

Grant County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Food Stand is a 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 for volunteering at the food stand. Without the help of our dedicated members, Farm Bureau couldn't continue to offer such delicious food that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.

We hope to see many of you next year and if you are interested in getting more involved with the food stand, please contact a Grant County Farm Bureau board member.



Summit 2017

Save the Date!
March 10-11, 2017
Madison Marriott West, Middleton



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COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



The Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 27 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began

with a meal and was followed by the business meeting.

Members selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 13 resolutions, including the following:

Local

- We support current state policy in regards to atrazine issues.
- We support current state policy in regards to the Wisconsin Fence Law.

State

- We support increased education on animal husbandry practices.
- We oppose the current labeling of products termed antibiotic free.
- We support access to rural internet services in the fastest, most energy efficient, secure, dependable and safest method. We support expanded cellular and broadband telecommunications coverage for rural areas.
- We support the efforts to protect pollinators that involve farmer stakeholders and arrive at reasonable solutions that protect both crops and pollinators.
- We support the planting of milkweed for monarch butterfly habitat in parks, wildlife preserves, urban gardens and other nonlinear areas that will not create a problem for production agriculture.
- We support a single agency to implement and enforce the various provisions and regulations of the Endangered Species Act and

the use of the National Fish and Wildlife Services' endangered species list in projects affecting multiple states.

- We oppose the recognition of species that are considered under threat versus endangered to be a factor in determining the feasibility of development projects both public and private and the recognition of a potential habitat, without the current presence of an endangered species, as a reason for halting or delaying public and private development.

- We support that new transmission lines follow existing corridors wherever possible.
- We support a tax up to 5 cents on red dyed diesel fuel to be taxed in the county of delivery to be used on local bridges and road infrastructure.
- We support the strict enforcement of trespass laws next to ATV, UTV and snowmobile trails.

Federal

- We support revamping the formulas used in the dairy margin protection for calculating feed cost and margin over feed cost to more accurately reflect profit ability at the farm level.

These will be forwarded to the WFBF Policy Development Committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

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



District 3 Farm Bureau in Action



The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 23 in Lancaster. There were six contestants including: front row (L-R) Amber Berning, Lafayette County; Kayla Anderson, Iowa County; and Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; back row (L-R) Josh Bailie, Grant County; Dan Frank, Grant County; and Andrew DaSanto, Grant County. Josh, Becky and Andrew will compete in the Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference.



In June, 35 YFA members traveled to Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In. The trip puts farmers and agriculturalists in the room with congressional representatives. Derek Orth, Grant County; Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; and Alex Bringe, Vernon County, represented District 3 and lobbied at the Capitol, visited historical sites and met individuals involved in agriculture.



Sarah Johnsen and Christina Winch were recognized for signing up five new members and received Farm Bureau Proud jackets. They also will be members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club at the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting.



Grant County joined Iowa and Lafayette counties for the District 3 Northern Tri-County Meeting.



In July, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted District 3 YFA members for fun on the farm. Attendees enjoyed a picnic, hayride, games and a tour of Majestic View Dairy.

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President's Message



Hello from the northern part of Grant County. By now all of you have harvested the bumper crop and are getting ready for winter.

It has been an exciting year as your Grant County Farm Bureau president. I have learned a lot. Thank you to Larry Jerrett and Melissa Doyle for their guidance through the year. As a board, we work as a team to get things done and I appreciate the support from the other directors.

We had a busy membership year even though we didn't quite meet our goals, but we will certainly work to accomplish those goals this upcoming year. All of you help in making our

membership goals, from paying dues on time to encouraging friends and neighbors to join. Let's work together to make the 2017 membership year a success.

Grant County Farm Bureau was fortunate to have another successful year with the fair food stand. It took a lot of dedicated members to get it done. Thank you to Lori Jerrett for her help in organizing the food and volunteer schedule and to the directors, Rural Mutual Insurance agents and members for assistance in making sure things ran smoothly and working countless hours. We couldn't have done it without you.

At the WFBF Annual Meeting, we will see the grassroots efforts at work with the voting of resolutions into state policy. This starts with members like you at the county level. Items to be voted upon are brought fourth at the county annual meet-

ing, and if passed, are sent to the WFBF Policy Development Committee to review.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to upholding the mission and values of Grant County Farm Bureau.

Keep in mind that Ag Day in the Capitol is on March 8, 2017. The county will again sponsor some members who want to attend.

For more information, please contact me or District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle. Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

District Director Update



Another season is coming to a close, the crop season as well as the election season. The county annual meetings signal the hectic fall harvest is around the corner and the race to get everything harvested before the weather challenges us more than usual.

This also is the time of the year when we begin to reflect and evaluate the past year's successes and where we could stand a little improvement. Did we pick the right seed varieties and fertilizer recommendations? Did our conservation plan meet expectations given the record rainfall events many of us endured? Your Farm Bureau reflects and evaluates the past year successes and challenges, too.

Farm Bureau membership continues to grow despite the

changing farm landscape. More than ever, farmers realize the importance of their membership in a professional organization. Our challenge will always be to understand we are a general-purpose organization with diverse interests and viewpoints.

Last December, Farm Bureau delegates voted to create the Promotion and Education Committee to further our outreach and communication to those whose lives are directly, as well as indirectly, affected by agriculture. Our challenge – while everyone eats, there seems to be a growing number of people who think there is only one way of thinking about our food supply.

Organic versus conventional, big versus small, GMO versus non-GMO are conversations we have had, but we need to understand it serves no purpose. We are blessed to live in a world where we have choices and better yet, respecting other's choices.

There will be a plethora of issues awaiting the new President and Congress as well as the state legislature in the new year. Issues that continue to need attention include: waters of the U.S., trade, immigration, transportation infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and many more.

Your Farm Bureau will be presenting our positions of interest.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director



Buster the Bull Calf is One of a Kind

By **Tammy Wiedenbeck**, Grant County Farm Bureau Member



When I was no older than three or four years old, I can remember the first time that my brother brought a red and white spotted calf up to the farmhouse. The excitement sparkled in my eyes as my love for cattle took off that very day.

About 20 years later, our local veterinarian ended up diagnosing one of our Angus cows with cancer. We were fortunate, however, to save the bull calf that she had carried full term. From day one, we were the first living beings that the calf saw and we took on the role of raising him.

My nephews and niece who wanted to help with feeding a new pet, decided to name the calf Buster. For those of you who have been in the industry for a while, know that beef bottle calves are pretty tame, but not to the point where they think they are one of us. Well, Buster does.

Buster started following us like a puppy dog, bouncing around whenever we came outside to play with him or to do chores. I took him out of his pen to be the highlight of my Farm Bureau and Christmas card photo shoots.

When put with other cattle, Buster didn't bond well and preferred to be by us when given the chance. I thought to myself, "This is the calmest calf I have ever see on our farm.

How would anyone look at this calf and not fall in love with him?"

With the Grant County Fair coming up, I decided to ask if it would be possible to give rides on Buster to kids. After many weeks of my question going unanswered, I got the exciting news in August that Buster could go to the fair. My goal was to not only educate fair goers about the beef industry, but to also spark the interest of youth in livestock and agriculture, just as my brother had done for me many years ago.

Although I was slightly nervous about putting a saddle on a 600-pound calf and leading him around, he ended up being a hit at the Grant County Farm Bureau Ag Tent. There were children gathering around before we were set-up at the booth. Many photos were taken and smiles were shared. Many said, "I've never even ridden a horse before, let alone calf."

I hope that the memories that the kids made with Buster will be something that they remember for years to come. He was definitely a special gift to our farm and next year, we hope he will return to the Grant County Fair. Be sure to keep your calendars marked to come and visit.

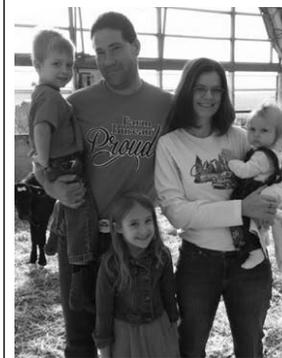


District 3 Members Named Finalists



Alex Bringe is a member of Vernon County Farm Bureau. Alex is a beef and grain farmer from Viroqua. He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-Platteville. Alex continued his education at Western Technical College in its farm business management program.

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



Chad and Katrina Gleason are fourth generation farmers, north of Shullsburg in Lafayette County. They have three children Cassidy, Gage and Kinsey. The Gleasons specialize in dairy beef, and raise bottle fed calves to finished steers. The family raises about 400 calves per year from local dairy farmers. 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 a passion for agriculture. Katrina home schools their children and manages the books for the farm. She enjoys cooking, working with the family's horses and spending time with family and friends.

District Promotion and Education Update

By **Nicole Adrian**, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



In August, the Promotions and Education Committee officially kicked off the 'Playbook.' The 'Playbook' is a resource found at wbf.com that is full of helpful information for members when planning county and district events, programs and activities.

Program areas featured in the 'Playbook' include: Ag in the Classroom, consumer outreach, education and ag promotion, fundraising, member development and policy and development implementation.

If you want to add a play, you can download the form from the website and submit it to Deb Raemisch. The next update will be on **December 15**. Please contact me with questions regarding the 'Playbook.'

The 2015-2016 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. To go with

the theme of the book, the essay topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations. Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. More information regarding the contest can be found by visiting the Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held in Madison on **March 10-11, 2017**. Workshops and activities are planned for both days. For more information, visit www.wiagwomenssummit.com.

Thank you for your help and support during my six years on the Women's Committee and Promotion and Education Committee. I enjoyed visiting each county during annual meetings and the fall workshops. I look forward to seeing you at the WFBF Annual Meeting on **December 3-5** in Wisconsin Dells.

Wiedenbeck and Roth Appointed to WFBF Committees

Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County was appointed to the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee and Katie Roth of Lafayette County was appointed to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee by the Board of Directors. Their terms start at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-5 in Wisconsin Dells. Tammy and Katie will represent District 3 on each of the committees.



Tammy Wiedenbeck is a field representative for Equity Livestock Sales Cooperative. She assists farmers in southwest Wisconsin and northeast Iowa with livestock marketing. Tammy owns 20 shorthorn and angus beef cows. She is a member of the Grant County Farm Bureau, secretary of the Grant County Cattleman's Association, board member

of the Lancaster FFA Alumni and lifetime member of UW-Platteville alumni.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from across the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and

involved in Farm Bureau. They carry out a variety of statewide initiatives, such as conferences, contests and award programs.



Katie Roth grew up in Darlington on her family's 330-cow dairy farm. Married in early 2016, Katie works on her husband's farm Banner Ridge Farms, LLC, as the herds person in addition to serving as a program technician for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Grant County. Katie served a variety of roles in her county Farm Bureau including Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair, secretary and Ag in the Classroom co-Chair. She graduated from Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and the American Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot Camp.

The Promotion and Education Committee, which replaced the Women's Committee in 2015, is a group of nine leaders who represent the nine Farm Bureau districts. Committee members develop, implement and promote projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.

Grant County YFA Update

By **Sarah Johnsen**, Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Representative



I'm proud to say the fourth year of the YFA Farm Bureau ag tent was a success at the Grant County Fair. Foremost Farms donated 40 pounds of cheese to hand out, and we brought back the spinning wheel, which is always a hit.



The kids, and adults, spin the wheel and are asked Wisconsin ag-related questions. If they answer the question correctly they receive one of several prizes that were donated by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

Our special guest this year was a six-week old named Annaliese, a friendly Holstein calf from Majestic View Dairy. Something fun and new this year was a large farm mural. It was on the back wall for everyone to color. The cutest addition to the tent was getting to watch baby chicks hatching.

Thank you to those who helped. It is a busy week and help is appreciated. Also, I want to thank those who stopped in and enjoyed cheese and learned something new. I look forward to improving, growing and continuing this ag tent next year.

Next is the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells in December. Members attending the conference will support our district representatives competing in the state contests, as well as have time for fun and socializing.

On Friday, we will enjoy some music by the Soggy Prairie Boys. Saturday evening Tonic Sol Fa, an accappella group, will perform. YFA conference is a time for networking, finding support in this trying lifestyle, learning about the ongoing issues in the agriculture industry and making memories and friends.

I hope to see you at this upcoming year's YFA events.



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YFA Chair, Sarah Johnsen	608.723.2110

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Director, Jason Heberlein	608.778.7485
Director, Larry Jerrett	608.723.2395
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Director, Derek Orth	608.778.9049
Director, Andrew Puetz	608.778.6886
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

District YFA Update



So long, farewell.

Definitely a bittersweet moment as we write our last newsletter article. Maybe we will have more free time or time to spend with the family. But, sadly, as we wrap up our tenure as the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist representatives

and YFA Chair, we are thinking about the opportunities that we had and the many things we are going to miss. County annual meetings, 5th Tuesday Potlucks and Discussion Meets are a few things that we enjoyed.

We watched the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau grow and flourish as its own organization within the ag community. We've helped members apply for awards and fill out applications for the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Awards.

During our role, we attended conferences and conventions throughout the U.S., which was truly an amazing experience when it was below zero at home and we walked on green grass in Florida. We have always felt welcomed in every District 3 county and appreciated meeting everyone and learning about each county's traditions.

Our district is in good hands as we pass the baton to Tammy Wiedenbeck. She has new goals, dreams and ideas to share. We will miss you and can't wait to see you again.

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives

2017 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Grant County Farm Bureau has money available to sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 17-18, 2017**, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore topics and learn outside their comfort zone.

If you or an FFA student you know would like to attend, please contact president Peter Winch by **January 5, 2017**.