


Green County Farm Bureau

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RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN GREEN COUNTY

Aaron Duecker (608) 328-8108	Mike Hutchinson (608) 325-4052	Craig Kamholz (608) 325-2622
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Kurt Johnson, District Manager - (608) 828-5734

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Welcome NEW Green County Farm Bureau Members

Nancy Anderson, Janet Arroyo, Edward Beckman, Heather Boeke, Richard Bonjour, Jeffrey Buehler, Lindsey Buehler, Wade Cray, Charles Eastwood, Daniel Ferguson, Aaron Hesgard, Mark Hoesly, Terri Holmes, Elle Joseph, Casey Krupke, Rachel Leege, Jared Riese, Nancy Rose-parr, Karen Schmidt, Ross Simler, Travis Skattum, Roger Theesefeld, Kevin Wehinger, Larry Wiegel and Mary Wolf.

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 Green County and share your views on issues and how they affect your farm. Remember when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

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
3:30 p.m. Green County will meet in Room 425 SW

Register by **Wednesday, March 1**, to Amy Blakeney at ablakeney@wfbf.com or 262.689.2000. Green County Farm Bureau sponsors ALL voting members who are interested in attending. The cost is \$25 per person prior to March 1, \$30 after the deadline.

Celebrate National Ag Day March 21!

Join Ag in the Classroom and the Farm Bureau to celebrate National Ag Day on **March 21**.

- Celebrate by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, college students, agri-business employees and others by reading books about agriculture.
- Share agriculture facts from the Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page that will be given on the hour.
- Have students in your county participate in an Ag Day coloring contest.
- Share your photos from National Ag Day with Farm Bureau at darneson@wfbf.com.



Greetings,

In a few weeks, Farm Bureau members from across the state will be gathering in Madison to take part in Ag Day at the Capitol.

Since we are a grass roots organization, this event allows us to listen to our representatives from WFBF, and then take what they have along with our local issues to the capitol and bring them to state-elected officials.

A few of the leading issues to bring up in our sessions with elected officials include:

High Capacity Wells is not only an ag issue but also a municipality issue with the need to get the permitting process streamlined. The State budget needs to be completed without the addition of any taxes that will negatively affect ag.

Rural Road Funding is an issue that continues to be brought up and needs to be addressed at the sessions with elected officials. Without this funding we will have a difficult time getting township roads properly repaired and maintained. This is essential for the ag community so we can get products up and down the road without damaging our equipment and the roads more than they already are.

If there are any voting members in Green County who want to attend Ag Day at the Capitol, please contact me or one of the board members.

Thank you,

Justin Monson

Green County Farm Bureau policy development chair



COUNTYnews

GREEN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Attending the WFBF Annual Meeting By Dusty Williams



During the resolutions session at the WFBF Annual Meeting, delegates voiced their support or opposition to proposed resolutions.



Green County Farm Bureau member and past president Jeff Ditzenberger socialized with friends before the Farm Bureau Proud banquet. He was recognized at the Farm Bureau Proud banquet for signing five members.

Farm Bureau members from Green County attended the WFBF Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in the Wisconsin Dells on December 2-5.

New YFA members Danica and Travis Skattum attended the YFA Conference Friday through Sunday along with other Green County YFA members Rachel Leege, Carmen Montgomery, Josh Schenk and Sarah Sacker.

the WFBF Annual Meeting. That committee organizes the new policy proposals and they are discussed and voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Green County Farm Bureau members enjoyed the Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest on Saturday of the WFBF Annual Meeting including: (L-R) Dustin Williams, Jeff Ditzenberger, Alissa Grenawalt, Danica Skattum and Travis Skattum.

If you have laws or regulations that affect your farm that you want to see changed, please get involved in the local policy development meeting and pass along your thoughts to our local board. Policies can be developed and may potentially help facilitate a rule or law change in the future.

Green County Farm Bureau holds its policy development meeting after the county golf outing each year. Farm Bureau members are welcome to come and voice your opinion. Our next meeting will be on **August 25**.

For more information or if you want to get involved, please contact one of your Green County board members. WFBF is truly a grass roots organization and we need to hear from you.

Congratulations to Josh Schenk who also participated in the YFA Discussion Meet. We encourage YFA members to get involved in various contests available through Wisconsin Farm Bureau.



Green County Farm Bureau was represented by six delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting resolutions session on December 5 including: (L-R) Kelsi Mayer, Ben Huber, Carmen Montgomery, Dustin Williams, Alissa Grenawalt and Jeff Ditzenberger. Montgomery, Alissa Grenawalt, Dustin Williams, Ben Huber and Jeff Ditzenberger.

Many of the delegates arrived on Saturday afternoon for the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members networked, supported the WFB Foundation and discussed policy that was brought before the delegation on Monday. Delegates attending the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting were: Kelsi Mayer, Carmen

These delegates participated in the delegate session on December 5. During that session, members shared their opinions and voted on policies that will guide WFBF in their decision making and lobbying efforts in 2017. It is truly a valuable experience.

As a grassroots organization, your voice at the local level really does matter. Policy that is approved at the local county level annual meeting is sent to the Policy Development Committee prior to

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Save the Date! Green County Ag Open, Friday, August 25

GREEN COUNTY AG OPEN
Four-person scramble golf tournament sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau



JOIN US!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

DECATUR LAKE COUNTRY CLUB
N3941 Golf Course Rd. | Brodhead, WI

COST: \$75

HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE:
60" 1,000 PIXEL LED SMART TV

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM – REGISTRATION
9:30 AM – SHOTGUN START
1:30 PM – LUNCH

2 PM – POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Green County Farm Bureau members will discuss agricultural issues of concern in order to devise ways, or policies, to resolve these issues. The results will be discussed and voted on at the county annual meeting in September. If you plan to only attend this meeting, the meal cost is \$10.

A Message from the President...



Greetings, Green County Farm Bureau members!

As I write this, Jerry Daniels, Cal Wasserstrass and I just finished cleaning and organizing our storage unit in Monroe. It's been said that change is the only constant in life, and as we paged thru old records and photos, we

got a look at the changing times and faces of Green County agriculture. We combed thru boxes of 1980s and 1990s tax returns and plat books only to find photos and treasures that many had forgotten. We found photos and scrapbooks dating back to the 1940s, community outreach plans and memorabilia and many priceless pieces of Green County Farm Bureau history.

Taking a look into our past helped me reflect on the goals and strategies that the Green County Farm Bureau board is embarking on in 2017.

In November, the board conducted a strategic planning and goal setting session. Our mission was to set goals that help us address the biggest challenges of our board, as well as, the challenges facing Green County agriculture. From that meeting, poured ideas and enthusiasm that I could only hope for.

Many of our ideas and strategies revolve around member and community involvement, educating others about opportunities in the ag industry, greater activation of the young farmer and agriculturist group and more classroom visits using curriculum from the Ag in the Classroom program.

Our goals are aggressive, but we know that with the right people, attitude and determination we can accomplish these goals and make positive contributions to agriculture and the Green County community. Please be on the look-out for volunteer opportunities as we head to spring.

Whether it is 1940 or today, we can find the constants of hard work, dedication, people, community and AGvocacy engrained in Green County Farm Bureau. If you are interested in learning more about Green County Farm Bureau AGvocacy projects or want to get involved with the committees leading the way, please contact me. We look forward to working with you on many projects, new and old, in 2017.

Ben Huber
Green County Farm Bureau President

Essay Contest: 'Tell Us About Cranberry Production in Wisconsin'



The Green County Farm Bureau, in conjunction with state sponsors, are providing the opportunity for students to participate in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

The theme is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

The contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in Green County. Essays must be between 100 and 300 words and will be judged based on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

Students must submit essays in handwritten ink or computer generated. The Green County Ag in the Classroom committee will award \$150 to the classroom of the first place winning essay, \$100 to the classroom of the second place essay and \$75 to the classroom of the third place essay. In addition, \$50 gift cards will be awarded to remaining classrooms that participate entirely.

Essays must be postmarked by **April 3** and can be mailed to Devan Klopfenstein, essay contest coordinator, at N4390 State Road 59 Monroe, WI 53566.

For more information, please call Devan at 608.558.2646.

District 2 Director Report



Hello again District 2 Farm Bureau members!

I hope you are doing well. The past few months have been an interesting time for Farm Bureau, especially for District 2.

In early December, the YFA Conference was held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting.

More than 1,100 people attended from throughout the state. District 2 had more than 80 YFA members participate.

District meetings, a dance, workshops and the YFA contests were very interesting. Josh Schenk (Green County), Julie Sweney (Dodge County) and Becky Wellnitz (Rock County) represented District 2 very well in the Discussion Meet, with Julie Sweney making it to the Final Four. Congratulations to Julie, Josh and Becky.

Andrea Brossard and Mason Rens (Dodge County) won the Ag Achievement Award (for production agriculture). In January, they represented Wisconsin Farm Bureau very well at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Congratulations to Andrea and Mason.

During the WFBF Annual Meeting, we were involved with many awesome activities. There were banquets, the trade show with a silent auction, breakout sessions, dis-

trict caucus and the delegate resolution session and many other activities.

Some of my roles as District 2 Director included chairing our District 2 Caucus, introducing a panel for a breakout session and helping with a game at the District 2 YFA meeting (thanks Alison, that was fun). I also had the honor of delivering the invocation to 1,100 people at the Farm Bureau Banquet on Saturday evening.

At the Awards Banquet on Sunday evening, District 2 was very well represented. Amy and Chris Blakeney led the program with an outstanding presentation of our national anthem. Fantastic job Amy and Chris.

We had three members graduate from the WFBF Leadership Institute Class 10. Congratulations to Ken Lezvow (Columbia County), Emily Johnson (Rock County) and Jill Uhe (Rock County) for completing that awesome program.

And last, but certainly not least, Congratulations to Sam Skemp (Dane County) for receiving the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agriculture award. Sam, thank you for everything that you have done, and continue to do for Wisconsin agriculture and for Farm Bureau.

I know that we are very proud of all the accomplishments of our members. Stay warm. See you soon.

Arch Morton, Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

District 2 Youth Ag Summit

By **Andrea Brossard**, Youth Ag Summit co-chair

More than 80 agriculture students and instructors from 11 different high schools attended the fourth annual Wisconsin Farm Bureau District 2 Youth Ag Summit in Cambria on December 7. The event was hosted by Didion Milling and Ethanol Plant with support from Insight FS and county Farm Bureaus in District 2.

The day exposed students to non-production careers in agriculture that relate to agriculture processing, grain manufacturing, crop management, plant science and landscaping. There were three breakout sessions as well as a tour of the Didion Ethanol Plant.

The three breakout sessions were led by Adam Monson, plant superintendent for Foremost Farms USA; Christopher Sina, landscape architect for the Bruce Company; and Ben Huber, energy sales and marketing manager for Insight FS.

The keynote speaker was the 69th Alice in Dairyland Ann O'Leary.



Alice in Dairyland Ann O'Leary was the keynote speaker. She shared that students have more than 400 career options to choose from, ranging from farming to marketing. The student in this photo wants to be a welder. Also in the photo is Jim Haack, Youth Ag Summit committee member.



Ben Huber, Insight FS, talked about all of the diverse opportunities in agriculture from agronomy to energy to technology to finance.



Adam Monson, plant superintendent for Foremost Farms USA, shared career opportunities in the dairy processing industry.



Chris Sina, The Bruce Company, exposed students to landscape architecture.

District 2 YFA Update By Alison Kepner, District 2 Representative

YFA Conference Recap

On December 2, District 2 YFA members congregated at the YFA Conference held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. More than 80 YFA members from the six counties in District 2 were present to celebrate a 'Tradition.'



District 2 YFA member Julie Sweney (Dodge County) represented District 2 as a finalist in the YFA Discussion Meet.

During the district meeting, the YFA contest participants were recognized for their efforts in Ag Achievement and Discussion Meet. Julie Sweney (Dodge County), Josh Schenk (Green County) and Becky Wellnitz (Rock County) represented District 2 in the Discussion Meet. Julie Sweney advanced to the Final Four.



Pictured with WFBF President Jim Holte, Andrea Brossard and Mason Rens (Dodge County) were winners of the YFA Ag Achievement Award.

Andrea Brossard and Mason Rens were selected as the state winner and represented Wisconsin at the American Farm Bureau Federation competition. Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to Farm Bureau. We ended the district meeting with an interactive Jenga that served as an ice breaker and trivia game. Thank you to Arch Morton, Jr., and Dale and Jillian Beaty for serving as judges.

Entertainment on Friday was The Soggy Prairie Boys of Sun Prairie as well as a cornhole tournament. Throughout the YFA Conference there was a social media contest, with winners on Friday night, Saturday night and the overall weekend winner for highlighting and saying thank you to sponsors. Without sponsorship, an event like this would not be possible.

Saturday was full of Discussion Meet quarterfinal rounds one and two before brunch. During brunch, director of millennial engagement of Monsanto Vance Crowe gave an informational speech on helping the public be more aware of where their food comes from and the general misconceptions.



District 2 YFA Representative Alison Kepner led the district meeting. Members introduced themselves and shared a favorite Farm Bureau activity.

Promotion and Education Highlights

'Playbook': This resource was compiled by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee to share successful events, activities and promotions (aka 'plays') from across the state. Each district and many county Farm Bureaus are represented in the 'Playbook, which will be updated quarterly: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/programmevents/promotion-and-education/playbook. If you have a 'play' to add or questions regarding 'Playbook,' please contact me.



District 2 had an excellent turnout at the district meeting on Friday of the YFA Conference. Members enjoyed an interactive, get-to-know you game of Giant Jenga.

There were YFA breakout sessions on Saturday including: Charting Your Financial Roadmap, Social Media Networks, Maximizing Your Farm Bureau Potential, Going Beyond Google, The Ultimate Balancing Act and What They Didn't Tell You About Being a County YFA Chair. Saturday concluded with the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet and the music of Tonic Sol-fa and the Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest.

On Sunday, the Discussion Meet final was before brunch as well as a moving speech by Aaron Thomas, a high school principal and coach from Iowa, who suffered a great tragedy and has dedicated his life to overcoming that obstacle.

As the YFA Conference concluded, new friends were made, connections were made with friends but we all shared a common theme—being Farm Bureau Proud and even more proud to share in our traditions. Thank you for a great first year as the District 2 YFA Representative and I look forward to working with you in 2017. If you have event ideas, please contact me.

YFA Contest Prep Workshop

Interested in a YFA Contest? Please **Save the Date** for a YFA Contest Prep Workshop.

Date: Thursday, March 23

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Place: WFBF Home Office, 1241 John Q Hammons Drive, Madison

Details: Pizza will be provided.

Discussion Meet: Demonstrate your speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Excellence in Ag Award: Judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-farm occupation for the past three years.

Achievement Award: Judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other service organizations. Applicants must derive a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

SAVE the DATE

District 2 YFA Discussion Meet

Date: Tuesday, August 1
More details to follow.

By Andrea Brossard, District 2 Representative

Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit: Mark your calendar, save the date, do whatever you need to do to be part of this outstanding event and don't forget to bring a friend.

The 2017 Ag Women's Summit will be in Madison, **March 10-11.**

For more information, visit wiagwomenssummit.com.



Green County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ben Huber 608.323.0061
Vice President, Carmen Montgomery 608.293.2905
Secretary/Treasurer, Promotion and Education Chair,
Alissa Grenawalt 608.921.1847
Co-YFA Chair, Sarah Sacker 608.214.1650
Co-YFA Chair, Joshua Schenk 608.558.4292

Director, Jerome Daniels 608.210.0879
Director, Devan Klopfenstein 608.558.2646
Director, Kelsi Mayer 608.290.5855
Director, Justin Monson 608.558.3807
Director, Scott Timm 608.214.4524
Director, Cal Wasserstrass 608.293.1346
Director, Dustin Williams 608.391.0238

Green County Farm Bureau 877.483.5481
WFBF Board Director, Arch Morton, Jr. 608.931.0558
District 2 Coordinator, Amy Blakeney 866.355.7342
RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson 608.828.5734

YFA Conference Recap

By Sarah Sacker, Green County YFA co-chair



Green County Farm Bureau member Josh Schenk (left) was one of three individuals to represent District 2 in the WFBF Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference.

in Discussion Meet; other District 2 representatives included Becky Wellnitz and Julie Sweney in Discussion Meet, and Andrea Brossard and Mason Rens who won the Ag Achievement Award.



Green County Farm Bureau YFA members including: (L-R) Travis Skattum, Carmen Montgomery and Rachel Legee enjoyed the District 2 meeting during the YFA Conference.

Friday the conference got underway with dinner, entertainment, a cornhole tournament and lots of socializing. Saturday kicked off with the Discussion Meet quarter and semifinals, along with Excellence in Ag Presentations and Achievement Award interviews. A variety of breakout sessions were held on Saturday and Sunday on valuable topics ranging from financials, social networks, and improving your Farm Bureau chapter.

The conference had several keynote speakers, including Vance Crowe, Director of Millennial Engagement at Monsanto.



Green County Farm Bureau YFA member Carmen Montgomery enjoyed an interactive, get-to-know you game of giant Jenga during the District 2 meeting.

Vance spoke about the role social networks play in influencing consumers and the importance of sharing our own, unique agriculture stories.

All in all, it was a fun, educational weekend and Green County and District 2 were well represented! Green County YFA members are highly encouraged to consider participating in Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag or Achievement Award in 2017.