




Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124

For information on farm insurance, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Fond du Lac County:

Brian Greenman (920) 921-4158	Deanna Kosowski (920) 322-9733
Mike Immel (920) 924-6751	Jolene Szucs (920) 924-3995

Chuck Reitz III- District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Fond du Lac County Dairy Breakfast

Sunday, June 22

Serving: 8 a.m.-Noon
at Ruedinger Farms, Inc.
W7222 Cemetery Road, VanDyne

Cost

\$6 – In Advance
\$7 – At the Door
Free – Ages 5 and Younger

Menu

Eggs with ham and cheese, mushrooms,
pork sausage, watermelon, donut holes

Featuring

Large county-style breakfast, \$1 sundaes,
local cheese samples, farm tours, Alliant
Energy pedal tractor pull, antique farm
equipment display, activities for the whole
family and MUCH MORE!

For more information contact the Fond
du Lac Area Association of Commerce
Agri-Business Council 920.921.9500.



Get to Know Ruedinger Farms, Inc.

John and Karen Ruedinger started dairy farming full-time in 1976 with 50 cows and 300 acres in partnership with John's parents Paul and Delores Ruedinger. They grew the business to 100 cows and 600 acres. In 1996 they formed a family corporation, Ruedinger Farms, Inc. and started the expansion process to the current 1,200 milk cows and 1,550 acres (corn, alfalfa, wheat).

The farm has a staff of 16 full-time employees including a herdsman, assistant herdsman, crops and maintenance manager and his assistant, calf feeder, cow feeder and milking and barn staff. The calves are raised on-site until 4.5 months, and then they go to a custom heifer grower and are brought back at 21 to 28 days pre-fresh.

A commodity marketing firm is utilized to help manage risk for the milk and grain markets. A nutrition consultant is used to balance rations, evaluate the grain and protein markets and help with feed inventory controls and monitor herd performance. A veterinarian visits weekly for reproductive checks and is also used for other dairy-herd consulting. A financial consultant is used to aid in monthly financial analysis and total farm budgets.

The main goals now are to continue to refine efficiencies within all aspects of the business, produce quality milk, engage, train and maintain a productive workforce and more importantly work to insure a safe and nutritious food supply to help feed a hungry world.

Farm Stats:

Total number of cows: 1,300
Times milked per day: 3
Milk per cow sold: 91 pounds
Rolling herd average: 29,825 lbs. milk
Somatic cell score: 125
Fat and protein: 3.70% fat, 3.02 protein, cheese yield 2,956





COUNTYnews

FOND DU LAC COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Fond du Lac County Conducts Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



Pictured (L to R) Fond du Lac County Essay Coordinator Mary Runge, District 5 essay winner Haley Franz, Fond du Lac County Women's chair Sarah Beuer and Haley's teacher Mrs. Sippel.

Haley Franz, daughter of Ann and Mark Franz, is the winner of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Essay Contest. Haley is a fifth grade student in Mrs. Sippel's class at St. Mary Springs Academy in Fond du Lac. Haley's essay was also selected as the District 5 winning essay.

The 2013-14 essay contest was open to all fourth and fifth grade students. This year's topic was: "Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us." The 2014 Book of the Year is "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby. The book and essay topic allows us to educate students about where food comes from, learn about Thomas Jefferson and his gardening research, understand how plants grow and make healthy food choices. The Ag in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by Frontier Servco FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Institute Graduates Visit Washington, D.C.

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau members Chris Pollack and Crystal Pollack recently spent a week in Washington, D.C. as part of their capstone trip for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. The two graduated from the program during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

"It was a great experience. I enjoyed the opportunity to visit with our legislators on the current agricultural issues facing farmers," Chris said.

The Farm Bureau Institute is a year-long premiere leadership training course at a graduate level whose mission is to produce strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. The training focuses on personal growth and development, public speaking, working effectively with all forms of media, creativity training, understanding the role and functions of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, training on working with government at the local, state and national levels, working to bridge the generational divide among volunteers, consideration of current national and international agricultural issues and completion of a Farm Bureau Personal Development Leadership Plan. To find out how you can participate, visit wfbf.com and search 'Institute'.



District 5 Leadership Institute graduates who recently traveled to Washington, D.C. included (L to R) Chris Pollack, Jen Digman, Charlie Knigge, Dave Wilke, District Director Kevin Krentz and Crystal Pollack.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Director's Message
Meet John Ruedinger
District Discussion Meet
YFA Pizza Fundraiser
YFA Safety Day
- 3 Collect Pop Tabs
Pollack Wins Tractor
Alto 4-H and FB Fair
Upcoming Events
Donations to Charities

Mark Your Calendars! County Annual Meeting

The Fond du Lac County annual meeting will be **September 15** at the Holiday Inn in Fond du Lac.
Watch your mail for more details!

save • the • date
09 • 15 • 14

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Reaches New Voting Goal!

Congratulations to Fond du Lac County for reaching its new voting goal by April 30. The county was one of 31 counties in the state to reach its new voting goal and receive \$1,000.



Congratulations to Trayton Greenfield, Reuben Hopp, and Steve Sabel who all signed a minimum of five new voting members and are a part of the Producer Club.

District Director Report



I recently had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. with the Farm Bureau Institute class. Two things continue to impress me. One is the respect that Wisconsin Farm Bureau gets from our representatives and the other is the leadership Farm Bureau continues to grow. We continue to grow leaders not only for our organization but for our communities. Everyone who has gone through the Farm Bureau Institute class has been challenged and has become a stronger leader and communicator. It is also extremely important for all farmers to communicate with our representatives this year.

Recently, the EPA made a ruling redefining “waters of the U.S.” under the Clean Water Act. This ruling has grossly overreached the regulator authority of the EPA to many ditches and farmland. Although the EPA has offered an exemption for agriculture, I believe the EPA doesn't have the authority to offer such an exemption. If we accept this authority at this point, we also would have to except it if the EPA removed the exemption. Please contact your representative and senators to tell them how such an overreach would affect you on your farm. Representative Petri recently announced his retirement. I want to express my gratitude to him for his years of service to his district and to this country. I encourage everyone to have discussions with the candidates and vet how they will protect our rights as land owners.

I also want to personally thank everyone who has been involved in the strategic planning process. It is an important part of developing and prioritizing the future of our organization. A major part of the future and a way to also save Farm Bureau money is by using more electronic communications. In order to do this we must have your email addresses. I want to encourage everyone we do not have emails for to email District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at rhibicki@wfbf.com with your info. In today's world timely information is key. Getting the information to you in the shortest amount of time is my goal as your district director.

God Bless and have a safe cropping season,
Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Board Director

Q & A with County Board Member John Ruedinger

Q: When did you join Farm Bureau?
A: More than 15 years ago.

Q: How long have you been a county board member?
A: For almost 10 years.

Q: Do you remember who signed you up?

A: Former WFBF employee Jeff Lyon and past Fond du Lac County president Eugene Belling signed me up on a membership drive.

Q: Why did you join?

A: Because the Farm Bureau is a proactive agricultural organization that looks out for the best interest of its members. As an active farmer, it's important to belong to an organization that protects farmers in local, state and national issues.

Q: What do you think are the biggest agricultural issues facing farmers today?

A: On the state level the Implements of Husbandry (IOH) issue is a major concern. It was good to see the Farm Bureau take an active role in developing quality legislation that will allow farmers to drive implements on the road. On the national level I'm concerned with immigration reform. Something needs to be done on this issue. And finally in the dairy industry we need to maintain dairy export markets and work to create value-added products to export.



District 5 Discussion Meet Scheduled

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held **Thursday, August 21 at the City Inn Bar and Grill in Berlin at 7:30 p.m.** Please contact District 5 YFA Representative Tim Clark at tclark@dairylandseed.com or 262.305.8733 for more information.

District Discussion Meet Question

How can young farmers and ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?

Welcome New Farm Bureau Members!

Russ Anderson, Cody Baerwald, David Balson, Michael Batterman, Ruth Batterman, Gerhardt Beske, Ruth Bode, Gary Bonlender, John Bronkhorst, Mike Buechel, Gary Cooper, Rob Damsteegt, Bryce Dane, John Demontmollin, Ashley Diederichs, Brian Diederichs, Joseph Enders, Dennis Fenske, Brian Grade, Kelvin Greenfield, Randall Greenfield, Larry Guenther, Kevin Haan, Gary Hass, David Hass, Ron Hoffman, Jacob Hofman, Brandon Juers, Paul Kohlmann, Gerald Kraus, Ken Kraus, Thomas Kraus, Brian Marsh, Tony Marsh, Edward Meyer, Jeffrey Montsma, Catherine Morris, Perry Nichols, Cody Nichols, Marland Page, Karen Patchett, Virginia Petrie, Jeffrey Redmer, Maynard Respalje, Kenneth Rohde, John Sabel, Pamela Sauer, Joseph Schultz, Tyler Schulz, Mike Siekmann, Luke Sina, Sean Smith, Janet Sperger, Cory Tausm, Dennis Tipekema, Joseph Uttendorfer, Duane Van Loo, Keith Westhuis and Samuel Ziebell

YFA Pizza Fundraiser Raises \$3,000



The 2014 YFA pizza sale was a success. YFA members made and sold more than 2,000 pizzas and raised approximately \$3,000 to help fund a variety of YFA programs throughout the year. Watch upcoming newsletters for more information on future sales. The YFA Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make and sell pizzas. The committee appreciates the continued support of the YFA program.

County YFA Committee Hosts Safety Day

The Fond du Lac County YFA committee hosted a safety day event on April 5 at the Lamartine Municipal Building. Mike Rankin, UW-Extension Ag Agent, spoke about youth safety and farm employment. After lunch Gary Heitman from Fire and Safety Equipment, Inc. talked to the group about fire extinguisher use and proper protocols.

YFA member Kevin Giebel practiced using a fire extinguisher at the county's safety day held in April.



Come to the Fair July 16-20!

The Fond du Lac County Fair is July 16-20. Visit the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau food stand and see many of the changes the food stand committee has implemented. The stand will also feature Kelly's Creamery Ice Cream!

The committee is still looking for volunteers to help! If you are interested in helping at the food stand, please call Rueben Hopp at 920.948.3571 if you live in the western side of the county and call Mary Runge at 920.979.0807 if you are from the east side of the county. Fair stand workers receive a day pass to get into the fair.

The Farm Bureau looks forward to seeing many of you this year at the fair!



WFBF Women's Committee Collects Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House



In 2013 the WFBF Women's Committee and volunteers from their districts came together to help in a one day project at the Ronald McDonald Houses in Madison, Milwaukee and Marshfield. The committee and volunteers cooked and served

meals, provided games and crafts for the children and donated food, books, toys, clothing and monetary donations. This year the committee will once again conduct this project in all three houses in addition to a Pop Tab Challenge.

What is a pop tab? Pop tabs are the little aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, some pet food, canned fruits, vegetables and more.

How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House? Once the pop tabs are collected and turned into a Ronald McDon-

ald House, they are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars, which support the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses.

The pop tab challenge is a statewide project which began in January and will run through November with the final collection of tabs from each district being dropped at the WFBF Annual Meeting trade show at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells this December 6-8. The women's booth at the trade show will have nine tubs labeled District 1-9. Attendees are asked to drop their collection in their district's tub. You may also drop off pop tabs at the Winnebago County Fair food stand or the county annual meeting.

For more local or district information on collecting tabs and possible prizes, contact Michelle Bula the District 5 Women's Committee representative at 608.547.2451. The real winner of this challenge will be the Ronald McDonald Houses of Wisconsin.

Pollack Wins Tractor!



Fond du Lac County YFA chair Chris Pollack was named a finalist in the 2014 AFBF YF&R Discussion Meet competition held in San Antonio in January. As a prize for placing in the top four, Pollack won a Case tractor and received it on April 28.

Peach and Blueberry Sale

Fond du Lac County will again participate in the peach and blueberry sale later this summer. Watch your mail for a postcard with sale information. At the time of printing, a price list was not available. If you have questions regarding the upcoming sale, please contact office manager Linda Jahn at 920.979.0807.

Plan to Attend the 68th Alto 4-H and Farm Bureau Fair

When: August 6-7
Where: Village of Alto

Details:

Serving breakfast each morning from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Wednesday's breakfast: Ham and eggs

Thursday's breakfast: Pancakes and sausage

Wednesday's events: 4-H judging, tractor pull and kids' tractor pull

Thursday's events: Tractor pull, magic show, parade, water fight, UW Marching Band and fireworks!

No admission charge

For more information check out the fair's website at www.altofair.com or "like" us on Facebook.

YFA Committee Pulls Float in Area Parades

Once again the Fond du Lac County YFA committee has built a float promoting agriculture that will be pulled in several area parades this summer.



2014 Parade Schedule:

June 14 Markesan
July 4 Campbellsport
July 20 Eldorado
August 3 Eden
August 7 Alto

If you'd like more information on the county's float schedule please contact YFA chair Chris Pollack at 920.858.3548.

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Julka	920.979.2400
Vice President, Reuben Hopp	920.324.3843
Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Haack	920.251.7583
Women's Co-Chair, Sarah Beuer	920.898.1462
Women's Co-Chair, Alice Ketter	920.533.4611
YFA Chair, Chris Pollack	920.858.3548
Office Manager, Linda Jahn	920.979.0807
RMIC District Manager, Chuck Reitz III	920.921.6402
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau	866.666.8016
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki	866.355.2029

Farm Bureau Makes Donations to Local Charities

The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau board of directors and Women's committee conducted a food drive during March and April. The food was donated to the Fond du Lac Salvation Army. In addition, \$400 was also donated to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.



(Front L to R): Farm Bureau Women's committee member Ann Riedeman, Salvation Army Director of Social Services Ron Jacobson, Farm Bureau Women's committee member Mary Runge (who presented a \$200 check to Ron), county Women's chair Sarah Horsch, (Back L to R) Rural Staff Assistant Betsy Leemon, RMIC Agency Manager Chuck Reitz and Rural Agent Kendra Raymond.

County Farm Bureau Awards \$500 Scholarship

Amanda Page, daughter of Jay and Kay Page of Ripon, was awarded the 2014 Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Scholarship. Page is a 2014 graduate of Ripon High School and will be attending UW-Fond du Lac in the fall. She plans to return to her family's farm after college.



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

June 22	Fond du Lac County Dairy Breakfast – Ruedinger Farms
July 16-20	Fond du Lac County Fair – Fond du Lac
August 1-2	County Brat Sale – Brandon Meats, Brandon
August 6-7	Alto Fair – Village of Alto
August 21	District 5 Discussion Meet - Berlin
September 15	Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - Holiday Inn, Fond du Lac