



Clark County Farm Bureau

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RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN CLARK COUNTY

Ryan Dillenbeck Tim Voigt
(715) 669-5400 (715) 743-2800

David Meihak, District Manager - (715) 544-6824

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Clark County YFA Volleyball Tournament Is Lots of Fun

The Clark County YFA Committee hosted their annual volleyball tournament at Tommy's Hilltop Bar. This year, there were six teams that participated with the winning team receiving a \$100 gift card to Tommy's Hilltop.



The winners circle.



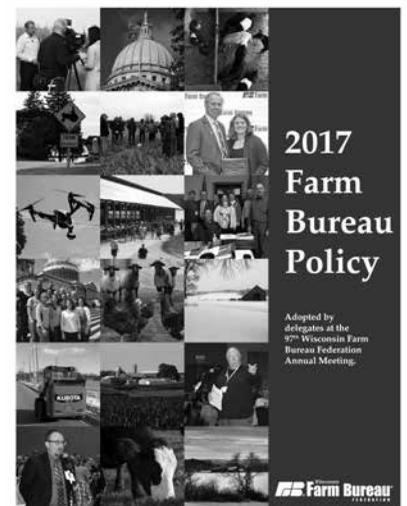
District 8 Policy Development Meeting

Do you have concerns about what is going on in your county or state? Do you know with your yearly membership dues you are provided an opportunity to change legislation?

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization and one where everyone's voice is important.

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on **Sunday, August 20**, at Randall's Sports Bar for the District Discussion Meet. We will break for a meal at 7:30 p.m. with the District Policy Meeting to follow.

For more information or questions, please contact Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wbf.com or 866.355.7348.



Register for the 2017 Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be on **Monday, September 11**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells. The event supports the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to expand agricultural leadership, 4-H and FFA program, agricultural literacy efforts, and other education, youth and leadership programs.

For information, visit wbf.com/aboutwbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.



COUNTYnews

CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Clark County Farm Bureau Announces Scholarship Winners

Clark County Farm Bureau was honored to handout \$1,000 worth of scholarships to graduating high school seniors across Clark County.

If you know of a high school senior looking to pursue higher education in 2018, please encourage them to complete our scholarship application.



Nick Rueth will be attending Chippewa Valley Technical College for Farm Operations



Morgan Lindner will be attending Mid-State Technical college participating in the Farm Operation Program

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Clark County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast

The Clark Farm Bureau board of directors wants to invite you to join them from 7 a.m. to noon on **Sunday, August 27**, for breakfast.

Cost:

\$7 for 12 years and older
\$4 for kindergarten to 11 years old
Free for preschool and under

The breakfast menu is pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, sausage, cheese, apple sauce, coffee and ice-cold milk. The breakfast will take place at Westside Park in Loyal.

We encourage you to bring your friends, family and a healthy appetite. All proceeds raised from the breakfast will directly benefit the county's scholarship program.



Any member interested in volunteering for the breakfast, please contact Clark County breakfast chair Tom Shafto, Jr., at 715.255.9249.

Hope to see you there.

Lunch and Learn

Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau during the newly launched Lunch and Learn program.

These educational webinars will take place the first and third Wednesday of each month.

On the first Wednesday, you will learn about a Farm Bureau topic such as advocacy, social media engagement or the Leadership Institute.

On the third Wednesday, a Wisconsin farmer or agriculturist will be live in a secret Facebook group to talk more about a specific commodity. In case you missed it, June's topic was robotic milking.

It's not too late to join. Contact Sarah Marketon at smarketon@wfbf.com or Wendy Kannel at wkannel@wfbf.com to join in.



From the Desk of Don Radtke, District 8 WFBF Director



I want to personally invite everyone to attend our District 8 Policy Development meeting on **Sunday, August 20.**

The meeting will start with a plated meal at 7:30 p.m., with discussion on local, state and national issues at 8 p.m. It will be held at Randall's Sports Bar and Restaurant in Abbottsford.

This is the perfect opportunity for you to bring

forth any ideas to address, correct or improve policy. Serving as a WFBF Director, I get the chance to travel this great state to talk with farmers. I have heard a variety of conversations regarding water quality, food labeling and some discussions on dairy supply management.

This meeting will not only provide a great listening and learning environment for myself and county Farm Bureau leaders but also for Executive Director

of Governmental Relations Paul Zimmerman and our new Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe.

My hope is that this meeting will be the start of great conversations that, in turn, will lead to county policy and potentially state and national policy. I hope to see you there.

Don Radtke
WFBF District 8 Director

Spring Time Scare By Ashleigh Calaway, WFBF District 8 Coordinator



Spring time in central Wisconsin is a time filled with a variety of emotions, sights and sounds.

Most farmers are chomping at the bit to get into the fields while others are patiently waiting for their livestock to give birth. This spring was no different for us, well besides the excessive wet conditions and the loss of two ewes to a wolf.

Those of us that work with livestock know that it is not a matter of if an animal will pass, but when. Death on the farm is something that few ever talk about because of the emotional impact it has on the quiet, private, hardworking and dedicated people who care for the livestock every day.

Unfortunately, death is something that we've had to deal with many times and it's never taken lightly. On that note, it's been a rough spring on the farm.

It started March 20, when we had a cow die due to birthing complications. On the bright side, we saved the calf! Shortly after, we had a cow calve while we were all at work. She struggled giving birth and we unfortunately lost her too. We were left wondering, as most farmers are when death happens, what we could have done different and how we could have saved them.

Fast forward about five weeks. While we had some control in the prior instances, this time it wasn't anything that we could have prevented. That is the part we just can't get out of our minds.

My father-in-law and nieces worked hard to prepare the summer pasture for the sheep just as they do every spring. This yearly routine has become a tradition for them and one that they truly look forward to. The sheep are kept close to the house until they all have given birth and the babies are ready to be weaned. Usually the ewes are ready for pasture by the end of April. This year was no different even with all the rain.

My husband and father-in-law loaded all the ewes into the trailer and hauled them down to pasture for the summer.



For the ewes, this is the best time of year as they get to frolic through waist high grass and enjoy the wonderful sunshine. They were on pasture for less than a week when tragedy hit. With a heavy heart, my father-in-law told us two ewes were killed by a wolf. The wolf came on to our land, jumped over the fence and took their lives without hesitation.

As a family, we went out to investigate further.

The sight of the ewes laying there with their throats ripped out will stay with me forever along with the devastating look on the faces of my father-in-law and husband.

Thankfully, from my involvement with Farm Bureau I knew there was a protocol that needed to be followed but, that didn't make the process any easier. I hope no one reading this will ever need it but just in case you do, here is the information on how to report a wolf kill: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/ER/ER0103.pdf>.

When something tragic happens, I typically shut off all emotion until the situation is dealt with. That evening was no different ... that was until I heard my father-in-law explaining everything to the Department of Natural Resources over the phone. Hearing the sheer emotion in his voice on the phone was one thing, then knowing he would have to tell his granddaughter (my niece), since one of the ewes was hers, was almost too much to bare. Just writing those words takes me back to that moment and I find myself struggling to keep the tears at bay ... more than a week later.

Everyone has their own views and opinions on wolves in Wisconsin. I have heard stories before about farmers dealing with wolves and the emotion that is hidden behind them. This year Taylor County Farm Bureau president Ryan Klussendorf testified on modernizing the Endangered Species Act and shared his story of how wolves have impacted his family's quality of life (sleeping with the window open year-round, only allowing their kids to play by the buildings and overall loss of sleep).



A few weeks ago, Jack Johnson, another Farm Bureau board member lost a calf to wolf. These losses are not only financially devastating, but emotionally. We have felt that emotional impact on our family.

That night changed many procedures for us. The ewes are no longer on summer pasture but back up by the house. The cattle are still on winter grounds (close to our bedroom window so we can hear if anything strange is happening) and haven't been moved to pasture yet.

There have been numerous conversations discussing how we will move forward.

We consider ourselves lucky that it was only two ewes killed and not more. I'm thankful for the DNR warden who we worked with. He said he has been working for almost 30 years and has pretty much seen it all in that time. He appreciated my father-in-law's level headedness and even temperament even though his heart was broken over the loss of the animals.

My husband and in-laws keep their thoughts and emotions to themselves. I am more inclined to share mine. I have never been one to keep my mouth shut and to their dismay I am sure I never will be. In today's agriculture world, we can't afford to keep our mouths shut because when we do, that allows other people to make decisions and tell our story for us.

The emotional toll that wolf kills have on a farm family is rarely talked about and I am trying to change that. Imagine your family having to live on edge because you never know when a wolf might strike. That's now the reality for our family and many others in northern Wisconsin.

These ewes are so much more than livestock and a paycheck, they are our hope for the next generation of farmers in our family, they are the glue that has held a family together, created lasting memories, and lots of laughter along the way. When we buried those ewes, I said a prayer and fought the tears from falling and that's a moment I will never forget.

If you have been through a similar situation, you need to share it. Unless you speak up we can't do anything to prevent this from happening again. Reach out to your County Farm Bureau, get involved in their policy development committee, attend your county Farm Bureau annual meeting, but mostly contact your lawmakers and tell them how wolves are impacting your farm and family. They need to hear us loud and clear.

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 wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District 8 YFA Update By Beth Schaefer



The District 8 Discussion Meet will be on **Sunday, August 20**, at 6:30 p.m. with the District 8 Policy Development Meeting to follow. The question that will be discussed is: **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?**

New Location is at Randall's in Abbotsford. All members are welcome to watch the contest but only YFA members (18-35 years old) can compete. Come to for the Discussion Meet and stand for the

Policy Development Meeting.

Rural Sponsorship Opportunity for YFA Conference

Rural Mutual Insurance is once again sponsoring first time YFA Conference attendees and their guest at the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-3.

If you nominate someone and they are chosen to attend, you can receive \$100!* Check out the details and get the nomination form from District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway, myself or Max Malm, or visit wfbf.com and search 'YFA Conference.'

**Must be present to receive payment at YFA dinner on Friday, December 1.*

WANTED:
First Time Attendees

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

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>

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.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Young Farmer and Agriculturist
Program

AgrAbility of Wisconsin: Making a Difference By Mark Zimmerman

I've been dairy farming pretty much my whole life.

In 2014, I sold the cows due to health issues. Currently, my son and I raise over 600 head of dairy steers. Since I was a teen, I have been suffering from back issues. Over the years I have endured four different back surgeries to address the issue but still suffer from constant pain.

Although to many, 65 years young might sound like a good age to retire, I was determined to find a way to continue my way of life. I knew that in order for this to happen, I needed to get the seats replaced or upgraded in the skid steers and the main tractor I use.

This last summer, I reached out to AgrAbility of Wisconsin in hopes they could help with upgrading seats in the main

equipment I use daily.

I do about 90 percent of the feeding and cleaning on the farm. At the time I reached out, I was seeing the chiropractor two- to four-times a month.



After working through the AgrAbility process, which took about six months, they had three seats installed (about a \$3,200 cost) at no cost to me.

Within a week of having my seats upgraded, my back was feeling better. After the first two months with the new

seats I am feeling so much better. I can now tolerate skid steer work with little to no discomfort.

Jobs that used to take me two days to accomplish, due to the pain, I can do now do in one day with almost no discomfort. I haven't been to the chiropractor since.

I can't say enough about AgrAbility's assistance. I can continue to be productive for years to come. You don't have to be totally disabled to qualify for help from AgrAbility.

My thanks to AgrAbility and Farm Bureau for supporting this program. If you find yourself limited on what you can do on the farm, please check them out.

Clark County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Clark Turner	715.229.2846
Vice President, Tom Shafto, Jr.	715.321.4522
Secretary/Treasurer James Froeba	715.255.8159
Promotion & Education Chair, Jodi Erickson	715.630.4299
YFA Chair, Max Malm	612.655.9220
Director, Brad Boon	715.937.0983
Director, Duane Boon	715.743.4873
Director, Bill Elmhurst	715.743.3001
Director, Mark Elmhurst	715.613.1099
Director, Brett Gregorich	715.316.2699
Director, Keith Miatke	715.937.2032
Director, Walter Schuette	715.613.2814
Director, Mark Shain	715.797.1976

Clark County Farm Bureau	877.583.5506
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.539.2892
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Lauren McCann	920.728.4948
WFBF YFA Chair, Beth and Matt Schaefer	608.577.6845
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

Clark County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Scheduled

Date: Wednesday, September 6

Time: 7 p.m. - Registration

7:30 p.m. - KB's Hayloft Bar

522 W. Mill Street,
Withee

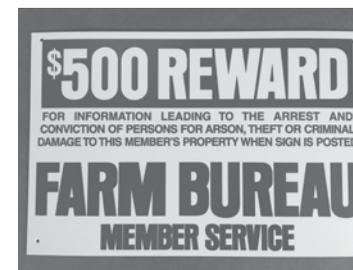
Guest Speaker: Director of Local Affairs
Steve Boe



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 your WFBF District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 866.355.7348 or acalaway@wfbf.com or can be ordered at no cost directly from the WFBF office in Madison.