



Green Lake County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Green Lake County President's Message



Greetings!

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as your county Farm Bureau president.

As we celebrate the 76th year of Green Lake County Farm Bureau, I want to first thank Dave Wilke for his

past 11 years of leadership within the Green Lake County Farm Bureau. I also want to thank Darwin Kelm for his years of service as a county director.

Please note a couple of important upcoming events happening this year. First, we will host the Green Lake County Farm Bureau Picnic on **Sunday, July 29**.

Second, we will be involved once again in helping organize the second annual Conservation Field Day with the date not yet set.

Watch your next newsletter for more details on both events. Wishing everyone a great new year.

Pete Badtke
Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Green Lake County Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

The Green Lake County Farm Bureau is offering up to two, \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Application deadline: Must be postmarked on or before **May 1**.

Selection Criteria

- Student must be a high school senior who plans to continue his or her education with a two- or four-year course of study.
- Students planning to pursue an education in an agriculture related field, will receive first consideration.
- Student or student's parents must have a membership in Green Lake County Farm Bureau.
- Student and parents must work four hours each at the Green Lake County Farm Bureau Fair food stand. This includes the year that the student graduates from high school and the first year of college.

- Selection Committee Green Lake County Farm Bureau scholarship selection committee (women's committee).

Scholarship Amount

- A \$500 check to be awarded to students after they have completed his or her first semester of technical school or college and have sent Green Lake County Farm Bureau his or her grades.
- Two, \$500 scholarships will be available.

For more information or to request an application, please contact Yolanda Woloszyn at 920.229.3962.



Plan to Attend: IGNITE Conference

Plan to attend the 2018 IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6, 2018**.

Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage or IGNITE is a information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purpose is the strengthen leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing programs, resources and skills to carry out the

mission of county Farm Bureaus. More than 20 workshops following training tracks including: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau and policy, issues and advocacy.





COUNTYnews

GREEN LAKE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2018



(Left to right) Joe Wollinger, Dave Wilke and Pete Badtke served as Green Lake County delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting held December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

On December 4, 250 delegates attended the 98th WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells and established new policy directives for the organization.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2018. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grass-roots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on various dairy policy items. They supported milk processors giving farms 60 days' notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees and giving 90 days' notice before termination of service.

They also supported Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to define clear and concise rules and regulations for automated milking installations and programs that emphasize manufacturing and marketing strategies.

Delegates supported a \$0.05 per gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance.

Regarding nutrient management, they supported increased nitrogen levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better use these nutrients and efforts to

assist agriculture to understand its role regarding nutrient management for surface water and groundwater. They supported the need to continue the reasonable scientifically-based best management practices for the protection of groundwater resources in high risk areas such as Karst areas.

Delegates supported increased trade deals that benefit Wisconsin and U.S. Agriculture.

Regarding marketing initiatives, delegates opposed using misleading food labels for a marketing campaign. They supported changing fat percentage labelling on bottled milk from '2% Fat' to '98% Fat Free', '1% Fat to 99% Fat Free', etc., and use of the non-GMO label only on products that have a GMO alternative.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to support:

- Legislation that allows wineries and craft brewers to have equivalent operating hours as taverns and restaurants.
- Allowing tasting rooms to sample wines and ciders made by other producers.
- Managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
- In a time of disaster or emergency, any fees, permits or hold times should be waived to aid people with bridges and creek crossings.
- Allowing stream bank damage following a storm to be returned to pre-storm locations.
- Controlling predatory wildlife populations.
- A tax incentive for selling and renting land to beginning/young farmers.
- Mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver's education classes.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Fair regional pricing within the Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage program.
- Over the road truckers should be exempt from e-logging requirements when transporting livestock or perishable agricultural products.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration.

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Plan to Participate in the Wisconsin Ag Open Golf

Hosted by the WFB Foundation, the 2018 Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 10**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

All proceeds from the golf outing will support the WFB Foundation education and leadership programs such as Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, WFBF Leadership Institute and

Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.

Registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, box lunch, appetizers, contests and door prizes. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

For information, contact Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.



District Director Report



Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members.

Our mission statement helps define who we are and what we do. From time to time reflection of ourselves and our organization helps us continue to meet the needs of our members.

A person or an organization should never be afraid to ask why. Just because something has always been done doesn't mean it should continue. History is important in any organization but new leaders will need to make decisions on an ever changing political environment.

Some challenges ahead for local Farm Bureaus may include:

1. The state administration continues to handcuff local municipalities on funding sources. The local governments find it easy to blame farmers for road deterioration when lack of proper maintenance over the past 10 plus years have led to major problems. We need to continue to advocate for a solid local infrastructure in order to move crops, cattle, machinery and fertilizer.
2. Public perception sees agriculture using more water, yet farmers continue to use less land and less water per bushel produced than any time in history. Technology advancements have allowed applying water in the correct amount at the correct time while excess infiltrating back into the soil. Where municipal water is dumped into rivers and leaves our communities quickly. Researchers need to be held accountable to present all evidence to the public. And Farmers need to continue to be involved in discussions of water.
3. Manure is the other ag topic getting pressure at the local level. Manure is a vital, organic nutrient for crops. Land conservation departments and the DNR have the engineering experience to be regulator authority of this nutrient.

Local units of government do not have this expertise yet they continue to push for the authority. We need to push for science based regulations, based on soils not on town lines.

Farmers face many challenges this year because of low commodity prices. Farm Bureau leaders at all levels need to be the voice for our fellow farmers. But I want to call out members that are not active. It's easy to say, "I'm too busy," but getting active is the only way to control your future. I accept some of this is difficult for a county Farm Bureau to take on alone. That is one reason why WFBF developed a local affairs position as a resource.

With the help of new and experienced leaders, and leader development programs, we will make the dynamic decisions to lead the farm and rural communities into the future.

God bless and happy new year.

Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Director

District 5 YFA Update



Hi, my name is Sally Turpin and I am serving as your District 5 YFA Committee representative. I grew up on my family's 100-cow dairy farm near Hillsboro. I earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy and animal science from the UW-Madison. After college, I worked as an agronomist, but now I am a dairy consultant for Star Blends, an independent feed mill in Sparta.

I have served as the Juneau County YFA chair since 2014 and I am a graduate of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute, Class VI. I also have competed in the Discussion Meet.

I enjoy many outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, hiking and running, as well as traveling. I have really enjoyed my time in Farm Bureau and look forward to serving you on the State Committee.

WFBF YFA Conference Was a Success

We had approximately 60 members from District 5 at the 2017 YFA Conference and more than 550 total YFA members in attendance. Members from our district competed in Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag, with Lynn Dickman winning the Excellence in Ag competition and Jenny Leahy making it to the Discussion Meet Finals.

There also were many workshops and speakers like Michelle Payne addressing ag advocacy and Chris Koch giving an inspirational talk 'If I can ...' about not letting his physical limitations get in the way of achieving his goals.

If you have never attended the YFA Conference, please talk to me or your county YFA chair about the Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship. Rural Mutual generously covers the registration and hotel for individuals or couples who are first time attendees of the conference.

If you have any ideas for District 5 events, please contact me at 608.462.3387 or sally.turpin@gmail.com. I love to hear what members want to see for educational or social opportunities.

Sally Turpin
District 5 YFA Representative

District 5 Promotion and Education Report



Happy winter! I hope that everyone who loves snow and the winter season is enjoying it. For those who aren't the biggest fans of winter, enjoy some hot chocolate. Spring will be here before we know it.

2017 was a great year for the Promotion and

Education Committee. We continued to promote the 'Playbook' that we introduced at the end of 2016. The 'Playbook' is a resource that contains events, programs, and activities that happen throughout the state on a local level.

If you are looking for something to do, visit www.wfbf.com. Updates are made quarterly to the 'Playbook.' If you want an event or activity from your county added, please contact me.

We held our first leadership training series boot camp in District 5 at Heartland Farms on November 11. WFBF governmental relations staff Steve Boe and Rob Richards served as guest speakers.

They covered topics and answered questions relating to policy development, contacting and connecting with your legislators, staying informed on critical issues and raising your voice and speaking up for agriculture.

Farm Bureau members Laura Daniels, Brian Preder and Julie Wadzinski served as panel members for the discussion about

the grassroots process of crafting policies to benefit members.

We look forward to hosting another boot camp in 2018 with a different topic and in a different location. We hope to see you there.

The Promotion and Education Committee will be assisting with the essay contest for fourth and fifth grader students offered by the Ag in the Classroom program again this year.

This year's topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' We encourage each county promotion and education committee to work with the elementary schools to help teachers engage the students in this essay contest as it will be a valuable agricultural learning experience.

2018 looks to be an exciting year. We look forward to working with Megan Rebut as our new WFBF committee advisor who has filled Deb Raemisch's position upon her retirement.

If you have questions or want help with promotion and education events, do not hesitate to contact me at ldickman87@gmail.com or 608.558.9713.

All the best District 5,

Lynn Dickman
District 5 Promotion and Education Representative

Badtke Graduates from WFBF Leadership Institute

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long premiere leadership training course at a graduate level whose mission is to produce strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. The training focuses on personal growth and development, public speaking, working effectively with all forms of media, creativity training, understanding the role and functions of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, training on working with government at the local, state and national levels, working to bridge the generational divide among volunteers, consideration of current national and international agricultural issues and completion of a Farm Bureau Personal Development Leadership Plan.



Pete Badtke, Green Lake County president with WFBF President Jim Holte. Badtke graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Green Lake County Receives Farm Bureau County Activities of Excellence



Green Lake County members (from left) Natasha Paris, Pete Badtke and Dave Wilke posed for a photo by the county's booth at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization whose effectiveness is the result of innovative, action-oriented programs developed by county Farm Bureaus.

The County Activities of Excellence Program is designed to celebrate and recognize such programs. The purpose of the program is to recognize outstanding county Farm Bureau programs and share successful programs and activities.

The County Activities of Excellence Program focuses on the priority issues of the organization, seeking county applications in the categories of:

- Legislative Accomplishments
- Local Affairs
- Ag Promotion and Education
- Leadership Development
- Membership Recruitment and Retention
- Member Services and Communication
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Special Program

Green Lake County was one of eight outstanding county programs that was selected to display its winning program/activity during the 98th WFBF Annual Meeting on December 2-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

Green Lake County received the award in local affairs for their involvement in the Green Lake County Conservation Field Day event held August 26 at the Wilke Farm in Ripon.

More than 60 District 5 YFA Members Attend YFA Conference



More than 60 YFA members from District 5 attended the YFA Conference held on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.



Green Lake County YFA members Natasha Paris, Chad Bruss and Abbie Swanke attended the YFA Conference held on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells; not pictured: Alena Graff and Brenden Graff.

On Friday night, YFA Conference attendees had the chance to participate in a casino night. Thank you to Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Jahnke, for sponsoring the entertainment.

On Saturday morning, Michele Payn, Cause Matters Corp. shared with YFA Conference attendees why it is so important to be a champion for agriculture and lead the conversation around food and farming.

At the Saturday night Extravaganza banquet, comedian Scott Novotny entertained attendees. Thank you to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board for sponsoring Scott.

On Sunday morning, a very inspirational keynote speech was given from Chris Koch. He reminded attendees to find the good in each day, laugh a little more and work toward your goals until you reach them.



Green Lake YFA member Natasha Paris represented District 5 in the YFA Discussion Meet Contest held at the WFBF YFA Conference.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in the Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement: 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. For rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities, visit wisagclassroom.org.

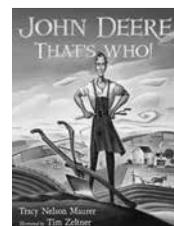
Essays need to be submitted by **April 1**. The essay contest coincides with the Ag in the Classroom 2018 book of the year: "John Deere That's Who!"

One county winner will be selected and will be forwarded on to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in

May by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation. Last year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest.

The contest is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the WFB Foundation.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by WFBF in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau Contacts:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| President, Pete Badtke | 920.229.2936 |
| Vice President, Joe Wollinger | 920.296.9291 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Arden Patchett | 920.294.3149 |
| YFA Chair, Kim Dehn | 608.558.8488 |
| Women's Chair, Jen Digman | 920.767.2111 |
| Director, Dave Gneiser | 920.369.6314 |
| Director, Jim Hebbe | 920.229.5602 |
| Director, Steve Kutz | 920.295.6737 |
| Director, Duwayne Lohrey | 920.398.2063 |
| Director, Chad MacGowan | 920.650.5900 |
| Director, Allan Weckwerth | 920.295.4057 |
| Director, Yolanda Woloszyn | 920.229.3962 |
| Green Lake County Farm Bureau | 888.644.8366 |
| WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz | 920.361.7380 |
| WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Lynn Dickman | 608.558.9713 |
| WFBF YFA Chair, Sally Turpin | 608.462.3387 |
| District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki | 920.517.2445 |
| RMIC District Manager, Chuck McDaniel | 715.258.8830 |

Save the Date: Green Lake County Junior Free Fair

Plan to attend the Green Lake County Junior Free Fair on **August 2-5** in Green Lake. While at the fair, remember to stop at the Farm Bureau food stand building and help support the Green Lake County Farm Bureau's programs and activities.



All Member Family Picnic

New this year, the Green Lake County Farm Bureau will host a family picnic on **Sunday, July 29**. Food, farm friends and fun! Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Watch the next county newsletter for details or contact picnic committee chair Jim Hebbe at 920.229.5602.

WPS Farm Show – March 27-29

Plan to attend the 57th annual WPS Farm Show on **March 27-29** at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh. Stop at the Farm Bureau booth (number 6571) in hanger D. Visit with Farm Bureau volunteers and learn more about Farm Bureau programs and member benefits.



Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------|--|
| April | |
| 1 | Ag in the Classroom essay contest deadline |
| 5-6 | IGNITE Conference, Stevens Point |
| May | |
| 1 | Green Lake County Scholarship Application deadline |
| July | |
| 29 | Green Lake County Member Picnic |
| August | |
| 2-5 | Green Lake County Fair |