

# Grant County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### YFA Update

Finally summer is here. With the nice weather brings a lot of field work and many farmers playing catch up, so it was understandable we didn't have a huge turn-out for our May event at Potosi Brewery. The museum had vintage beer memorabilia and the restored buildings are beautiful. We enjoyed a delicious meal and a complimentary Potosi beer. It was a great day and I would highly recommend visiting the Potosi Brewery.



**A great tour of Potosi Brewery with Buck Johnsen, Sarah Johnsen, Dale Beaty, Jillian Beaty, Charisse Orth and Gretchen Kamps.**

On July 20 we will be doing our annual Night on the Farm. This year we will tour Macland Farms in Lancaster where Ron and Linda McKelvey farm with their son and daughter-in-law Cory and Amber McKelvey. We are going to start with a hay ride (for all ages) at 5 p.m. followed by supper, a farm tour and a camp fire. Hope to see many of you there.

It's YFA competition time again. The Achievement Award and Excellence in Ag Award applications are being judged, but there is still time to get involved in the Discussion Meet! The Discussion Meet will be held August 26 in Lancaster. Watch the mail for your invite with details.

Grant County YFA will be doing an ag tent at the county fair. We will have games, a calf projects for kids and more! The tent is sponsored by Alternative Recycling, the calf and supplies by Majestic View Dairy, and prizes by Wisconsin Dairy Promoters. We need volunteers to help run it Thursday through Sunday. Please contact me if you'd like to help at 608.732.5784 or bsjohnsen@tds.net.

**Sarah Johnsen**  
Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

### Women's Committee Update

Well, here we are. Summer is officially here and we have had some rain. The crops are beautiful green and growing. Hope everyone escaped injury from the tornadoes that passed through southwest Grant County in June.

I have a favor to ask of the Grant County Farm Bureau members. In our March newsletter, I explained a little bit about our new program for 2014, 'Our Food Link,' which replaced 'Food Check-Out Week.' The new program has on-going projects for the year.

One of our projects for 2014 is to collect soda can pull tabs that will be given to the three Ronald McDonald Houses in Wisconsin. Nicole Adrian, our district representative, has challenged our county to fill a very large pail with pull tabs from soda, soup and vegetable cans. We will be collecting them at the annual meeting in September. If you would like someone to pick them up at your home or business, please let me know and I will make arrangements to pick them up from you. Thank you for your help!

Thanks to your support of our county fair food stand, we were again able to award scholarships to high school seniors. Congratulations to Abriana Errthum and Jillian Boldt. They each received a \$250 scholarship this year.

Hope to see you at the Grant County Fair in August! When you are at the fair stop by the Farm Bureau food stand and help us out for whatever time you can spare. We surely would appreciate the help.

Have a good summer!

**June Johnson**  
Grant County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair



**July is Beef Month! Be sure to check out your grocery stores for the new 2014 beef brochures and put some beef on the grill this summer!**



# COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Students from Fennimore Elementary School participated in the 2014 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Congratulations to the top three finishers in the contest, Randy Winch, Lauryn Bunn and Brynlee Nelson. The Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in Wisconsin.



Winners from Mrs. Langmeier's class at Fennimore Elementary School (L to R) Randy Winch (first place), Lauryn Bunn (second place) and Brynlee Nelson (third place) with Ag in the Classroom coordinator Christina Winch.

Right: Christina Winch, Grant County Ag in the Classroom coordinator, visited the Fennimore Elementary kindergarten class to talk about farm life and farm safety.



### Winning Essay by Randy Winch.

#### Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us

Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us by growing various different foods for us to eat so we can be healthy.

My grandma has a 57 acre garden in Illinois. In the summer, I go to my grandma's farm for a week to help her grow and harvest varieties of fruits and vegetables. Since my mom grew up there, we have a pretty big garden. We grow lots of food! The food includes strawberries, peas, beans, eggplant, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, okra, kohlrabi, and carrots.

In the spring we plant most of our seeds. Over the time, we water them and watch them grow. When they're ready to eat, we pick and eat them. When my brothers and I are hungry we go to the garden and eat some of the vegetables and fruits.

In the summer we show our food at the Grant County Fair and the Fennimore Fair. Some of our peppers got so big they were as big as three tennis balls! One of our zucchini got 1 1/2 feet long! When the food is ready, we can and freeze them too. We freeze strawberries, beans, peaches, blueberries, corn, broccoli, cauliflower, along with peas. We can pickles, tomatoes, sauerkraut, apples, salsa, as well as jam.

That is how Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for me and my family.

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## District Women's Update



I am enjoying the summer months, especially after what seemed to be an extra-long winter. It has been an exciting time for me on the WFBF Board, working with strategic planning process. Our WFBF Board does an amazing job and looking at the future of the organization and agriculture.

I want to thank all the counties for the Ag in the Classroom essays this year. We had close to 200 essays

from District 3. The winner was a student at Belmont schools in Lafayette County. All of the counties sent in excellent essays and it was a hard decision to make. This summer we will pick a book and a topic for next year.

It was great to see many of you at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in Madison. This year we had many great speakers and are always looking for input on the future years. If you have not attended and would like more information please let me know.

This fall we are looking at having a fall summit in Vernon County. I will have more information at a later date. Please remember to save your pop tabs for WFBF Annual Meeting. Let's see if we can win this challenge. This is my second go around with Women Rooted in Ag. I am always looking for suggestions of great women in our district to talk to. If you know someone please contact me.

### Nicole Adrian

District 3 Women's Committee Representative and Committee Chair

## President's Message



Hi folks. We had a trying spring and that turned into a trying summer. Hopefully the rest of this year will come out better.

Since our last newsletter, Wisconsin legislators passed Wisconsin Act 377, which deals with implements of husbandry legislation. This has definitely been a

hot topic in agriculture. Contained in this newsletter is a fact sheet that gives you the most up to date information that we have related to this legislation.

We will be co-hosting a meeting to provide facts on this legislation on August 25 at 8 p.m. at Pioneer Farm near Platteville. This program will better inform the agricultural community about the law and the impacts it will have on your farm. This will be a great chance to ask questions and find out more information. Please bring your neighbors. The most important thing with this legislation is that we understand what it is and what isn't working.

At the county level we are hosting a policy development meeting on **August 20 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building on U.S. Highway 61 in Lancaster. This will be your opportunity to come and share your ideas of topics you feel our organization should address. The process is simple. You bring your ideas to the meeting, we put them in the form of a resolution and we vote on them in September at the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

A few issues that are hot topics this year are: agricultural enterprise areas, high capacity wells, UW-Extension, driver's licenses for immigrant workers and how drones affect privacy. This list is not all inclusive, as a grassroots organization, we want to hear from you!

Please make plans to attend the **Grant County Fair, August 14-17**. We're always looking for volunteers to help us out at our food stand. Please contact me if you can work a few hours during the fair. Even an hour or two would be much appreciated and would give our other volunteers a chance to enjoy

the fair! If you're not able to work, please stop by for a meal or a piece of pie! The money raised at our food stand helps us promote agriculture, provide academic scholarships and support our YFA program throughout the county.

Lastly, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting. We'll be hosting it at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster on **September 23 at 7 p.m.** You'll be getting a brightly colored postcard later this summer.

Looking forward to seeing you throughout the county this summer!

**Larry Jerrett**

Grant County Farm Bureau President

## Policy Development Topics for 2014



As a grassroots organization, Wisconsin Farm Bureau is very proud of our policy development process. You may have seen some information in the last issue of *Rural Route* that featured some of the key policy development issues that are hot topics this summer. In case you missed it, please keep reading to catch a few of the key areas. Also, plan

to attend the Grant County Farm Bureau policy development meeting on Wednesday, August 20, at 7:30 p.m. at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building on U.S. Highway 61 in Lancaster. This will give you a chance to share other ideas you have for policy development and help shape future agricultural legislative actions.

There are five key areas that we will be discussing this year: Agricultural Enterprise Areas, UW-Extension, High Capacity Wells, Driver's Licenses for Immigrant Workers, and Drones Impact on Privacy. Please bring additional ideas and comments to the meeting. To learn more information about each of these topic areas or to learn more about policy development, please visit [wfbf.com/legislative/2015-policy-development](http://wfbf.com/legislative/2015-policy-development).

## Wanted: Beeswax

Beeswax is one of the most expensive items to keep the Soybean Science Kit full of supplies. Teachers and students use this to make lip balm, which is one of the most used lessons in the kit. We are looking for anyone in the county who raises bees and has some extra beeswax. It would be great if you could donate it or give us a deal. Please contact Christina Winch at 608.822.7806 if you can help us out.



## Women Rooted in Agriculture: Crawford County Member Colette Hromadka

Colette joined Farm Bureau in 2002 when she and her husband, Craig, needed insurance. They attended some YFA events and county events but did not become active until 2007 when Craig was elected to the county board. She then became active on the Women's committee. She started helping with Ag in the Classroom and the essay contest. She also started helping with the Dairy Bar at the county fair. About two years ago they started co-chairing the Crawford County YFA committee.

Colette attended the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit where she learned a lot and got away for a few days. She also enjoys working the Dairy Bar at the county fair because she gets to meet people.

A stay-at-home mom of three children, Colette also works seasonally at Cabela's in Prairie du Chien. Colette enjoys gardening and working on her lawn. She also enjoys reading. Craig farms with his parents and they have three children. They enjoy



Colette is pictured here with her three kids, Abigail, Danielle and Aaron.

spending time with family, hunting, fishing, canoeing and other outdoor activities.

**What makes you excited about the future of women in agriculture?** "I don't know if women in agriculture have changed or not, but what you hear about them has certainly changed over the years. Today, we hear more about their involvement when it comes to educating others about agriculture. When I was in school, I don't remember having a lot of classroom visitors who spoke about careers, but now people are visiting classrooms of all ages and talking about how agriculture affects them. More and more, kids are begin-

ning to realize that agriculture is so much more than pigs and cows. There is more involvement in the Ag in the Classroom programs and essay contest. I am excited about women coming together and bringing ideas together. I like to connect and learn ideas from others using forums like LinkedIn and events where women come together. It is amazing to network in these ways and learn new ideas from other women in agriculture."

## Help Wanted!

Got a rolling pin? Know how to use it? Please join us on **Thursday, August**

**7** to make pies for the Grant County Fair! We will start at **6:30 p.m.** at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building. Please call June Johnson or Larry Jerrett if you have any questions!



## Annual Meeting – Save the Date

**SAVE the DATE** Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, September 23!** The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. in the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. This is a great opportunity to come and help set policy for the coming year. Watch your mailbox for the invitation!

## Upcoming Dates!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for these exciting events!

**July 20** – Grant County YFA Picnic 7 p.m.

**July 29** – YFA Potluck – Talmer Bank – Darlington, 7-10 p.m.

**August 10-17** – Grant County Fair

**August 20** – Grant County Policy Development Meeting, Farm Bureau Building, Lancaster

**August 26** – District 3 Discussion Meet – Lancaster

**September 23** – Grant County Annual Meeting, 7 p.m.

**September 30** – YFA Potluck – Seneca Town Hall

**December 5-8** – WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

<b>Auto</b> .....	<b>Communication</b> .....	<b>Financial</b> .....
• General Motors Discount	• AgriVisor	• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
<b>Health</b> .....	• The Country Today	• Farm Bureau Bank
• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card	<b>Insurance</b> .....	<b>Protection</b> .....
• Stroke Detection Plus	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	• \$500 Reward Protection Program
<b>Supplies and Products</b> .....	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	• Accidental Death Policy
• Case IH	<b>Travel</b> .....	
• FS-GROWMARK Patronage	• AAA	
• Grainger	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program	
• Polaris (NEW)	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.	
• Office Depot	• Wyndham Hotel Group	

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District Director's Message



As I wrote earlier this year, Farm Bureau has been undergoing a comprehensive strategic planning process. First, thank you to everyone who participated in the listening sessions. The board and staff listened to our members; what are their values, concerns and expectations as we move the organization towards its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary?

We held six listening sessions around the state collecting input from members. The information was collated and the board met in April to put together common themes and to prioritize them for action plans.

What we found out didn't surprise us too much. We're doing a lot that is right. Our members found great value in our governmental relations division and a strong desire to increase our involvement on issues that impact our farms.

Our members also appreciate and believe there is room for greater development of the Ag in the Classroom program. Today there are hundreds, if not thousands, of media outlets telling people what they should think about today's modern agriculture.

We, in agriculture have to tell our story or someone else will tell it. Who's better than those of us that live our lives on the farm to tell our story?

We're more than halfway through our strategic process, but the real test will be implementing the plan. It will be you, the membership working with the board and staff, that will determine the success of our organization as we approach our 100-year anniversary.

Be safe.

**Richard Gorder**  
District 3 Board Director

## The Beef Farmer and the Peanut Butter Sandwich

In early May I had the chance to visit a classroom of kindergartners to talk about how we raise beef cattle and what nutrition it can provide as part of a balanced diet. Throughout the day I saw four-year-olds through third graders so I was catching on to a few commonalities among the classes; they liked to tell stories and they could turn any story into a question just so they could tell it. At one point I made the statement that beef has protein, just like peanut butter. One young lady immediately raised her hand. I went through my normal screening process to a hand being raised. 'Is this a question?' She said 'no.' 'OK, is it a story?' Again, her response was 'no.' 'OK, go ahead then.' So, she took a deep breath and said, 'I have a peanut butter sandwich in my lunch today.' She was right. Not a question or a story, merely a statement of fact.

It took me a few days to realize it, but she taught me a pretty important lesson that day. While she didn't have a question or a story to share, she stated a fact that made a connection between her and me. She took the time to find the thing that linked us together and then she shared it with me. How often do I do that when I have a conversation? How often do you? You see, there are plenty of opportunities for us to tell our story, or answer questions and we hope people will make a connection. But what if they don't? Can we find ways to



help them connect to the work we do, whether it relates directly to agriculture or not? If you have small children in your life, I'm sure you have stories that could match this one and you probably find yourself chuckling at the connections that little kids make to the things you say. Even though there might not always be a question or a story (though there usually is), sometimes a statement of fact gives us a chance to establish a connection.

There are 42 schools in Grant County. Perhaps you have children or grandchildren who attend one of these schools. Have you ever taken time to visit their classroom and share what you do each day? If you are a banker, they probably figure you swim in money and count it all day long. Perhaps if you're a farmer, they think you milk cows by hand and ride a horse to work. It doesn't matter what career path you have chosen for yourself, sharing your experiences could help lead another person down that path and help them see the world through your eyes. Admittedly, it will help you see the world through their eyes too.

Not sure about visiting a classroom by yourself? Give me a call, I'd love to go along, I'll even bring the peanut butter sandwiches.

**Gretchen Kamps**  
WFBF District 3 Coordinator

## Grant County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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## District YFA Update



As summer winds up and you find yourself in line at a dairy breakfast, attending a pasture walk or enjoying a night at the ballpark, we're keeping busy at Farm Bureau as well. We continue to live up to the motto

'Doing great things for agriculture' and we want to include you! A big part of the YFA program is the contests we have for our members who are between the ages of 18 and 35. As the contestants for the Achievement Award and Excellence in Ag Award are being evaluated, we've got one more big event coming up this summer. The Discussion Meet!

On August 26, we will be having our annual District 3 YFA Discussion Meet at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building. We will have supper for \$10 before the Discussion Meet starts. This year's topic for the district Discussion Meet is: 'How can young farmers and ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?' The top three participants in the Discussion Meet will advance to the state contest at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. If you know someone with the gift of gab and knowledge of agriculture, get them involved! If you'd like to be a judge, timekeeper or spectator, we'd love to have you!

As we started our role as the District 3 YFA Representatives we were looking for a way to be more involved as a district. In April, we started the "5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Potluck" and we were very pleased with the turnout and are excited about the future ones. The next "5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Potluck" will be July 29 from 7-10 p.m. at Talmer Bank in Darlington. We're also having one in September in Crawford County at the Seneca Town Hall. We hope to see everyone there for a night of fun, friends and food!

We look forward to seeing everyone out and about this summer! If there's anything we can help with or planning events to give your YFA a boost, feel free to contact us!

**Derek and Charisse Orth**  
District 3 YFA Representatives