

Grant County Farm Bureau

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Fall Women's Summit Held



We had great weather and a great turn out for the District 3 Fall Women's Workshop, Tractors and Healthy Eating. We began by learning some tips and tricks of safety on the farm. For example, always wear bright colors if you can so that you can be seen. It is easy to miss someone in a black or brown jacket in the fall, but a red one might help you stand out more. After our classroom portion, we went outside and took turns driving a tractor and a skidsteer. Many participants had a great time driving for the first time and gaining confidence in their abilities.

After lunch, we shared some quick go-to recipes and talked about getting good food on a busy schedule. We shared ideas, tips, tricks and each person shared two healthy, man-friendly recipes which were made into a booklet for attendees.

A special thank you to everyone at Ocooch Dairy in Hillsboro for hosting us.

WFBF Institute Class Update By Jaclyn Bevan



Over the past year I had the great pleasure of being a part of the WFBF Foundation Leadership Institute, Class VIII. This has been a great opportunity to meet people from around Wisconsin who are passionate about agriculture and specifically Farm Bureau.

The Institute is a year-long program that focuses on areas of advocacy training, creative leadership, and policy development. Throughout this past year we have had five sessions, each of which had a different focus. Some of topics covered were public speaking, social media, policy, etiquette, government affairs and many other great areas.

"The Institute is designed to push class members outside of their comfort zone because that is where learning occurs. However, this is done in a safe and friendly learning environment in which class members are supported by their peers as they experiment with their leadership styles," said Dale Beaty, WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development.

The class has been a lot of fun and a great experience. I have learned a lot about WFBF and AFBF and feel that through being a part of the Leadership Institute I developed the leadership skills to help with the continued success of both.

Anyone wanting to know about the Institute please call me at 608.732.4251. I am happy to tell you more!

County Ag in the Classroom Update



Do you know someone in fourth or fifth grade? If you do, please encourage them to check out the essay contest. Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students. Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources

that teachers and home school parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. The 2014-15 essay topic is: 'Why are bees important to Wisconsin Agriculture?' This year's contest will be sponsored by Frontier Servco FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

For more information about this committee, please contact a county board member. We'd be glad to visit your classroom and share the book, *The Beeman* with your class and do an activity.

County Women's Committee Update

We are proud to announce that the Grant County Farm Bureau Women's committee is a Top 5 Finalist for the WFBF Outstanding Women's Committee. We'll learn at the WFBF Annual Meeting how we placed overall.

Congratulations to all the **women** who made this honor possible.



COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

District 3 Women's Committee Update



As winter settles in and the holidays approach, it is an exciting time for Farm Bureau. So much networking will be done at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells in December and the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in San Diego in January. I attended my first AFBF Annual Convention last year and was a delegate for my region. It is amazing to be one of the people chosen to make the decisions of a grassroots organization. This past year I had the privilege of serving as the state Women's Committee Chair. I learned many new ideas from other committees around the U.S. and have tried to implement some of them here. I am excited for more new things to come.

I would like to thank Ocooch Dairy in Vernon County for hosting the District 3 Fall Workshop. Next year Iowa County will host. I look forward to working with them to come up with another fun fall workshop.

This is the fifth year of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit. It will be held in Madison at the Marriott Hotel. Please check out our Facebook page and the Farm Bureau website for more information. I am excited for the entertainment this year, Piano Fondue is coming back! The workshops are going to be amazing so grab a friend and join in the fun!

Nicole Adrian
District 3 Women's Committee Representative and Committee Chair

Discounts on Polaris Off-Road Vehicles

Farm Bureau members will receive a manufacturer's incentive discount of \$200-\$300 depending on the vehicle acquired. Members should negotiate their best deal with their preferred Polaris dealer and then add the manufacturer's incentive discount to the bottom line. There is no limit to the number of incentive discounts that a Farm Bureau member may use so long as it's no more than one per unit acquired and the acquisition(s) is/are made for their personal and/or business use.

The incentive discount(s) is/are shown on invoice as a subtraction from the best-negotiated price of the acquired unit(s).

- Full size utility & sport vehicles (UTV) - \$300 per unit
- Full size all-terrain vehicles (ATV) - \$200 per unit
- GEM electric vehicles - \$300 per unit

To find out more visit wfbf.com/member-benefits.

County Annual Meeting Highlights



The Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 23, 2014 at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. The meeting began with a meal followed by the business portion. Members elected delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected board directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Grant County had 19 resolutions that were brought to the voters. Members discussed the resolutions and then voted on each of them. These were forwarded to the WFBF Policy Development Committee for consideration and were voted on during the WFBF Annual Meeting, December 8.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you there next year.

Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Below is a tentative schedule:

- 11 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3 p.m. Capitol Visits

Individual registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 after March 5. For more information contact Gretchen Kamps at gkamps@wfbf.com.

Ag Day at the Capitol
Wednesday, March 11



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2014 Grant County Farm Bureau President's Report



As we prepare to say farewell to 2014 and welcome in 2015, I wanted to take this opportunity to share a few highlights of our Farm Bureau year.

In November 2013, Steve Freese, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) CAO, attended our meeting and asked the board to make a donation to the 40 by 40 campaign. The campaign was started by Roger Cliff, former WFBF CAO, to help fund the Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA), Collegiate Farm Bureau, Women's and Farm Bureau Institute programs. Both Steve and Roger are originally from Grant County. The board made a donation and felt this would be a good way to honor Roger Cliff for his 40 years of service to WFBF.

Throughout the year members attended a number of functions throughout the state.

- Jennifer Digman completed the Farm Bureau Institute, Class of 2013. Board member Jackie Bevan began the Institute, Class of 2014.
- Some of our board members attended a meeting with Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch at UW-Platteville dealing with taxes and other state topics.

- Board members attended the WFBF Annual Meeting in December (held in Wisconsin Dells), tri-county meeting held in Belmont and the WFBF Strategic Planning meeting in Richland Center, to help plan for the future of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

We've donated to a number of worthwhile causes, including:

- Rural Safety Day
- Farm Bureau Foundation
- FFA Farm Forum
- UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau
- Lancaster Fire Department
- Farm Bureau Financial – Estate Planning Workshop
- WI Association of Agricultural Educators

Thanks to some of our members for donating their time at the Dairy Breakfast and the fair food stand. Both went smoothly except for a broken water line and a bad freezer. Thanks to the Women's committee, board members and all the others who volunteered.

This year we've also made a few improvements to the Farm Bureau building. Some interior ceiling work was done this fall and the parking lot is in the final stages of being paved by the Grant County Highway Department.

As you're reading this, we'll be finishing up our WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. Voting members elected eight delegates to attend and represent our county. Those individuals are: Matt Adrian, Allen Johnson, Dick Johnson, Derek Orth, Adam Steinbach, Don Steinbach, Peter Winch and myself. Thank you to each of you for taking time away from your farms, jobs and families to be a part of this. Also, we're going to be represented in the YFA contests this year. Kory Stalsberg, an ag teacher at River Ridge High School, will represent us in the Discussion Meet. Dairy farmers Joe and Sarah Mumm are part of the final four contestants in the Achievement Award. Be sure to check out our next newsletter and our Facebook page to see how they did!

In closing, thanks to the board members, women's committee, YFA and state Farm Bureau personnel for all the help they provide in making the Grant County Farm Bureau a great organization.

Hope you had a great harvest and we wish you a very happy holiday season.

Larry Jerrett
Grant County Farm Bureau President

Making a Sandwich and a Newsletter

At my house, we've been working in the fields for the past few months and with the time in the field and all hands on deck to make harvest swift, meals quickly turn into sandwiches, chips and cookies in a cooler on the back of the truck that you stop and grab on your way by with an empty wagon. For many of us, myself included, it's easy to forget the work that went into making those sandwiches and that they didn't just magically appear. The same is true with your county newsletter. While you stop at the mailbox and get a chance to enjoy the end product, there are a few things that we work together to do in order to provide you with this newsletter you're reading right now.

Let's start with your county leaders. As county board members and committee chairs, these individuals discuss content that will go into a newsletter and then assign different people to take care of writing those articles. As the district coordinator, everyone sends all their information to me via email or U.S. mail and I compile each and every item into one big word document. Then, I create an email with the text, photos and captions and send it to the home office. Once it is received there, Lynn and Amy get to the hard part of layout, design and edits that have to take place to make everything fit into these four pages. After they create the first draft, it comes back to me and your county president for a final approval. This process takes about a week.

After the newsletter is approved, it is sent to the printer, and then from the printer to the post office where they are processed. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau creates 49 newsletters for counties around the state so you can imagine that we have lots of newsletters to create each week and so sometimes the batching,

printing and mailing might take a few extra days. Thus, it probably won't reach you for about 30 days after our initial submission of information.

Oftentimes, we are asked why we don't have a weather segment, or even something giving specifics on crop reports, or an update on a current legislative issue. So, this month, I'd like you to help me out by responding to me when you actually get this newsletter. I'm always curious what parts of the county it gets to first and I also wonder if people actually read it. To make it interesting I'll give you a few details about today. As I type this, it is November 11, a day we remember



all our Veterans. We had a snow-sleet mix this morning, and the field work is at a standstill until the snow melts off. We are fortunate to have all our calves on the ground. There is still about 50 acres of corn around my house. By the time you are reading this, it will likely be sometime in early December, probably a little colder and hopefully not very much snow.

So, as you're reading this column, please know that there were several hands that went into making this newsletter, just like those sandwiches you find on the tailgate of the truck. Also know that I'd love to hear from you. Tell me what your favorite part of the newsletter is, suggest an article for a future issue or just call and give me an update on the harvest in your area. I promise, I'm nice, and I'd love to hear from you and I'd be glad to tell you how things are going at our farm in Lafayette County as well.

Wishing you a bright and sunny day, even if it is cold!

Gretchen Kamps
WFBF District 3 Coordinator
608.751.3812, gkamps@wfbf.com

District YFA Update

Harvest time is coming to a close! It's truly amazing to spend all summer watching a field grow and grow. And be gone in an instant filling bins, bags, silos and trucks to feed livestock and our nation for the next year. First, we'd like to thank you for inviting us to your annual meeting this fall. It's been very interesting to see the differences between counties and great to meet new people and catch up with old friends.

We hosted our YFA Discussion Meet at the end of August and had a great panel of contestants who competed for the top three spots to advance to the state contest. Congrats to Becky Hasburg (Iowa County), Chad Gleason (Lafayette County) and Kory Stalsberg (Grant County) along with Achievement Award final four contestants Joe and Sarah Mumm.



As part of a new District 3 program, we've been hosting potlucks this year throughout the district. Three of the four "5th Tuesday Potlucks"

have come and gone. They were well attended and fun was had by all. We are looking forward to the last one of the year, December 30 in Richland Center at the Community Building from 12-2 p.m. Join us for a fun afternoon of eating, games and cookie decorating. Please remember to bring a dish to pass!

We just finished up with the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. Please be sure to check out our Facebook page, the next issue or *Rural Route* and our next newsletter for highlights and results of the YFA contests. If you have any suggestions for activities that you'd like to host or take part in, please feel free to contact us. We're always looking for new ideas!

Blessings!

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives



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.

Connecting with Southwest Tech's Agriculture Programs

Successful farmers understand the importance of being able to run their farms effectively in vital areas like crop/soil management, livestock

nutrition/management, records/business analysis, credit/marketing/purchasing, farm business transfers, goal setting, and human and employee relations. The objective of the Farm Business and Production Management (FBPM) program at Southwest Tech is to help farm families reach their goals. Knowledge presented and skills demonstrated are provided through classroom settings, workshops and seminars, speakers of expertise, farm and business tours, and individual on-farm instruction. Southwest Tech allows farm businesses to tailor training to fit their needs.

Past and current participants have stated that the Farm Business and Production Management program has been a critical part of their farm management plans. One participant commented, "I feel this program has been a big part of our success



on our farm. It helps keep us up-to-date on current topics and helps us benchmark how our business compares to others of comparable size in a wide area." Another participant stated, "Without these classes I wouldn't have taken production ag courses past my four-year degree. I love learning and using the material right away."

See for yourself, and contact an instructor today. All three instructors, Deb Ihm, JoAnn Peterson and Edmund Ruff, have an agriculture education background and farm with their families. Past and personal experiences have helped them connect in the classroom and on farms. For more than 45 years, the Farm Business and Production Management team has provided training to adult farmers in southwest Wisconsin. Classes are offered in the communities across the district.

Training courses for the 2014-2015 year include:

- *Financial Management (begins first week of January 2015)
- *Crop Management – Land Management/Conservation (begins first week of March 2015)
- Guidelines to Farm Succession (begins second week of January 2015)

*includes individual on-farm meeting time

Tuition assistance is available through outside grant funds for some courses as well as cost-sharing on soil sampling for

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Secretary/Treasurer, Peter Winch 608.822.7806
Women's Chair, June Johnson 608.348.7144
YFA Chair, Sarah Johnsen 608.723.2110

Director, Matt Adrian 608.348.2391
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Director, Jackie Bevan 608.732.4251
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RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson 608.935.9500

nutrient management plans.

If training courses do not work into your schedule, consider contacting an instructor for individual instruction. Instructors have experience in the areas of financial analysis, business planning, loan application planning, feasibility study/cash flow, farm succession planning, computer software training or market plan development. Ultimately, the instructor's goal is to help you with your farm management profitability and goals.

The Farm Business and Production Management program is prepared to provide opportunities for you to develop and fine tune your skills with production agriculture. In addition, Southwest Tech offers an associate degree in agribusiness/science technology and technical diplomas in agriculture power and equipment technician and dairy herd management. Visit our website for more details: www.swtc.edu.

District Director Update



This fall, as I've attended the county annual meetings, I've reported on the action items in the Strategic Plan the organization is going to be implementing over the next five years.

I've talked in past articles about the process we went through: the six listening sessions around the state, the board retreat where we began

the process of prioritization and finally developing the action plan. We are now in the stage of reporting out our strategy and the early stages of implementation.

I thought first it would be good to give you a sense of the questions we asked at the listening sessions.

- 1) What is the most important part of your Farm Bureau membership?
- 2) If the Farm Bureau wanted to improve or modernize any of its programs or services, what would you change?
- 3) If we had to cut back, what programs and services would you reduce and why?

4) How can the Farm Bureau ensure and enhance greater member involvement in our activities?

5) How do we manage the generational differences and challenges facing our organization?

6) And maybe most importantly, how does Farm Bureau fit into the future of farming?

As you can imagine we received some great responses, but mostly our members were thankful we took the time to ask their opinion.

So here is what we heard.

- We need to improve our communication structure: This recommendation is a great challenge for us as we try to navigate through a diverse membership that has a wide range of technological capacities, but also interest.



- We need to increase the use of technology. We are never going to get ahead of technology, but we need to embrace and adapt in a more efficient manner to address our members' needs.

• Continue to collaborate and coordinate with key partners across generations. We're a general-purpose organization, with a diverse membership. We need to reach out to other organizations, which have the same interest, to best serve our members' needs.

There is a lot more to the plan. Some changes you'll see while some will be building efficiencies that won't be so obvious. We started the year by asking how we, as an organization, position ourselves for the next century. It is our job now to implement what we heard to ensure our members find value in their membership for years to come.

Be Safe!

Richard Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director