



Iowa County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Skid Steer Challenge a Success at Iowa County Fair

Iowa County Farm Bureau hosted the second annual Skid Steer Challenge at this year's Iowa County Fair. The challenge took place on Sunday of the fair in front of the grandstand and provided some fun entertainment for the whole family.

The skid steers were donated by Farmers

Implement Store of Mineral Point, Hennessey Implement of Dodgeville, Ritchie Implement of Cobb and Sloan Implement of Montfort.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the implements, participants, spectators and members who helped make the event a great success.



Doyles Compete for YFA Excellence in Ag Award



The Excellence in Ag award recognizes members of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program who excel in their leadership abilities, and involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations.

Iowa County Farm Bureau members, Justin and Livia Doyle competed along with three other deserving individuals. Together with family, they farm 150 acres of cropland, raise 50 cow/calf pairs of Red and Black Angus beef cattle, and co-own On Point Auction Service. They are proud parents of two boys: Quayde and Gentry. In addition to farming, auctioneering and raising a family, they are both beginning their eighth year in education. Justin is an agriculture/technology teacher at Darlington High School and Livia teaches fourth grade at Mineral Point Elementary School.

Plan to Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 24, 2018
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: January 18
Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

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. Leave for Capitol Visits



COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Iowa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights



by the business portion of the meeting.

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

State

- Farmland should be exempt from storm water management assessments including feed storage and individual calf housing areas. Flexibility in managing these areas should be allowed given the volume of permeable surface.

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 14 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a meal for those in attendance and was followed

- We support putting higher priority on funding for state Extension specialist positions and 4-H and Youth Development educators.
- Only members of an agricultural cooperative should be eligible to be voting members of the board of directors.
- All agricultural cooperatives should maintain the principle of one member, one vote.

Federal

- All milk processors must give direct farms 60 days notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees. They must also give 90 days notice before termination of service.
- We support the concept of a self-funded incentive plan that utilizes cull cow sales to create long-term stability and keep dairy operations profitable.

These were forwarded to the Policy Development Committee and then for consideration by the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended the Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting, we look forward to seeing more of you there next year.

Farm Bureau in Action



Iowa County Farm Bureau members attended this summer's Ag in the Classroom Training and Bus Tour. The training was at the West Madison Agricultural Research Station and participants learned about valuable educational resources and heard from different commodity organizations. Members on the bus tour explored Jefferson County learning about agriculture, sharing ideas and touring local businesses and farms.



Iowa County Farm Bureau honored high school seniors with scholarships. The recipients include: Paige Gaffney, Barneveld High School; Maranda McCarthy, Iowa-Grant High School; Jaynie Rule, Iowa-Grant High School; and Jake Steffes, Mineral Point High School. Jaynie Rule received her certificate at the Iowa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting from president Adam Heisner and scholarship committee chair Krista Dolan.



Iowa County Farm Bureau played a large role in planning the 32nd annual Farmers Appreciation Day. Members participated in the event from set-up to tear down. Whether it was coordinating the parade, conducting the live auction or volunteering in the ag education area, Farm Bureau members truly helped make the event a real success. Thanks to everyone who attended and showed their support of the event. Mark your calendar for next year and be sure to 'like' the Farmers Appreciation Day Facebook page for more updates.



The Iowa County Farm Bureau board of directors meet to discuss agricultural issues, plan events and activities and make decisions that benefit the organization. These leaders dedicate their time to representing Farm Bureau in the community and at state and national levels. We're lucky to have a board of directors that exhibits a vast variety of knowledge and experience. Their service and dedication to Farm Bureau and the agricultural industry is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all current and past Iowa County Farm Bureau board members!

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President's Message



This has been one of the most trying times agriculture has seen across all sectors of production.

Low grain markets and beef and dairy farmers struggling to find a home for their

products has made headlines for most of the year.

Mother Nature seems to be reluctant to cooperate no matter what we do. Despite these challenges, our ag community remains optimistic and, most of all, PROUD! We do our best to provide consumers with the best. A culture that seems dif-

ficult to understand for most of our country's population. As Iowa County Farm Bureau members, we have worked throughout the year to provide leadership and a voice for all. Earlier in the year, our county had a great presence at Ag Day at the Capitol. Several of us took time to talk with our legislators and express our views on many ag-related issues. I encourage all members to attend this event. It's one that I believe gives everyone the opportunity to experience one of the primary purposes of our organization.

Your board of directors also has continued to increase our visibility around the county. Farmers Appreciation Day was largely organized and led by Farm Bureau members. This event continues to improve and always welcomes participation from additional members that have a passion to tell the public how PROUD we are about what we do.

The most recent activity was the Farm Bureau Skid Steer

Challenge held at the Iowa County Fair. This year, the fun and challenging course had 28 participants and many spectators. Again, this increases our visibility among the public and demonstrates the skills we use every day.

Remaining PROUD and optimistic is something I know we all will do. I have been PROUD to lead our board of directors, and I know they are PROUD to represent our members who work in all areas of agriculture. You can be PROUD of the work they do for you, and to be a part of an organization that truly is a voice for farmers and a vision for agriculture.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to upholding the mission and values of Iowa County Farm Bureau. We're looking forward to another great year.

Adam Heisner

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director Update



Patience is a Virtue

We know we live in a fast paced world and there seems to be no letting up of

the pace or the magnitude of the issues that bombard us everyday. Patience is quickly becoming expendable if not a forgotten virtue.

Every day we in agriculture are in a perpetual battle with patience. We know there are times when patience pays and times when patience becomes procrastination, resulting in lost opportunity. Whether planting corn or pulling a calf, there is a time when patience changes from opportunity and becomes a liability.

In September, your Board of Directors traveled with our Farm Bill Committee and Dairy Committee to Washington, D.C. We presented to our members of Congress, as well visited with key Agriculture Committee members, our concerns and recommendations with the upcoming reauthorization of the Farm Bill.

The current dairy situation and the inadequacy of the milk Margin Protection Program to offer real support led our discussion at every level. Admittedly everyone understood the dilemma, but solutions were harder to come by staying within the budgetary baseline.

Without going into great detail, we presented ideas that would give dairy farmers additional flexibility and risk management options without influ-

encing the market place. Doing this within the budget constraints is challenging if not daunting.

It also was our recommendation and basic consensus with those we visited with, the food assistance title or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) should remain a part of the overall Farm Bill. Even though food assistance is more than 75 percent of the Farm Bill, passing a Farm Bill without SNAP would make for a very contentious debate in Congress. Other issues we presented in Washington were diverse, from conservation and trade to rural broadband. The challenge remains for Congress – time and money.

There was a genuine hope and optimism that Congress would like to conclude a Farm Bill before the end of the year. Farm Bills are unique in that they are not so much partisan, Republican, Democrat, but regional and urban vs. rural.

With the holiday season approaching and Congress currently focused on tax reform, it's becoming more difficult to pass a Farm Bill this year. While patience is a virtue, it is quickly becoming lost opportunity.

While we need to be patient, we must be vigilant. Agriculture and our citizens need and deserves a timely, responsive and viable Farm Bill to insure a safe and secure food supply.

Happy holidays.

Dick Gorder

WFBF District 3 Director

District 3 Promotion and Education Update



Hello everyone! It was nice to attend the county annual meetings across the district and meet new faces while catching up with old friends.

On October 28, a group of District 3 members toured Kickapoo Orchard in Crawford County and learned about the apple industry while enjoying apple cider and a hot lunch on a chilly day. Afterwards we ventured to Udder Brothers Creamery in Boscobel, where dairy farmer Jason Sparrgrove shared how they opened their retail store featuring local ice cream, cheeses, baked goods, popcorn and more. All six counties were represented at the orchard tour; thank you to those who attended.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:
Jan. 20, 2018: Join your fellow Farm Bureau members for a day of service and fun at the District 3 Winter Promotion and Education Volunteer Activity and Meeting. Come and help prepare food for those in need at Second Harvest Foodbank in Madison, and enjoy lunch with friends while catching up on the latest promotion and education plans and events.

Mar. 20, 2018: National Agriculture Day. The American Farm Bureau Federation has examples of tweets and posts for members to use to promote agriculture. Share facts, figures and personal stories about why you love agriculture with your social communities. Use the social media platform of your choice.



Apr. 2, 2018: Ag in the Classroom essay contest entries are due. This year's essay contest revolves around the Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who!" and invites students to write essays based on the topic, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

Spring can be a hard time for teachers with testing and planned curriculum. Try to contact teachers before they leave for winter break and follow up in person if you can. For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

There will not be a 2018 Ag Women's Summit or AgVocate of the Year award. In the spring of 2019, a new event will be planned in partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance. Stay tuned. Have a warm and safe winter.

Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

Thank you to those who attended this year's YFA events and activities. We hosted the annual hayride, organized a tri-county bowling night, attended a Madison Mallards baseball game and of course, assisted with Farmers Appreciation Day, the Iowa County Fair Skid Steer Challenge and many library and classroom visits.



Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA members also could be seen at many other county, district and state events, including the first annual District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig, the District 2 Every Farmer's Dream Tour, Lafayette County's 'Cheese, Cows and Coozies' event, Ag Day at the Capitol, the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit and others.

We had a silent auction during the annual meeting to generate extra funds for the YFA program. Most of the money raised is given back to the community. Last year's proceeds were used to purchase 300 farm animal books to give to families of newborn babies. We also donated \$200 to the Iowa County Food Pantry and helped pay a portion of each member's Madison Mallards game ticket. Again this year, we plan to use the funds raised to purchase agricultural related books to give to families of babies born at Upland Hills Health.



Many members attended the YFA Conference that was held December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Every year, Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsors several first time attendees from around the state to attend the conference. We were fortunate to have Iowa County members Troy Ludlum, Scott and Jennifer Rowntree, Rebecca Sigg and Jake Sigg selected for that opportunity. Justin and Livia Doyle also represented Iowa County in the Excellence in Ag Award contest.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know. Hope to see you at an upcoming YFA event.

Jackie McCarville
Iowa County YFA Committee Chair



Iowa County Promotion and Education Update



It was my first year serving as the Promotion and Education chair and it was lots of learning. Our committee was busy participating in community events, teaching others about the agriculture industry, and promoting Farm Bureau.

In January, we held an ag products tasting at the Dodgeville Piggly Wiggly. In preparation for the Super Bowl, a committee of YFA members whipped-up several delicious appetizer recipes that encouraged consumers to use featured meat and dairy products in their recipes for that upcoming weekend. Consumers could take home recipe cards and most importantly, sample cheesy cheddar hash browns, creamy ranch shredded chicken sliders, dried beef dip, cranberry-glazed meatballs, marinated mushrooms, cheddar bacon ale dip, chocolate chip caramel butter bars and peanut butter mousse dip. The appetizers proved to be a huge hit, and we plan to have more tasting events in the future.

In May, we sponsored District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle to speak on a couple local radio stations for National Ag Day and Beef Month. She also visited fourth-grade classes to share information about Wisconsin's leading beef industry and played trivia with the students while they enjoyed beef sticks as a healthy and delicious snack.



Again this year, Iowa County Farm Bureau members played an integral role in organizing Farmers Appreciation Day. The event was held during the second weekend of July and celebrated its 32nd year. Saturday night featured a fun run/walk, live band and fireworks. Sunday kicked off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, a live auction, displays and food at Harris Park. Members handed out promotional materials in the parade, parked cars, helped in the kid's activity area, emceed the awards program and conducted the live auction.

Iowa County Farm Bureau had a great presence at this year's Iowa County Fair. For the second year, we hosted the Skid Steer Challenge, which proved to be a big hit with many participants and spectators. We also sponsored the Master Showman Contest and awarded cash prizes to four 4-H clubs for their educational displays. We definitely kept ourselves busy and hope to add new and innovative ways to engage the public and inform them about the agriculture industry.

Kayla Anderson
Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair

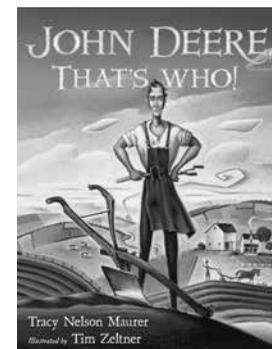
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Ag in the Classroom Update



The 2018 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is written by Wisconsin native Tracy Nelson Maurer. "John Deere, That's Who!" teaches students about agricultural advancements in technology, efficiency and productivity.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the book of the year for fourth and fifth grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Accompanying lessons aligned to state standards and various Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. For essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities visit wisagclassroom.org/whats-new. Essays are due **April 2, 2018**.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the WFB Foundation's Promotion and Education Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for their class. The essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the WFB Foundation. Last year, more than 2,800 students participated in the contest.



Questions about the essay contest can be directed to Iowa County Ag in the Classroom committee chair Livia Doyle at 608.574.9253 or doylelivia@gmail.com.