



Brown 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 BROWN COUNTY

Frank Ellefson (920) 347-4896	Kevin Schommer (920) 532-0138	Tina Mickelson (920) 347-4899
Chris Stewart (920) 737-0083	Pat Truttman (920) 338-9756	

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Lunch and Learn with Wisconsin Farm Bureau



Wisconsin Farm Bureau is excited to announce a new Lunch and Learn series for members to learn not only more about Farm Bureau but to also build personal and professional development skills. On the first and third Wednesday of each month, from noon to 12:30 p.m., join Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and staff for personal and professional development opportunities.

The first Wednesday of the month will offer topics ranging from advocacy to working with legislators and programs to engage consumers. The third Wednesday

will feature tours of farms from Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry.

Follow Wisconsin Farm Bureau on Facebook to stay up to date on webinar topics and information on how to register and request to be added to the WFBF Commodity Tour group on Facebook. We can't wait to join you for lunch.

District 6 Discussion Meet Set

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.

Date: Tuesday, August 8

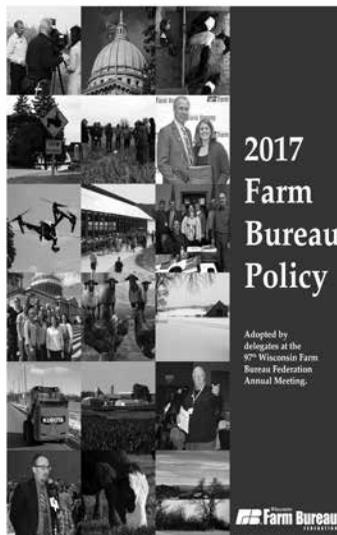
Time: 7 p.m. - Refreshments, 7:30 p.m. - Discussion Meet

Location: Rural Mutual Office, 109 S. 4th Street, St. Nazianz

Topic: 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?

If you are interested in participating or attending this fun event, please contact Carley Blado at 920.418-2226 or carleyblado@gmail.com.

Join Brown County Farm Bureau Members at the Policy Development and Annual Meeting



From President Stan Kaczmarek:

As summer rolls along, the Farm Bureau meeting season kicks into gear as counties host Policy Deployment meetings. These meetings lay the groundwork that members vote on at County Farm Bureau meetings, then approved polices and resolutions are sent to the state where they reviewed in committee before being brought to the delegate body to be voted on, which in turn become part of the WFBF policies.

I know we are busy but hopefully, as members you can be part of this grassroots movement and provide input for policies and resolutions at the Brown County Farm Bureau Policy Development meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, August 2**, at NeighborWorks, 443 S. Jackson Street, Suite 103, Green Bay.

Pizza and refreshments courtesy of Brown County Farm Bureau.

SAVE the DATE

The Brown County annual meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday, October 19**, at Graystone Ale House, 3711 Monroe Road, in De Pere.

More information to come. There will be some wonderful door prizes.



COUNTYnews

BROWN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Kaylee Coel is the 2017 Brown County Fairest of the Fair



Outgoing Fairest of the Fair Maria Vander Heiden, crowned Kaylee Coel. Photo courtesy of Bonnie Kratz Photography.

Kaylee Coel of Howard is the 2017 Brown County Fairest of the Fair. She is the daughter of Marty and Beth Coel and was selected out of four candidates during the Fairest gala at The Marq in De Pere. Performing the crowning honors was last year's Fairest Maria Vander Heiden of De Pere.

Kaylee graduated from Bay Port High School and is attending UW-River Falls. Her goal is to attend veterinary school. She balances her work on a dairy farm, assisting with barn chores and milking cows with her college leadership positions in collegiate 4-H and Pre-Vet Club. She has shown dairy cattle for 13 years at the county fair. Within Brown County 4-H, she has taken photography, aerospace, woodworking, arts and crafts and foods projects. She earned the 4-H Key Award and I Dare You Award.

Kaylee will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Johnson & Wachholz Financial Services and the Van Dyck family after successfully completing her term.

"I am so excited for this position to be able to share my love for the fair and to get to meet and grow relationships with many new people," Kaylee said.

Kendall Bentley of Kaukauna, daughter of Patrick and Cindy Bentley was runner-up. She will assist the Fairest in her duties and given the opportunity to attend community events. She received a \$250 scholarship from Brown County Farm Bureau.

The Fairest and Runner-Up will make appearances throughout Brown County promoting the Fair. The Fairest of the Fair will represent the Fair as media spokesperson and official host of the 2017 Brown County Fair, which will take place on **August 16-20**.

For more information about the Brown County Fair or to become a sponsor of the Fairest, please visit BrownCountyFair.com. To request an appearance, please email Fairest@BrownCountyFair.com.



Brown County Farm Bureau president Stan Kaczmarek presented runner-up Kendall Bentley received a \$250 scholarship.

Sheboygan County is Home to District Essay Contest Winner



District Winner Trinity Halseth posed with teacher Mrs. Barber and District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm.

For the fifth time in six years Sheboygan County has had the District 6 winner in the essay contest reported coordinator Liz Gartman. There were 132 entries and the winner was Trinity Halseth from Random Lake Elementary School in Sheboygan.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' A total of 2,818 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Insight FS and We Energies.

Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced. The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: agriculture. Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of local educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal is to help students gain awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

Trinity's essay

Cranberries Year Round

In 2004, the cranberry was named our official state fruit. Today, Wisconsin grows approximately 60% of the nation's supply of cranberries. We could be known as the cranberry state.

Cranberries grow on low trailing vines in sunken beds called bogs. The plants are perennial, meaning they survive year after year. The oldest can grow over 100 years old. Cranberries love sandy soil. The cranberry takes a long time to grow, at least 16 months.

You can see that while the berries are ripening, the buds for next years crop are already growing on the vine, so farmers have to take care of two seasons worth of cranberries at one time.

Water is one of the most precious resources for cranberry farmers. A 2,000-acre farm uses only 130 acres to grow cranberries, the rest is a series of reservoirs and watersheds, which run naturally along the farm and will borrow the water during the growing season and put it back in when finished with it. Twice a year the farmers flood the bogs, first in December for winter productions. This is when the plants grow dormant and their blanket of water insulates the vines from harsh winter frost. In the spring the bogs are drained and the cranberries pink flowers bloom.

Today many farms hire bees to pollinate the fields. By mid-June the fruit begins to grow. The berries start out green then turn white around August and finally red in the fall. The funny thing about cranberries is they do not really sweeten as they ripen like most fruit. They are a naturally tart fruit whether they are red or white.

In conclusion cranberries are lots of work. They need lots of care and love to grow big and strong all year.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** YFA Bus Tour
Host of Alice Finals
Ag Women's Summit
Rural Mutual Dividend
Program
- 3** Leopold Conservation
Award
Upcoming Events
Ag in the Classroom Tour
Board Contacts

YFA Bus Tour

Several Brown County Farm Bureau members joined other district members as they boarded the bus for three spectacular agricultural tours on April 21.

The first stop was Natural Beauty Greenhouse in Denmark. Natural Beauty is a socially and environmentally conscious greenhouse, leading the way to a greener and more colorful world. They grow a wide range of plants, including young plants for other greenhouses and finished plants for retailers locally and across the country. Natural Beauty produces over 100 million finished and young plants annually for customers throughout the U.S.

Second stop was Pagel's Ponderosa Dairy in Kewaunee. Under the care of 100 employees, they milk 5,000 cows in two barns and 8,300 acres are cropped annually. They put up 100,000 tons of feed for silage. Pagel's bed with biosolids from their methane digester. We also visited the calf barns.

The final stop included Von Stiehl Winery in Algoma. The

Schmiling brothers who grew up in Von Stiehl Winery now own and operate it. The older brother Aric uses the most modern equipment known to wine making as he artfully crafts fine wines. The younger brother Brad likes romance and history and manages the business.

The Civil War-era building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features a tasting room, a 10,000-square foot production facility, three Civil War-era underground limestone tunnels and a outdoor terrace with Lake Michigan views.

Von Stiehl's 30 plus grape and fruit wine recipes use top-quality ingredients from local fruit (Door County cherries), as well as West Coast-grown grapes (Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon). We were able to taste six different types of wines of our choice at the end of the tour.

Thank you to Natural Beauty, Pagel's Ponderosa and Von Stiehl for hosting us. What marvelous opportunities we have in our district.



Brown County Hosts the Alice in Dairyland Finals in Green Bay



Crystal Siemers-Peterman of Cleveland is Wisconsin's 70th Alice in Dairyland.

Crystal Siemers-Peterman of Cleveland, was chosen as Wisconsin's 70th Alice in Dairyland.

As Alice, Siemers-Peterman will work as a communications professional for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Her job will be to educate the public about the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

deliver consistent messages about Wisconsin's agriculture industry to diverse audiences."

Siemers-Peterman found her passion for Wisconsin's diverse agricultural industry on her family's registered Holstein dairy farm. She was involved in the Manitowoc County Junior Holstein Association, Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association and Manitowoc County 4-H.

Through these organizations, she represented Wisconsin at national competitions in dairy quiz bowl and dairy judging. She graduated in May from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities with a major in agricultural and food business management and a minor in marketing.

Previously, she interned at Sassy Cow Creamery, FLM+ Advertising Agency and Land O'Lakes, Inc. On campus she was involved in the National Agri-marketing Association, National Grocers Association and Gopher Dairy Club.

Siemers-Peterman was selected at the culmination of three days of final interview events in Brown County. Siemers-Peterman started as Alice on June 5.

To schedule the 70th Alice in Dairyland for an event or classroom visit, please contact program manager Ti Gauger at 608.224.5115.

"As Alice in Dairyland, I will promote positive messages about Wisconsin's agricultural products to both rural and urban audiences," said Siemers-Peterman. "I will use my various experiences, education and outgoing personality to

Rural Mutual Insurance Announces New Farm Dividend Program

Rural Mutual Insurance Company, premier insurance provider for Wisconsin families, businesses and farms, announces a new dividend program that enables the company to use its financial success to reward farm policyholders for their loyalty to Rural Mutual and commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

The Rural Mutual Farm Dividend Program is the first of its kind in the area and will return up to 5% of farm policyholders' annual earned premium.

Starting in 2017, Rural Mutual farm policyholders may qualify for the Dividend Program if their farm policy has been in force with Rural Mutual for more than one year and is in effect at the end of the year for which the dividend is declared.

Dividend calculations will be based on the financial results of Rural Mutual Insurance Company and its farm product over a three-year period. If dividends are earned, a check will be mailed or delivered by your Rural Mutual agent shortly after the farm policy renews in the subsequent calendar year. Dividends are not guaranteed and are authorized solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To learn more about Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Farm Dividend Program, contact your local Rural Mutual agent of visit www.ruralins.com/farm-dividend.



Brown County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Women's Summit

Four women from Brown County Farm Bureau attended the seventh Ag Women's Summit on March 10-11 in Madison.

The top-notch speakers and the networking opportunities make this conference like no other. The entertainment of the night included a casino night where the ladies had a chance to win big and see Elvis.

Saturday morning began with a workout option and more breakout sessions. This conference is a great way to share time with other ag women who share similar stories and experiences.

Carrie Mess of Milford was named the 2017 AgVocate of the Year at the Ag Women's Summit. More than 250 women attended to celebrate their role in agriculture at the event, hosted by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and UW-Extension.



Mandi Ramsburg and Nicole Nohl are among those who attended the Ag Women's Summit from Brown County. They enjoyed the roulette tables at the casino night.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program • Farm Bureau Bank 	Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgriVisor • The Country Today 	Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card • Life Line (NEW)
Supplies and Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case IH • Caterpillar • FS-GROWMARK Patronage • Grainger • Office Depot 	Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Mutual Insurance Company • Farm Bureau Financial Services 	Travel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAA • AVIS Car Rental Discount Program • Budget (NEW) • Choice Hotels International, Inc. • Wyndham Hotel Group
	Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$500 Reward Protection Program • Accidental Death Policy 	

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees



Sand County Foundation and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation are accepting applications for the \$10,000 Leopold Conservation Award, which honors Wisconsin farmers who demonstrate exemplary stewardship and management of natural resources.

Last year's winners was Brooks Farms from Waupaca County. Applications are due by **August 4**. Finalists and the winner will be announced in late 2017. For complete application information, visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

Given in honor of Aldo Leopold's land ethic, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation on working lands, inspires other land-owners through these examples and provides a visible forum where leaders from the agricultural community are recognized as conservation leaders outside of the industry.

In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

The Leopold Conservation Award in Wisconsin is made possible through the generous support of Farm Credit, DuPont Pioneer, The Mosaic Company, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, American Transmission Company, Badgerland Financial, We Energies, Alliant Energy Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association.

Brown County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Stan Kaczmarek	920.660.1938
Vice President, Raymond Diederich	920.336.0942
Secretary, Treasurer and Promotion and Education Chair, Kim VandenAvond	920.246.2361
Director, Nicole Nohl	920.980.4291
Director, Ray Tauscher	920.327.1973
Director, Phil Ullmer	920.660.0652
Director, Don Van Deurzen	920.336.6265
Director, Nicki Van Deurzen	920.336.3519
Brown County Farm Bureau	888.644.8359
WFBF Board Director, Rosie Lisowe	920.849.4413
District 6 Coordinator, Becky Salm	920.693.8467
RMIC District Manager, John Quirk	920.893.1811

facebook

'Like' Brown County Farm Bureau! Find us by searching Brown County Farm Bureau.

Brown County Farm Bureau Seeks County YFA Chair

Are you interested in advancing your leadership skills, connecting and networking with others? Brown County is looking for a new YFA chair to engage area young farmers in social events, leadership development activities and attend monthly board meetings. If you are between 18-35 this is an opportunity you don't want to miss/.

The role of the county YFA chair is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and involved in Farm Bureau at the county level. The county YFA Chair also will plan and carry out programs on a county level. The county YFA chair represents the county during district and state YFA events and activities.

If you are interested in finding out more about this exciting opportunity, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 920.253.5303 or bsalm@wfbf.com.



YFA MEMBERS We Want You! APPLY BY JULY 10

The **Excellence in Agriculture Award** judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

The **Achievement Award** judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

Get your application at: bit.ly/WIYFA-Contests.

Contests Awards

Upcoming Events

July

- 10 YFA Achievement Award/Excellence in Ag applications due
- 11-13 Farm Technology Days, Kewaunee

August

- 2 Brown County Policy Development Meeting
- 4 Applications for Leopold Conservation Award due
- 8 District 6 Discussion Meet
- 15 Rural Mutual YFA sponsorship forms due
- 15 WFBF Leadership Institute Class applications due
- 16-20 Brown County Fair

September

- 30 WFBF Membership year-end

October

- 19 Brown County Farm Bureau annual meeting, Graystone Ale House, De Pere
- 31 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference registrations due

December

- 1-4 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set

Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about the industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoards Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are welcome.

For the schedule and registration, visit wisagclassroom.org and click the teacher tab.