

Grant County Farm Bureau

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Cliff Burgess (608) 744-3455	Randy Lange (608) 348-3720	Emmett Scullion (608) 723-2106
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Randy Palmer, District Manager - (608) 515-3123

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Grant County School Receives Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant



Each year, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program awards teacher mini-grants to teachers to use in agricultural literacy lessons and activities.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds the grants. The grants provide opportunities for teachers to obtain funding that may not be available through their local school budgets.

Cheri Oglesby of St. Rose Catholic School in Cuba City received a \$100 grant to be used for a Farming on the Go Kit. This take-home kit consists of farm items, puzzles, puppets, CDs, coloring pages and non-fiction books that will give students and their families opportunities to learn about farming and enjoy farm activities together.

Students will be able to check out the kit twice a school year, once each semester for three days, and can share it with their family.

Attend the Ag Women's Summit

Join us at the Ag Women's Summit on March 10-11 at the Madison Marriott West. The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is a joint effort of Badgerland Financial, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and University of Wisconsin-Extension to host an event focused on engaging and supporting women in agriculture.

During the Ag Women's Summit the 2017 AgVocate of the Year award will be announced. Keynote speaker is Jane Jenkins Herlong who will talk about 'Bare feet to high heels and the

flip flops in between' and 'Don't throw tomatoes at my field of dreams.'

The two-day registration fee is \$155; one-day registration is \$115. Final registration deadline is **March 3**.

For more information or to register, visit wiagwomenssummit.com or to view the agenda, visit wiagwomenssummit.com/agenda.



YFA Conference Highlight



Tammy Wiedenbeck and TJ Roth participated in the cornhole tournament that was held on the Friday night of the YFA Conference. The team represented Grant County well and took home the second place prize.



AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 8 • Monona Terrace Convention Center,
1 John Nolen Drive, Madison

Mark your calendars for **Wednesday, March 8**, and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol. It's important for us to raise our voices on issues. Take a few minutes to be familiar with an issue that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Grant County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm.

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. Capitol Visits

Register by **Wednesday, March 1**, to **Melissa Doyle** at mduoye@wfbf.com or **608.574.9884**. The cost is **\$25 per person** prior to **March 1**, **\$30** after the deadline.





COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2016 WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Over 60 YFA members from District 3 attended the 2016 YFA Conference that is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting every year. Members were busy networking, attending breakout sessions and learning more about Farm Bureau opportunities, while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts.



The 97th WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Grant County Farm Bureau members Peter Winch, Allen Johnson, Richard Johnson, Andrew Puetz, Larry Jerrett, Jackie Bevan, Jackie Seelow and Derek Orth served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's legislative agenda for 2017.



Grant County was well represented at this year's YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Members were busy serving as delegates, competing in contests, participating in committee activities and discussing issues affecting the agricultural industry. Josh Baillie and Andrew DaSanto participated in the Discussion Meet and Tammy Wiedenbeck and Derek and Charisse Orth fulfilled their responsibilities on the WFBF YFA Committee.



Grant County Farm Bureau had two teams participate in the Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest. Participants answered questions about current events, history, geography, music, sports, Farm Bureau and more. The contest raised funds that will be used by the WFB Foundation to help grow agricultural education and leadership programs.

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President's Message



Hello from the northeast part of Grant County.

This has been an interesting winter. I am ready for green grass and no mud. The good news is that spring is around the corner. A very important spring event is Ag Day at the Capitol, an event where Farm Bureau members come to

Madison to lobby and meet their elected state officials.

Last year was my first year attending the event and I was very impressed at how it was organized and that our representatives

were eager to hear from us. We met with Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel.

Before we met with them, we ate lunch and were briefed on current talking points that should be discussed. I am looking forward to attending this year again and hope other members consider attending, too.

The Grant County Farm Bureau board has again agreed to cover the cost of up to 10 people to attend. Please let District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle or myself know as soon as possible if you would like to attend or have any questions.

Another important part of Farm Bureau is membership. The more people we have sharing the word of agriculture, the bet-

ter. We all work together to make the agricultural industry stronger and not get overlooked.

It helps us if you renew your membership in a timely fashion. I know it may not seem that the cost of your dues is important, but all of us across the county and state work together to keep the agricultural industry strong and relevant.

If you have questions or know someone that is interested in joining and would like more information, feel free to talk to Melissa or myself. Have a safe spring.

Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

District Director Update



R-E-L-A-X

After a slow start to the 2014 season, Aaron Rodgers once told the media and Green Bay Packer fans, "R-E-L-A-X ... we'll be fine."

These are wise words to consider as we enter the first weeks and months of a new administration in Washington, D.C. As with any new administration, there is uncertainty and confusion with leadership positioning, establish-

ing priorities and messaging.

The Trump administration is no exception as they attempt to find their footing and voice. The 'whack a mole' management style will need to find its priorities and begin to focus ... I hope.

Your Farm Bureau is focused. Farm Bureau's priorities this year will be to engage and lead on issues that concern our farms, our businesses.

Environmental issues continue to rise to the top of our discussions as we address ground water and surface water issues. Words like 'karst' have become part of our vocabulary as we try to find answers to problems without shutting down agricultures' need to be able to grow.

Transportation is quickly gaining momentum in importance. Both Wisconsin and Washington need to address infrastructure concerns without borrowing our way to prosperity.

We need to listen to the first messages from Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue (expected to be confirmed), to understand the priorities of this administration on agriculture issues going into the next farm bill discussions.

Immigration reform, trade reform, infrastructure reform (including reliable high-speed internet), budget and healthcare reform are leading issues affecting rural America. With an approaching \$20 trillion-debt, money is going to be at the very center of all discussions.

R-E-L-A-X is a word that may suggest everything would or will work out without concern, but Mr. Rodgers wasn't suggesting such. A-Rod knew he and the team needed to care of business to be successful.

Farm Bureau will be engaged, taking care of business, to ensure agricultures' success.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director

District Promotion and Education Update



Spring is sure to go fast as there are many activities to keep Farm Bureau members busy while helping consumers understand agriculture's story.

As the District 3 Promotion and Education Committee representative, I'm excited to start my term and have truly enjoyed visiting southwest Wisconsin Farm Bureau counties and the volunteers

who make it great.

Looking for ideas or activities? Visit wfbf.com to download a copy of the 'Playbook,' which is full of 'plays' and tips that will help in planning events. Categories include: Ag in the Classroom, consumer outreach, education and ag promotion, fundraising, member development and policy and development implementation.

Do you have an idea you would like to share? **March 15** is the next deadline to submit updates to Deb Raemisich at draemisich@wfbf.com.

Mark your calendars for the following dates and upcoming deadlines:

- **March 1:** Ag in the Classroom matching grant applications due.
- **March 1:** National Ag Day coloring contest entries due.
- **March 10-11:** Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit.
- **March 21:** National Ag Day.
- **April 1:** Ag in the Classroom essay contest entries due.
- **May:** Beef Month promotions.



Do you have ideas for district tours or activities? Questions about how to increase participation? Please let me know. I'm looking forward to serving you and being your liaison for state and national outreach activities.

Katie Roth
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Orths Named to American Farm Bureau's YF&R Committee

Derek and Charisse Orth have been appointed by the American Farm Bureau Federation to its Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee for the 2017-2019 term beginning in March.

The national committee is comprised of 16 positions representing all regions of the U.S. An individual or a couple may hold each committee position.

The Orths recently completed a three-year term on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee where they served as chairs in 2016. Derek and Charisse milk 250 cows with his parents at Orthridge Jerseys near Lancaster. Derek is a board director and Charisse is co-women's chair for the Grant County Farm Bureau. He is also a treasurer of the Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association. The couple have one daughter, Zeeva.



Committee members are responsible for YF&R Program planning, which includes the coordination of YF&R competitive events during AFBF's Annual Convention each January.

They also provide support in planning and implementing AFBF's bi-annual FUSION Conference for Farm Bureau volunteer leaders involved in YF&R, Women's Leadership and Promotion and Education.

National committee members are nominated by their respective state Farm Bureaus. They study farm and food policy issues, participate in leadership training exercises and hone other professional skills during their tenure as committee members.

Grant County Ag in the Classroom Update

Essay season is here again. As been in years past, we encourage fourth and fifth grade students to participate in Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that can be used to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. This year's topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' This contest is sponsored by InSight FS, We Energies and the WFB Foundation.

Grant County Farm Bureau has several resources available to assist in the learning and exploration of this year's topic. The 2017 book of the year: "Time for Cranberries" by author Lisl Detlefsen is the perfect ways to educate students about the production of cranberries and help students get started on the

essay topic. All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.



Grant County contest entries are due by **April 1**. Essays should be mailed to:

Grant County Farm Bureau
c/o Nicole Adrian
1131 Walnut Dell Road
Platteville, WI 53818

District YFA Update



I began my journey as a District 3 YFA Chair at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference that was held this past December. I had the opportunity to meet my fellow committee members and many YFA members from District 3 as well.

I can remember just four years ago when I attended my first conference and only knew a few people attending, and now I have a hard time finding time to talk to everyone because the conference feels more like a large family reunion with friends that I have met all around the state. It's such a great networking opportunity with those involved in the agriculture industry and I can't wait to meet more Farm Bureau members in the next three years as the district committee representative.

I know that I have big shoes to fill with Derek and Charisse Orth retiring this year, but luckily, they were appointed to the AFBF Young Farmer and Ranchers Committee and will still be a part of our state YFA Committee meetings.

The whole committee met for the first time in Madison this January and discussed goals and plans for the next YFA Conference. If anyone has an idea for a new Farm Bureau district or county event, feel free to contact me anytime.

To stay up to date on what's happening with WFBF and its program areas, be sure to 'Like' or follow these social media platforms: **Facebook:** Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation,

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Development and Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program; **Twitter:** WIFarmBureau, **Instagram:** wifarmbureau and **Snapchat:** wifarmbureau.

If you're interested in having the chance to travel to the AFBF Convention in 2018 and win some awesome prizes at the state and national levels, consider participating in one of the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturists contests. The Discussion Meet is for members who enjoy speaking on agricultural-related topics and talking with other members about ideas to solve issues affecting the agriculture industry. The District 3 Discussion Meet will be held sometime in late August.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award is for members who do not make the majority of their income from farming, i.e., agriculture teacher, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee, agricultural journalist or marketer. The Achievement Award, however, is for anyone who gets a majority of their income from on farm production. If you have any questions on these contests, please let me know. The short form applications for these two awards are due **July 7**. If anyone needs help with their applications, don't hesitate to ask.

I'm looking forward to working with the YFA members of District 3 and helping spread the good word about agriculture and Farm Bureau.

Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 YFA Representative

Grant County Farm Bureau Scholarships Available

The Grant County Farm Bureau will award up to \$500 in scholarships this year. Applications must be postmarked by **April 21**. If you have any questions or would like to request an official application, please contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806.

General Requirements

1. Open to any area high school senior, residing in Grant County. Preference will be given to students pursuing a post-secondary education in an agricultural field.
2. The applicant or their parent(s) or guardian(s) must be a Grant County Farm Bureau member.
3. To apply, please include your name, parent's name, address, high school name, post-secondary institution you will be attending, area of agriculture you plan to pursue and the following:
 - Copy of your high school transcript.
 - Listing of extra-intracurricular activities, accomplishments,

awards and leadership activities.

- Listing of community leadership activities (4-H, church, etc.).
- A personal letter telling about yourself, what your career goals are, and how your education will help you achieve them. Plus, any information the selection committee should take into consideration when reviewing your application.
- Three letters of recommendation. One from a high school principal or guidance counselor and two from other non-relative adults or community leaders.

Winners will be notified after **May 1**.

Send application and all required materials to:
Grant County Farm Bureau
c/o Peter Winch
12742 Brown School Road
Fennimore, WI 53809

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 Chair, Sarah Johnsen	608.732.5784

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
Director, Jackie Seelow	608.632.1714

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

Grant County YFA Update



I want to take a moment to look a little deeper into why someone would want to be a Young Farmer and Agriculturist member.

As I write this on Groundhog's Day, that little rascal saw his shadow predicting six more weeks of winter. For a lot of us this is a tough part of the year and the idea of it lasting for six more weeks makes it worse. It's moments like these that I am thankful for what Farm Bureau and being a YFA member does for me.

Thanks to Farm Bureau, I have gained friends over the years that I can easily count on as a distraction when I'm a little down after not seeing the sun for two months. Friends that are also out there every day working diligently whether there's three feet of snow or it's -10 degrees outside.

Something else I've seen that Farm Bureau offers is a sense of community. I have a friend that recently moved from Minnesota to Milwaukee leaving her friends and family behind. She told me she feels lost and alone in Milwaukee. The first thing we discussed was her joining Farm Bureau. After further discussion, she is already very excited to attend the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit and the YFA Conference in December to learn and network all while making lasting friendships.

This year, I am working on putting a county YFA committee together so that I can ensure that we keep our YFA events creative, new and exciting.

On **February 24**, we are headed to a Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game. Although it's not a new event for us, it has continuously proven to be lots of fun and a great way to get to know some other young farmers a little better.

As always, if you have any event suggestions or would like to be more involved, please feel free to contact me.

Sarah Johnsen
Grant County YFA Representative