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*For information about home or auto insurance, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.*

**Rural Mutual Agents in Clark County:**

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

*Dave Meihak, District Manager - (715) 544-6824*

#### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from around the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about state ag topics and meet with state legislators.

Join us for Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8** at the Monona Terrace Conference Center in Madison.

If you want to attend, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway by **March 2** at [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com) or 715.781.2306.

The schedule for the day is:

11 a.m. - Registration  
11:30 a.m. - Opening program  
11:45 a.m. - Lunch  
12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings  
3 p.m. - Leave for Capitol visits

This is your opportunity to have your voice heard at the Capitol so don't miss out.

The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., are major sponsors of the event.

Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau include a variety of other dairy, beef, pork, horse, corn, soybean, cranberry, potato and vegetable groups.



### Save the Date: Farm Family Fun Day

The Clark County Farm Bureau will host a Farm Family Fun Day at Bruce Mound.

The county has reserved the 107.5 Rock Room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, February 25**.

Please follow us on Facebook. We will be sharing more details on the Clark County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Facebook page.



### Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

The Ag Women's Summit is presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and UW-Extension.

The purpose of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

Join us at the Ag Women's Summit on **March 10-11**. Registration for the 2017 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is open, visit [wiagwomenssummit.com](http://wiagwomenssummit.com).





# COUNTYnews

CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Highlights

More than 500 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from around the state attended the YFA conference, which is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. It was another successful year.

YFA members took part in breakout sessions covering topics from social media to financial planning and opportunities available through Farm Bureau.

YFA members also competed in contests such as Excellence in Agriculture, Achievement Award and Discussion Meet.

On December 3-5, Farm Bureau members from around Wisconsin gathered at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells attend the 97<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members participated in breakout sessions including a panel discus-

sion on water quality, membership and farm succession.

Delegates discussed and voted on hard-hitting issues for agriculture.



Clark County Farm Bureau members attended one of the breakout sessions on water quality.



Clark County Farm Bureau members participated in the third annual WFB Foundation trivia contest.



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Clark County Farm Bureau members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA conference included: (L-R) Bill Elmhorst, Clark and Terri Turner, Rachel Stichert, Max Malm, Tom and Cathy Shafto and Walter and Kerri Schuette.

## What is Farm Bureau? By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator



As a District Coordinator, I get asked a lot of questions about Farm Bureau. The most common one is: "What is Farm Bureau?"

This is always a tough one for me, although I'm sure you're confused by that. You would think that this would be the easiest question an employee or member could be asked. The easy answer is reciting the generic, "the largest general farm organization in the state of Wisconsin," which tends to flow out as smooth as melted butter. But for many of us Farm Bureau is so much more than that.

It's the organization that has the backs of farmers around the state and the nation. It's the organization that fights to keep our right to farm and provides tools, tours, leadership development, personal and professional development.

To those who are really involved, it's also our second family. It's where we feel at home. It's the group that our neighbor, friend or family member sucked us into getting involved with but after while it became something we couldn't go without.

Farm Bureau takes us out of our comfort zone and gives us the confidence to speak up. It provides us a voice when we can't find our own. For some it gives a place to share our deepest worries about the future of agriculture, our families and what is happening on Capitol Hill.

With close to 50,000 members, we come from different walks of life and agricultural connections but Farm Bureau provides the rope that keeps us tied together.

As a staff member, it's even more than just being a member. You get to help cultivate farmers and agriculturists of different ages. You get to help county Farm Bureau boards set goals, face challenges and watch them work together to overcome obstacles. You get to be a cheerleader in a world full of downers. Your extended family grows exponentially and before you know it you are celebrating engagements, weddings, births and graduations. You become the shoulder to lean on during tough times and the one to help them dust themselves off when they fall.

So, next time you hear a member or Farm Bureau staff stumble while answering, "What is Farm Bureau?" Remember, it's not that we don't know what it is. It's just hard to simplify it to a few words because until you become a member and join the Farm Bureau family, it's hard to understand.

## Clark County Farm Bureau Offers Henry Steimann Memorial Scholarship

The Clark County Farm Bureau announces a \$500 scholarship in memory of Henry Steimann.

Henry farmed north of Loyal for many years. He was a man who knew how to get things done. He set goals and accomplished many difficult tasks.

This was done through hard work and by being a leader

who knew how to inspire people and how to influence others to stand for what they believe in.

Henry loved his country and his family; he had a passion for agriculture and the Lord.

We hope that his qualities are possessed and demonstrated by the scholarship applicants.

### Scholarship requirements

Applicant must be:

- A student enrolled in a 4 year university or 2 year technical school program with a freshman, sophomore, or junior standing or a high school senior accepted to 4 or 2 year program
- Clark County resident
- Preference will be given to applicants who are members (or who's parents are members) of Clark County Farm Bureau (not required)
- Preference will be given to student pursuing an agriculture degree (not required)
- 1 letter of recommendation must accompany scholarship

Please submit completed application to: **Clark County Farm Bureau, Keith Miatke, N4530 Sterling Avenue, Neillsville, WI 54456**

Applications must be completed and received by: **April 1**

Notification of scholarship recipient by: **June 1**

Payment of scholarship will be sent after the next semester grades are submitted to the Clark County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Please complete the application, or use a separate piece of paper. Not to exceed two pages.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
County you reside in \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
School currently attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade point average \_\_\_\_\_  
Course of study \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of graduation \_\_\_\_\_

List your post-graduation intentions as well as what educational standing you have already achieved.

List some of the current and previous experiences you have had with Farm Bureau, if any.

What organizations have you participated in (i.e., 4-H, FFA, Scouts, etc.)

In five years, how do you see yourself contributing to the agriculture community that you live in?

## AFBFA Outreach Team Members Needed

**Who:** Farmers, ranchers, teachers, volunteers, Farm Bureau committee members, ag leaders or industry representatives

**What:** American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Outreach Team

**Why:** Help get the word out about the Foundation's educational resources. You can help others learn what the Foundation has to offer by presenting at regional and state events. Outreach team members will receive advance notice on grants and new materials, be featured in new resources, have opportunities to pilot new programs and influence the development of new resources.

**How:** To become a team member you will need to complete these steps:

- Complete 'Planning with the Pillars: Part 1' and 'Planning with the Pillars: Part 2,' eLearning courses at Farm Bureau University.
- Conduct one classroom visit, fair or other event presentation using AFBFA materials and complete a reflection survey.
- Attend one Outreach Team Culminating Workshop at AFBF Annual Convention, FUSION or via Virtual Webinar.

We are excited to spread the Foundation's reach with your help.

For more information, visit [www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team](http://www.agfoundation.org/outreach-team).

## Promoting Ag in the Classroom

Your help is needed as our county programs promote Ag in the Classroom educational resources, activities, contests, awards and funding opportunities to local schools, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, home school parents and to others involved in agricultural literacy. How can you help?

- Contact your county Ag in the Classroom coordinator to learn what your county offers and how you might get involved.
- During your parent-teacher conferences and interactions, encourage the teachers to visit the Ag in the Classroom website.
- When visiting the classrooms, take materials about the fourth and fifth grade essay contest, matching grants, teacher training and other programs.
- Deliver bookmarks to local public libraries to promote My American Farm, essay contest and other resources.

For more information, please contact Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.



## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

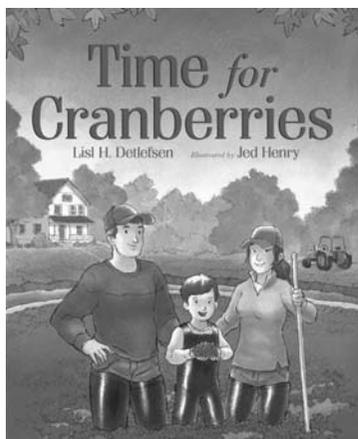
- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Life Line (NEW)
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - Caterpillar
  - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
  - Grainger
  - Office Depot

- Communication** .....
- AgriVisor
  - The Country Today
- Insurance** .....
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
- AAA
  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - Budget (NEW)
  - 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Announced



The Ag in the Classroom essay contest topic is: 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

The 2017 book of the year is *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen.

The book and essay topic allow us to teach students about the pro-

duction of cranberries in the nation's number one producing state: Wisconsin.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

### Contest Rules

The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs also are encouraged to participate.

1. Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper. The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length (using common MS Word 'word count' methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
2. Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
3. Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parents' names, teacher's name, phone number and email address, school name, address and phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.

The entry deadline is **April 1** and the essay must be sent to: Charlotte Rasmussen, N12003 Fernwall Avenue, Stanley, WI 54768-8329.

## 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, Charlotte Rasmussen	715.941.1803
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
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

## Matching Grants Available

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program is accepting applications for matching grants that will be awarded to groups that promote agricultural literacy in K-12 schools.



Ag in the Classroom will award up to \$500 to groups sponsoring programs or projects that promote agricultural literacy. Projects considered for grants must be targeted to grades pre-K through 12 and should enhance student knowledge of the contribution made by agriculture.

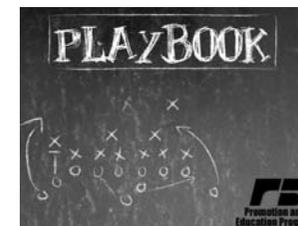
Projects that use funds toward an ongoing, sustainable education effort will receive preference over those that involve a one-time program. Applicants must have a matching source for their project equal to the amount of the Ag in the Classroom grant.

The application deadline for is: **March 1**. To download an application, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

For more information, please contact Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.

## 'Playbook' Available Online

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee was busy collecting plays that happen at the local level. They compiled the plays and put them together in a 'Playbook.'



The purpose of the 'Playbook' is to provide counties with ideas and resources for planning county activities and events. Throughout the 'Playbook,' you will find activities and events for all ages, time frames and budgets. Updates to the 'Playbook' will be made quarterly. If you have events that you want included in the next update, submit a play submission sheet.

To check out the 'Playbook,' visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/promotion-and-education/playbook](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/promotion-and-education/playbook).

## American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture Focusses on Ag Literacy



*Agricultural literacy is knowledge: "We believe everyone should have an understanding of where their food comes from."*

The Foundation has taken steps to define 'agriculturally literate.' An agriculturally literate person understands the relationship between agriculture and environment, food, fiber and energy; animals, lifestyle, the economy and technology. These are the AFBFA's Pillars of ag literacy.

Agricultural literacy can be cultivated in any person, no matter the age or experience. Helping others understand the important role agriculture plays in their everyday lives is our goal. We work towards this by being a credible source for agricultural literacy information. Our materials and programs are designed not only to reflect reliable information, but also to meet today's standards of learning.

AFBFA has continued efforts to produce outstanding educational materials, create accurate resources and provide opportunities to tell the story. They are working toward making more of their materials free to educators and volunteers.

Thank you for wanting to get involved in helping others learn more about where their food comes from, how farmers and ranchers steward the land, how agriculture is everywhere, and

how farmers and ranchers feed the world. These are crucial pieces in creating ag literacy.



Here are some ideas:

- **Volunteer:** In a school, summer camp, fair or after school program. Use any of the ag literacy resources including My American Farm, Food and Science Day Camp or select an ag book to help make your presentations effective.
- **Tell your story:** Blog, post, tweet! Share information with the others who may not have a farm background so they can understand what you are doing on a farm.
- **Promote ag literacy:** Help spread the word about ag literacy and the AFBFA's resources by talking to teachers, volunteers, posting about them online or displaying banners at a fair.
- **Contact:** A local Farm Bureau or Ag in the Classroom coordinator to see if they have volunteer opportunities.
- **Stay connected:** Sign up for the AFBFA newsletter to get the latest information on programs.

For more information or to access resources, visit [www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org).