



# Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (715) 514-4477

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Planned



The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Progressive Agriculture Safety Day is **Thursday, July 27**, at the Buffalo County Fair Grounds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Mondovi.

The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day will be a fun filled day of learning for kindergarten thru sixth grade. It is open to all children, farm and non-farm from Buffalo, Trempealeau and Pepin Counties.

Planned events include: meth education, farm equipment safety, water safety, home alone safety, domestic animal safety, chemical safety, first-aid tips and food safety.

Participants will receive a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day t-shirt, lunch, a goodie bag filled with safety items, professional and age appropriate safety information. The cost is \$5 per participant. Parents are encouraged to attend with their child(ren). Registration forms are due ASAP to Jan Schaffner. The Safety Day is limited to the first 150 participants and fills very fast. The Safety Day will be held rain or shine.

For more information, please contact Jan Schaffner, W645 Joos Valley, Fountain City WI 54629; 608.606.9454 (cell).



**We Want You! Apply by July 10**

**Excellence in Agriculture**

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.

**Achievement Award**

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.

The YFA Program is funded by for Farming's Future (WFB Foundation)

**Get your application here: [bit.ly/WIYFAContests](http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests)**

## YFA Members

**We Want You! Apply by July 10**





# COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Fountain City Student is Ag in the Classroom Essay Winner for 2017



Amanda Isakson is the Buffalo County winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest for 2017. Amanda is the daughter of Michael and Renee Isakson and a student in Mrs. Schiffli's fourth grade class at Cochrane-Fountain City Schools.

Emma Pronschinske, daughter of George and Penny Pronschinske, won second place and she is in Mrs. Bragger's classroom at St. Boniface School in Waumandee.

Fourth and fifth grade students in the Buffalo County area were given the opportunity 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 43 students wrote outstanding essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Insight FS and We Energies.

Buffalo County Ag Promotions director Jan Schaffner presented Amanda and Emma with a certificate and a pass for the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center in Warrens. All participants in the essay contest enjoyed a cranberry snack mix.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced.

The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society so they become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

For more information about this program, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

## Cassie Olson Assumes District Coordinator Position



Greetings Buffalo County,

My name is Cassie Olson and it is my pleasure to introduce myself as the District 4 Coordinator. I was born and raised on a dairy farm near Black River Falls and have proudly called Jackson County home my entire life.

I returned to the area after graduating from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in May 2015. Prior to joining the

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation staff, I was a regional staff writer with "Dairy Star," a newspaper based out of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, covering dairy industry news in southwestern Wisconsin.

Ever since I was a kid, I always seemed to be surrounded by Farm Bureau. My parents were members as I was growing up and numerous friends of mine were involved in the organization throughout college. I became a member after returning to Wisconsin and have

been involved in numerous facets.

I served on the Jackson County Board of Directors for the last year as the YFA chair, attended numerous district and statewide events and am a member of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XI. As a member of Farm Bureau, I have grown personally and professionally in ways I never thought possible.

I am incredibly proud of the members of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and am excited to begin working with those of you in District 4 as I assume my duties as district coordinator. I thoroughly support the mission and vision that make Farm Bureau such a strong organization. It is my hope that I bring a positive energy to each of your counties as we continue to grow our district and its leaders.

Thank you for welcoming me into my new role and I look forward to working with you soon,

**Cassie Olson**  
District 4 Coordinator

## Buffalo County Farm Bureau Is on Facebook By Taliah Danzinger

New for Buffalo County Farm Bureau — follow us on Facebook!

To receive updates on activities and opportunities and connect with fellow Buffalo County Farm Bureau members follow our page at [www.facebook.com/buffalocountyfarmbureau](http://www.facebook.com/buffalocountyfarmbureau).

If you have ideas for content submissions, please send them to Cassie Olson at [colson@wfbf.com](mailto:colson@wfbf.com) or Taliah Danzinger at [taliahdanzinger@gmail.com](mailto:taliahdanzinger@gmail.com). We look forward to connecting with you.

Be sure to 'like' us!



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## Message from Your Buffalo County Farm Bureau President

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau has for the last year been working as fiscal agent for the Farmer Led Waumandee Watershed group.

This great group of individuals including Loren Wolfe, Dustin Ellis, Don Baloun, Kyle Bushman and Matt and Patrick Danzinger along with collaborators: Buffalo County Extension, Carl Duley, Buffalo County Land Conservation and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have been working on reducing sediment losses using cover crops with a stated goal of getting 5,000 acres of cover crops grown in Buffalo county. They are working on their goal by matching funds provided by a Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection grant.

After the last few years of storm events one does not have to look far to see the effects on the landscape and after the rains this spring we will be looking at missing crop rows for the rest of the season. Recently, when crop scouting with my agrono-

mist, we were looking at planting depths something startling was noticed.

- Corn on sod, no till, sprayed in spring 2-inch seed depth.
- Corn on soybeans, no till, ¾- to 1-inch seed depth.
- Corn on rye, clover and radish cover crop, no till, sprayed in fall, 0- to 1-inch seed depth.
- Corn on rye, clover and radish cover crop, no till, sprayed in spring, 1.75- to 2-inch depth.

I am somewhat lazy and do not change depth settings on the planter so all of it was planted at a 1.75- to 2-inch planting depth the difference was the amount of cover at the time of the rainstorms this spring.

With the soybean and fall cover killed in fall fields having the least cover and the difference in seedling depth was not planting but erosion. In the case of the 0- to 1-inch seedling depth several plants that were over 6 inches tall where tipped over

and dying. Banvel injury was considered until it was noticed, that the real problem was no soil to hold the roots, it had all washed away. Perhaps 100 years of soil lost in a few storms.

I encourage anyone who has interest in the long-term viability of crop production in Buffalo County to attend one of their field days, contact Buffalo County Land Conservation Department or sign up to be part of the Waumandee Creek Farmer-Led Watershed Group. They are experimenting with many different cover cropping scenarios and will surely find one that will work.

If interested, please contact any of the farmers or collaborators.

**Joe Bragger**

President Buffalo County Farm Bureau  
braggfam@trivest.net

## Message from WFBF District Board Representative



*The cup runneth over.*

Imagine if you will, finding out that in a month or two you will no longer have a place for your product and that everything you and your family have worked tremendously hard at setting up is possibly going to the wayside.

This is what happened to several dairy farmers around the state when their milk processors notified them that they would have to find another place for their product. "No big deal, we'll just go somewhere else." Until you find out that there is no-one else willing to pick up your milk?

That's right, only a few short years after the Dairy 30 by 20 Program went into effect that was designed to increase milk

production in Wisconsin so that our processors would have the milk to meet their demands, we have risen to the call and now find ourselves with too much. So often when I go out or visit with folks I am asked, "Who do you ship milk to, and are they still going to take your milk?" This is new territory for us as never before have we worried, "will they still take our milk?"

Perhaps a friend of mine was correct when he said, "Processors don't want more milk, they just want a lot of cheap milk."

How do you invest long term into your farm with uncertainty of being able to sell your milk? How comfortable will lenders be? What will happen to premiums dairy farmers in Wisconsin have been able to receive? Can I expand in the future if family members want to join the farm? Will I get a letter telling me to find somewhere else to go?

While this event has certainly rocked our world, there is something to celebrate and that is the effort of many farm groups in Wisconsin; with Farm Bureau in a lead role that worked hard to find a home for the milk the affected farmers produced. Sec-

retary of Agriculture Ben Brancel and the folks at the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection should be thanked for their outstanding efforts.

Farm Bureau has also called its Dairy Committee into action to look at policy to help to keep Wisconsin the 'Dairy State.'

So while many dairy farmers around the state have hosted or attended June Dairy Month celebrations, many have done so wondering what the future holds for their family farms.

As always, enough is too much. I guess this really applies to milk as well?

**Joe Bragger**

WFBF District 4 Farm Bureau Director

**Please share your thoughts:**

715.530.0466 (cell), 715.985.2314 (home)  
braggfam@trivest.net

## 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 agribusinesses, 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. The tour will start early on Tuesday morning in Johnson Creek and will end on Wednesday afternoon.

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](http://wisagclassroom.org) and click the teacher tab.

## Member Benefit of the Month



Have you used any of your Farm Bureau member benefits lately?

A long-standing Farm Bureau member benefit is the \$500 Reward Protection Program.

The reward is paid to a qualifying individual who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of any person who commits the crime(s) of arson, theft or criminal damage to a Farm Bureau member's property where the reward sign is posted.

There are \$500 Reward signs as well as windows-adhesive decals available.

The \$500 Reward signs or window stickers are available by contacting District 4 Coordinator Cassie Olson at 866.355.7344 or [colson@wfbf.com](mailto:colson@wfbf.com) or can be ordered at no cost directly from the WFBF office in Madison.

\* **WANTED:** \*

**First Time Attendees**

Join us for the 2017 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

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Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for FREE! You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. BUT HURRY! This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application by August 15 at <http://bit.ly/YFARuralSponsorship>

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**REWARD**

**Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend**

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.



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## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

### Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

### Supplies and Products

- 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 [wbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Axel Noll Wins Buffalo County Farm Bureau Calf Grant Award



Axel Noll with his Ayrshire heifer that he purchased at the Wisconsin Ayrshire sale.

For the second year in a row Buffalo County Farm Bureau has sponsored a grant program to help 4-H and FFA members from Pepin and Buffalo Counties. The members purchase a dairy heifer calf to show and to serve as a foundation animal to grow their own herd.

Applicants are required to answer questions relating to goals in the dairy industry and their plans to care for the animal.

The winner is selected by the Buffalo County Farm Bureau dairy committee and are awarded \$300 towards the purchase of a dairy heifer calf that meets the requirements. The calf must be shown at the county fair and project records must be kept through the FFA or 4-H program.

Recipients must report on the progress of the calf at the annual Buffalo County Farm Bureau meeting both the year of receiving the grant and the year that the animal comes into milk. The calf must be AI sired and the dam must be on a DHI testing program.

This year's recipient is Axel Noll. Axel used the grant money to purchase a pedigreed Ayrshire heifer from the Wisconsin Ayrshire sale. He is very involved in every aspect of his parents' dairy farm in Alma.

We are excited to see Axel in the showing this year and proud to continue the calf grant tradition for next year.



## 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, LeeRoy Fernholz 608.863.1503  
 Director, Sharon Fernholz 608.863.1503  
 Director, Julie Lindstrom 715.495.2679  
 Director, Ray Liska 608.606.2735  
 Director, Doug Olson 715.495.7543  
 Director, Charles Rippley 608.626.3511  
 Director, LaVae Wantoch 608.687.6062  
 Director, Loren Wolfe 715.495.1719

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, Derek Husmoen 608.863.0105  
 District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson 866.355.7344  
 RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

## Third Annual Fun on the Farm

By Jan Schaffner



**Watch your mail box:** Information and details about the third annual Fun on the Farm will be coming out soon.

We hope to see you at this year's Buffalo County Fun on the Farm!

## Wanted: Membership Chair

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



The Buffalo County membership chair position is open to all 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 board members to 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 our great team of leaders, please contact any board member or myself (Joe Bragger) at [braggfam@trivest.net](mailto:braggfam@trivest.net), 715.985.2314 or 715.530.0466.

## Buffalo County Agriculture ...

Buffalo County agriculture accounts for \$210.8 million, or 37.6 percent of the county's total income.

This includes wages, salaries, benefits and profits of farmers and workers in agriculture-related businesses. Every dollar of agricultural income generates an additional \$0.75 of county income.



## Be a part of the 2018 Institute Class



Personal Growth & Development



Connect with Legislators



Discover more about Farm Bureau

Improve Public Speaking Skills



Network with other Farm Bureau members

Apply Today! Applications due August 15 > <http://bit.ly/WFBFInstitute>