



Barron County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



We invite you to come celebrate our Barron County Farm Bureau year and take part in our annual business meeting . . .

Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Thursday September 29

It's time once again for our Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting! Please make every effort to attend. It's not only informative and a great chance to visit with neighbors but more importantly it's your opportunity to weigh in on the issues.

As we discuss and formulate resolutions to forward to the WFBF Annual Meeting, your opinions and input are valuable. It's what makes your Farm Bureau membership valuable to you.

We hope to see **YOU** at the Barron Electric Meeting Room on **Thursday, September 29!**

Time & Cost

- 7:30 p.m. - Pie and Ice Cream Social followed by the business meeting.
- No charge.

Location

Barron Electric
1434 Wisconsin 25
Barron, WI 54812

RSVP

By Thursday, September 22, to Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7203 or Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349.

Rural Broadband: Input Needed

An topic that Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Policy Development Committee has identified is access to rural broadband around the state.



The State Broadband Office at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission announced the release of its High Speed Internet Access Demand Survey. This tool will allow residents and businesses the voice needed to improve internet access or service.

The goal is to help state planners and policy makers better understand consumer demand for internet access in Wisconsin.

To complete the survey, please visit www.psc.wi.gov/BroadbandSurvey.htm.

Welcome New Members!

Jonas Borntrager*, George Flowers*, Rocky Furchtenicht*, Mark Nuzum, Jeremy Peters, Cody Prill, Jerome Raupp, Andrew Repka, Kevin Roske*, Nathaniel Roske*, David Schmelke, Heidi Sirek and Steven Skoug*.

*Denotes voting membership.



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

District 9 YFA Members Shine



District 9 YFA members who participated in the Discussion Meet included: (L-R) Julie Wadzinski, Barron County; Laura Benitz, Pierce County; Isaac Christenson, Polk County; Kirsten Konder, St. Croix County; and Nathan Kringle, Sawyer County.

Five outstanding YFA Members from District 9 competed in the District Discussion Meet on August 4 at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie. Barron County Farm Bureau

member Julie Wadzinski was one of five who competed during the Discussion Meet.

The topic was 'Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?'

All contestants did an excellent job. The contestants moving on to the quarterfinal round of the state Discussion Meet contest, on **Saturday, December 3**, at the 98th WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells, are Kirsten Konder, St. Croix County; Isaac Christenson, Polk County; and Laura Benitz, Pierce County.



Julie did an outstanding job representing Barron County during the District 9 YFA Discussion Meet.

The YFA Discussion Meet is an exercise that develops cooperative problem solving in a public roundtable format. It is a panel-type discussion where YFA members are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions on the hottest issues driving agriculture.

Thank You for Making the Farm Bureau Food Stand a Success



It takes a lot of work to get ready. Before the fair, Trevor Kodesh and Brad Nevin took time to fix the food stand. It enables us to fund Ag in the Classroom activities, send FFA members to leadership conferences, provide scholarships to youth and many consumer education activities that we undertake throughout the year.

Barron County Farm Bureau's largest revenue comes from the food stand at the Barron County Fair. It enables us to fund Ag in the Classroom activities, send FFA members to leadership conferences, provide scholarships to youth and many consumer education activities that we undertake throughout the year.

another year in the Barron County Fair food stand is in the record books.

The weather was miserable going from hot and humid to rain but you couldn't tell by the crew that volunteered. New friends were made and friendships renewed while flipping, scooping and frying.



YFA members Noah Voelker, Brandon Fischer, Sam Olson and Sara Mathison volunteered in the food stand.

We also want to thank Barron County producers Jennie-O Turkey Store, North Star Bison, Nuto Potatoes AMPI and Burnett Dairy for their products sold in the stand.

We hope that you had fun at the fair and we look forward to seeing everyone next year!



Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau members Julie Wadzinski, Greg Hayes, Katie Mattison and Lynn Hunt posed for a photo while volunteering at the food stand.

We couldn't have done it without these volunteers:

Sam Olson	Kathy Splett	Jeff Salsbury	Mark Gargulak	Stacey Witscher	Trevor Kodesh
Noah Voelker	Eva Curtis	Erica Salsbury	Michelle Gargulak	Julie Wadzinski	Brad Nevin
Brandon Fischer	Greg Hayes	Charlie Rihn	Paul Millerman	Katie Mattison	Julie Nevin
Jamie Riebe	Travis Kretzschmar	Renee Rihn	Sue Millerman	Randy Cook	Karyn Schauf
Lynn Hunt	Jim Salsbury	Jim Kusilek	Jamie Charron	Jim Reul	Ryan Zerbian
Tim Jergenson	Christina Salsbury	Audrey Kusilek	Cindy Broker	Eric Bechel	

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President's Message



The annual meeting is just ahead. It's hard to believe another year has gone by and I hope to see many of you on **Thursday, September 29**, at the Barron Electric Meeting Room.

We will start with those delicious pies like we had last year along with some ice cream and then into the purpose of discussing resolutions and elections.

One of the topics that we will discuss is the development of rural broadband. How many of you struggle with internet service on the farm? Be sure to take the online survey to help

identify the issues. Other issues include animal husbandry issues that are now being market driven, finding funds for rural road repairs and other topics that you bring to the table.

This is why we pay Farm Bureau dues ... to be OUR voice for agriculture. Come and speak up.

I also want members to consider being delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. It's a fantastic experience that will make you proud to be a Farm Bureau member and more informed. Mark your calendar for **December 3-5**.

Also, please contact me or Katie Mattison and let us know by **September 22** if you are planning to attend the annual meeting so that we are sure to order enough pie!

I also want to mention that we lost one of our board members, Amber Cordes, due to her husband's change of employment. She is one of those 'take charge, I-can-do-that' kind of persons and she accomplished a lot.

Amber did a fantastic job as chair of Ag in the Classroom and served on the state's Women's Committee representing the northwest district, among many other things. We miss her vivaciousness and energy and we wish her well. Amber left big shoes to fill and we thank her for what she accomplished. Maybe it's YOUR turn to serve on the board. Please give it some consideration.

See you soon!
Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau President

Ag Plastics Recycling

By **Megen Hines**, St. Croix County Recycling Specialist

Revolution Plastics, a company based in Arkansas, is expanding their ag plastics recycling business into western Wisconsin.

They want to collect ag plastics from farmers with on-farm recycling dumpsters that are free and collection is free to the farmer. They want 250 farmers within an 80-mile radius of Eau Claire before committing to come to the area.

They will be siting a baler in Eau Claire and collecting ag plastics from farmers to haul there to be baled and shipped to their processing facilities.

A pilot program was started two years ago in Green County and has expanded into Dane County. Now, they are targeting the Appleton and Eau Claire areas. The timeline is projected for this fall or winter.

To sign up for the service, please visit www.revolutionplastics.com/index.php and scroll down to the 'Join the Revolution' section.

Criteria for getting a dumpster include:

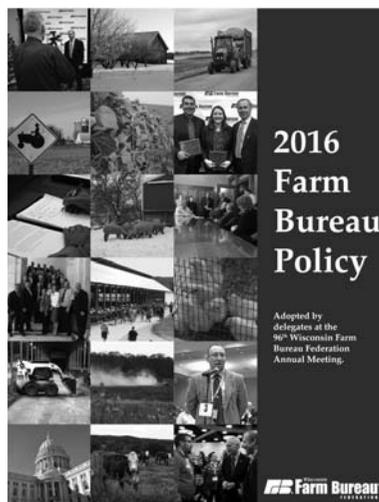
- Generate 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of ag plastics per year. If a single farm doesn't generate enough, several farms can share a dumpster.
- They accept bale wrap, ag grain bags, most bunker covers, oxygen barrier film, irrigation tape or tubing/cover, fumigation, greenhouse and hoop house films.
- They do not accept bunker covers with nylon scrim, twine, net wrap or other mixed plastics.
- Need to be able to access dumpster with a full-size garbage truck.

The material that they collect from Wisconsin is made into large garbage or trash liners that are used primarily by the hospitality industry, universities, etc. The material they collect in Arkansas is made into new ag bags.

For more information, please contact me at 715.531.1907.



Members Speak Up



Members from across northwestern Wisconsin came together for their voices to be heard on policy decisions at the District 9 Policy Development Meetings on August 4.

WFBF President and District 9 Director Jim Holte and Executive Director of Governmental Relations Paul Zimmerman assisted with the discussion.

Two meetings were held to allow members to choose which worked best; during the day members met in Ladysmith and in the evening members met in Menomonie.

The purpose of the district policy development meetings was to develop resolutions that will be discussed and possibly proposed within each county Farm Bureau during their respective annual meetings.

Barron County Farm Bureau members who attended the Policy Development Meetings were Karyn Schauf, Julie Wadzinski and Joe Braml. The topics included: animal husbandry, transpor-

tation, wildlife, wetlands, broadband and the fence law.

As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin in Madison and Washington, D.C.

This fall, Farm Bureau members across the state will be forwarding resolutions on a variety of issues to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Is there an issue you want to see addressed? Contact a Barron County Farm Bureau board member or attend the annual meeting on **Thursday, September 29**.

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits

Now that the IOH trilogy is complete, but yet so many questions still remain, there has been discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book.

This book will encompass all aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin, both state and federal laws.

Rob Richard, WFBF's Senior Director of Governmental Relations, and Cheryl Skjolaas of UW Extension, are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF has been rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media.

These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

Even though many of you will know these laws, it's our hope that you will share them via social media to reach and educate a much wider audience.



More importantly, any feedback you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book.

For example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or Ag-CMV in a no-passing zone?

To see other tidbits from WFBF's "Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit" go to our Facebook page at facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

YFA Members Participate in Farmer Field Day By Savannah Williams, UW Discovery Farms



On July 20, District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members joined UW Discovery Farms and Minnesota Discovery Farms for a field day at Spring Creek Farms, a 1,400-acre corn and soybean operation in Chisago County, Minnesota.

Discovery Farms is a farmer-led research and outreach program focused on the relationship between agriculture and water quality. The program proudly partners with Farm Bureau to better connect with farmers on water-quality related topics and research.

Even with the hot temperatures, there were more than 30 farmers and advisors who attended.

Minnesota Discovery Farms coordinator Tim Radatz and UW Discovery Farms co-director Amber Radatz discussed results from Spring Creek Farms and two other farm monitoring sites that are part of the UW Discovery Farms Dry Run Watershed project just across the St. Croix River. Amber explained how the system does a good job of keeping the soil in place, which results in very little soil loss on his fields. The average soil loss for Spring Creek Farms is 84 pounds per acre, with a median soil loss for all participating farms of 134 pounds per acre.

Then the owner of Spring Creek Farms talked about his partic-

ipation with Discovery Farms and about the equipment used. He emphasized that working with Discovery Farms, "is a good way to learn and give at the same time. It fit well. It's been a good learning experience, better than we expected."

After dinner, attendees walked to the monitoring site at the bottom of a no-till soybean field.

"We chose no till because it was different, was a challenge and you could still make money," said the owner.

This event was a great way for young farmers to connect with a seasoned no-tiller; the owner has been no-till for 20 years and continues to perfect his equipment set up.

If you are interested in learning more about Discovery Farms and events, visit www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org or follow them on Facebook and Twitter.



YFA members learned about Discovery Farms and saw first-hand some of the farmer-led research.

New Group in Town: Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds

By Craig Hamernik, chair of the watershed group

There is a new group in town called the Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds (FBCW).

Even though we are calling this group new, it actually started last fall with local farmers who know the benefits of keeping the soil where it belongs, on our productive fields.

The FBCW is a group of committed farmers who want to better understand the factors affecting nutrient and sediment losses. FBCW understands that all sources of nutrient and sediment loss can and must be reduced, therefore we are placing emphasis on cropland runoff.

While many farmers in Barron County have adopted best management practices in order to reduce nutrient loss to acceptable levels, we understand that there are a wide variety of practices that can reduce soil losses.

FBCW believes that farmers must be empowered to evaluate and adopt practices that work on their farms and in their farming systems.

To help accomplish this, FBCW has received a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Producer-Led Watershed Protection program, money from the Farm Technology Days and Farm Bureau and in-kind cooperation from Barron County businesses and farmers.

A requirement of the grant was to focus our initial effort on one watershed and so we selected the Yellow River Watershed.

In order to help encourage farmers in the Yellow River Watershed, as well as all of Barron County, to increase their knowledge of the benefits of sound soil management, FBCW will

conduct field days, have meetings focused on practices that have proved to work well in Barron County and provide cost sharing on establishing cover crops.

FBCW scheduled a field day for November 3, when we will look at cover crops established after canning crops, corn silage and soybeans. The field day is in Maple Grove Township of Barron County.

Please watch for more information regarding this field day as the date draws closer. FBCW also will schedule a winter meeting in early January 2017.

As mentioned, FBCW also is providing cost sharing to help encourage farmers to establish a cover crop. Because our grant from DATCP focuses on the Yellow River Watershed within Barron County, FBCW will pay \$6 per acre for cover crops established in the Yellow River Watershed and \$4 per acre for cover crops established outside the Yellow River Watershed but in Barron County, up to 500 acres per producer.

These acres must be in addition to acres enrolled in any other cover crop program. This program will be self-certifying with possible spot checks and requires that the cover crop be visible as of November 1 with uniform coverage of the acres enrolled.

If you want an application for cover crop cost sharing, additional information on any of the FBCW projects or if you want to join, please contact one of the board members: Clayton Wohlk at 715.641.0942, Andy Bensed at 715.296.7628, Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7202 or Craig Hamernik at 715.418.0053.

Ultimately FBCW wants to help increase the bottom line of all farmers in Barron County.

Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf 715.537.9376
Vice President, Dan Ripplinger 715.469.3563
Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker 715.829.5584
YFA Chair, Sara Mathison 715.520.0435

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
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 Promotion and Education Representative, Amber Cordes 715.357.3444
District 9 YFA Chair, Cindy Bourget 715.505.7676
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 866.355.7349

'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.



Why YFA?



As my service as the YFA District 9 Representative draws to a close, I am starting to reflect on what these years have meant.

The philosophical side of me tends to come out when asked questions like this, and I automatically go to things like the role of change in an organization, how we have made our mark or what good have I done as your leader?

In his wonderful way, my husband Al has once again reminded me that the most important questions are usually the simplest ones and boiled it down to one important question, "Why YFA?" Why do I choose to spend my precious free time with the YFA Program? Why have we become a YFA family? Why will I always support and encourage YFA members?

Simple questions often illicit simple answers, and the one word that popped into my head when asked, "Why YFA" was, "belonging."

YFA provides everyone an opportunity to choose how they want to belong. If you like to speak, you can compete in a Discussion Meet or travel to Madison for Ag Day on the Capitol to talk to your legislators. If you prefer community service or working with students, there are Ag in Classroom events or the Farmer Frolic 5K.

YFA events give you a chance to find other members who are going through the same circumstances that you are. For me, as we work to raise a family and make our own definition of agriculture, the YFA program provides a place to celebrate the agriculture journey, make new friends and know that my YFA family will support me.

As we start the harvest season, I challenge you to come to at least one YFA event. We know the stressors on the agricultural family including the unpredictability of our schedules, the pressure of getting one more thing done and the pull of other community and family commitments. All of us define our YFA belonging in different ways, but I hope that you define it as a part of your life, that you have your own answer to, "Why YFA?"