinator.

Teresa is a livestock nutritionist for Crystal Creek Natural LLC, based in Spooner and she resides in Shell Lake with her husband and son. She also serves as secretary-treasurer for Barron County Farm Bureau.

Ag in the Classroom is a national program that seeks to help students, pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade, gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

Barron County has been actively involved in this program and Teresa wants to continue the success. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Teresa Marker at 715.829.5584 or tmhanson\_98@yahoo.com.

## Welcome New Members

Emily Achivida, Luanne Bauer\*, Garnet Bronstad, Bruce Hanson\*, Amber Johnson, Doug Kucko\*, Judy Lindsley, Dena Lorenz\*, Terry Marc, Valerie Michaels, Rachelle Riedelsperger, Scott Roppe, Bradley Skar, Steven Skoug and Tim Stauner\*.

*\*Denotes voting membership.*

# Welcome to Farm Bureau