

# Calumet County Farm Bureau

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John Quirk, District Manager - (608) 957-5509

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Chilton FFA Advisor Amy Thelen Shares Updates



Abby Sabel is the Wisconsin FFA State Reporter.

Greetings from the Chilton FFA. The Chilton FFA offers something for everyone interested in premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education.

The roots of FFA stem from agriculture. Without an agriculture program there wouldn't be FFA involvement. Without FFA, the agriculture industry would be even more hard pressed to find the qualities and skills needed for our future workforce. Thus, the two go hand in hand.

The Chilton FFA offers a multitude of events and opportunities for students to grow. Once a club for only future farmers, the diversity of the FFA continues to change and adapt to our emerging agricultural society. Many students join the Chilton FFA for its leadership opportunities.

One such leader, Abby Sabel, hails from the Chilton FFA and is serving the Wisconsin FFA as the state reporter. Through this position, Sabel is perfecting her leadership skills as she presents leadership workshops, runs more than 30 chapter visits, organizes events and communicates daily with FFA members throughout the section and state.

With Sabel serving as a state officer, the Chilton FFA hosted the Sectional Leadership Workshop. More than 280 FFA members, presenters and guests attended Chilton's workshop. The Chilton FFA will also host the Sectional Speaking Contest in March.

Each year, the Chilton FFA competes in the Janesville and Fox Valley Technical College Judging Competitions. We have 20 to 30 members participate in areas of dairy cattle, livestock, poultry, horse, vet science, and floriculture. Last year, we had teams in livestock, dairy, poultry and floriculture qualify for the state competition.

Other events that our members partake in include leadership workshops, fundraisers such as fruit, coffee, donkey-ball or a hypnotist show, and of course, fellowship and social events from Bay Beach to Bowling.

The Chilton FFA also is fortunate to have a very strong and involved FFA Alumni who supports students through volunteering their time and expertise in addition to offering financial support for events such as the National Convention and Washington Leadership Conference.

With an average of 55 to 60 members, there is never a dull moment. For those who choose to be actively involved and take advantage of all the FFA has to offer, their rewards are endless. The agriculture community can be proud of the Chilton FFA members who proudly wear the blue jackets.

### Farm Bureau Members Attend Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit



Several Calumet County Farm Bureau members attended the Wisconsin Women's Ag Summit on March 4-5 in Middleton. The top-notch speakers and the networking opportunities make this conference like no other.

The general session started with a panel discussion on 'Women in Ag: Where We've Been and Where We're Heading.' After lunch breakout session included OMG, GMOs, Working with Legislators, Eating and Feeding on the Go, just to name a few.

The entertainment of the night included a Casino Night where the ladies had a chance to win big. Saturday morning started with a workout option, more breakout sessions and ended with Jerry Apps talking about the importance of writing your own story.

This conference is a great way to share time with other ag women who share similar stories and experiences. The Summit's planning committee invites women to save the date for the 2017 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit to be held March 10-11 at the Madison Marriot West in Middleton. For event details, visit [wiagwomensummit.com](http://wiagwomensummit.com).



# COUNTYnews

CALUMET COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Brillion, Chilton and New Holstein Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



Brillion, Chilton and New Holstein FFA members were among the nearly 200 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids February 19-20.

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Jonathan

Eckelberg, digital content specialist at the Wisconsin Department of Tourism and Ethan Giebel, director of education at Cooperative Network.

Brillion FFA chapter members who attended were Derek Schmidt, Rebekah Krahn, Brooke Brouillard and Jesse Priest; Chilton FFA chapter members who attended were Morgan Groeschl and Zach Lemke; and New Holstein FFA chapter members who attended were Coey Steffes, Kaylee Warner, Lilly Feider and Jacob Woelfel.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 44<sup>th</sup> year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

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## Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Farm Bureau members from around the state attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 27.

They joined more than 500 members from around the state who were first updated on legislative issues facing agriculture currently and then attended meetings at the Capitol.

Issues ranged from high capacity well legislation, piping of manure and raw milk.



Members of Calumet County Farm Bureau met with state legislators Duey Stroebel and Jesse Kremer.

## Outstanding Service to Farm Bureau Awarded to Sarah and Dean Gebhart

Congratulations to this year's Outstanding Service Award winners Sarah and Dean Gebhart. Thank you for everything you do for our county Farm Bureau!

The award was presented by Greg Bohman at the annual

Mardi Gras banquet for Calumet County Holstein Breeders at Cobblestone Creek.



## Deb Reinhart of Gold Star Farms is Named 2016 AgVocate of the Year



Deb Reinhart of New Holstein was recognized as a true promoter of agriculture, being named the 2016 AgVocate of the Year at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit held March 4 and 5 in Middleton.

More than 325 women were in attendance to celebrate their role in agriculture at the event that was sponsored by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and UW-Extension.

Deb and her husband, David Geiser, of Golden Star Farms, have welcomed visitors to their 300-cow dairy farm and shared the story of agriculture with countless students and professionals since they started farming more than 40 years ago.

While the work on the farm keeps Deb extremely busy, the role that she is most proud of is 'mentor,' including all of the students she has mentored during the years through college and

tech school programs as well as the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin Mentor program.

"We have to keep telling our story because the people that will tell it for us won't get it right, won't say it the way we want them to, and who knows better than us to tell our ag story. Farming is our way of life and we live on the land and support our local communities," Reinhart said upon receiving the award. "I'm humbled and honored to be your AgVocate and I thank you for lifting me up in this way."

Since 2013, the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit has recognized an AgVocate of the Year. This award is given to a woman who actively and positively represents agriculture to both her peers and those outside of the agriculture community. She works to tell agriculture's story in a professional manner and is seen as a leader and voice for local and state issues and events.

Previous AgVocate award winners include: Daphne Holterman, Watertown; Laura Daniels, Cobb; Karyn Schauf, Barron; and Nodji VanWychen, Warrens.

## Agriculture Related Bills Signed into Law March 1



Governor Walker signed three Farm Bureau-backed agriculture related bills into law on March 1.

Senate Bill 448 passed both houses of the Legislature in February. Some of the major provisions in bill are:

- Current law requires an implement dealer to disclose the axle weight(s) and gross vehicle weight of an implement upon sale. This bill further clarifies that the disclosure must be in writing and that the "unladen" vehicle weight be disclosed at the point of sale.
- The definition of farm tractor has been updated to reflect recent changes in statutory language from the two previous IOH bills.
- Changes several references in statutes of "from farm to field, from field to field, or from farm to farm" to "to or from a farm-related destination" to capture the true movement between or among farms, fields, agricultural storage or processing facilities, locations where an IOH or Ag-CMV is stored, i.e., custom operators or agricultural cooperatives, or any combination of these.
- Three specific changes have been made to the statutes governing the definition and use of the slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign.

The 2015 Budget Act created a provision allowing a farm tractor to be exempt from registration for, among other things, "occasional personal use, but not for regular daily transportation." This language is being deleted to instead permit the registration exemption for "testing, maintenance and storage purposes."

Federal law does not authorize an Ag-CMV that exceeds 8.5 feet in width to be operated on the interstate highway system unless it has an oversize permit from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. This was understood, but it will now be expressly written out in statutes.

For the movement of IOH within a 75-mile radius from implement dealer to farmer or vice versa, the statutes are clarified with regard to the operation, towing or transport of IOH.

The bill clarifies that if someone is transporting an IOH that exceeds 8.5 feet in width at times other than hours of darkness, they must have amber flashers activated to mark the lateral extremities of the IOH.

The bill allows an applicant for a no fee permit to submit only one application for multiple IOH or Ag-CMVs if those vehicles listed in the application are identical.

Senate Bill 509, authored by State Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon), changes the start date for the weight exemption from September 1 to August 1. It passed both houses of the Legislature in February.

Certain agricultural vehicles are now allowed to exceed weight limits, without a permit, by 15 percent between August 1 and December 31 of each year. Commonly referred to as the 'fall harvest exemption,' it allows farmers to transport larger loads of harvested crops from the field to the farm or storage facilities during crucial harvest times.

Senate Bill 390, authored by State Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) and State Rep. James Edming (R-Glen Flora) gives clear authority for local municipalities to permit the piping of liquid manure within a highway right-of-way and would also play a role in preserving roads. SB 390 passed the State Senate on January 20. The State Assembly passed the bill on February 10.

## District 6 YFA Bus Tour Planned for April



Join District 6 Farm Bureau members as we board the bus for three agricultural tours. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Friday, April 8**. The bus will leave from Bondes Q-Mart in Cleveland.

The first stop is Eastern Wisconsin DHIC in Waldo. This modern milk testing laboratory runs milk samples from Brown, Manitowoc and Calumet counties.

The second stop is LaClare Farms in Pipe. Tour the state-of-the-art facility where they milk more than 400 goats twice a day. Tour the farm and the creamery that makes more than 10 different types of cheese using goat, sheep and cow milks.

The LaClare Farms Café will provide lunch.

The final stop is Robinway Dairy LLC, in Kiel where they milk 1,150 dairy cows, raise 700 steers and grow crops on 1,400 acres.



Robinway Dairy is working with Livestock Water Recycling Systems to install the newest technology for converting manure to clean water.

Space is limited so reserve your space by contacting District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 920.253.5303.



## Quirk Named Manager of Eastern Shore District



John Quirk has been named the district manager for the Eastern Shore District.

Quirk has been with Rural Mutual Insurance since October of 1988. During his tenure he has held positions in personal and commercial lines underwriting, senior product specialist and director of marketing.

Prior to joining Rural Mutual Insurance, Quirk worked as a commercial lines underwriter with Sentry Insurance. He also served as an independent insurance agent for six years.

Quirk lives in Green Bay with his wife Nancy. The couple has two sons, Andrew and Michael.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District YFA Green Bay Gamblers Game and Pizza Outing



This year's YFA Gamblers outing took place on February 6.

About 75 YFA members had a blast at the game that ended in a three man shoot out. After the hockey game, the group enjoyed pizza at the Green Bay Distillery.

Are you interested in more YFA events in your county? Call or text your YFA chair Kristin Birschbach at 920.948.5435.

## Upcoming Events

### April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom essays due
- 8 YFA Bus Tour

### May

- 5 5x5 Membership Rally deadline
- 25 July Beef Promotion Material deadline

### June

- 26 Calumet County Sundae on the Farm

### July

- 1 YFA Achievement Award /Excellence in Ag applications due
- 19-21 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Walworth County

### August

- 2 District 6 Discussion Meet, Altona's, New Holstein
- 15 Rural Mutual YFA Sponsorship forms due

### September

- 30 Membership year-end

### December

- 2-5 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

## Calumet County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 RMIC District Manager, John Quirk 920.893.1811

**facebook**

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming Calumet County Farm Bureau events by liking us on Facebook!

## Gloria Kesler Named Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair



Gloria Kesler of the Calumet County Fair was named the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair.

She will serve in that position in 2016. The first runner-up was Sydney Endres of the Lodi Ag Fair; second runner-up was Emily Watson of the Walworth County Fair; third runner-up was Jenna Franseen of the Racine

County Fair; and fourth runner-up was Emma Wagner of the Marquette County Fair.

Judges for the contest were Stacie Christel, Bob Meyer and Gail Zastrow. The event included grueling interviews as well as group discussions in which judges evaluated the participants' contribution to the discussion.

The 20 year old is the daughter of Robert and Lucy Kesler of Menasha and is a junior at UW-Platteville majoring in agriculture education with a minor in public relations. She is involved in the university's Pioneer Farm where she assists the Wisconsin Beef Improvement Association with livestock, training beef cattle for show, data collection and more.

Kesler also works on her family farm. In her free time, she stays involved in her community through her church, 4-H activities and teaching youth about photography and public speaking. She also won the Miss Congeniality award, which is voted on by the contestants.

Kesler's responsibilities include making appearances at fairs throughout the state, working with media and promoting the educational, social and economic importance of Wisconsin's fair and agriculture industries.

In addition, she will serve as an ambassador of the 2016 Wisconsin State Fair on August 4-14. This includes greeting fair goers and special guests, performing as master of ceremonies for several events during the fair, participating in various contests and representing the fair during select media appearances.

## Check Crop Hail Coverage for 2016

If you have never considered crop hail insurance as a risk management tool in the past, consider purchasing it in 2016. Crop hail insurance has proven useful to many Wisconsin Farm Bureau members. Their loss experience proved that crop hail insurance was the best insurance product to indemnify them for their loss when a hailstorm damaged all or a portion of their crops.

Crop hail insurance allows flexibility in your risk management insurance program. You can insure both profit and the cost of production in the event that you lose your crop to a hailstorm or other incidental coverage. Whether you have insured your crops in previous years or are considering purchasing crop hail insurance for the first time, you need to determine what level of coverage will fit your farm's situation.

Rural Mutual crop hail insurance covers your crops in units of one acre so that when a hailstorm crosses your property and damages a portion of your crops you have coverage. Crop hail insurance covers your growing crops for direct loss of yield due to: hail, fire, lightning, vandalism, malicious mischief, vehicle damage, fodder for corn silage, replanting allowance for covered perils, transportation coverage, and fire department service charges.

Rural Mutual offers no deductible and deductible policies that allow you to select what amount of your risk that you wish to transfer and how much you will self-insure. Rural Mutual also has a wide array of discounts available.

For more information, contact your local Calumet County Rural Mutual Insurance agents before purchasing your 2016 crop hail insurance.