



Barron County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 24, 2018

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: January 18

Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Ride the Bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Join farmers and agriculturists from around Wisconsin for an important day in Madison. Learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with your state legislators to speak up for agriculture. Don't want to drive yourself or worry about parking ... ride the bus!

Bus schedule

- Depart
- 6:30 a.m. **Baldwin:** Park and Ride, south of McDonald's
- 7:05 a.m. **Menomonie:** Walmart parking lot, west side
- 7:45 a.m. **Eau Claire:** Walmart parking lot, off of Highway 53 and Golf Road
- 8:15 a.m. **Osseo:** Osseo Inn parking lot
- *There will be a 15-minute break at the Tomah pickup.
- 9:40 a.m. **Tomah:** McDonald's by Greyhound pickup area

Arrive at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center at about 11:15 a.m.

The bus will depart Madison to return home at 5:30 p.m.

The bus trip is limited to the first 40 people who register and pay. Reserve your spot today.

To reserve your seat, please contact District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Please indicate which location you want to be picked up at.

Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today.



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



Serving on the 2017-2018 Barron County Farm Bureau board are: back row (from left) Joe Braml, Sam Olson, Trevor Kodesh and Dan Ripplinger; front row (from left) Nathan Kringle, Craig Hamernik, Karyn Schauf and Teresa Marker.

The Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was on August 24 at Barron Electric. Members enjoyed a pie and ice cream social by Tina Wenger. Members then voted on policy, board of directors and delegates to the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Guest speaker was Barron County Administrator Jeff French, who shared information about the county incinerator.

Craig Hamernik of Hillsdale and Nate Kringle of Rice Lake replaced Kim Barta and Jim Kusilek on the Board of Directors.

Barron County Farm Bureau will be presenting the following resolutions, passed during this meeting, on for consideration to be presented to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We would like the dairy 30x20 initiative eliminated.
2. We are in favor of a minimum notice to dairy producers of 90 days before they can be dropped by their milk procurer.
3. We encourage counties to determine and use in their permitting process the number of animal units their agricultural land base can support.
4. We support increasing the educational incentive to entice large animal veterinarians to rural areas.
5. We support online payments for new and renewal Farm Bureau memberships.
6. We are in favor of closing the loophole which allow landlords to accumulate FSA/Government payments through combination lease agreements.
7. The production of food and its processing should be recognized as a national security issue. Hence ownership should be maintained by U.S. citizens.
8. We support availability of ARC & PLC coverage through FSA as well as MPCCI coverage under the federal crop insurance program for crops planted before the final planting date and after harvesting a forage crop.
9. We support businesses established as cooperatives to maintain their one member – one vote principle.
10. We would like to see the continued support of subsidies for crop insurance premiums.
11. We support making prevent plant a separate option which is not part of basic crop insurance.

Delegates who will be representing Barron County Farm Bureau members at the WFBF Annual Meeting are: Julie Wadzinski, Joe Braml and Dan Ripplinger.

For more information on Barron County Farm Bureau, call 877.483.5447 or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron.

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Members in the News



Tim Jergenson, UW-Extension agricultural agent for Barron County travelled to Tanzania for two weeks in September to share his technical skills and expertise with Tanzanian Extension Field Staff, Extension Supervisors and Farm Community Volunteers to enable them to conduct better educational meetings and help to build sustainable farmer networks.

Extension staff in Tanzania were taught how to create meeting environments that provide better educational experiences, increase the active membership in the organization and to become stronger leaders in their villages and broader communities. Up to 233 direct beneficiaries were reached.

All expenses related to Jergenson's travel were funded by the U.S.

Tim Jergenson, UW-Extension agricultural agent for Barron County travelled to Tanzania for two weeks in September to share his technical skills and expertise with Tanzanian Extension Field Staff, Extension Supervisors and Farm Community Volunteers to enable them to conduct better educational meetings and help to build sustainable farmer networks.

Agency for International Development. This five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets and increase their incomes.

Congratulations to Farm Bureau members **Alex and Mary Olson** of Breezy Hill Dairy who were named the Grand Champion Winner of the World Forage Analysis Super Bowl with a winning entry of conventional corn silage-Pioneer P9789AMXT that was treated with Pioneer inoculant 11CFT. The winner was chosen from more than 1,000 forage samples from producers far and wide.



President's Message



Greetings! We had an excellent annual meeting this fall.

Thank you to those who attended. The best part, I always believe, is the great discussion that evolves about our resolutions. I wish there were more opportunities for farmers to share and discuss like that.

Looking back, one positive accomplishment your Farm Bureau was involved with was getting a licensed veterinarian back on staff at the Barron Diagnostic Laboratory. A recent 'News-Shield' article reported the laboratory, as a result, had a very good year, with a net income of \$236,000 in 'fee for service testing,' and an additional \$325,000 earned for contract work such as testing for chronic wasting disease. Remodeling may soon be taking place "to allow it to handle further testing from Wisconsin, the nation and around the world."

Looking ahead, your board is concerned about the loss of

large animal veterinarians in our area. One of our resolutions addressed this issue on a state level. To help us be successful in this effort won't you please take part in a survey if you are a livestock producer. You will find information about it in this newsletter. It should take only a minute to complete the survey but will be helpful to us in going forward.

Other concerns focused on keeping crop insurance affordable and beneficial while closing loopholes some have exploited, and trying to address some of the current issues in the dairy industry.

Regarding the resolution on cooperatives, I traveled to Madison and testified against a current Senate Bill SB281, which would significantly change our state's cooperative structure, allowing up to 20 percent of your cooperative's board seats to be held by non-members including outside investors and allowing cooperatives to choose to base voting power on patronage rather than the original principal of one member, one vote. I'm very concerned about the future ramifications of SB281.

You also can be proud of the delegation we have representing

us at the WFBF Annual Meeting. You will see them highlighted in this newsletter. Thank you to each of them.

Lastly, I want to recognize one of our retiring board members, Kim Barta. Kim has served on the Farm Bureau board for 39 years. He credits my dad Chuck Nelson for first encouraging him as a young farmer to get involved as a board member.

Kim has been a faithful, contributing member, always dependable and thoughtful in his decisions. I believe it was through the Farm Bureau connection he became involved in the June Dairy Month breakfast planning where he has served as a key figure for many years. He also is involved in the Barron County Dairy Promoters, making sure there is always ice-cold milk at the fair.

Thank you Kim, for your hard work and effort. You have helped make Barron County Farm Bureau what it is today.

Have a safe harvest everyone!

Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau president

Outstanding Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet



Seven contestants participated in the District 9 Discussion Meet: **Cindy Bourget, Dunn County; Andrew Winiarczyk, Sawyer County; Nate Kringle, Barron County; Isaac Christenson, Polk County; Lexi Dusell and Kirsten Konder, St. Croix County; and Laura Benitz, Pierce County.**

The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 3 at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie. The question that participants discussed was: **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?**

Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build these crucial skills in young farmers and agriculturists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

The YFA 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.



Congratulations to Isaac Christenson, Nate Kringle and Laura Benitz who will compete at the YFA Discussion Meet in December.

Each of WFBF's nine districts holds a District Meet competition late summer or fall. Three contestants from each district move on to the state Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells in December.

Farmers of the Barron County Watershed Winter Meeting



Mark your calendars! Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds, a producer-led group working in the Barron County Watersheds, will host

a winter meeting on January 23, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Ridgeland Community Center in Ridgeland. Lunch will be provided.

The meeting will feature Keith Berns from Nebraska. Keith and his brothers Ken and Brian own Green Cover Seed.

The Berns brothers started Green Cover Seed to share the benefits of cover crops and no-till

farming with the community. They've worked during the past several years to research and incorporate their methods in their own fields and help others do the same.

What they found are exciting and efficient methods that can offer an increase in soil structure, organic matter, biological life, water infiltration rate, nutrient cycling and wildlife.

Cover crop rebate checks will be handed out at the winter meeting along with much more.

Please watch for more details in December. To contact the group regarding the winter meeting or any of their efforts, please contact Clayton Wohlk at 715.641.0942, Andy Bensed at 715.296.7628, Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7202, Craig Hamernik at 715.418.0053, Logan Dywer at 715.651.9803 or Julie Wadzinski at 715.234.7082.

SAVE THE DATE!

WISCONSIN COVER CROP CONFERENCE

Investing in your farm's future

**FEBRUARY 27, 2018
STEVENS POINT, WI**

For more information:
<http://fyi.uwex.edu/covercrop/>



Meet New Barron County Board Members



Craig Hamernik and his family own and operate a small farm that has three enterprises: custom heifer raising, cow-calf herd and cash crops. He also is a product manager for National Torch by Premier Industries.

Craig and his wife Lori have two children: Lucas (26) and Megan (22).

He is very active in his community as a member in the Barron Kiwanis Club, chair of the Farmers of the Barron County Watershed group and on a couple of committees at church.

"I have enjoyed working in agriculture since I started working on my Grandfather's farm as a boy. Working in agriculture is always challenging, always changing and provides the feelings of independence."

"I became involved with Barron Farm Bureau to keep up to date with current ag events and issues on the local, state and national levels. And to network with folks that share many of the same values as I do."



Nathan Kringle is an AI technician with Genex. Other than being involved in Farm Bureau and agriculture, he is involved in Knights of Columbus and he enjoys hunting, fishing and card and board games.

Nathan and his wife Kayla are native to Rice Lake and have moved back to the area after spending a few years working on a

cranberry marsh in Hayward. The couple has two children: Remington and Elnora.

When asked why he chose to be involved in agriculture, Nathan responded, "I was raised on a farm and enjoy the satisfaction of producing something for consumers."

He sees the greatest benefits of being involved in Farm Bureau as networking and fellowship and having a voice in the policy development process.



Barron County Young Farmers got together on September 22 to learn about cover crops and enjoy a movie on the farm.

We gathered at Logan Dwyer's farm where he explained the cover crop practices he uses for weed control, grazing and improving soil health. Once it got too dark for more cover crop talk, we went back to the shed and projected a movie on the shed wall, drive-in movie style.

We want to hear from you with suggestions for future events. Please let one of the board members know or send us a message on Facebook if you have an idea.

District Coordinator Message: Life Is A Marathon, Not a Sprint ...



We have probably heard the saying, "Life is a marathon, not a sprint." What does that really mean?

This year, I find out. On June 17, I ran my first marathon, Grandma's Marathon in Duluth. That's right, I ran 26.2 miles!

Running for 26.2 miles allows for a lot of thinking and reflecting. Looking back on the past year, there are many points that are similar when

trying to complete a marathon and navigating through life, especially in agriculture.

Perseverance: Farming, running a marathon ... anything that we do has its difficulties. Sometimes it seems hard to push through the difficulties, but you know you must, and want to, keep going. Agriculture is turbulent and it always has been but we are where we are because we have persevered.

Dedication: Whatever it is that you do, you do it because you are committed. Many of you have been doing what you do for years and you are dedicated to continuing the tradition of agriculture. There are even some young farmers who are dedicated to starting a farm from scratch.

Heart: When you no longer have anything left, it's heart that gets you through. In a marathon, as in life, there are times when there is nothing left except heart. We have that heart to keep going. Especially in agriculture, we do what we do for the LOVE of agriculture.

Support: Always have someone to turn to, lean on and push you. I never even thought about running a marathon if it weren't for the support of my running group, my family and my friends. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is here to support you and what you do.

Training: I seriously trained for a marathon for six months. The desire to farm starts practically at birth ... you have trained for what you do your whole life. You got this!

This past year in agriculture has been turbulent, to say the least. For those of you who have been in agriculture your whole lives, you have seen turbulent times before and you will see it again. In agriculture, and in life, there are ups and downs, we can expect that. There are times when it would be easier to quit than to keep going. But we just need to push through, it will be worth it. Just as for me, running a marathon was challenging, but it was worth it!

Before I ever began running, the idea of running a mile seemed impossible. And of course, it was, until I ran a mile. But I did it! I ran, and finished, my first marathon. That is something that I am proud of.

You should be proud of what you do as well. It is no small feat to be involved in agriculture. The fact that you do what you do and continue to do it despite the challenges. Know that you are part of a great organization that will support you, and is dedicated to helping you, your farm and your family in any way that we can. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to have you as members.

If you have any questions or comments throughout the year, or if you want to chat, please contact me. I would love to hear from you.

Katie Mattison
WFBF District 9 Coordinator
kmattison@wfbf.com, 866.355.7349

Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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YFA Chair, Joe Braml

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Director, Nate Kringle 715.418.0536
Director, Samuel Olson 715.837.1861
Director, Dan Ripplinger 715.296.4176

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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.



Provide Feedback Regarding Large Animal Veterinarians

Your Barron County Farm Bureau Board of Directors discusses and addresses issues not only on the state and national levels but also on local issues. The large animal veterinarian services have become an area of great interest not only in Barron County but northwest Wisconsin. Your board has heard from a couple of large animal veterinarians for their perspective and now we are looking for your input.

If you are a livestock farmer, we ask you to help by completing a survey. Please complete a paper survey and send it back to **Karyn Schauf, 1659 10 1/2 Street, Barron, WI 54812** or complete the survey online at wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/barron. Please complete the survey by **December 1**. We look forward to hearing from you.

Barron County Farm Bureau Large Animal Veterinarian Survey

Do you have a veterinarian of record? _____
If so, please list their name and clinic. _____

Have you had a livestock situation in which you were unable to get a veterinarian's help when you needed it? _____

What services do you currently rely on a veterinarian for? _____

What veterinary services do you or someone on your farm now perform yourself? _____

What changes in need for veterinary services do you foresee in the future for your farm? _____

Do you think there is a shortage of veterinary services in the area? _____

Your farm overview

Township: _____

Type of livestock: _____

Number of animals: _____

In the next five years do you foresee your farm ...

Increasing in size _____

Maintaining current size _____

Ceasing operation _____

Any other comments? _____

Name (optional) _____