



Grant County Farm Bureau

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Randy Palmer, District Manager - (608) 515-3123

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau in Action



Christina Winch, Derek Orth and Katie Roth were recognized for their membership success at the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting. Each signed up five new members and received a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest. They also were acknowledged for being members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 29 at the Grant County Farm Bureau building. The topic was: Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost? Contestants were: (from left) Kent Jerrett, Grant County; Sophia Peterson, Vernon County; TJ Roth, Grant County; Julie Orth, Grant County; Andrew Dal Santo, Grant County; Josh Bailie, Grant County; and Dan Frank, Grant County. Josh, Andrew and TJ represented District 3 at the state competition held during the YFA Conference.



The Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors meet on a monthly basis to discuss agricultural issues, plan events and activities and make decisions that benefit the organization. Many also dedicate their time to representing Farm Bureau in the community and at state and national levels. We're lucky to have a board of directors that exhibits a variety of knowledge and experience. Their service and dedication to Farm Bureau and the agricultural industry is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all current and past Grant County Farm Bureau board members. The 2017-2018 Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors includes: (from left) Jackie Bevan, Andrew Puetz, Josh Bailie, Matt Adrian, Katie Roth, Larry Jerrett, Derek Orth, Peter Winch, Jason Heberlein, Richard Johnson, Allen Johnson, Jennifer Digman, Paige Hampton and Jackie Seelow.

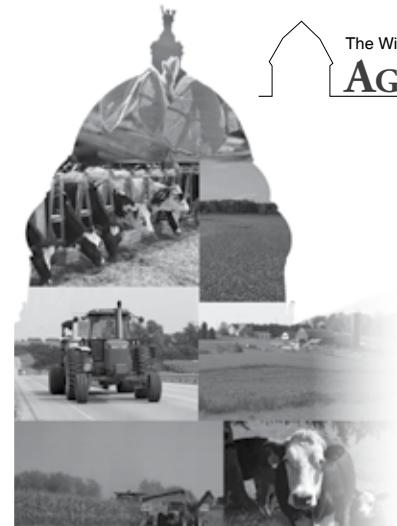
2018 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 16-17, 2018**, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore new topics and learn outside their comfort zone. It features general session speakers, workshops, a discussion meet demonstration and a game-night.

If you or a FFA student you know wants to attend, please contact president Peter Winch by **January 15, 2018**.

Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

To register, contact District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle at mdoyle@wfbf.com or 608.574.9884. Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor up to 10 members to attend.



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 24, 2018
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: January 18
Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

Schedule of Events:
11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Opening Program
11:45 a.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

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COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights



The Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 26 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster.

The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 16 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support putting higher priority on funding for state Extension specialist positions and 4-H and Youth Development educators.
- Only members of an agricultural cooperative should be eligible to be voting members of the board of directors.
- All agricultural cooperatives should maintain the principle of one member, one vote.
- We support legislation regarding the "Cookie Bill" that will allow the sale of home-baked goods.
- We support extending winery and cider-house hours for special events past the current time of 9:00 p.m.
- We oppose using misleading food labels as a marketing ploy.

- We support allowing tasting rooms to sample wines and ciders made by other producers.
- We support the funding to connect retiring farmers with beginning farmers.
- We support legislation that allows tax incentives and credits to transfer farms from older generations to younger generations or beginning farmers.
- We support a plan to reduce food waste and share the food with low income families.
- We support a law that requires real estate agents to inform purchasers of current state fence laws.

Federal

- All milk processors must give direct farms 60 days notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees. They must also give 90 days notice before termination of service.
- We support changing the name of the Farm Bill to the Food Bill.
- We support using the metric system.
- We support the continuation of horse slaughter in the United States.
- We support the USDA redefining the description of a "farmer."

These will be forwarded to the state resolutions committee for consideration for the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

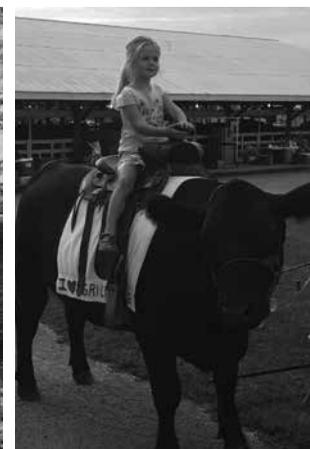
Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting, we look forward to seeing more of you there next year.

Farm Bureau Success at Grant County Fair

The Farm Bureau food stand proved to be a great success at the Grant County Fair again this year.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to work at the stand. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.

The YFA Ag Tent also was a hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their Wisconsin agriculture knowledge and learn more about agricultural industry. Fairgoers also had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit the animals, color the large farm mural, win prizes donated by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, and ride 'Buster the Bull.' Thanks to all who helped and stopped in to learn something new!



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President's Message



After almost completing my second year as the Grant County Farm Bureau President, I sat down and thought about all the things our board of directors and members have accomplished. This past year, Grant County Farm Bureau members have been very busy.

Julie Orth participated in the Leadership Institute and will be graduating in December. The year-long training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders. Participants learn more about Farm Bureau, communication skills and other things that make a successful leader. We've had many Grant County members participate over the years, and are happy that Andrew Dal Santo has been selected to be a member of next year's class.

Tammy Wiedenbeck is currently serving as the District 3 WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee representative. While Katie Roth is the District 3 WFBF Promotion and Education Committee representative. On the national

level, Derek and Charisse Orth are representing Grant County and Wisconsin on the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

The WFBF Annual Meeting is held during the first weekend of December at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The YFA Conference kicks off the weekend, and we've been very fortunate to have many members attend each year and compete in the various contests, including the discussion meet and achievement and excellence award competitions.

A big part of the annual meeting is voting on resolutions brought forward through the grassroots efforts of counties from all over the state. The voted on policy is presented to others as to what the Wisconsin Farm Bureau stands for. Sometimes an idea that seems so small from a member in a county is brought forth and becomes a state and federal policy for Farm Bureau.

In March, many members attended Ag Day at the Capitol. We heard from Governor Walker and met with Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel. We had great discussions regarding the budget, roads, education and other issues that affect the ag industry. Our county will cover the registration fee for up to 10 members to attend. Please

consider joining us for this event in the future.

Grant County Farm Bureau contributes to many causes each year. Some include: Rural Safety Day, Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville, FFA Farm Forum, and to many local food pantries.

With the wonderful help of our members and other volunteers, we had another very successful food stand at the Grant County Fair. Our goal is to provide quality food for families at reasonable prices. We take a lot of time sourcing and preparing the food and drinks we serve.

As we lose numbers in farming, it becomes more and more important for farmers to join Farm Bureau so that we have a strong and united voice for agriculture.

Thanks to all of you for your help in making Grant County Farm Bureau a success. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director Update



Patience is a Virtue

We know we live in a fast paced world and there seems to be no letting up of the pace or the magnitude of the issues that bombard us everyday. Patience is quickly becoming expendable if not a forgotten virtue.

Every day we in agriculture are in a perpetual battle with patience. We know there are times when patience pays and times when patience becomes procrastination, resulting in lost opportunity. Whether planting corn or pulling a calf, there is a time when patience changes from opportunity and becomes a liability.

In September, your Board of Directors traveled with our Farm Bill Committee and Dairy Committee to Washington, D.C. We presented to our members of Congress, as well visited with key Agriculture Committee members, our concerns and recommendations with the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

The current dairy situation and the inadequacy of the milk Margin Protection Program to offer real support led our discussion at every level. Admittedly everyone understood the dilemma, but solutions were harder to come by staying within the budgetary baseline.

Without going into great detail, we presented ideas that would give dairy farmers additional

flexibility and risk management options without influencing the market place. Doing this within the budget constraints is challenging if not daunting.

It also was our recommendation and basic consensus with those we visited with, the food assistance title or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) should remain a part of the overall Farm Bill. Even though food assistance is more than 75 percent of the Farm Bill, passing a Farm Bill without SNAP would make for a very contentious debate in Congress. Other issues we presented in Washington were diverse, from conservation and trade to rural broadband. The challenge remains for Congress – time and money.

There was a genuine hope and optimism that Congress would like to conclude a Farm Bill before the end of the year. Farm Bills are unique in that they are not so much partisan, Republican, Democrat, but regional and urban vs. rural.

With the holiday season approaching and Congress currently focused on tax reform, it's becoming more difficult to pass a Farm Bill this year. While patience is a virtue, it is quickly becoming lost opportunity.

While we need to be patient, we must be vigilant. Agriculture and our citizens need and deserves a timely, responsive and viable Farm Bill to insure a safe and secure food supply.

Happy holidays.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director

District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



When asked, "What is your favorite Farm Bureau activity?" Many members reply with the WFBF Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference. This year's conference was held December 1-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. There was a lot to look forward to including, a Vegas Casino Night on Friday, the cornhole tournament on Saturday and a variety of breakout sessions that took place throughout the weekend. Members enjoyed speakers like Michele Payn, founder of AgChat and author of the bestseller book, "Food Truths from Farm to Table," and Chris Koch, a farmer from Canada born without legs and arms and a true inspiration.

District 3 was also well represented in the YFA award competitions. Congratulations to Discussion Meet qualifiers: Josh Bailie, Andrew Dal Santo and Thomas Roth; Excellence in Ag finalists: Justin and Livia Doyle; and Achievement Award finalists: Alex Bringe and Chad and Katrina Gleason.

Throughout 2017, the six counties in District 3 have been busy with a variety of activities, including: Cheese, Cows and Coozies at Joe and Amber McComish's farm, a bowling night at Tower Junction, Night on the Farm at Andy Buttle's, the Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game outing, a Madison Mallards baseball game, Day on the Farm at Digman's, the ag educational tent and rides on "Buster the Bull" at Grant County Fair, Iowa County Skid Steer Challenge, Anytime Fitness Beef Display, YFA Nights Out and the list goes on and on. These were very successful and entertaining, so thank

you to all the dedicated members who helped make these events happen. Be sure to share the message that these activities are fun for anyone.

I also want to encourage YFA members to tune in and speak up about political issues affecting the agricultural industry. The 2018 Farm Bill is very significant and will have major effects on farmers depending on what gets passed, including: Tax reform (i.e., estate taxes), immigration reform, crop insurance programs, increase support of dairy farmers, livestock industry vaccine bank, trade, etc. The importance of sharing your thoughts with local, state and national representatives is critical to the future of the agriculture industry. Write a letter, email or call them with your personal stories.

Lastly, be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming events:

Jan. 5-10, 2018

AFBF Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee

Jan. 24, 2018

Ag Day at the Capitol, Madison

Feb. 16-19, 2018

Young Farmer and Rancher Conference, Reno, Nevada

Apr. 5-6, 2018

IGNITE Conference, Stevens Point

June 4-8, 2018

YFA Fly-In, Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions or activity suggestions, please contact me at 608.732.7431.

Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 YFA Representative

District 3 Promotion and Education Update



Hello everyone! It was nice to attend the county annual meetings across the district and meet new faces while catching up with old friends.

On October 28, a group of District 3 members toured Kickapoo Orchard in Crawford County and learned about the apple industry while enjoying apple cider and a hot lunch on a chilly day. Afterwards we ventured to Udder Brothers Creamery in Boscobel,

where dairy farmer Jason Sparrgrove shared how they opened their retail store featuring local ice cream, cheeses, baked goods, popcorn and more. All six counties were represented at the orchard tour; thank you to those who attended.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Jan. 20, 2018: Join your fellow Farm Bureau members for a day of service and fun at the District 3 Winter Promotion and Education Volunteer Activity and Meeting. Come and help prepare food for those in need at Second Harvest Foodbank in Madison, and enjoy lunch with friends while catching up on the latest promotion and education plans and events.

Mar. 20, 2018: National Agriculture Day. The American Farm Bureau Federation has examples of tweets and posts for members to use to promote agriculture. Share facts, figures and personal stories about why you love agriculture with your social communities. Use the social media platform of your choice.



District 3 Members Compete as YFA Award Finalists

District 3 members Justin and Livia Doyle, Chad and Katrina Gleason and Alex Bringe were named YFA award finalists and competed for top honors in their respective award category at the WFBF YFA Conference.



Justin and Livia Doyle competed for the Excellence in Ag Award, which recognizes Young Farmer and Agriculturist members who excel in their leadership abilities, and involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. The Doyles live outside of Mineral

Point and are active Iowa County Farm Bureau members. Together with family, they farm 150 acres of cropland, raise 50 cow/calf pairs of Red and Black Angus beef cattle and co-own On Point Auction Service. They are proud parents of two boys: Quayde and Gentry. In addition to farming, auctioneering and raising a family, they are both beginning their eighth year in education. Justin is an agriculture/technology teacher at Darlington High School and Livia teaches fourth grade at Mineral Point Elementary School.



Apr. 2, 2018: Ag in the Classroom essay contest entries are due. This year's essay contest revolves around the Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who!" and invites students to write essays based on the topic, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

Spring can be a hard time for teachers with testing and planned curriculum. Try to contact teachers before they leave for winter break and follow up in person if you can. For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

There will not be a 2018 Ag Women's Summit or AgVocate of the Year award. In the spring of 2019, a new event will be planned in partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance. Stay tuned. Have a warm and safe winter.

Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



Chad and Katrina Gleason and Alex Bringe competed for the Achievement Award, which recognizes YFA members who excel in production farming, leadership ability and involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations. Achievement Award applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on-farm production during the past three years.



Chad and Katrina Gleason are fourth generation farmers, from north of Shullsburg, in Lafayette County. They have three children: Cassidy, Gage and Kinsey. On their farm, they specialize in dairy beef, where they

raise bottle-fed calves to finished steers. The family raises 400 calves per year from local dairy farms. The family grows and harvests their own feed on 80 acres of owned and 60 acres of rented land. Chad is a former director for the Lafayette County Farm Bureau. He enjoys farm-related activities and spending time with others who share his passion for agriculture. Katrina home schools their children and manages the farm books. She enjoys cooking, working with horses and spending time with family and friends.

Grant County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Peter Winch 608.822.7806
Vice President, Allen Johnson 608.348.7144
Secretary/Treasurer, Jaclyn Bevan 608.732.4251
Women's Chair, Charisse Orth 608.778.9049
YFA Co-Chair, Paige Hampton 608.778.8052
YFA Co-Chair, Jackie Seelow 608.632.1714

Director, Matt Adrian 608.348.2391
Director, Josh Bailie 608.778.4498
Director, Jennifer Digman 608.744.3357
Director, Jason Heberlein 608.533.3233
Director, Larry Jerrett 608.723.2395
Director, Richard Johnson 608.348.7144
Director, Derek Orth 608.778.9049
Director, Andrew Puetz 608.778.6886
Director, Katie Roth 608.482.3200

Grant County Farm Bureau 888.644.8368
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle 866.355.7343
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer 608.515.3123

Meet the Grant County YFA Chair

Name: Paige Hampton

Hometown: Glen Haven

Employer and job title: Farm Service Agency, program technician

Agricultural background: I grew up working on my family's farm as soon as I could walk, and still help as much as I can on the farm today. I also earned a minor in agriculture business at UW-Platteville.

Brief description of your farm: Our farm is diverse. We have beef cow/calf pairs and steers, Holstein steers, crops and swine.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? I enjoy harvest season the most. Hauling in hay bales in the summer, corn and soybeans in the fall and fodder bails after everything has been combined. The tractor is my relaxing place.

Red or Green Tractors: Red, of course.

Favorite ice cream flavor: Cold Stone's Birthday Cake Remix.



Alex Bringe is a member of Vernon County Farm Bureau. Alex is a beef and grain farmer from Viroqua. He graduated from the UW-Platteville with an animal science degree. He continued his education at Western Technical College in its farm business management program. His lifelong interest in agriculture and politics

led him to Farm Bureau. He is the Vernon County YFA chair and also serves as the pork chop fundraiser coordinator. He has attended the YFA leadership trip to Washington, D.C., and the WFBF Annual Meeting as a county delegate. He is also a graduate of the WFBF Leadership Institute.

This year's state winners will compete at the AFBF 2018 Annual Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

