

DANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATIONS:

The nominating committee has confirmed the following people have interest in running for the board:

- Dennis Jesberger
- Alison Kepner
- Lee Meinholz
- Tim Sherven
- Aaron Tigert

Nominees were asked to answer the following questions. Their responses are below.

1. Tell us about yourself and your involvement in agriculture.
2. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.
3. Why do you want to be a member of the Dane County Farm Bureau Board?
4. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

Voting will take place at the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on September 6th, 2011 at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee, WI at 7pm.



DENNIS JESBERGER

I am a lifelong Town of Bristol farmer on a farm that has been in the family since 1851. I was a dairy farmer until 2003, and now raise steers to 500lbs, dairy heifers to breeding age, and cash crop corn, soybeans, and wheat.

1. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.

I would like to cooperate with other Farm Bureau members and to show support for the farming and farm related industry.

2. Why do you want to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member?

I am interested in serving Dane County Farm Bureau members, listening to their concerns, and representing them on agricultural issues.

3. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

I have served 6 years on WI FFA Alumni council, including State President in 2007. I am also involved with Sun Prairie FFA Alumni, community and church activities and I am willing to help Dane County Farm Bureau in any way needed.





ALISON KEPNER

I was raised on a hog and grain farm in Northwest Illinois. Growing up I was fully engaged in agriculture by showing hogs at the local county fair and becoming involved in both 4-H and FFA. I moved to Waunakee in 2010 to work at Vita Plus Corporation in Madison as an Accounting Associate, which combined my two passions: agriculture and finance. Working in the accounting department of a grain, feed, and agronomy company I see the trials and tribulations that farmers face daily. After I relocated, I did not know many people so I sought out something familiar. Joining the Dane County Farm Bureau was a natural step and one of the best decisions I have ever made. Since joining, I have met many great people that I have learned from and hope to continue to do great things in agriculture for Dane County and Wisconsin!

1. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.

I have been involved in Farm Bureau for the last year at the county, district, and state level. I have served as a county board member since September 2010 and while doing so I have attended monthly meetings, social outings, and represented Dane County as a voting delegate at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells last December. I have enjoyed every minute of being involved, whether helping fellow board members plan an event or just volunteering and lending support. I believe the most important facet of a good organization is to support each other and the common goal. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a Voice for Farmers and a Vision for Agriculture and I will help promote that every step of the way. I am also interested in becoming more involved with Farm Bureau at the state and national level.

2. Why do you want to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member?

I want to continue to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member because during the last year I have seen firsthand how uneducated the general public is on topics in agriculture. I have learned that knowledge is power and the people want to learn. Due to its size, Dane County Farm Bureau has great avenues to educate the public and during the last year we have been involved in many educational opportunities. The possibilities are endless with a supportive team working together toward a common goal and 'Advocating.'

3. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

I believe one of the biggest strengths I can offer Dane County Farm Bureau is my excitement about Agriculture! I was fortunate to become the Dane County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom coordinator and I have had so many opportunities to learn and educate this past year. I can only hope to continue that in the future as a Dane County Farm Bureau board member!





LEE MEINHOLZ

I grew up and currently am assistant herdsman and assistant calf manager on family farm, Blue Star Dairy. I attended UW-Platteville for animal-science with a dairy emphasis and interned at Maddox Dairy in Riverdale, California, gaining experience in many areas of a mega-dairy. I was active in Dairy Club, and now in the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and was a very active member of 4-H.

1. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.

I have an interest in becoming more involved in agriculture in a larger way than just farming and the local community. And I feel that being a board member will help refine and expand my knowledge and desire to improve the agriculture community.

2. Why do you want to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member?

Even though only having been active in the Young Farmer program for less than a year I've enjoyed the experiences, friendships, and networking so much would like to be more involved and help contribute to its continued success.

3. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

I feel my enthusiasm and interest in agriculture would be an asset to the board. In addition, my desire to improve and make a difference would help the continued success of Farm Bureau. Bringing new ideas and perspective to the board will be a major benefit and help represent a broader collection of those represented.





TIM SHERVEN

I grew up on my family's dairy farm in New Glarus, WI where we milk 45 Holstein cows and run 200 acres of corn, beans, alfalfa and wheat. In May of 2010, I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville where I majored in Animal Science. During my studies at UWP, I was involved in several agriculture groups such as the Pioneer Dairy Club and Alpha Gamma Rho. Following college, I began working for Agri-Nutrition Consulting as a Ration Analyst. I work closely with our Independent Consultants that are located throughout the United States, formulating rations for livestock herds.

1. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.

The Farm Bureau is an established organization focused on conveying the importance of agriculture to those not familiar to the industry. It is important for organizations like Farm Bureau to continue informing people about the agriculture industry and aid in the development of confidence to the consumer that these local products are both safe and healthy for their families.

2. Why do you want to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member?

I recently joined the Young Farmer & Agriculturalist and have enjoyed working with other members in educating all age groups about the agriculture industry. I believe it is very important to continue in these efforts, and being part of the Dane County Farm Bureau Board is a chance to make a difference in other people's lives. The Dane County Farm Bureau is one of the most active and influential counties in the state and I would be proud to be a contributing part of the organization.

3. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

My previous experience in organizations such as FFA, AGR, and the Pioneer Dairy Club, as well as my passion for the industry, would be an asset to the Dane County Farm Bureau. I believe my greatest contribution to the organization as a board member would include setting a positive example as a leader, and providing a solid professional image to other members.





AARON TIGERT

My wife and I own a farm in Black Earth where we grow crops and raise dairy heifers. This farm has been in her family for over 100 years and so we have great incentive and pressure to keep it in production agriculture for many generations to come. I also work full-time off the farm as risk manager for Vita Plus Corporation, headquartered in Madison, WI. These experiences expose me to different aspects of agriculture every day which gives me a balanced perspective both from the producer view but also from the agri-business side.

1. Explain your interest/desire to be involved in Farm Bureau at the county, state or national level.

I would like to first get involved with Farm Bureau at the county level but also have interest to progress my involvement to the state and national levels.

2. Why do you want to be a Dane County Farm Bureau board member?

The number of farms in the U.S. is shrinking but the world's population is growing which means the consumer gets further from the farm every day. This is coupled with the many ongoing challenges facing our producers today. So, whether it's educational awareness for consumers, training tools for producers, or simply celebrating the great industry that is agriculture, I feel Farm Bureau is the place to positively affect those with vested interests.

3. What strengths and talents can you bring to Dane County Farm Bureau?

The largest strength I bring to Farm Bureau is my broad understanding and excitement for agriculture. The combination of my farm background, my education, and my work experiences have molded my desire to stay involved in Ag. Whether it was being born and raised on a Wisconsin farm, marrying a girl whose family still dairies in Dane County, or owning a Dane County farm with my wife, I understand what it means to live the farm life. These experiences will certainly guide my efforts while on the Dane County Farm Bureau Board.

