

Dunn County Farm Bureau

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For information about our farm safety campaign, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Dunn County:

Geoffrey Liddle (715) 235-0616	Jeff White (715) 235-5656
Jan Robinson (715) 235-0616	Ken Truax - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Your Calendars for Ag Day at the Capitol



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL
 March 11, 2015
 Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Schedule of Events:

11:00 a.m. Registration	Early Registration Deadline: March 5
11:30 a.m. Opening Program	Cost: \$25 per person by registration
11:45 a.m. Lunch	deadline.
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing	\$30 after deadline and at the
3:00 p.m. Leave for	door.
Capitol Visits	

Presented by: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

			
			
			

Ride the bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 11, in Madison. A bus from Northwest Wisconsin has been organized and will be making various stops including Baldwin, Menomonie, Eau Claire, Osseo, Hixton and Tomah.

The cost of the bus trip is \$30.

Note: The registration fee for the Ag Day at the Capitol program is separate.

To reserve your seat, contact **Katie Matison** at 715.418.0975. Please indicate the county you are from and which location you would like to be picked up at.

Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today!

Thank you to Frontier Ag and Turf and AgStar for their support of the bus and refreshments!



COUNTYnews

DUNN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting

More than 1,100 farmers and agriculturists attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and about 475 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members attended the YFA Conference. Some of the best and brightest competed in a variety of contests and awards, and member delegates set policy directing our organization. Attendees were challenged by several excellent speakers including J. Scott Vernon, Ph. D, who spoke about becoming an AGvocate for agriculture, and Chad Hymas, motivational speaker, captivated the audience when he shared "Who needs Legs, when you have Wings." The Farm Bureau Extravaganza took place on Saturday night with comedian Roger Radley.



(L to R) Mary Prestrud and Geri Wolfe (Dunn County) Brenda Sikorski (Chippewa County) Greg Zwald (St. Croix County) Dean Bergseng (Pierce County) and Jim Meng (Rusk County) were recognized as part of the Producer Club for signing at least five new members during the year.



This year marked Carl Casper's 50th consecutive WFBF Annual Meeting!

Of the 1,100 members, more than 100 members were from District 9 including members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter at UW-River Falls. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized throughout the weekend! Here is a list of the District 9 highlights:

- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President
- YFA Discussion Meet participants: Peter Kimball (Pierce County), Kirsten Konder (St. Croix County) and Julie Wadzinski (Barron County)
- YFA Discussion Meet Final Four - Peter Kimball (Pierce County)
- Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Finals: Kaylin Spaeth (St. Croix County)
- WFBF Top 10 Membership Workers – Karyn Schauf (Barron County) signed 11 and Jim Meng (Rusk) signed 15!
- WFBF Women's Committee: Mary Prestrud retired from the WFBF Women's Committee. Amber Cordes of Barron County has been appointed to take her place
- Dan Ripplinger (Barron County) and Lori Gardow (Chippewa County) graduated from the leadership Institute Class VIII



(L to R) Mary Prestrud (Dunn County) Jane Mueller (Eau Claire County) and Kathleen Papke (Walworth County) retired from the Women's Committee. Amber Cordes (Barron County), Darby Sampson (Jackson County) and Amanda Carlson (Waukesha County) were appointed to take their places.

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Dunn County was well represented during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference with delegates, YFA members and guests. Delegates voted on a variety of issues related to agriculture including UW-Extension, drones and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

More photos on page 3



(L to R) Ethan Giebel (Juneau County), Jamie Propson (Manitowoc County), Peter Kimball (Pierce County) and Adam Wehling (Buffalo County) competed in the Final Four of the YFA Discussion Meet.

Find Your Name and Win!

Don't forget to look for your name in this newsletter! If you find your name you could win \$10 towards next year's membership dues. All you have to do is read your newsletter, search for your name in a box (see example below), and if you find your name, you have 30 days to contact Geri Wolfe at 715.962.3809 to let her know. Good Luck!

For Example:

President's Message



As I reflect back on 2014 for Dunn County Farm Bureau, I can say we had a busy year full of participation and successes. Membership goals were met, YFA activities, Women's program events, Ag in the Classroom activities, special informational meetings and support of our youth in 4-H and FFA are a few of the things that members took advantage of becoming involved in. The Board of Directors and I would like to thank those who helped in any way with the success of our programs and activities. We are now planning to keep moving forward and expanding on a few programs to make your county Farm Bureau a stronger Advocate for you and all people involved in agriculture.

As you read through the newsletter you will see photos and articles of some of the members who have taken an active role

in various areas of Farm Bureau Programs. These members are looking for more ideas, support and participation to expand current and new activities for 2015. On January 27, the members of our county board and committee members will be meeting with WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development, Dale Beaty to do a listening, goal setting, strategic planning and development for our county Farm Bureau. New ideas of program activities and member participation are needed to continue to keep Dunn County Farm Bureau as a strong presence in representing our agricultural member families.

We would like to have a large and diverse group of our members present to help set the organization on a path to a greater identity of being the organization representing farmers and agriculturists.

Some programs that you will see the Dunn County Farm Bureau increase involvement in are the Red Cedar Watershed Conference in March, supporting the Alliance of Dunn

County Conservation and Sports Clubs with a sponsorship of a Conservation Internship Program and the possibility of working with the Dunn County Dairy Promotion Committee in sponsoring a dairy trailer to be used at several county-wide events.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me or any of the members of the board of directors for information. All age levels, skills, talents and time commitments are needed to grow our presence as representing agriculture in Dunn County.

I am looking forward to another great year filled with good weather, good commodity prices, safe farm practices and most of all meeting many Farm Bureau members who continue to support agriculture.

Geri Wolfe
Dunn County Farm Bureau President

Robinson Awarded Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award

The Dunn County Farm Bureau honored Jan Robinson with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award during its annual meeting held on September 23.

Jan has been a huge supporter of agriculture and Farm Bureau in Dunn County. She has been a Rural Mutual Insurance agent in Menomonie for the past 19 years and retired as of December 31. Jan has not made any specific plans for her retirement as of yet, but she is thinking about some part-time consulting work and volunteering for the local humane society, Stepping Stones or Girl Scouts. Whatever it is that Jan decides to do, she will be great at it.

We wish Jan the best in the next chapter of her life.



Geri Wolfe presented Jan Robinson with the Dunn County Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the DCFB Annual Meeting.

UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Update

By Jennifer Kuffel, UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau President

The Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter at UW-River Falls is off to another great start! With nearly 70 people attending the first meeting of the school year, we have been able to plan and implement a variety of activities.

During September, we assisted White Pine Berry Farm with their Family Fun Day. Members helped with pumpkin painting, a petting zoo and a variety of other activities held that day. During the evening, our chapter hosted a barn dance and cookout for all students from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

This was followed by our Collegiate Discussion Meet in which we had four contestants. Kaylin Spaeth and Aaron Zimmerman represented our chapter at the state meet that was held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. UW-River Falls was well represented during the state event as 27 members participated in workshops, listened to speakers and had a booth at the trade show. A big thank you goes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company which provided support for our members to attend this event.

Second semester will commence on January 26 and our biggest event of the year, Ag Day on Campus, will take place on



The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-River Falls had 27 members attend the YFA Conference. Members listened to keynote speakers, participated in a variety of workshops and networked with other Farm Bureau members.

Tuesday, April 21. Members have been working diligently planning the day's events, gathering donations and promoting on campus. Our theme this year will be Slow Moving agVenture (SMV) with hopes of educating the campus and community on farm safety. We already have one of the Peterson Brothers in line to speak at our Ag Day on Campus event. It is a great opportunity for us to tell our agricultural stories and be a part of the conversation. Throughout second semester we are also planning a few other activities including a showing of the movie Farmland, snow tubing and an end of the year picnic.

Thank you to all Farm Bureau members for your support of Collegiate Farm Bureau! We look forward to continued success!

We Need You!

The strength of any organization is in its membership. One of the goals of the Dunn County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is to strengthen membership. Its intent is not just in numbers but to strengthen the involvement and knowledge of the current members.

We want members who want to get more involved and serve on county committees including:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Local Affairs/Policy Development
- Women's

Joe Creaser

- Young Farmer and Agriculturists
- Ag Promotions
- Membership
- Dunn County Fair

If you would like to get involved and are willing to attend one or two meetings per year, please consider joining one of these committees and letting your voice be heard. For more information, contact any Dunn County Farm Bureau board member.

Welcome New Members!

Josh Brantner*, Sue Brathol, Cindy Brown*, April Daniels*, Shane Gust, Eric Hansen, Luke Herman, Dominic Hopp, Kevin Jenness, Borgny Jensen*, Gregory Kerr*, Annie Lovelady*, Steven Pember, Kathleen Pember, Jennifer Prestrud*, Mary Prestrud*, Jodie Price, Roland Reed*, Robert Rosendahl, Jason Skutt, Dwight Thurs*, Joel Voelker, Jonathon Wantoch*, Kelsey Wensel, Amy Wieland, Geri Wolfe* Cameron Zipse, Five Star Dairy LLC * and Town of Rock Creek. * Indicates voting member

Register NOW for the Ag Women's Summit

Now is the time to make plans to attend the 2015 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit. Presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and University of Wisconsin-Extension, the forum will take place March 13-14 at the Madison Marriott West. The early registration deadline (to receive \$25 off) is February 13. To register go to www.wiagwomensummit.com.

Water Event Slated for March 12

By Dick Lamers, Red Cedar Watershed Planning Committee Conference Chair

The Red Cedar: Land Water and People, Coming Together

The Red Cedar River flows through some of the best farmland and lake country in Wisconsin. It is the soil that is the most valuable asset of the region.

We are at a tipping point where decreasing soil and water quality is threatening our economy and recreation. Rather than looking for others to solve this problem, we all must come together and find a new route toward our dreams that builds the soil and lets nature clean the water.



crops to increase the health of the their soil and reduce input costs, without losing production. A soil panel breakout session with Ray and local farmers will allow an active conversation about transitioning to better soil health.

Damon Reabe from Reabe Spraying Service in Oshkosh will be present to exhibit aerial cover crop applications. Damon is researching methods to increase the success of the cover crops that he plants. His company aerial applied cereal rye on 7,000 acres in Dunn and Barron counties and plans to do more during the next growing season.

The Red Cedar Watershed Conference is just the opportunity to hear what others are doing around the country to improve soil health and water quality. March 12 will be the 4th annual conference with a growing emphasis on soil health solutions and farmer led councils. Keynote speaker, Rod Olson will entertain the audience with his kayak story, "Wounded Waters," a status report on what is happening in the Red Cedar River watershed from headwaters to the Chippewa.

Last year, 40 farmers out of 262 attendees attended the conference. This year our goal is for more than 100 farmers to hear how to improve the health of the soil, their most valuable asset. Dunn County Farm Bureau has partnered with the Farmers Union to pay the \$35 conference fee for any farmer that pre-registers for the conference.

Nationally known Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Scientist Ray Archuleta will give a dynamic demonstration on how producers can use no-till and cover

For more information, visit www.uwstout.edu/profed/redcedar or call 715.232.2793. **Early bird registration is March 1.**

Hope to see you there!

Dunn County Farm Bureau Sponsors 'Business after Hours' for the Menomonie Chamber of Commerce

Dunn County Farm Bureau co-sponsored the November 'Business after Hours' on November 17 with Value Implement, Toppers Pizza and Culver's. The event gave Dunn County Farm Bureau an opportunity to share their passion for agriculture with members of the community and to let them know what Farm Bureau is all about.

Business after Hours is held on the third Monday evening of each month at a host business from 5-6:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres are served, beverages are available and attendees also can win door prizes.

Business after Hours gives members of the Dunn County community the opportunity to take advantage of networking opportunities to promote their businesses and services, interact with other business men and women and meet government, education and community leaders.



(R to L) Carl Casper, Mary Prestrud and Geri Wolfe served local foods to attendees at the November 2014 Business after Hours held at Value Implement.

District Coordinator's Message



Happy New Year Farm Bureau members!

This is the first newsletter of 2015 and I hope that it finds you well. District 9 has many accomplishments to be proud of this past year. I would like to thank all of those who devoted their time and talents to creating a positive impact in their county Farm Bureau.

I have only been employed with WFBF since last May and I have been extremely impressed with all that you have done in the short time that I have been here. I look forward to many years of working alongside you all. It is your dedication to agriculture and this organization that makes you shine. Agri-

culture is my passion and it is very evident that it is yours as well. Communities are better places across our area because of your efforts in activities such as dairy breakfasts, 4-H and FFA support, county fairs, Women's programs and YFA events.

Thank you for your participation this past year and for making my first year a very memorable one. This new year brings challenges but with those challenges come opportunities to improve and exceed everyone's expectations. I look forward to working with you throughout the year as we continue to work together to promote and improve the agriculture community in Wisconsin. Please feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.

Katie Mattison
District 9 Coordinator

David Dummer

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District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax	715.514.4477

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting Cont'd



More than 40 YFA members from District 9 attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



Trevor and Amanda Prochnow attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference for the first time and were sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Company.