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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Grant County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners



Carter Bunn was named the Grant County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. Carter is the son of Anthony and Brenda Bunn and his fourth grade teacher is Ms. Jerica Nelson at Fennimore Elementary School.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth graders were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.' Other Grant County essay contest winners include Wesley Winch, second place; and Asa Cutting, third place.

Ms. Nelson's class received a special ice cream party to

celebrate the winning essay winners.

More than 3,000 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the contest that was sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Insight FS and We Energies.



Wisconsin's Sweet Maple Syrup By Carter Bunn

Have you ever wondered where the maple syrup you put on your pancakes comes from? Well, I'll tell you.

per kettle or pan and they burn down the sap and it becomes what we call maple syrup.

In early spring when it's below freezing at night and above freezing during the day, maple trees are tapped. To tap trees, you drill a hole 7/16 of an inch wide and three inches deep into the tree trunks. Then a spile, or spout, is put into the holes. A vacuum (for people who make a lot of syrup) or bucket (when less trees are tapped) is placed under each spout to collect the sap.

This cooking makes the water leave and the sap becomes sweeter and thicker. Then it's bottled and ready to be sold. If you buy the syrup in the store it is most likely to have artificial flavors.

It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of maple syrup and the season lasts from February to April (about 4 to 6 weeks) depending on the weather.

Each hole can collect around 10 gallons of sap. When the sap comes out it is clear and watery. Then they use an iron or cop-

I like maple syrup and I hope you like it, too. I don't know about you, but I'm glad that people make maple syrup for us.





COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Grant County Farm Bureau in Action



Several Grant County Farm Bureau members attended the 2016 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Marriott West Hotel and Convention Center in Madison. The purpose of the event is to connect and inspire women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community. Entertainment included a casino night with games and prizes.



District 3 YFA members are preparing for the eventful summer months ahead. The county YFA chairs met and brainstormed activity ideas and scheduled district events. In preparation for the YFA award application deadline and district discussion meet, several YFA members attended the District 3 work night to learn more about the application process and share discussion meet tips.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville finished the school year with a celebration for the graduating members and election of the 2016-2017 officer team.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** President's Message
- District Director's Update
- Annual Meeting Date
- Fair Food Stand
- Policy Development
- Discussion Meet

- 3** Promotion and Education
- A Family Away from Home
- District YFA Update
- Board Contacts



District 3 members toured Darlington Ridge Farms. Managing partners Jim and wife Katie DiGangi shared the ins and outs of what is involved with the daily operations of milking 2,600 cows and harvesting feed for the dairy from 2,000 acres of corn and alfalfa.



The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee invited Districts 1, 2 and 3 to a 'meeting of the minds'. Members talked about county activities, shared their experiences, brainstormed ideas and discussed programs and resources available for counties to educate and promote agriculture.



Ag Day on Campus was hosted by the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville on April 21. Students who walked by the west lawn during the afternoon enjoyed a walking taco and other delicious Wisconsin-made snacks, participated in sheep shearing demonstrations, pet farm animals and learned more about agriculture. Students and organizations from the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture joined together to promote and spread the word about agriculture.

President's Message



Greetings from northeastern Grant County. It was a busy spring for my family with the crops and getting ready for cattle shows.

Now that summer is here, I want to remind you that Grant County Farm Bureau has a food stand during the Grant County Fair on

August 17-21. Like in the past, the food stand will offer meal choices including burgers, brats, pork chops, pie, bars, milk and ice cream. The stand provides good food at a reasonable price, especially for families.

We are looking for help from our members at the food stand. If you are interested in helping, please contact Larry or Lori Jerrett at 608.723.2395 or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/grant and click on the Fair Sign-Up link. Even if you are able

to volunteer for a couple of hours, it's still helpful. You even get a free meal.

Make sure to save the date for the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, September 27**, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. The meal will start at 7 p.m. and the meeting will follow.

During the annual meeting, we will start the grassroots process of voting on resolutions to be forwarded to the state to help our directors, staff and lobbyists provide a clear statement of what Farm Bureau stands for.

We will have a policy development meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday, August 25**, at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building to review new resolutions to be discussed and voted on at the county annual meeting.

In reference to Farm Bureau's key public relations and legisla-

tive priorities, animal husbandry is among the suggested topics of this year's policy development process. With assistance from WFBF, I contacted the Grant County Sheriff, Nate Dreckman, about making sure there are certified humane officers in Grant County. Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection trains these individuals on how to properly handle claims of animal mistreatment and abuse. Sheriff Dreckman told me that they have two officers who have been trained and that this fall, they will be retrained. This helps take care of complaints consistently.

If you have any topics that you want to discuss regarding policy development, I encourage you to attend these upcoming meetings and make your voice heard. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Have a great summer!

Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

District Director's Update



Yogi Berra once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again."

During the last year, I've been in Washington, D.C., four times advocating for issues that affect agriculture. The issues haven't changed much in the last year or for the last six years to be honest.

Waters of the United States (WOTUS) continues to potentially haunt agriculture. More than six years ago, Senator Russ Feingold, tried to change the definition of navigable

waters in the Clean Water Act of Waters of the United States.

This action would have given the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corp of Engineers legal oversight and authority over all waters with broad interpretation.

Senator Feingold lost his bid for reelection and those of us in agriculture breathe a sigh of relief thinking maybe this onerous federal overreach of water jurisdiction was finished.

Without missing a beat, the administration of the EPA took up the WOTUS rule (less a legislative directive) and made it even more restrictive, potentially needing permits for spraying, fertilizing and possible manure applications.

This past year, our Senators could not agree on the legislative fix to the EPA overreach, so the American Farm Bureau and other farm organizations filed suit against the agency for overstepping their authority.

Currently, the EPA's ability to enforce the rule has been held up in the courts, as higher courts will ultimately decide whether the federal government (EPA and Army Corp of Engineers) can circumvent state governments jurisdiction.

Immigration and genetically modified organisms (GMO) labeling are topics that seem to be meeting the same fate. Congress can't find common ground other than to agree not to agree on important issues that affect our everyday lives.

Yogi Berra also said, "You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you're going, because you might get there."

I will be traveling to Washington, D.C., in the near future. I will let you know when or if Congress figures out where they are going.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director

County YFA Update

By Sarah Johnsen, Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Chair



We have some fun things coming up this summer for Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members.

From 5 to 9 p.m. on **Sunday, July 24**, Majestic View Dairies is hosting a Fun on the Farm night. There will be a hayride, bouncy house, food and a tour. We will

share how Majestic View tells their agricultural story with their many school tours and social media presence. Watch for your postcard invite.

The Grant County Fair is **August 17-21** and we will again manage the Farm Bureau Ag Tent. It has been very successful in the past and with each year it gets a little better. This year we will have a calf, chicks, a mural to color, games and prizes.

With a growing number of visitors in the tent, we need volunteers. If you can help, please contact me at bsjohnsen80@gmail.com or 608.732.5784. Hope to see you this summer.



Policy Development Meeting Set

Mark your calendar for the Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday, August 25**, at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building in Lancaster.

Some of the items that will be discussed are:

- animal husbandry
- atrazine
- rural broadband
- Wisconsin fence law
- wetlands

For more information about these topics, please visit wfbf.com/governmentrelations/policydevelopment.

Save the Date: Annual Meeting



The Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, September 27**, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Watch your mailbox for a postcard with additional meeting details and RSVP information.

Volunteer at the Fair Food Stand

Grant County Farm Bureau is looking for volunteers to help at the fair food stand on **August 17-21**. Daily shifts are 8-10 a.m., 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. We appreciate any help you can give.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Larry or Lori Jerrett at 608.723.2395 or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/grant and go to Fair Sign-Up link.



District 3 Discussion Meet

Tuesday, August 23

7:30 pm Dinner
\$5/person
8:00 pm Discussion

Grant County Farm Bureau
Office, Lancaster

Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food.

For more information contact District 3 YFA Reps
Derek & Charisse Orth at 608.778.9049 or dereksjerseys@gmail.com
District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle at 866.355.7343 or mdoyle@wfbf.com

District Promotion and Education Update



The Ag Promotions and Education Committee is in full swing with many new activities.

When we met in January, we came up with four priority areas that we want to work on. They include: youth education, leadership development, consumer outreach and ag community development. Each one of these areas will have goals and areas of work for the committee to focus on.

One of the projects that the committee is working on developing is called 'The Playbook.' This book will be a place for us to gather our successful ideas and display them for others to see. Other counties will be able to use the book when planning activities and events for the year.

We are asking counties to submit their activities to the book

for an upcoming launch party. Forms are electronic, making it easy to fill out and email back. To request a form, please contact me at nickilynn_emt@hotmail.com. I am challenging each of the counties to submit at least five of your best activities.

On another note, the Ag in the Classroom essay contest recently wrapped up. District 3 had almost 200 essays and the district winner was from Richland County. Thank you to the Ag in the Classroom volunteers who promoted the contest and read essays. It is always fun to see what kids have learned about agriculture and the topic of choice.

Now that summer is here, Farm Bureau activities will be in full swing. If your county needs help at the fair or has another event that requires assistance, please let me know. I enjoy working with people of all ages and educating others about agriculture. Have a safe and fun summer!

Nicole Adrian
District 3 Promotion & Education Committee Representative

A Family Away from Home

By **Tammy Weidenbeck**, WFBF Institute and Grant County Farm Bureau Member



Imagine meeting a shy, young high school girl with brown eyes, dark hair and the typical brace-face appearance.

She was a minority. The only real farm girl in her class who always felt the need to try and fit in with her classmates.

Although involved in school organizations, she was very quiet and would get nervous talking to strangers or anyone new. She was a girl that once got picked on for not having the 'in' look in middle school, being overweight and only having a couple pairs of pants that fit.

Flash forward 10 years and you are going to meet the same woman, but one that left her shell behind. Pursuing a secondary education and becoming a member of the Grant County and Wisconsin Farm Bureaus was a new beginning. She stated by practicing her public speaking, meeting others involved in agriculture who shared her dreams and not being afraid to grow and exhibit the kind of potential that she always had.

You never would have thought that this woman would meet new people almost every day, visiting farmers on a daily basis and assisting them with livestock marketing options.

This woman has learned how to find common ground in order to strike up a conversation with complete strangers and views new experiences as opportunities and she owes part of this to her involvement in Farm Bureau.

If you haven't figured it out yet, the woman I am writing about is me. I heard about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute from a friend who said it was a good experience, both professionally and personally. Since this friend had never led me down the wrong path before, I thought, "Why not give it a try?"

Never did I imagine how great this experience would be and we have only made it through our third session. You might be thinking, "Everyone says that after participating in the Institute." I'm not saying it; I am living some of the best days of my life with the people who are in this group.

During the session in Madison, we met for the first time and to be honest, I thought it was going to be a long year since

everyone was very reserved. We had to come prepared with a three-minute speech to start the public speaking course. We shared these same speeches with each other so many times that by the end of the day, we had bypassed all possible embarrassing moments already and realized that we just wanted to see each other succeed and do well. It was overwhelming, and a relief at the same time as we continued our conversations and grew our friendships.

During our next session, we came prepared with presentations that focused on our leadership skills, as we worked together in groups. Our creativity capabilities were challenged as we participated in the, 'Why Looking Isn't Seeing' workshop.

The third session showed us how important it is that we share the truth and positive light about the agriculture industry through social media networks. We again, got time to socialize and it was then that I realized, we were more than just the WFBF Institute Class X. We were a family.

We have discussed a fun, summer outing so that we can see each other before our next class. Since I'm from a small family and our gatherings don't happen very often, this really gave me something to look forward to in the coming months.

Not only do you grow and improve as an individual as you participate in the WFBF Institute, but you also gain lifelong friendships with people who have your back no matter what. They are remarkable people, and as Craig Culver told us, "Surround yourself with people who are talented, but also have heart."

So I want to end with a question, "Why wouldn't you apply to be a part of your own Farm Bureau family?"



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 Co-Chair, June Johnson	608.348.7144
Women's Co-Chair, Charisse Orth	608.778.9049
YFA Chair, Sarah Johnsen	608.723.2110

Director, Matt Adrian	608.348.2391
Director, Josh Bailie	608.778.4498
Director, Jennifer Digman	608.744.3357
Director, Jason Heberlein	608.778.7485
Director, Larry Jerrett	608.723.2395
Director, Richard Johnson	608.348.7144
Director, Derek Orth	608.778.9049
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

District YFA Update



Hello! As we wrap up our tenure as District 3 Representatives on the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee, we want to update you on competitions and events that will be held during the next few months.

Mark your calendar for the District 3 Discussion Meet on **August 23** at the Grant County Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. Do you like discussing agriculture with others? Please join us. We also welcome an audience to support our contestants and give feedback.

The district contest question is **Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?**

In early June, I joined a group of YFA members as they traveled to Washington, D.C., to learn, meet with representatives and tour our nation's Capital. The group was made up of state finalists from each of the three YFA contests along with YFA leaders from around the state. I encourage you to participate in a YFA contest if you're interested in attending this trip in the future.

Lastly, as we prepare to retire from the state committee, we are looking for an individual or a couple to be our successor. If you have a passion for agriculture and want to be active in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau at the state level, please ask how you can apply for this position. Have a fantastic summer!

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA
Representatives


**Young Farmer and
Agriculturist Program**