

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau

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contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Eau Claire County:

Blake Doud (715) 577-7987	Steve Wicklund (715) 505-4226
Red Van Ert (715) 215-2341	Ken Truax - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Hosts Moo-vin' with Milk 5K Run/Walk

Celebrate June Dairy Month with the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau as they host the Moo-vin' with Milk 5K Run/Walk!

Race Information

Pre-registration fee is \$20 if received by June 5
T-Shirt and post-race chocolate milk included!
Race day registration fee is \$25. Proceeds from this event will help fund Trempealeau Ag In The Classroom activities.

What: Movin' with Milk 5K Run/Walk and Dairy Day

Where: Game Time Park, Ettrick

When: Saturday, June 20, 2015

Activities in the park include a visit from calves, free ice cream, games and a dairy good fun for the whole family!

Please send registration form with check made payable to **Trempealeau County Farm Bureau** to:

Moo-vin' with Milk 5K Run/Walk
c/o Ingrid Husmoen
W19129 State Road 95
Arcadia, WI 54612

For more information, please contact Ingrid at
608.343.5113 or moovinwithmilk@gmail.com.



Schedule of Events

10 a.m.	Race registration begins
11 a.m.	Race and park activities begin
12 p.m.	Free ice cream is served
3 p.m.	Dairy Day ends

More information and registrations forms can be found on www.wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/trempealeau or www.facebook.com/trempealeauncountyfarmbureau.



Ag in the Classroom Presents New Farm Facts Brochure

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2015 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure.

The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and is now interactive.

Using a free app called, Aurasma, users can make the brochure come to life with additional facts and videos related to Wisconsin agriculture.

To download the app, visit the app store on your tablet or smart phone and find Aurasma. Download the app and make sure to follow WIAITC.

Copies of the brochure are available by visiting wisagclassroom.org and using the resource order form.

Did you know that Wisconsin ranks second in . . .

SECOND	Milk	27.5 billion pounds	
	Milk Cows	1.27 million cows	
	Carrots for Processing	117,000 tons	
	Cucumbers for Pickles	38,000 tons	



COUNTYnews

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Inspiration Found at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

By Jane Mueller

The 2015 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is in the books and about 340 ladies attended. It was a great time to connect with women from across Wisconsin who are interested in agriculture.

This year's keynote speaker Scott Zimmer talked about "When Generations Connect," helping us to relate to the four generations now working together on our farms and other workplaces.

We honored our own District 4 member Nodji VanWychen as the 2015 AgVocate of the Year.



Nodji VanWychen of Monroe County (second from left) accepted the AgVocate of the Year Award.

The wide ranging topics for the workshops included several breakout sessions on succession planning for the family farm, adding value to the farm and the health and welfare of our families and employees.

Mark your calendars for next year's summit on March 4-5, 2016.

Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is hosted by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Badgerland Financial and UW-Extension.

This premier event held each spring at the Madison Marriott in Middleton is designed for all women involved in agriculture, with numerous learning sessions centered around three areas of interest, networking, agriculture awareness and wellness/family living/life balance.



Eau Claire County Farm Bureau members (L-R) Marisa McLain and Jane Mueller attended the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.

Eau Claire County Members Attend YFA Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

By Jane Mueller

The WFBF Annual Meeting is held in early December every year at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells in conjunction with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference.

The YFA Conference includes workshops, entertainment, contests and networking for members. The excitement this year was that Eau Claire's Jacki Pettis is the new District 4 YFA Representative.

My favorite part of the weekend is the resolutions session. Farm Bureau delegates adopted policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest farm organization during the year.

Resolutions were submitted by farmers from across the state through Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

This grassroots effort to bring our voices together is why Farm Bureau is so effective. The needs of the farm families collectively brought forward to our

legislators and elected officials is greater than our single voice.

I have had the privilege of serving as District 4 Women's Committee representative for six years. This December, I passed the baton to Darby Sampson of Jackson County.

I served with the smartest, most articulate women during the years working together to voice the needs of women in agriculture. Women's voices are still a minority in agriculture and it is my hope that the Farm Bureau community will continue to support programming in an effort to have their voices heard.

Thank you for allowing me to serve this organization.



Eau Claire County Farm Bureau delegates were Steve Strey and Lisa Pettis.



Farm Bureau members from across District 4 included Eau Claire YFA members Alex Patten, Issy Weese and Jacki Pettis.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 President's Perspective

New Proposed AEA

Key Award Presented

Board Member Message

3 Making an Impact

Farm Bureau Contacts

Dial 8-1-1

Membership Benefits

President's Perspective



One of my passions as a farmer, is landowner rights. As long as there has been land and as long as there is land there will be a great debate over who has the power to dictate what is the proper use for particular land.

Is any one use better than another? How do you describe best, proper or right? Is the

most profitable always the best? Should the government make that decision? Should your neighbor make that decision?

It seems like we have a lot of questions and not many answers. If you're hoping for the best, proper or right answer, you might as well stop reading now.

I am like everyone else. I have an opinion! Lately in our towns and counties I have seen many differing opinions. This is a good thing. If we all thought and acted alike, the world could be a dangerous place. Along with our differing opinions, we

should all have a chance to voice our thoughts with others respectfully listening.

Because of his personal and monetary investment, one should consider that a landowner might have a better idea what the proper use is for his land. Don't get me wrong, mistakes and misjudgments do get made. We are all human and therefore not perfect. Some simple concepts of common sense, patience, understanding and trust must be used in making decisions. Lately, I have seen too much stubbornness, anger, greed and jealousy.

What we must remember is that this earth was created before mankind was. We do not own the land. God does! We are simply caretakers or stewards. When you die, you will not take that land with you. It will be left here on earth to support many more generations of mankind as it did for 6,000 years before you and I arrived.

Everything on earth either gets dug up under the ground or grows on top of it. Therefore we cannot be told how to use it best, proper or right. We must choose to use it WISELY.

For each person, parcel or place this could mean something different. One set of rules or laws cannot govern it all. We must use judgment and think globally about mankind not just ourselves.

Remember as farmers we are the chosen few on this earth who are blessed with the opportunity to feed and cloth the world.

We have to stop fighting and work together. We must be leaders in our neighborhood, town, county, state, country and world. Enough jealousy and greed. We are stewards of the earth, let's start acting like it. United we stand, divided we fall.

Make thoughtful wise stewardship decisions based on fact, not on emotion and trust in others to do the same. That way we can all keep our land caretaker rights.

Your fellow farmer and Farm Bureau member,

Steve Strey
Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President

New Proposed AEA for Eau Claire County? By Steve Strey

In the fall of 2014 some central Eau Claire County farmers met and formed a committee to explore the formation of an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA).

I was lucky enough to be asked to serve on the committee representing the Clear Creek, Foster area.



An agricultural enterprise area (AEA), is an extension of the current Farmland Preservation program under the working lands initiative. I call it farmland preservation on steroids.

Under the farmland preservation program, a farmer-landowner that is in compliance with all conservation, nutrient management, water shed and manure storage plans, qualifies for a \$7.50 state income tax credit per acre of A1 ag land owned.

The farmer-landowner also must generate \$6,000 gross farm income, be current with all property taxes and be in a zoned town on these acres to qualify.

What an AEA does, is to establish a boundary around contiguous parcels of land of farmers interested in actively farming and preserving farmland.

When you choose to be within the boundary of the AEA you have three options: doing nothing at all, collecting the \$7.50 per acre income tax credit under the farmland preservation program or electing to claim the new \$10 per acre credit. If you choose the \$10 per acre credit you must sign a 15-year contract with the state that stays with the land.

Another provision of the new AEA program

is that farmers-land owners in non-zoned towns who were unable to participate before, can now claim a \$5 per acre credit. Being within the boundaries of the AEA does not affect the zoning or put any additional restrictions on the land.

The formation of an AEA is a petition to the State of Wisconsin by farmers for farmers. This is a grassroots farmer up, not government down program. It leaves flexibility to the individual landowner to participate at a level that they are comfortable with.

The main goals of the AEA are to identify productive agricultural land, preserve that land for future production and maintain or build the agricultural infrastructure in the area. Simply said, it tells the state we are farmers that will continue to farm.

April 30 is the deadline to file the petition with the state. Because this is farmer driven we must spread the word and educate ourselves and our neighbors.

As a farmer and Farm Bureau member, being rewarded for protecting the most valuable asset in our operations sure seems to make sense to me.

For more information, please contact Steve Strey, Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President at 715.597.6096.

Message from Your District 4 Board Director



I want to take the opportunity to recognize those that did great job representing District 4 throughout the 95th Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

not only share ideas but to garner each other's support. District members brought back four resolutions that our delegates believed needed discussion.

Of the four, one resolution (Army Corps of Engineers should be required to respond to a permit application with approval or disapproval within 60 days) passed.

Jack and Pat Herricks of Monroe County were recognized for their conservation and land ethic by the Sand County Foundation.

The Herricks family truly embodies the spirit that is Farm Bureau, they operate a very successful farm that shows how you can be profitable supporters of a community while not only maintain the land and water but improve it for future generations.

Jack spoke of the importance of family and what it means to be able to work with those you love every day. Congratulations to Jack and Pat and their family for receiving the Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award!

Adam Wehling, Buffalo County, made it to a competitive final round during the Discussion Meet to finish in the final four. His ability to manage and lead a discussion gives testament to his ability as an agriculture instructor. Thank you Adam for your effort not only in the Discussion Meet but in shaping agriculture's future everyday!

This year District 4 delegates brought several resolutions back to the delegate body for further debate. I want to recognize Steve Strey (Eau Claire), Todd Quarnie (Trempealeau), Loren Wolfe (Buffalo) and Travis Klinkner (Monroe).

Each year members of our district gather to discuss resolutions as a multi-county effort to

A resolution dealing with nuisance emergency cell phone calls received the most debate of all resolutions during the day and narrowly failed. The final two failed but had meaningful discussion.

After the dedication shown to the policy development process by our districts delegates I am confident that we are well represented by good farmers and hard working generous people. Thank you Dawn Powell (Monroe) and Annette Thresher (Monroe) for serving on this year's Policy Development Committee!

We are well set for a bright future in our organization with members stepping up to take on larger roles in leadership. I am pleased and thankful to have Jacki Petis (Eau Claire) take over for Brian and Sarah Malizewski (Trempealeau) as District 4 Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Representative and Darby Sampson (Jackson) replacing Jane Mueller (Eau Claire) as District 4 Women's Committee Representative.

Thank you Brian and Sarah Malizewski and Jane Mueller for all of your service to Farm Bureau and for your commitments to continue to represent agriculture! Thank you to all of our members!

Joe Bragger
District 4 Farm Bureau Director
Cell 715.530.0466, 715.985.2314,
braggfam@triwest.net

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products**
- Case IH
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Polaris (NEW)
 - 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.

Eau Claire Farm Bureau Presents Key Award to Outstanding 4-H Youth



Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President Steve Strey (center) presented the Key Award to Damir Hadorn Papke (right) and Desyre Klindworth (left).

Did You Know Wisconsin Ranks First in . . .

FIRST

- Cheese**
2.8 billion pounds
- Milk Goats**
46,000 goats
- Mink Pelts**
1,230,000 mink
- Corn for Silage**
16.1 million tons
- Cranberries**
6 million barrels
- Snap Beans for Processing**
299,000 tons



Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Secretary/Treasurer, Jacki Pettis 608.792.9063
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 District 4 Women's Chair, Darby Sampson 715.299.1409
 District 4 YFA Chair, Jacki Pettis 715.530.1107
 District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe 866.355.7344
 RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Want to avoid spending a day in the dark? Or being without heat or air conditioning in your home? What about not being able to connect to the Internet, email or social media?



Preventing these issues may be as simple as dialing 8-1-1.

Protect yourself, your family and community and make sure to spread the word about 8-1-1.

Making an Impact through Farm Bureau

By Dawn Powell, Monroe County Farm Bureau Member

How can I have an impact on ag issues that affect my farm and daily life? I'm just one voice.

I was blessed with the opportunity to serve on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's state Policy Development (PD) committee.

Through a simple willingness to serve, I learned that one voice in Farm Bureau truly can be heard. Although "policy development" may be an intimidating phrase, as it was to me, I quickly learned that it is amazingly simple, yet serves as a great tool for you and me.

Early last spring, I was asked by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau if I would be willing to serve a two-year-term on the state Policy Development committee. A total of three meetings throughout the year were held.

After agreeing, I served with 11 volunteer members. The members came from all areas of the state, and represented a diverse cross-section of the agricultural industry...from organic to conventional, custom operators, dairy, beef and crop producers, retired and young, large and small farms, and others with niche market experience.

One of my fears when I agreed was that I don't know enough about various issues. However, because of the make-up of the committee, I was confident that I could contribute,

using my own knowledge and experiences, and drawing upon others that I meet and network with around our community, without needing to know everything.

In April, we began the committee work. Our first meeting was to identify a few key issues that we saw as a challenge to our industry.

Those five issues were then tagged as "backgrounder issues," and our devoted state Farm Bureau staff set out to research those issues. The backgrounders are available to all members on the WFBF website (under legislation).

These issues are chosen based on timeliness and the impact that they have on farms. The backgrounders help "stir the pot" so to speak, getting our members at the local level thinking about possible resolutions that they can send to their respective counties, during the resolution process that takes place at annual meetings across the state.

Resolutions are certainly not limited to the backgrounder issues. Any rural or agricultural issue is fair game!

So here's where you and I come in...if you are aware of an issue that needs to be addressed on the local, state or national level, contact a county Farm Bureau board of director, and write down a simple statement that would help to resolve the issue (this is a resolution).

Whether it's an issue with livestock, education, energy, hunting and wildlife, health and safety, land use, natural resources, taxation, transportation, farm finance, general government, or labor...Farm Bureau members can voice their opinion and help get the ball rolling.

These resolutions are then discussed at county annual meetings. There, we work together to polish the wording, and then vote on county resolutions.

Once the resolutions make it to the state Policy Development committee (568 resolutions were sent to the PD committee last year), we discuss each resolution and determine the practicality, necessity, and value of the resolutions.

At the end of our two-day meeting in November, the state staff goes to work creating a booklet of our proposed state and federal Farm Bureau policy.

Next is the state Annual Meeting in early December. At this final step, members are given a final opportunity to bring an issue back to the voting delegates (if a resolution didn't make it through the state PD committee).

This important step allows individual delegates to speak to an issue and convince the

entire delegate body that the resolution is necessary. See, sometimes an issue in northern Wisconsin is important, but those in southern Wisconsin are not aware of the situation or impact that it's having on our farmers up north. Again, this allows for the individual voice to be heard.

Finally, our delegate body has the responsibility to vote on the policy for the coming year. This is the policy that our state Board of Directors and lobbyists use to guide their efforts.

Our Farm Bureau legislative staff is second to none. If you listen to any ag radio, read any farm publications, or search for agricultural information online, you will see the value that industry officials and legislators place on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's vast knowledge. It is a highly-respected organization, and the best part...it is YOUR organization.

I challenge you to think about an issue that you would like to see addressed. Talk to your neighbors or look on your own farm. Then contact a county board member from your county. We will help you to voice your concerns.

Allow your board of directors and state staff to serve you. We need active members who are willing to search for simple solutions within our complex industry...might that be you?