



Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Olsons Recognized as Buffalo County Farm Family of the Year

Doug and Karon Olson were honored as the Buffalo County Farm Bureau Farm Family of the Year at the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting on October 12.

Doug and Karon Olson of Mondovi, farm 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans and own and operate a custom planting and harvesting business known as Olson's Farm Service. They also have a partnership farm with Doug's brothers, Bruce and David.

Doug started his love of farming as a child working for his father at Huntsinger Farms and working the horseradish fields. As he grew older, he began milking cows on weekends for a neighbor. After graduation from high school, he attended Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire for diesel mechanics. After completing school, he started working at the John Deere dealership in Mondovi.

Karon started her love of farming as a child growing up on a dairy farm in Gilman Valley where she helped her parents.

Doug purchased his first combine in 1977. He purchased a second combine in 1978. They continued adding to the business with his father Darrel and brother Bruce helping him. Doug and Karon were married on August 30, 1980. They began their partnership farm with Doug's father and his two brothers. With the partnership, they raised produce and had a roadside stand until 2012 and still operate three greenhouses outside the city limits in Mondovi where they grow and sell annual and perennial flowers, hanging baskets and vegetable plants.

Doug and Karon have three daughters, Amanda, Bridgette and Christina. Christina works on the farm daily with Doug and Karon. They have one grandchild.

They have a wet bin and dryer that became a grain handling facility: Harvey Creek Grain LLC. At the same location in 1996, they built a liquid fertilizer facility.

Doug and Karon are active in the community. Doug helps with Mondovi Friendship Days and the Buffalo Country Fair tractor pulls. Karon works with the Mondovi Area Food Pantry and serves on the Central Lutheran Church finance board. They both work at the Farm Bureau malt stand. Last year, Doug has made modifications at the malt stand that have greatly improved the efficiency of the stand.

Congratulations Doug and Karon Olson, Buffalo County's Farm Family of the Year!



(from left) Sharon Fernholz presented Karon and Doug Olson with the 2017 Farm Family of the Year plaque during the Buffalo County annual meeting on October 12 at Danzinger Winery in Alma.

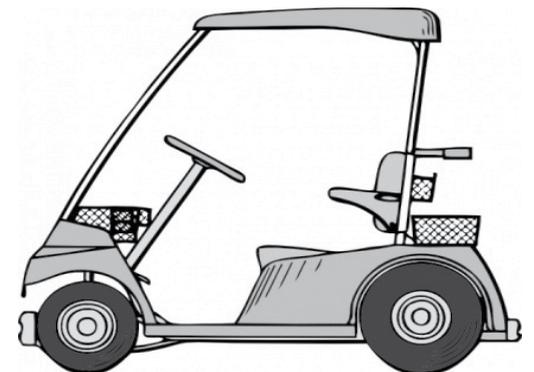
Plan to Participate in the Wisconsin Ag Open

Hosted by the WFB Foundation, the 2018 Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 10**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

All proceeds from the golf outing will support the WFB Foundation education and leadership programs such as Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, WFBF Leadership Institute and Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.

Registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, box lunch, appetizers, contests and door prizes. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

For information, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.





COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Buffalo County Farm Bureau Members Participate in Policy Development

By Julie Lindstrom, Buffalo County Farm Bureau director



Delegates of the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting gathered at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 4 to set WFBF's policies for the next year.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau continues to work for farm families and individuals who are involved in or support agriculture.

Recently, four members of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau board attended the WFBF Annual Meeting as voting delegates for the policy discussion; one of the items on the agenda at the business meeting.

Input from local Farm Bureaus on issues and concerns in the farming community, follow a policy development process. Policy input at the local level may even be supported enough to be voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The resolutions and policies that were passed at the annual meeting are divided into the following categories: dairy, education, energy, farm finance, general government, health and safety, labor, land use, livestock, marketing, natural resources and environment, taxation and transportation.

Policy developed by Farm Bureau throughout the state are not just on farm issues, if you were to take time to review the resolutions and policies acted on at the recent annual meeting you may be surprised.

Following is an example of a couple resolutions that were passed at the annual Farm Bureau meeting that will affect a group of individuals that are not farmers and currently, probably not Farm Bureau members, such as, "support maintaining state funding to school districts with declining enrollment with special consideration for rural schools," and relating to telecommunications, "support expanded for cellular and broadband telecommunication coverage for rural areas."

I had the opportunity to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting. This was not my first opportunity at the WFBF Annual Meeting, but after this meeting, I came away with a different sense of Farm Bureau and membership. While we encourage farmers in our county to be members of Farm Bureau, I learned there is another group of individuals who may benefit by supporting the initiatives of Farm Bureau and becoming a member based on a wide range of issues that are supported by Farm Bureau at the county and state level.

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Ag in the Classroom Announces Essay Contest



The 2018 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is written by Wisconsin native Tracy Nelson Maurer. "John Deere, That's Who!" teaches students about agricultural advancements in technology, efficiency and productivity.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the book of the year for fourth and fifth grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is: 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

"Technology is something that many students don't associate with agriculture," said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "This year's book and essay contest will give students the opportunity to explore how technology is helping produce food, fuel and fiber and for teachers to incorporate ag into their STEM curriculum."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/whats-new. Essays are due **April 2**.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for their class.

The essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, more than 2,800 students participated in the contest.

Questions about the book or how to place an order can be directed to Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.



We're Going all the Way: A Message From the District 4 Director



I have never been prouder to be a part of Farm Bureau than after going to this year's AFBF Annual Convention and seeing the impact our state has.

Wisconsin is quite small with more than 40,000 members when you compare us to Tennessee's 600,000 plus members. Imagine our three delegates up against theirs during the

policy development process.

Before I dive into AFBF, I want to start from the beginning with a local resolution going all the way to the top and building national consensus.

A resolution that was brought forth by a Buffalo County Farm Bureau member was adopted by the membership of Buffalo County Farm Bureau during the county annual meeting in 2016. The resolution: We support industrial hemp production.

This was not the first time it was proposed, but confusion between industrial hemp and its very close cousin, marijuana, prevented the adoption of the resolution in 2015. After gathering more information and presenting at the District 4 Policy Development meeting, several other counties in District 4 also considered forwarding a resolution in favor of industrial hemp production in Wisconsin and the USA.

The following resolution was adopted: We support the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be regulated by the USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Great, we have a resolution; does it stop there? Absolutely not! Following the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting, the task of promoting our policies went to our outstanding Governmental Relations team including: Paul Zimmerman, Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Steve Boe.

Rob Richard became the lead person studying and promoting industrial hemp legislation. Our resolutions process is closely

followed by many of our legislators and after our approval of industrial hemp, Representative Jesse Kramer (R-Kewaskum) approached Rob Richard with his bill supporting industrial hemp and, we were off to the races. Following a process of educating people on the differences between industrial hemp and marijuana, the once huge industrial hemp processing capacity that existed not only in the USA but with Wisconsin being one of the largest producers and the current \$600 million of hemp products being imported in the USA. We were in a position to have a hearing on the bill, so close.

With a lot of support and advocacy from Farm Bureau members, especially in Monroe County, we moved the bill forward and guaranteed its success. The members came through!

Countless phone calls and contacts were made from our members especially in Monroe County, county agents expressed interest in researching new opportunities that industrial hemp could provide for farmers, as well as our governmental relations team making contacts at high levels.

The Industrial Hemp Bill got a hearing without opposition. The bill passed the Assembly and the Senate without opposition and was signed into law as ACT 100 by Governor Scott Walker on November 30, 2017. That's right, Google it: Wisconsin ACT 100, 2017.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has 90 days from November 30, to set up the rules by which farmers can grow industrial hemp. We will have seeds in the ground in 2018!

Back to AFBF Annual Convention, where I started. While Wisconsin may have a small number of delegates, we accomplished much by our ability to build partnerships with other states.

The Wisconsin delegation organized and held two meetings on industrial hemp and dairy policy with other interested states. On the issue of industrial hemp, Congressman James Comer (R-Kentucky) discussed the strong interest in industrial hemp legislation from a bi-partisan perspective and what was needed for national legislation to happen.

Rob Richard secured the written support of 27 state Farm Bureau presidents. AFBF delegates passed a resolution in support of industrial hemp and now we will complete the process



(from left) District 4 Director Joe Bragger, District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr., Kentucky Congressman James Comer, WFBF President Jim Holte and District 7 Director Adam Kuczer met during AFBF Annual Convention and discussed the future of industrial hemp.

of pursuing legislation at a federal level so that we can move this process to home base.

I am very pleased to announce that in our District, Congressman Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin), signed onto the bill Congressman Comer authored. Five of Wisconsin's eight congressional delegates have signed onto Congressman Comer's bill, tied with Colorado for most co-sponsors from any state.

For more information about industrial hemp, please visit www.hemptrade.ca/eguide.

Whether it is industrial hemp, dairy policy or several others including the allowing of milk to be labeled by its fat free content (99% fat free versus 1% fat), Wisconsin Farm Bureau has worked to build strong credibility with other states. Even if we are relatively small in relation to other state Farm Bureaus, we carry a lot of weight for our members.

So, remember to share your issues or ideas ... we really can make things happen!

As always, enough is too much.

Joe Bragger
WFBF District 4 Board of Director
715.530.0466
braggfam@trivest.net

Plan to Attend: IGNITE Conference

Plan to attend the 2018 IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6**.

Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage or IGNITE is a information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purpose is the strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing programs, resources and skills to carry out the mission of county Farm Bureaus. More than 20 workshops will be offered following four training tracks including: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and policy, issues and advocacy.



National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Maine

The National Ag in the Classroom Conference is an opportunity for volunteers, teachers and staff involved in agricultural literacy to learn about resources, share ideas and network with others involved in agricultural education.

The 2018 National Conference will be **June 26-29** in Portland, Maine. Hotel information is available and conference registration opened on **January 15**.

The conference offers workshops, mini-workshops and traveling workshops. The traveling workshops (or tours) offered by the conference offer participants an opportunity to learn about production agriculture, agribusinesses, food systems, the green industry and other aspects of agriculture.



Other experiences include speakers, luncheons in which outstanding teachers and grant recipients are recognized, an exhibit area and other informal social activities.

Thanks to the support of the WFB Foundation's Jeanette Poulson Fund, three \$500 scholarships are offered to non-traditional educators and volunteers.

Applications are due May 1 and can be downloaded at www.wisagclassroom.org under 'What's New.'

For information, visit www.agclassroom.org. If you have questions, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

Supplies and Products

- John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards Program (NEW)
- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

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

Jump Around! Time to Think About Early Bird Membership

Did you know recruiting new Farm Bureau members can lead to great prizes? For every new member you sign up, you can be entered for and receive the following:

2017-2018 District 4 Membership Incentives

'Jump Around' membership incentive

- **Prize:** A Badger football game prize pack, worth \$500. Pack will include: two tickets to a fall 2018 Badger football game, a Wisconsin Badgers hooded sweatshirt, a \$50 gift certificate to Nitty Gritty, a Wisconsin Badgers hat and goodies to complete your tailgating experience.

- **Dates:** October 1, 2017, to July 31, 2018.

Drawing will take place at the district policy development meeting and discussion meet in August.

- Members get one entry for every new member they sign up and one entry for every past due member renewed. A form must be completed and given to the district coordinator to receive credit for the past due members. For every five new members prior to the deadline, the membership volunteer will receive one additional entry.

'A Rose Bowl Finish' membership incentive

- **Prizes:** Two, \$50 gift cards.

- **Dates:** April 1, 2018, to September 28, 2018

- One entry for each past due member renewed or new member signed after the Early Bird Bonanza. A form must be completed and given to the district coordinator to receive credit for the past due members. For every five new members prior to the deadline, the membership volunteer will receive one additional entry.

Focus on Retention

- Every county Farm Bureau that meets their voting and total membership goal by **September 28, 2018**, will get a dessert prepared by the district coordinator.
- Any county Farm Bureau that hosts an organized county-wide membership drive (specific dates set and at least one-half of the county board members participate) or membership retention event in their county in the 2017-2018 membership year and meets their voting and total membership goal by **September 28, 2018**, will receive a pizza party from the district coordinator.

WFBF Incentives

'Carry It Forward'

- **First Down:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up at least one new member by **January 31** will receive Farm Bureau microwave popcorn.
- **Two-Point Conversion:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **February 28** will have the opportunity to autograph the district's commemorative Farm Bureau Proud football that will be prominently

displayed at county and state-wide meetings and awarded by drawing to one of those who signed it at the end of the membership year.

- **Field Goal:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up three or more new members by **March 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud knit cap.
- **Touchdown:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up seven or more new members by **July 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud fleece to be presented at the county annual meeting.

Membership Worker Recruitment Incentive

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member they sign between **October 1, 2017, and September 30, 2018**. Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

County Early Bird Bonanza

County Farm Bureaus will receive a \$1,000 cash award if the county Farm Bureau reaches its new voting goal by **March 30, 2018**.

Farm Bureau Proud Club

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2018 Farm Bureau Proud Club and spouse or guest will receive exclusive recognition at the December 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting. Qualifiers also receive a commemorative pin and a poinsettia in recognition of their efforts.

Membership Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____

Membership number _____

Member signed _____

Date signed _____

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466
 Vice President, Chris Ellis 608.863.0007
 Secretary/Treasurer, Taliah Danzinger 608.332.3889
 Ag Promotions Chair, Jan Schaffner 608.687.3044
 YFA Chair, Dustin Ellis 608.797.0380

Director, Patrick Danzinger 715.495.0450
 Director, Mark Denk 715.577.3036
 Director, Sharon Fernholz 608.863.1503
 Director, Derek Leiffing 715.495.3686
 Director, Julie Lindstrom 715.495.2679
 Director, Doug Olson 715.495.7543
 Director, Charles Rippley 608.626.3511
 Director, LaVae Wantoch 608.687.6062

Buffalo County Farm Bureau 888.644.8315
 WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466
 District 4 Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson 715.299.1409
 District 4 YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger 715.530.2526
 District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson 866.355.7344
 RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 608.347.0383

Meet: District 4 YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger



Hello! My name is Rosli Bragger. I am 23-years-old and have been a Farm Bureau member for three years.

During this time, I have completed in discussion meet twice. I have helped make milkshakes with the Buffalo County Farm Bureau for as long as I can remember.

Currently, I am a nursing student in Eau Claire where I also work at the

Mayo Clinic. While I am very busy with school, I do come home and help on my family's farm in Buffalo County on the weekends.

This past summer, my sister and I showed dairy cattle through the Wisconsin Holstein Association. I am very excited for the next three years and look forward to being more involved with agriculture through Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the District 4 YFA Chair.

WFBF Seeks Rural Route Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. In Rural Route, WFBF wants to highlight those sights.



Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to lsiekmann@wfbf.com.