



Clark County Farm Bureau

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RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN CLARK COUNTY

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend **AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, along with sponsors, host Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important to raise your voice on issues that affect the agriculture community; mark your calendars and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on **Wednesday, January 24**, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland and we want to tell our legislators how important agriculture is in Wisconsin and Wood County. Farmers are working to do more with less; we have new record production levels and yields per acre in our fields.

Registration begins at 11 a.m., opening program at 11:30 a.m.

followed by lunch and legislative briefings. When speaking with your legislators, share your personal stories and thank them for their support of agriculture.

Be proud to be a part of the agriculture industry and sign-up to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP by **January 18** to District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 (call or text) or acalaway@wfbf.com, please make sure to include your name and county in your message.



WFBF Seeks Rural Route Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. In Rural Route, WFBF wants to highlight those sights.

Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to lsiekmann@wfbf.com.



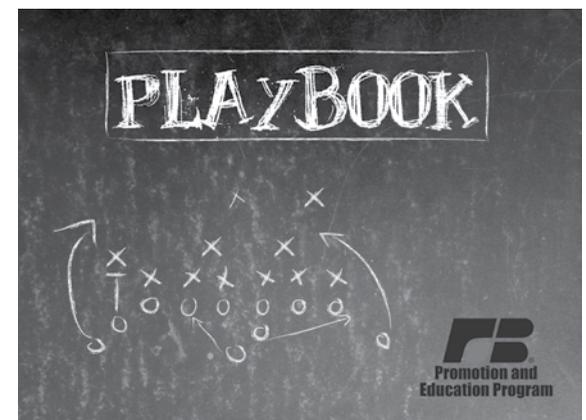
Playbook Available Online

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee has been 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, timeframes 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.





COUNTYnews

CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

The 98th WFBF Annual Meeting was December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The WFBF Annual Meeting overlaps with the YFA Conference, giving members young and old a chance to network.

Members were offered an opportunity to attend workshops, keynote speakers, awards banquets and the delegate session.

All farm bureau members had a great time visiting, reconnecting and networking with friends. Mark your calendars for the 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting **December 1-3**.

YFA Conference Attendees were able to hear from Michele Payn, president and owner of Cause Matters Corp. Michele has worked

with farmers in 25 different countries and helped raise more than \$5 million in sponsorships for the National FFA Foundation. She also founded the weekly online twitter conversations of AgChat and Food Chat. She is also the author of two books, "No More Food Fights!" and "Food Truths from Farm to Table."

Both YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting attendees were able to hear from Chris Koch, who shared his motivational story of not letting limitations or obstacles stand in his way of living life to the fullest. To learn more about Chris's story check him out on Facebook.

Members also participated in a trivia contest, corn hole tournament, as well attend various breakout sessions.



Serving as your Clark County delegates at the 98th WFBF Annual Meeting were: Jodi Erickson, president; Tom Shafto, first vice president; Duane Boon, director; and Clark Turner, member.



This year, Clark County had three YFA members who attended the YFA Conference held on December 1-2.

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Clark County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applications Due, April 1

Clark County Farm Bureau Henry Stiemann Memorial Scholarship
Application deadline: April 1
\$500 scholarship

In memory of Henry Stiemann. 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 his hard work and by being a leader that knew how to inspire people and how to influence others to stand up for what they believe in. He 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 all the scholarship applicants.

Scholarship requirements
Applicant must be:

1. A student enrolled in a four-year university or two-year technical school program with a freshman, sophomore or junior standing or a high school senior accepted to four- or two-year program.
2. A Clark County resident.

3. Preference will be given to applicants who are members (or whose parents are members) of Clark County Farm Bureau (not required).
4. Preference will be given to student pursuing an agriculture degree (not required).
5. One 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 to student, after next semester grades are submitted to Clark County Farm Bureau board of directors.

For a scholarship application, please connect with your school guidance counselor or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/clark.

John Deere, That's Who



This year's ag in the classroom book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, provides students with inspiration for this year's ag in the classroom essay contest. Read the book to find the answers to these questions (answers can be found in the last paragraph).

America's breadbasket means:

- a. The different types of bread made in the Midwest
- b. The types of containers a baker uses
- c. The wheat that is grown to make bread
- d. The area known as the "prairie fields of grain"

Forge means:

- a. A mountain

- b. The workplace of a blacksmith
- c. Fireplace
- d. Where a blacksmith heats the metal

Using the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," this year's essay topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students will write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity.

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

The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length. The essays must be postmarked by **April 1** and sent to the Clark County Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator Jodi Erickson.

Jodi Erickson
W4696 County Road H
Neillsville, WI 54456-8581

For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

In the book "John Deere, That's Who!," the Deere family decided to move to Moline, Illinois, so the company was closer to the Mississippi River for better waterpower and easier deliveries. The 'prairie fields of grain' became known as America's breadbasket. John was a young blacksmith originally from Vermont where his forge burned to the ground and he rebuilt it before moving to Illinois. A forge is the workplace of a blacksmith. It also means fireplace, or hearth, where the blacksmith heats the metal.

Happy writing to the fourth and fifth grade students in Clark County.

Membership Dues Increasing October 1



The Clark County Farm Bureau dues will be \$55 effective **October 1**. Anyone whose membership dues are due on that date will receive an invoice in mid-August reflecting the increase in dues.

The additional \$5 will go to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, as they are increasing the dues at that time.

When you join Farm Bureau, you not only become a member of Clark County Farm Bureau, but also the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau.

Currently your cost to be a Farm Bureau member is \$50. That is broken down as follows:

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation = \$36.** This includes state activities, conducting programs and staffing. Consumer and youth education, issue advocacy, leadership development and member publications are services that are furnished with state dues.
- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program = \$3.** Clark County is a part of this program in which the district coordinator acts as the county secretary. There are three portions to the program that include administrative, financials and the newsletter.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation = \$4.** A portion of your dues are forwarded to support at the national level. These funds support agriculture's voice in our nation's capital as well as the many programs that AFBF has in place to educate consumers, share the message of agriculture and provide online resources to members.
- **Accidental Death Policy = \$1.** The accidental death insurance policy is a benefit of membership that covers you as a member, your spouse and eligible children. Coverage begins at \$500 and increases in value for the member and spouse with each consecutive year of membership up to \$3,500.
- **Clark County Farm Bureau = \$6.** This funds local events and activities including county meetings, scholarships, Ag in the Classroom and many more to promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in Clark County.

Anyone whose membership dues are due, will receive an invoice in mid-August reflecting this increase.

Thank you for being a member of Clark County Farm Bureau!

Farm Technology Days Provides Opportunities to Get Involved

Having Wisconsin Farm Technology Days close to home is not just an exciting opportunity for locals to visit the show, but it's also a great way to get involved with a tradition that days back to 1954.

Organizers of the 2018 show, being held at D&B Sternweis Farms and Weber's Farm Store/Heiman Holsteins near Marshfield in Wood County, are in the process of signing up volunteers for the event, slated for **July 10-12**.

Volunteer Coordinator Amber Cordes says more than 1,500 volunteers are needed to make the event a success. They will help in various capacities including parking cars, serving food and taking tickets at the gate.

"This event is an amazing opportunity to not only showcase the latest in agriculture, but also Wood County and Central Wisconsin's agricultural diversity. Please consider volunteering before, during or after the event as a great way to get involved, make new connections and have fun!"

Nearly 40,000 visitors from across the state and throughout the nation are expected to attend the Wood County show.

It will be held in an 80-acre farm field that will be full of tents, farm equipment displays and knowledgeable experts that can answer questions related to agriculture.

Farm Technology Days will include more than 600 commercial exhibits and an area known as 'Innovation Square,' which will include a cranberry marsh and other cutting-edge technology newly available to the market.

The Marshfield Clinic also is offering free skin cancer screenings at the event. And kids are encouraged to visit the Future Generations Tent formerly the Youth Tent to learn more about agricultural careers or try operating a virtual tractor.

New to show will be Virtual Tours of the Sternweis and Heiman dairy farms, Weber's Farm Store and Nasonville Dairy. This will allow the public to see what goes on behind the scenes at each of those facilities.

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days is the only event of its kind that moves from county to county each year and is completely run by local volunteers.

To learn more about the show, visit www.wifarmtechnology-days.com or www.facebook.com/FTD2018.

Wood County Farm Technology Days July 10-12, 2018



Support Farm Technology Days In Wood County Here's how

- **Purchase a bench for \$300**
- **Your name or farm logo will appear on one end**
- **It will be used all three days at the show**
- **Best part you get the bench after the show**

End Colors				Board Colors			Please circle choice
*Blue	*Red	*Grey	*Purple	*Tan	*White	*Tan	
*Green *Black *Maroon							
Submit to: WCFTD 6676 State Highway 13/34 Rudolph, WI 54475							
Name _____						Payment	
Address _____						Check _____	
City, State, Zip _____						Credit card _____	
Phone _____ email _____						Will call for credit card information	

Meet: Jodi Erickson, the New Clark County Farm Bureau President

Jodi lives in Neillsville with her husband Travis, son Brock and step-son Kyle.

She has been employed at Northside Elevator for eight years. Erickson is a dairy consultant and also is involved in a replacement heifer raising operation.

After graduating from the UW-River Falls in 2009 and returning to her home town of Loyal, Erickson served two terms on the Clark County board, then took a two-year break before returning for another three-year term and serving as president.

“Being involved with farm bureau has been very rewarding personally and professionally,” said Erickson.

Many events she has attended through the Young Farmer and Agriculturalist program have helped her make lifelong farm friends.

“We all have a common interest and similar goals that correlates to similar lifestyles and values,” added Erickson.



Erickson and three other delegates from Clark County recently returned from the WFBF Annual meeting. All four delegates enjoyed being the voice of Clark County agriculture.

Erickson is looking forward to her first year as president and is excited to have such a supportive group of board members.

Clark County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President/Promotion & Education Chair, Jodi Erickson	715.523.1512
Vice President, Tom Shafto, Jr.	715.321.4522
Secretary/Treasurer James Froeba	715.255.8159
YFA Chair, Max Malm	612.655.9220
Director, Brad Boon	715.937.0983
Director, Duane Boon	715.743.4873
Director, Bill Elmhorst	715.743.3001
Director, Mark Elmhorst	715.613.1099
Director, Brett Gregorich	715.316.2699
Director, Joe Harder	715.937.4751
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 Focuses on Membership



The membership year is **October 1-September 30**, and each year the county has new goals to achieve to maintain current membership numbers.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation provides membership volunteers and county farm bureaus with incentives to achieve their goals.

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or

associate member they sign between **October 1, 2017 and September 28, 2018**. Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

County Farm Bureau will receive \$1,000 cash award if the county Farm Bureau reaches its new voting goal by the **March 30**, month-end cut-off.

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2018 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse/guest will receive exclusive recognition at the December 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

Carry Farm Bureau Down the Field

First Down: Volunteer membership workers who sign up at least one new member by **January 31** will receive Farm Bureau microwave popcorn.



Two-point Conversion: Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **February 28** will have the opportunity to autograph their district's commemorative Farm Bureau Proud Football that will be displayed at county and statewide meetings and awarded by drawing one of those who signed it at the end of the membership year.

Field Goal: Volunteer membership workers who sign up three or more new members by **March 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Knit Cap.

Touchdown: Volunteer membership workers who sign up seven or more new members by **July 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Fleece to be presented at their county annual meeting.

For membership applications or further information contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or acalaway@wfbf.com.

District 8 Membership Kick Off and Committee Training

When: Saturday, January 27

Location: Randall's Beers and Cheers, Abbottsford

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch will be provided.

SAVE the DATE

Come and learn the ins and outs of running a successful committee by Director of Leadership and Training for the WFBF Wendy Kannel. This is open to all members.

We also will be hosting the District 8 membership kick off. Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Legee will discuss the importance of not only gaining but retaining members to ensure your county Farm Bureau stays healthy.

Save the Date: The Heart of the Farm Event

Location: Belvedere Supper Club, Marshfield

When: February 14

For more details, please visit <https://wood.uwex.edu/2017/02/21/heart-of-the-farm-women-in-agriculture-conference>.



Save the Date: Clark County Tubing Party at Bruce Mound

When: Saturday, February 24

For more details, follow us on Facebook at Clark County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer and Agriculturalist.



All members are invited.

Plan to Attend: IGNITE Conference

Plan to attend the IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6**. Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage or IGNITE is a statewide information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purpose is to strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing programs, resources and skills to carry out the mission of county Farm Bureaus.

More than 20 workshops will be offered following four training tracks including: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau and policy, issues and advocacy.

