



Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Wants Your Help

Once again, the Buffalo County Farm Bureau will be serving milkshakes during the Buffalo County Fair. This is the county Farm Bureau's main fundraiser and we depend on volunteers like yourself to fill shifts at the shake stand.

You may ask, what do we do with this money that we make from our shake stand? We have many activities that we fund:

1. Sponsor up to two \$500 ag-related scholarships.
2. Support the livestock sale at the Buffalo County Fair.
3. Donated \$500 to the Buffalo County Fair Association for building improvements.
4. Send students to the FFA Farm Forum.
5. Sponsor the 4-H Key Award.
6. Fund various Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.
7. Fund and support other agricultural activities in Buffalo County.
8. Support Ag in the Classroom events and activities throughout Buffalo County.
9. Partner with agriculture-related events in Buffalo County.
10. Provide a \$300 calf grant to a Buffalo County youth.
11. Provide juice for the Buffalo County and Pepin County dairy breakfasts.
12. Sponsor June dairy and July beef promotion events.

These activities, events and sponsorships are not possible without you volunteering in the stands. This involves more than 100 people.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Joe Wantoch at 608.687.6021 or Loren Wolfe at 715.495.1719.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau Seeks Membership Chair

Buffalo County Farm Bureau is looking for a unique individual who enjoys visiting with people, has a strong love for agriculture and will be honored to promote Farm Bureau.

The Buffalo County membership chair position is open to county Farm Bureau members. While this is not a paid position, there are membership incentive programs and other opportunities to grow within the organization. Most importantly is the opportunity to network with and help other board members promote agriculture through the mission of Farm Bureau, "Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members."

If you are interested in joining a great team of leaders, please contact a board member or Joe Bragger at braggfam@trivest.net, 715.985.2314 or 715.530.0466.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau on Facebook By Taliah Danzinger

New for Buffalo County Farm Bureau, follow us on Facebook! To receive updates on the latest activities and opportunities and to connect with fellow Buffalo County Farm Bureau members follow our page at www.facebook.com/buffalocountyfarmbureau.



If you have ideas for content submissions, please email them to Steve Boe at sboe@wfbf.com or Taliah Danzinger at taliahdanzinger@gmail.com. We look forward to connecting with you.



COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Around the County with Ag in the Classroom By Jan Schaffner, Ag Promotion chair



Summer is here and the Buffalo County ag promotions committee is in high gear for the season.

We had meaningful classroom time during the past few months and we are grateful for the time given to us by the teachers to come into the classrooms and promote agriculture to these impressionable young minds.

Our first event this spring was the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Fourth and fifth grade students wrote essays about the production of maple syrup in Wisconsin. Each of the five schools were given the book *Sugarbush Spring* by Marsha Wilson Chall. The book explains sap, maple syrup and the science behind making this commodity, which has not changed for more than 200 years.

Buffalo County had 43 entries and Grace Wenger of Fountain City won the contest. She was presented with a maple tree sapling,

a bottle of maple syrup and a certificate to honor her achievement. All participants of the fourth grade class at Cochrane-Fountain City were given an ice cream treat for their participation.

We made ice cream at Alma Elementary in Mr. Noll's fourth grade classroom and showed the students the process of combining cream and milk, shaking it for a short amount of time and turning it into ice cream. They were amazed at how fast the process was and how tasty it was.

The Committee also participated in the Arcadia Broiler Days parade, along with Trempealeau County ag promotions members. We distribute about 1,000 cheese sticks to parade spectators and bookmarks with agriculture facts.

June is dairy breakfast season and we attended the Buffalo County Dairy Breakfast in Mondovi. This event included the 'Rethink Your Drink' promotion with the purpose to get people to think about what they are drinking and the sugar content. Examples of different drinks were shown

and participants placed the correct sugar content for each. It was a great time and hopefully made an impact on those who played the game.

Please keep an eye on your mailbox or inbox for the date of our second annual ag promotions and Young Farmer and Agriculturist event. Last year, Fun on the Farm was hosted by Suncrest Gardens Farm. It was a success and we are planning another event that will bring the members of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau together.

Being a member of Farm Bureau and paying dues is not always on the top of your to-do list, but the money that is allocated to ag promotions comes from dues. I want to say thank you for allowing the committee to get out and provide fun, educational events for county youth. Without your membership, these events would not be possible.

We are grateful to the board of directors for supporting education for youth about where their food comes from.

Have a great summer!

Farm Bureau Members Tour John Deere Combine Factory

By Derek Husmoen, District 4 YFA Representative

On February 29, 60 District 4 Farm Bureau members traveled to Moline, Illinois, to tour the John Deere Harvester Works facility where combines and headers are manufactured.

After picking up people at Centerville and Onalaska, the tour bus departed for the 3.5 hour trip. It was a nice, sunny day with clear roads and just outside of Moline, we stopped for lunch at Pizza Ranch.

Upon arriving at the factory, we watched a short introduction video about the history of the facility. For the tour, we rode around the factory in groups on a train of wagons pulled by a garden tractor. The tour guide communicated to us through a headset that we each wore, so it was easy to hear what they were saying over the noise in some areas of the factory.



It should be noted that the tour guides were retired workers, many who had worked 20 to 30 year or more, so they knew what they were talking about.

The 90-minute tour took us around the facility; from where the raw steel comes in and parts are bent, shaped and stamped to the massive series of paint tanks where every part is dipped to the assembly area where the combines are put together, first started and drove off the assembly line.

Along the tour, there were several stops where we could get out and take an up-close look at certain aspects, like the paint

process. Every combine that rolls out of the factory is already sold.

After the tour, we looked in the gift store and climbed in and looked at a combine on the show room floor. After a group photo, we boarded the bus.

Thank you to those who were on tour. The annual bus tour would not have been possible without the generous support of Tractor Central, who sponsored the bus. Finding sponsors for these trips helps keep the cost per person at a minimum.

We are open to suggestions for future bus trips. Whether it's feedback about the distance that you are willing to travel, types of industry that you want to see or places to tour, we welcome your input. Please contact me at 608.863.0105 if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions.

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Seeking Applicants for WFB Foundation's Leadership Institute By Derek Husmoen



Do you have a desire to become a stronger leader? Do you want to be more involved in Farm Bureau?

If so, you should apply for the 2017 WFB Foundation's Institute.

I am participating in the 2016 Institute class and it's a great experience. I quickly became friends with the other 13 members from around the state.

During the first three weekend sessions, we had orientation, learned about personal development and Farm Bureau, participated in creativity training, put together a group project

presentation, had an etiquette dinner and participated in media training so that we become better advocates.

At our last two sessions this fall, we will learn about Wisconsin government at the Capitol as well as national and international agricultural topics when we travel to the Indiana Farm Bureau Center in Indianapolis. The class will end with a trip to Washington, D.C., next June.

The class is a great way to meet fellow Farm Bureau members who have a similar passion for agriculture. You will meet new friends, improve your communication skills, learn from expert trainers, step outside of your comfort zone and grow as a leader.

The deadline to apply for the 2017 Institute class is **August 15**. Applications can be found online at www.wfbf.com. Simply click the 'Programs and Events' tab, then select 'Leadership Training Institute.'

For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at 608.863.0105 or dhusmoen@gmail.com.

District Board Report



Where will it stop? Let me once again say, "the consumer is not always right, someone just does a better job convincing them what is good or bad."

My wife Noel loves to watch the hit TV series *Mad Men*, a show that followed the lead character

through the evolution of advertising in the decades following World War II. Watching this show with Noel gave me a real appreciation for the power of advertising and its ability to influence mass numbers of people.

Recently, those of us who have dairy farms have been notified that we will lose two management tools, tail docking and the use of Posilac. Both of these are on the way out because the consumer demands it.

Recently, I was visiting with another farmer who queried, "The price of milk should go up when guys can't use Posilac?" Well, perhaps the price might go up a little when the average 8 to 10 pounds of milk gained by Posilac is gone; however, rest assured when I asked if there would be a premium for Posilac-free milk the consumer demands the answer was no.

Now, the interesting part after my friend, who has several hundred cows in a robot system, mentioned the price increase through loss of Posilac. I asked, "what's next, when someone can no longer advertise *bst*-free what will they use to distinguish their product while inadvertently disparaging others? Will they now add antibiotic free, pasture fed, hand rubbed, snuggled, raised in the family home with the family? What's next?"

I continued and asked what he would do if the consumer demanded pasture fed dairy cows? My friend said, "I can't graze with my robot system." Then I decided to consume a large amount of beer, not get excited and have fun at the party.

The next morning my headaches started not just from the beer but unbelievably I received a Facebook post from another friend who grew up on a dairy farm but hasn't had contact with dairy cows for more than 30 or 40 years and remembered the 'good old days.' She posted a photo of some cattle on pasture with the tag 'look at these happy cows grazing.' Now, she had no idea about the conversation that I had the night before so I found it ironic that this happened and I was left wondering if I was one of the prophets.

In the case of tail docking, I keep hearing that there is no science to support the practice, on the other hand with *bst* there is science to show that there is no difference in the milk produced. Science or not, I guess we have a new manager on our farms called the consumer whether knowledgeable or not will now be able to dictate how we farm unless we stop the madness and figure this out.

Well, I think that I will start to market my own arsenic-free milk so that I can differentiate and capture market share. Good news, if the thing takes off everyone will have to be arsenic free, which will be fine as there is no such thing as arsenic milk.

I don't have the answers but invite you to share your thoughts at braggfam@trivest.net.

As always, 'enough is too much.'

Joe Bragger
District 4 WFBF Director

Register Now for the Wisconsin Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 12**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells. Registration includes 18 holes of golf with a cart, gift bag, food and beverages, golf contests, mulligan sales and door prizes.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.



Farm Bureau Supports Local Environmental Quality

By Amber Radatz, UW Discovery Farms co-director

On a sunny January afternoon, 50 local farmers and farm advisors gathered in Waumandee to discuss winter manure application, water quality and the need and opportunity for farmer leaders in local water quality efforts.

The Winter Farmer Forum was co-sponsored by Trempealeau and Buffalo Farm Bureaus and information was provided by representatives from UW Discovery Farms and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP).

As a result of the forum, participants identified two main ideas to protect water quality that deserved increased focus. The focus areas are improving nitrogen use efficiency and using cover crops in crop rotation.

The Farm Bureau boards in both counties are happy to offer opportunities for farmers and others to gather, share new ideas and take a proactive stance on topics affecting local communities. A tremendous benefit of Farm Bureau membership right here at the county level.

After the meeting, area farmers from both counties convened to submit grant applications to DATCP for Wisconsin's first Producer-Led Watershed Protection grants. The group decided to call themselves the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network and submitted two grants, one for the Elk Creek Watershed focusing on nitrogen application and efficiency and one for the Waumandee Creek Watershed focusing on reducing soil and nutrient loss through adoption of cover crops.

Each group will collaborate with local Land Conservation Departments and UW-Extension to host field days and meetings, run trials related to nitrogen efficiency and cover crop use and develop farmer connections to local, state and regional experts in the focus areas.

In Trempealeau County, the Elk Creek Watershed group will focus on understanding nitrogen use efficiency on a variety

of farms in the area. Each of the seven farmers who decided to participate will work with UW Discovery Farms staff from Pigeon Falls to track nitrogen from pre-plant to post-harvest in soil and plant tissues.

At the end of the year, farmers will receive a summary of nitrogen application and uptake for their personal fields, a summary of area fields and a summary of fields around the state.

Discovery Farms is working with 45 farmers around Wisconsin on the same nitrogen tracking. There are a variety of farm management styles participating including those using manure, those harvesting forages, farms with grain only, commercial fertilizer only, tillage farms, no-till farms and everything in between.

Nitrogen availability and cycling in cover crops will be an especially interesting topic this year.

The farmers will have more insight into answers to questions like: how available is my manure? How does my nitrogen rate compare with what the corn takes up? How does cover crop use influence nitrogen in the soil? Is my nitrogen program making me the most money possible at the end of the year?

For more information on the Buffalo County project and the rest of the 14 grant recipients around Wisconsin, visit datcp.wi.gov/news/?ID=1464.

For more information about the UW Discovery Farms Program, visit www.uwdiscoveryfarms.org/on-farm-projects/nitrogen-use-efficiency.



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Life Line (NEW)
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- Travel**
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 - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
 - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial**
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
 - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection**
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
 - Accidental Death Policy

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

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

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

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the 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 is 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 you may know these laws, it's our hope that you share them via social media to reach and educate a much wider audience. More importantly, any feedback that 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 commercial motor vehicle (Ag-



CMV) in a no-passing zone?

Or did you know that someone driving a tractor to, in or back from a parade or a school-sponsored FFA event, must possess a valid Class D driver's license?

Or did you know that the misuse of dyed diesel fuel can be an expensive mistake? Individuals and sellers who use or sell dyed diesel fuel in a taxable manner will face a minimum \$1,000 fine from the state and will face stiff federal penalties as well.

For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

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RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

Farm Bureau Awards Calf Grant

Congratulations to Allison Bragger who is the recipient of the 2016 Dairy Calf Grant. She is the daughter of Joe and Noel Bragger.



Allison's responsibilities on the farm include feeding calves, relief milking and dairy record keeping on AgSourceDM. She plans to purchase a purebred Holstein heifer calf and wants to map her animal to help make genetic decisions.

Allison's future goals in the industry include working to improve the farm's cattle's genetics and work in the embryo transplant field.

Thank you to the applicants of the 2016 calf grant and we look forward to more applications in 2017.

Growing, Sharing our Voices By Cassie Olson, Jackson County Farm Bureau member and Dairy Star columnist



Just short of a year ago, I submitted a membership application to join the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF). As a new Farm Bureau member, my understanding of the organization was limited, but in the 10 months of my membership, I understand the opportunities that this organization offers.

With active sites in all 50 states, the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) mission is: AFBF is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. With the slogan: The Voice of Agriculture, AFBF has a positive reputation to live up to.

As my membership has evolved, I am fortunate to experience a great array of opportunities. From an agricultural tour of Trempealeau County with other women in my district, to the state

Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Conference or visiting with state legislators during Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison, if there is one thing that this organization has taught me, it's that, as farmers and agriculturists, we have a voice and it is vital that we share it.

If you turn on the market report or look at your milk check, it is no secret that we are in some tight times. During my travels with *Dairy Star*, I often receive off-record remarks about this particular challenge among others. While I practice discretion by keeping these individual thoughts and concerns confidential, they often resonate with me and help me shape my own vision of the industry that we work in. Farm Bureau is the way I have shared my vision for dairy and agriculture with others.

Recently, I was in Washington, D.C., with fellow YFA members to share our stories and voices on national and international levels. We were briefed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited with the New Zealand Embassy and met with members of Congress. To say that I was honored to have this opportunity is a great understatement.

It's not just about sharing our farm stories with consumers or promoting the consumption of our product, it's about sharing our livelihood with those who represent us. Get to know your government officials whether at the local, state or national level, and share your story with them, too.

Just as importantly, get involved in an activity or organization that connects you to others in your profession. For me, Farm Bureau is where I found that connection, but there are many other groups that can give you similar opportunities. While it isn't feasible for every farmer to take a week off the farm to meet with members of Congress, it is important to tell your story. You never know who might hear your story during a meeting and have an impact on.

The successes, struggles, concerns and beliefs of the farmers who I am fortunate to work with are always on my mind. They continue to shape my view of agriculture in the world and motivate me to share my voice when I am able. I have been blessed to find an outlet to share my voice; never be afraid to grow and share yours.