



Crawford County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Raise Your Voice for Agriculture



Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**, and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important for us to raise our voice on issues. Take a few moments to become familiar with an issue that is affecting

you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Crawford County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm.

Remember when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Melissa Doyle at 608.574.9884 or mdoyle@wfbf.com.

Dairy Bar a Success at Crawford County Fair



The Farm Bureau Dairy Bar proved to be a great success at the Crawford County Fair again this year.

We hope to see many of you next year and if you are interested in getting more involved with the Dairy Bar, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Thank you to those who brought pies and volunteered to work in the booth.

Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer delicious treats that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.



Summit 2017

Save the Date!
March 10-11, 2017
Madison Marriott West, Middleton



#WAWS17
WiAgWomensSummit.com



COUNTYnews

CRAWFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Crawford County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



The Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 15 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a meal and was fol-

lowed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support a tax up to 5 cents a gallon on red dyed diesel fuel to be taxed in the county of delivery and used on said county's bridges and road infrastructure.
- We oppose cooperatives and propriety manufacturing plants that are prohibiting rBST or any other proven products based on scien-

tific research.

- We support uniform state laws and regulations governing manure handling and runoff problems. We oppose a ban on the winter spreading of manure. Winter manure applications should be based on a farmer's nutrient management plan. We support requiring municipal and industrial sludge applications to be at the nutrient needs of the crop rotation (i.e., the same as standards for livestock manure applications).
- We support muzzleloader season prior to the gun rifle season.

These will be forwarded to the Policy Development Committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.



District 3 Farm Bureau in Action



The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 23 in Lancaster. There were six contestants including: front row (L-R) Amber Berning, Lafayette County; Kayla Anderson, Iowa County; and Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; back row (L-R) Josh Bailie, Grant County; Dan Frank, Grant County; and Andrew DalSanto, Grant County. Josh, Becky and Andrew will compete in the Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference.



Each year, Crawford County joins Richland and Vernon counties for the District 3 Northern Tri-County Meeting. Members hear from WFBF staff and are briefed on legislative issues impacting the agricultural industry. The meeting also gives the attendees time to network, share ideas and discuss Farm Bureau business.

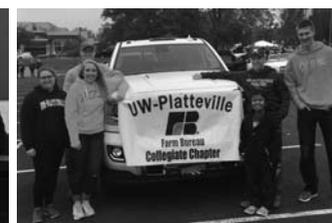


In June, 35 YFA members traveled to Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In. The trip puts farmers and agriculturalists in the room with congressional representatives. Derek Orth, Grant County; Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; and Alex Bringe, Vernon County, represented District 3 and lobbied at the Capitol, visited historical sites and met individuals involved in agriculture.



In July, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted District 3 YFA members for an evening of fun on the farm. Members and their families enjoyed a picnic dinner, hayride, outdoor games and a tour of Majestic View Dairy.

Collegiate Corner



The UW-Platteville chapter has had a busy and exciting fall semester. The students participated in the annual UW-Platteville homecoming parade, enjoyed an outing to Vesperman Farms and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet. The officer team did an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau at the collegiate level. There are many more activities and events planned for the spring semester.

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District Director Update



Well another season is quickly coming to a close, the crop season as well as the election season. The county annual meetings signal the hectic fall harvest is around the corner and the race to get everything harvested before the weather challenges us more than usual.

This also is the time of the year when we begin to reflect and evaluate the past year's successes and where we could stand a little improvement. Did we pick the right seed varieties and fertilizer recommendations? Did our conservation plan meet expectations given the record rainfall events many of us endured?

Your Farm Bureau reflects and evaluates the past year successes and challenges, too.

Farm Bureau membership continues to grow despite the changing farm landscape. More than ever, farmers realize the importance of their membership in a professional organization. Our challenge will always be to understand we are a general-purpose organization with diverse interests and viewpoints.

Last December, Farm Bureau delegates voted to create the Promotion and Education Committee to further our outreach and communication to those whose lives are directly, as well as indirectly, affected by agriculture. Our challenge – while everyone eats, there seems to be a growing number of people who think there is only one way of thinking about our food supply.

Organic versus conventional, big versus small, GMO versus non-GMO are conversations we all have had, but we need to understand it serves no purpose. We are blessed to live in a world where we have choices and better yet ... respecting other's choices.

There will be a plethora of issues awaiting the new President and Congress as well as the state legislature in the new year. Issues that continue to need attention include: waters of the U.S., trade, immigration, transportation infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and many more.

Your Farm Bureau will be presenting our positions of interest.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director



Wiedenbeck and Roth Appointed to State WFBF Committees

Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County was appointed to the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee and Katie Roth of Lafayette County has been appointed to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee by the Board of Directors. Their terms begin at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-5 in Wisconsin Dells. Tammy and Katie will represent District 3 on each of the committees.



Tammy Wiedenbeck is a field representative for Equity Livestock Sales Cooperative. She assists farmers in southwest Wisconsin and northeast Iowa with livestock marketing. Tammy owns 20 shorthorn and angus

beef cows. She is a member of the Grant County Farm Bureau, secretary of the Grant County Cattleman's Association, board member of the Lancaster FFA Alumni and lifetime member of UW-Platteville alumni.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from across the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and involved

in Farm Bureau. They carry out a variety of statewide initiatives, such as conferences, contests and award programs.



Katie Roth grew up in Darlington on her family's 330-cow dairy farm. Married in early 2016, Katie works on her husband's farm Banner Ridge Farms, LLC, as the herdsman in addition to serving as a program technician for the Farm Service

Agency (FSA) in Grant County. Katie served a variety of roles in her county Farm Bureau including Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair, secretary and Ag in the Classroom co-Chair. She graduated from Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and the American Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot Camp.

The Promotion and Education Committee, which replaced the Women's Committee in 2015, is a group of nine leaders who represent the nine Farm Bureau districts. Committee members develop, implement and promote projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.

Calling All Young Farmers and Agriculturists



Have you been looking for an opportunity to get more involved? Do you have an interest in agricultural promotion and enjoy working with other young farmers?

Crawford County Farm Bureau is searching for a Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee chair.

For more information or if you want to discuss this opportunity, please contact president Don



Brown or attend a board meeting, which are held on the third Thursday of each month.

Buster the Bull Calf is One of a Kind

By Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County Farm Bureau Member



When I was no older than three or four years old, I can remember the first time that my brother brought a red and white spotted calf up to the farmhouse. The excitement sparkled in my eyes as my love for cattle took off that very day.

About 20 years later, our local veterinarian ended up diagnosing one of our Angus cows with cancer. We were fortunate, however, to save the bull calf that she had carried full term. From day one, we were the first living beings that the calf saw and we took on the role of raising him.

My nephews and niece who wanted to help with feeding a new pet, decided to name the calf Buster. For those of you who have been in the industry for a while, know that beef bottle calves are pretty tame, but not to the point where they think they are one of us. Well, Buster does.

Buster started following us like a puppy dog, bouncing around whenever we came outside to play with him or to do chores. I took him out of his pen to be the highlight of my Farm Bureau and Christmas card photo shoots.

When put with other cattle, Buster didn't

bond well and preferred to be by us when given the chance. I thought to myself, "This is the calmest calf I have ever seen on our farm. How would anyone look at this calf and not fall in love with him?"

With the Grant County Fair coming up, I decided to ask if it would be possible to give rides on Buster to kids. After many weeks of my question going unanswered, I got the exciting news in August that Buster could go to the fair. My goal was to not only educate fairgoers about the beef industry, but to also spark the interest of youth in livestock and agriculture, just as my brother had done for me many years ago.

Although I was slightly nervous about putting a saddle on a 600-pound calf and leading him around, he ended up being a hit at the Grant County Farm Bureau Ag Tent. There were children gathering around before we were set-up at the booth. Many photos were taken and smiles were shared. Many said, "I've never even ridden a horse before, let alone calf."

I hope that the memories that the kids made with Buster will be something that they remember for years to come. He was definitely a special gift to our farm and next year, we hope he will return to the Grant County Fair. Be sure to keep your calendars marked to come and visit.



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
- Polaris
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- 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.

District Promotion and Education Update

By Nicole Adrian, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



In August, the Promotions and Education Committee officially kicked off the 'Playbook.' The 'Playbook' is a resource found on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau website (wfbf.com) that is full of helpful information for members to use when planning county and district events, programs and activities.

Program areas featured in the 'Playbook' include: Ag in the Classroom, Consumer Outreach, Education and Ag Promotion, Fundraising, Member Development and Policy and Development Implementation.

If you want to add a play, you can download the form from the website and submit it to Deb Raemisch. The next update will be done on **December 15**. Please contact me with questions regarding the 'Playbook.'

The 2015-2016 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. To go with the theme of the book, the essay topic is 'Tell us about cran-

berry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. More information regarding the contest can be found by visiting the Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held in Madison on **March 10-11, 2017**. Workshops and activities are planned for both days. For more information, watch the *Rural Route* or visit www.wiagwomenssummit.com.

Thank you to everyone for the help and support during my six years of serving on the Women's Committee and Promotion and Education Committee. I enjoyed visiting each county during annual meetings and the fall workshops. I look forward to seeing you at the WFBF Annual Meeting on **December 3-5** in Wisconsin Dells.

District 3 Members Named YFA Achievement Award Finalists



I'm proud to be involved with a group of people who are so committed to agriculture and the connections and relationships you make with them.

Alex Bringe
Vernon County
YFA member



Alex Bringe is a member of Vernon County Farm Bureau. Alex is a beef and grain farmer from Viroqua. He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-Platteville.

Alex continued his education at Western Technical College in its farm business management program.

His lifelong interest in agriculture and politics led him to Farm Bureau. He is the Vernon County YFA chair and also serves as the pork chop fundraiser coordinator. He attended the YFA leadership trip to Washington, D.C., and the WFBF Annual Meeting as a county delegate. He also is a graduate of the WFBF Institute.



It's a great feeling to belong to an organization that understands our struggles and shares the same beliefs to unite us and make us stronger.

Chad & Katrina Gleason
Lafayette County
YFA members



Chad and Katrina Gleason are fourth generation farmers, north of Shullsburg in Lafayette County. They have three children Cassidy, Gage and Kinsey. The Gleasons specialize in dairy beef, and raise bottle fed calves to finished steers.

The family raises about 400 calves per year from local dairy farmers. The family grows and harvests their own feed on 80 acres of owned and 60 acres of rented land.

Chad is a former director for the Lafayette County Farm Bureau. He enjoys farm-related activities and spending time with others who share his passion for agriculture.

Katrina home schools their children and manages the books for the farm. She enjoys cooking, working with the family's horses and spending time with family and friends.

Crawford County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Director, Ron Ellefson 608.734.3674
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Crawford County Farm Bureau 888.644.8374
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WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer 608.515.3123

District YFA Update



So long, farewell.

Definitely a bittersweet moment as we write our last newsletter article.

Maybe we will have more free time or time to spend with the family. But, sadly, as we wrap up our tenure as the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist representatives and YFA Chair, we are

thinking about the opportunities that we had and the many things we are going to miss. County annual meetings, 5th Tuesday Potlucks and Discussion Meets are a few things that we enjoyed.

We watched the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau grow and flourish as its own organization within the ag community. We've helped members apply for awards and fill out applications for the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Awards.

During our role, we attended conferences and conventions throughout the U.S., which was truly an amazing experience when it was below zero at home and we walked on green grass in Florida. We have always felt welcomed in every District 3 county and appreciated meeting everyone and learning about each county's traditions.

Our district is in good hands as we pass the baton to Tammy Wiedenbeck. She has new goals, dreams and ideas to share. We will miss you and can't wait to see you again.

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives

2017 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Crawford County Farm Bureau has money available to sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 17-18, 2017**, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore topics and learn outside their comfort zone.

If you or an FFA student you know want to attend, please contact president Don Brown by **January 5, 2017**.