



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Fond du Lac County Young Farmer and Agriculturist

Pizza Sale

First come, first serve. Order your pizzas now before they run out!

Back by popular demand, Fond du Lac County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members will be selling pizzas! They are made fresh with the finest ingredients from local cheese and supply companies. Order extra to keep on hand for a fast meal, snack or unexpected guests. **Please return order form by February 2.**

This copy is for your records

Combo _____ Sausage _____ Pepperoni _____ Cheese _____ Supreme _____

Total # of pizzas ordered _____ Total Due \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA. Thank you for supporting Fond du lac agriculture! For more information, contact YFA chair Jenny Leahy at leahyj87@gmail.com or 920.979.3213.

Detach here _____

Farm Bureau Copy – Detach and mail this portion with check to:
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA, Jenny Leahy, 820 Eureka Street, Ripon, WI 54971

Quantity	Pizza	Price/Pizza	Total Price
	12" Combo (Cheese, Sausage & Pepperoni)	\$6	
	12" Sausage	\$6	
	12" Pepperoni	\$6	
	12" Cheese	\$6	

Order any 4 pizzas of the above for \$20!

Also offering a supreme pizza for \$7 (Order three supreme pizzas for \$20).
The supreme pizza includes: pepperoni, sausage, onions and mushrooms.

Quantity _____ Price _____

Grand Total _____

Your Name _____ Phone # _____

Greenfield, Hopp Farm Bureau Proud Club Members



(from left) Reuben Hopp and Trayton Greenfield with District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Hopp and Greenfield were recognized as Farm Bureau Proud Club members for signing at least five Farm Bureau memberships.

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

Once again the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau will offer a scholarship for a graduating high school senior. New the year, the county will also be offering a scholarship for students already enrolled in a post-secondary education program.

The application deadline is **March 31.**

To request an application for either of the scholarships, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or bhicki@wfbf.com.



COUNTYnews

FOND DU LAC COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2018



Front row: (from left) Tim Haack, Chris Pollack, Reuben Hopp, Mike Leahy; back row: (from left) Dale Theel, William Maedke, Jim Kelroy, Richard Julka, Roger Grade and John Ruedinger served as Fond du Lac County delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting held December 2-4.

On December 4, 250 delegates attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 98th Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells and established new policy directives for the organization. Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2018. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on various dairy policy items. They supported milk processors giving farms 60 days' notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees and giving 90 days' notice before termination of service. They also supported Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to define clear and concise rules and regulations for automated milking installations and programs that emphasize manufacturing and marketing strategies. Delegates supported a \$0.05/gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance.

Regarding nutrient management, they supported increased nitrogen levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better use these nutrients and efforts to assist agriculture to understand its role regarding nutrient management for surface water and groundwater. They supported the need

to continue the reasonable scientifically-based best management practices for the protection of groundwater resources in high risk areas such as Karst areas. Delegates supported increased trade deals that benefit Wisconsin and U.S. Agriculture.

Regarding marketing initiatives, delegates opposed using misleading food labels for a marketing campaign. They supported changing fat percentage labelling on bottled milk from '2% Fat' to '98% Fat Free', '1% Fat to 99% Fat Free,' etc., and use of the non-GMO label only on products that have a GMO alternative.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to support:

- Legislation that allows wineries and craft brewers to have equivalent operating hours as taverns and restaurants.
- Allowing tasting rooms to sample wines and ciders made by other producers.
- Managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
- In a time of disaster or emergency, any fees, permits or hold times should be waived to aid people with bridges and creek crossings.
- Allowing stream bank damage following a storm to be returned to pre-storm locations.
- Controlling predatory wildlife populations.
- A tax incentive for selling and renting land to beginning/young farmers.
- Mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver's education classes.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Fair regional pricing within the Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage program.
- Over the road truckers should be exempt from e-logging requirements when transporting livestock or perishable agricultural products.

The federal resolutions will be forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its Annual Convention.

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Pluim Competes in Discussion Meet



Fond du Lac County YFA member Derek Pluim competed in the YFA Discussion Meet contest for the first time this year and advanced to the semi-final round. According to Pluim, "The Discussion Meet is a great way to stay connected to and up to date on diverse issues affecting agriculture. I find it important when working in any area of agribusiness to be aware of issues, so we can work collaboratively as a group to come up with solutions."

Plan to Attend: IGNITE Conference

Plan to attend the 2018 IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6**. Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage or IGNITE is a information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purpose is the strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing programs, resources and skills to carry out the mission of county Farm Bureaus. More than 20 workshops will be offered following four training tracks including: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and policy, issues and advocacy.



President's Message



Reuben Hoop with President Jim Holte at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

year, Trayton signed 50 new members.

Bill Bruins was awarded the Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture Award.

As I sit here reflecting on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, I realized as usual it was another great Annual Meeting and very informative. I want to mention a few highlights of the WFBF Annual Meeting for Fond du Lac County:

Once again, Trayton Greenfield was recognized as the top membership worker in the state. This



Bill and Mary Bruins (left) with WFBF president Jim Holte at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Bill received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

Two Fond du Lac County YFA members participated in the Discussion Meet. Derek Pluim made it into the semi-final round, and Jenny Leahy reached the final four.

District 5 Promotion and Education committee member Lynn Dickman, who is engaged to Fond du Lac County board member Mike Leahy, won the Excellence in Agriculture contest and will represent Wisconsin in January at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention. As you can see, the county was represented well at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

As we close another year, we have much to be thankful for, and I want to thank District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki for her efforts in helping the county this past year.

I want to wish you a very happy and prosperous new year. God bless,

Reuben Hopp
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau president

District Director Report



Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members.

Our mission statement helps define who we are and what we do. From time to time reflection of ourselves and our organization helps us continue to meet the needs of our members.

A person or an organization should never be afraid to ask Why. Just because something has always been done doesn't mean it should continue. History is important in any organization but new leaders will need to make decisions on an ever changing political environment. Some challenges ahead for local Farm Bureaus may include:

1. The state administration continues to handcuff local municipalities on funding sources. The local governments find it easy to blame farmers for road deterioration when lack of proper maintenance over the past 10 plus years have led to major problems. We need to continue to advocate for a solid local infrastructure to move crops, cattle, machinery and fertilizer.
2. Public perception sees agriculture using more water, yet farmers continue to use less land and less water per bushel produced than any time in history. Technology advancements have allowed applying water in the correct amount at the correct time while excess infiltrating back into the soil. Where municipal water is dumped into rivers and leaves our communities quickly. Researchers need to be held accountable to present all evidence to the public. And Farmers need to continue to be involved in discussions of water.
3. Manure is the other ag topic getting pressure at the local level. Manure is a vital, organic nutrient for crops. Land conservation departments and the DNR have the engineering experience to be regulator authority of this nutrient. Local units of government do not have this expertise yet they continue to push for the authority. We need to push for science based regulations, based on soils not on town lines.

Farmers face many challenges this year because of low commodity prices. Farm Bureau leaders at all levels need to be the voice for our fellow farmers. But I want to call out members that are not active. It's easy to say, "I'm too busy," but getting active is the only way to control your future. I accept some of this is difficult for a county Farm Bureau to take on alone. That is one reason why WFBF developed a local affairs position as a resource. With the help of new and experienced leaders, and leader development programs, we will make the dynamic decisions to lead the farm and rural communities into the future.

God bless and happy new year,
Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Director

District 5 Promotion and Education Report

Happy winter! I hope that everyone who loves snow and the winter season is enjoying it. For those who aren't the biggest fans of winter, enjoy some hot chocolate. Spring will be here before we know it.

2017 was a great year for the Promotion and Education Committee. We continued to promote the 'Playbook' that we introduced at the end of 2016. The 'Playbook' is a resource that contains events, programs, and activities that happen throughout the state on a local level. If you are looking for something to do, visit www.wfbf.com. Updates are made quarterly to the 'Playbook.' If you want an event or activity from your county added, please contact me.

We held our first leadership training series boot camp in District 5 at Heartland Farms on November 11. WFBF governmental relations staff Steve Boe and Rob Richards served as guest speakers. They covered topics and answered questions relating to policy development, contacting and connecting with your legislators, staying informed on critical issues and raising your voice and speaking up for agriculture. Farm Bureau members Laura Daniels, Brian Preder and Julie Wadzinski served as panel members for the discussion about the grass-roots process of crafting policies to benefit members.

District 5 YFA Update

Hi, my name is Sally Turpin and I am serving as your District 5 YFA Committee representative. I grew up on my family's 100-cow dairy farm near Hillsboro. I earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy and animal science from the UW-Madison. After college, I worked as an agronomist, but now I am a dairy consultant for Star Blends, an independent feed mill in Sparta.

I have served as the Juneau County YFA chair since 2014 and I am a graduate of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute, Class VI. I also have competed in the Discussion Meet. I enjoy many outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, hiking and running, as well as traveling. I have really enjoyed my time in Farm Bureau and look forward to serving you on the State Committee.

WFBF YFA Conference Was a Success
We had 60 members from District 5 at the 2017 YFA Conference and more than 550 YFA members in attendance. Members from our district competed in Discus-

We look forward to hosting another boot camp in 2018 with a different topic and in a different location. We hope to see you there.

The Promotion and Education Committee will be assisting with the essay contest for fourth and fifth grader students offered by the Ag in the Classroom program again this year. This year's topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' We encourage each county promotion and education committee to work with the elementary schools to help teachers engage the students in this essay contest as it will be a valuable agricultural learning experience.

2018 looks to be an exciting year. We look forward to working with Megan Rebout as our new WFBF committee advisor who has filled Deb Raemisch's position upon her retirement. If you have questions or want help with promotion and education events, do not hesitate to contact me at ldickman87@gmail.com or 608.558.9713.

All the best District 5,
Lynn Dickman
District 5 Promotion and Education Representative

sion Meet and Excellence in Ag, with Lynn Dickman winning the Excellence in Ag competition and Jenny Leahy competing in the Discussion Meet Finals.

There were many workshops and speakers like Michelle Payne addressing ag advocacy and Chris Koch giving an inspirational talk 'If I can ...' about not letting his physical limitations get in the way of achieving his goals. If you have never attended the YFA Conference, please talk to me or your county YFA chair about the Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship. Rural Mutual generously covers the registration and hotel for individuals or couples who are first time attendees of the conference.

If you have any ideas for District 5 events, please contact me at 608.462.3387 or sally.turpin@gmail.com. I love to hear what members want to see for educational or social opportunities.

Sally Turpin
District 5 YFA Representative

More Than 60 District 5 YFA Members Attend YFA Conference

More than 60 YFA members from District 5 attended the WFBF YFA Conference held December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

On Friday night, YFA Conference attendees had the chance to participate in a casino night. Thank you to Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Jahnke, for sponsoring the entertainment

On Saturday morning, Michele Payn, Cause Matters Corp., shared with YFA Conference attendees why it is so important to be a champion for agriculture and lead the conversation around food and farming.



At the Saturday night Extravaganza banquet, comedian Scott Novotny entertained attendees. Thank you to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board for sponsoring Scott.

On Sunday morning, an inspirational speech was given from Chris Koch. He reminded attendees to find the good in each day, laugh more and work toward goals until you reach them.

Fond du Lac County YFA Chair Report

By Jenny Leahy



It really does come down to the voices in your head.

This year, I competed in the YFA Discussion Meet for the second time and successfully made it to the Final Four.

Even though I speak in front of people every day, I still find competing in the Discussion Meet nerve racking. My heart was pounding, and my hands were shaking while sitting in front of everyone before

each round, but the thought that kept going through my head was, "I can do this!"

It was that thought that carried me through three rounds and right into the finals Sunday morning. I thoroughly enjoyed the discussions in all four rounds and the other competitors had

incredible stories and thoughts to share.

Don't let the voices in your head hold you back from experiences. It is easy to say you are busy or you don't speak well in front of people, and it is difficult to step out of your comfort zone.

Stepping out of your comfort zone is worth the extra effort and it is the first step to building your skills and confidence. Farm Bureau offers many opportunities for members to grow as leaders, so make that choice to take advantage.

Competing in the discussion meet has helped build my network and I have met some amazing and passionate advocates for agriculture.

Finally, thank you to Kevin Krentz, Amanda Knoch, Becky Hibicki, Sara Bertram, Mike Leahy, Derek Pluim and Julie Sweney for helping me prepare for the Discussion Meet.

Policy Development Report

By Mike Leahy

I have had the humbling experience during the past two years to represent not only Fond du Lac County, but all of District 5 on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Policy Development Committee.

What is policy development and why is it so important? Farm Bureau policy is the road map for the organization. It sets the goals and direction for the board of directors and the staff at the state office. Without clear direction our organization would wander from issue to issue. No one voice. No vision for agriculture.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization and that policy road map is created at the county level. Our job as the Policy Development committee is to go through those resolutions. Combine similar policies. Discard overlaps. Eventually after two days, have a concise list of policies to be presented to the delegate body for a vote.

This year, the Policy Development Committee considered more than 480 policies submitted by the 61 Wisconsin County Farm Bureaus. A few of the policies that delegates supported from the WFBF Annual Meeting include dairy policies that milk processors giving farms 60 days' notice before any

changes to premium structure or required fees and giving 90 days' notice before termination of service.

They also supported Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to define clear and concise rules and regulations for automated milking installations and programs that emphasize manufacturing and marketing strategies.

Delegates also passed policy in support of a \$0.05 sales tax on dyed fuel to be used specifically to repair town roads.

Do all of the policies pass the scrutiny of our delegates? Of course not. Which is okay. That is how the process is supposed to work. The ones that do though. They set the foundation for our Governmental Relations staff to work with the legislature and governor to promote good solid public policy in the state of Wisconsin.



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Reuben Hopp	920.324.3843
Vice President, Chris Pollack	920.858.3548
Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Haack	920.251.7583
Promotion and Education Chair, Mary Runge	920.898.1462
YFA Chair, Jenny Leahy	920.477.4804
Membership Chair, Trayton Greenfield	920.979.3213
	920.382.5419

Director, Mark G. Diederichs	920.375.0197
Director, Roger L. Grade	920.922.5553
Director, Elmer H. Held	920.583.3084
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Director, Jim Kelroy	920.923.2227
Director, William Maedke	920.477.2806
Director, John Ruedinger	920.922.9899
Director, Steve Sabel	920.795.4075
Director, Earl Sipple	920.999.5756
Director, Dale Theel	920.923.4737

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau	866.666.8016
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
WFBF Promotion and Education, Lynn Dickman	608.558.9713
WFBF YFA, Amanda and Josh Knoch	608.297.8198
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki	920.517.2445
RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106

Fond du Lac County YFA Committee

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Attention YFA members: For more information on the county YFA program, please contact one of the county YFA committee members.

Welcome Farm Bureau Members

Michael Albrecht, Brady Beekman, Eric Bender, Bridget Benike, Elizabeth Doll, Bryan Ellefson, Tonia Fritz, Sharon Haase, Gary Hass, David Hass, James Hron, Brendan Huss, Alice Immel, Sonny Johnson Jr., Carly Klaver, Dean Kopf, Andrew Kraus, Brian Langolf, Timothy Leonard, Richard Loomans, Melaine Machmueller, Tony Marsh, Brian Marsh, Paul Mauricio, David Miller, Richard Ours, Dennis Overlien, Jacob Palecek, David Palmiteer, Phillip Priebe, Kenneth Rohde, Jessica Roska, Pamela Sauer, Duane Schmidt, Courtney Schneider, Norma Smit, Glen Smit, Edward Smith, Andrew Steffes, William Timblin, Maegen Van Ruiswyk and David Zappa.

Upcoming Events

January	
24	Ag Day at the Capitol, Madison
February	
3	Stompin' at the Shed Event, Oshkosh
April	
1	Ag in the Classroom essay contest deadline
5-6	IGNITE Conference, Stevens Point