



# Iowa County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Iowa County Ag Promotions Update By Kayla Anderson, Ag Promotions Chair



Iowa County Farm Bureau has had some fun opportunities to promote agriculture between the down pours over the past few months.

We sponsored, District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle, to speak on a couple local radio stations for National Ag Day and May Beef Month.

She also visited fourth grade classes to share information about Wisconsin's leading beef industry. Melissa played trivia as well as brought in beef sticks for students to enjoy.

Again this year, Iowa Grant fourth grade students visited the Leix Family Dairy Farm to learn about agriculture and where their food comes from. The event was organized by the Cobb Busy Badgers 4-H



Club and made possible through a memorial donation to promote agriculture to youth in honor of the late Glen Gard. Iowa County Farm Bureau members led an activity titled 'Snacking Around Wisconsin.' Each student went home with a trail mix of Wisconsin commodities, including cranberries, cheese popcorn, soy nuts, shoestring potatoes and of course, milk chocolate M&M's just to name a few.

With summer in full swing, you will see Iowa County Farm Bureau members at many community events promoting agriculture. We hope you join us for the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day on **Sunday, July 9**, in Dodgeville.



## Farm Bureau Skid Steer Challenge Round 2

The Iowa County Fair is set for **August 31-September 4**. The Skid Steer Challenge sponsored by Iowa County Farm Bureau was a huge hit last year, so we're bringing it back for round two.

The challenge will take place on the Sunday of the fair in front of the grandstand starting at noon. We hope the event will draw a good crowd and provide some fun entertainment for the family.



More information on the event will be provided on the Iowa County Farm Bureau Facebook page and Iowa County Fair website.

## Iowa County Policy Development Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, August 14**.

The event will be held at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville. A catered meal featuring Bob's Bitchin' BBQs pulled pork and beef brisket will be provided. This year, some of the key items we will be discussing include food labeling, water quality and the 2018 Farm Bill.

For more information, please visit [wfbf.com/governmentrelations/policydevelopment/](http://wfbf.com/governmentrelations/policydevelopment/).





# COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Farm Bureau Members Get Social

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is helping farmers share their stories with the Takeover Tuesday and Ask A Farmer Friday programs.

Takeover Tuesday is the one day a week where a Farm Bureau member maintains the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Instagram and/or Snapchat account. They use these platforms to talk about their passion for the agricultural community and answer questions from followers.



Iowa County Farm Bureau members, Dakota Bochenhauer, Livia Doyle, Melissa Doyle, and Tyler Tonkin have already participated, and more Iowa County members will soon follow. Farmers and



consumers alike can follow along by adding 'wifarmbureau' on Instagram and Snapchat. Both accounts will be full of activity from farmers and agriculturists.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau will also be hosting a video series of Ask A Farmer Fridays. On Fridays, Wisconsin farmers will answer a common agriculture related question via video on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Facebook page.

## Farm Bureau in Action



1 and 2. Ag Day on Campus was hosted by the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville on April 20. Those walking by the west lawn that afternoon could grab a walking taco, enjoy delicious Wisconsin made snacks, participate in sheep shearing demonstrations, visit farm animals and learn more about agriculture.

3. Iowa County Farm Bureau president Adam Heisner and vice president, Justin Doyle attended the 2017 Council of Presidents Meeting in March at the Sheraton Madison Hotel. Adam and Justin met with other county leaders from around the state to network and discuss official WFBF business.

4. Iowa County Farm Bureau members were among the 400 in attendance at Ag Day at the Capitol. Attendees were briefed on the latest legislative issues concerning agriculture before heading to the Capitol to speak with their elected officials. Iowa County members met with Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Todd Novak to discuss the state budget, transportation funding, groundwater legislation, agricultural fee reductions and other pertinent ag issues.

5. Livia Doyle, Lara Daentl, Krista Dolan and Laura Daniels attended the 2017 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Madison Marriott West. The purpose of the event is to connect

and inspire women involved in the diverse areas of agriculture.

6. Iowa County Farm Bureau was a sponsor of the Managed-Grazing Farm Tour held on May 25 in Spring Green. Those in attendance learned about and discussed a variety of topics, including: managed grazing practice –rotations, water and fencing systems, no-till drilling for pasture improvement, goats for brush control, stream stabilization and crossings, overwintering fields in recovery, winter manure management, challenges with erosion and runoff and a rainfall simulator showing impacts of land cover on erosion.

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## District Director Update



### *The Best Laid Plans.*

Woody Allen once wrote: "If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans." Some days we need to take these simple, but wise words and realize how our best laid plans are merely that... plans.

### **Plans vs. Planning.**

This spring's weather is challenged many "plans" as Mother Nature reminded us she will ultimately dictate and we will acquiesce to her given (daily, sometimes hourly) conditions. Nevertheless, having farmed for 38 years now, I've learned to accept that which I can't control, and manage that which I can. Admittedly as I sit here - not achieving 150+ RFV on my first crop alfalfa is probably a reality I'll have to manage.

This spring a number of dairy farmers were sent a letter from their processor informing them as of May 1 they would not be accepting the daily harvest from over 70 farms, equaling 1.3 million pounds of milk. The letter took many by surprise, including those of us who were not directly affected.

The situation originated as Canada changed its pricing structure and disadvantaged our ultra-filtered milk being exported to Canadian processors. This questionable action by Canada clearly exposed our reliance as well as our vulnerability in trade agreements.

What we found as this unfolded was the long-standing paradigm, tradition of five to ten processors, available for our choosing, had changed. Our plans and our goals were held hostage as life-long investments were held in question. The affected dairy farmers were left with few choices of where they were going to market their milk. With the help of DATCP and many organizations (including WFBF), enough processors and Cooperatives stepped up to make sure no milk would be dumped, but serious questions remain.

How vulnerable are we? Could this situation happen again and maybe even on a larger scale? Are our trade agreements real or merely conceptual and left for interpretation or to be gamed? What is the extent of my contract with my milk processor? Can we or should we be looking at extended or base contracts? What should my lender expect on having a secured processor when signing a 10, 15 or 20-year borrowing note?

There are probably another fifty questions we should be asking; like is this strictly a dairy issue, or are other commodities vulnerable? We need to have these discussions now as we prepare for our policy and development discussions later this summer. Take time to get involved and share your thoughts.

Dwight Eisenhower wrote: "Plans are nothing, planning is everything."

**Dick Gorder**  
WFBF District 3 Director

## District Promotion and Education Update



Summer is here and it's one of my favorite times of year!

Congratulations to Bryce Roelli, son of Jason and Michelle Roelli, for having the winning essay in District 3. There were 65 total entries

across the district. Although he represented us well, the state winning essay came from northern Wisconsin in District 8. Thank you to the parents, grandparents, teachers and Farm Bureau volunteers who encouraged fourth and fifth grade students to write about cranberry production.

In May, I traveled to Waumandee in District 4 for our state Promotion and Education Committee meeting. We discussed many goals and objectives, and as a committee are working at the Wisconsin State Fair House of Moo on **August 12**.

If you attend the fair, please stop by. If you are looking for something different at your next Promotion and Education event, the Potato Spud Mobile is FREE to groups across the state to rent.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming dates and deadlines:

• **July 6 - Summer Classroom Training in Madison.** One day of learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels. This includes the green industry, pork, dairy, beef, Christmas trees and tips about Ag in the Classroom presentations.

• **July 18-19 - Summer Bus Tour in Jefferson County.** Join Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom for an exciting two-day adventure visiting various farms, processors and agricultural businesses.

Stay tuned for more upcoming Promotion and Education events this summer and fall.

**Katie Roth**  
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

## Join Us at Farmers Appreciation Day

Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 32<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year on **Sunday, July 9**. A variety of activities are planned, beginning with a fun run/walk, live music and fireworks on **Saturday, July 8**.

Sunday will kick off with a parade through Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, an auction, displays and food at Harris Park.

The Dodgeville Kiwanis members will serve steak sandwiches grilled by the Iowa County Cattlemen's Association while the ladies of Upland Hills Health Auxiliary will have a variety of pies on hand for dessert.

There will be several activities for the youngsters and plenty of fun for people of all ages.

Farmer's Appreciation Day has become a community tradition. Not only does the event show our appreciation for farmers and agricultural businesses, but it also serves as an excellent opportunity to promote and educate the public about the agricultural industry.

We hope you will join us for this special celebration of agriculture.

For more information and a detailed schedule of the event, please visit [www.farmersappreciationday.com](http://www.farmersappreciationday.com).

## Iowa County YFA Update Jackie McCarville, YFA Committee Chair



The Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members have been busy over the past few months.

with other young farmers.

The Southwest Shindig was a new District 3



YFA event this year. Members enjoyed a night at Vesperman Farms, dancing their boots off to music by the well-known country band, Chasin' Mason.

The summer brings the annual Mallards game outing, Farmers Appreciation Day and Skid Steer Challenge at the Iowa County Fair.

The YFA Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Award applications can be found online on the WFBF website and are due **July 10**. The state winners of these awards will have the opportunity to boot scoot and boogie their way to Nashville to compete at the 2018 AFBF National Convention.

If you have questions about the application process or need assistance, please contact District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle at 608.574.9884 or me at 608.604.0321.

In February, several YFA members traveled to Green County for the Every Farmers Dream tour. Those in attendance toured Kuhn North America, Alp and Dell Cheese Store, Sugar River Pizza Company and New Glarus Brewing Company.



In March, Iowa County YFAs hosted a bowling night at Tower Junction. Over 40 young farmers were in attendance, and a great time was had by all.

Many members also attended the Cheese, Cows & Coozies event hosted by Lafayette County, where they judged classes of cattle, sampled different types of cheese and socialized



## Save the Date: Iowa County Annual Meeting

The Iowa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors invite all members to join them at this year's Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

**Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m.**

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with additional meeting details and RSVP information.

**September**



## District YFA Update



A lot has happened since our last newsletter, so where do I even begin?

On February 10-13, I traveled with other Young Farmer and

Agriculturist and Promotion and Education Committee members to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the AFBF Fusion Conference.

Each day, they had several informative sessions to choose from, including topics such as: ag-education, leadership, business, social media/technology, etc. The speakers and agricultural tour options were incredible.

My favorite speaker was Chris Koch who was raised in Alberta, Canada. He was born without arms and legs, but developed ways to farm regardless. His main quote was, "If I can, anyone can!" He was truly an inspiration to listen to and the good news is that he will be speaking at the WFBF Annual Meeting this December in Wisconsin Dells!

The final event was held in Heinz

Stadium, and we saw the Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame. Not only did I have these great experiences, but I also made friends, many of which discussed visiting each other.

Then two weeks later, I traveled with the WFBF Leadership Institute Class X to Washington, D.C., for the AFBF Advocacy Conference. While in D.C., we attended sessions on issues affecting agriculture, such as tax and regulatory reforms. We talked with Representative Ron Kind and Senator Tammy Baldwin about many topics, especially those regarding dairy and the wolf population.

Ironically, I ran into friends that I made earlier in the month in Pittsburgh, proving that it's a small world after all. With having relatives and friends that have served in the military, my favorite part of the whole trip was having the honor to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was a very humbling experience.

On April 1, we held the first ever District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig. Many sponsors provided snacks and helped us get the band, Chasin' Mason, to come perform. They put on a great show and we had more than 100 people in attendance. Kyle Vesperman of Vesperman Farms was very helpful in providing the

beautiful venue and cooking food during the concert. We plan to do the barn dance again next year and thank you to all those that made it a success, especially the planning crew: Melissa Doyle, Amber McComish, Christina Benson, Jackie Miller, Jackie Seelow, Sarah Johnsen, Katie Roth, Krista Dolan, and Jackie McCarville. It couldn't have been done without you.

Just around the corner, July 10 is the deadline for Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture applications. All YFA members are encouraged to apply. More information and applications can be found on the WFBF website, [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com).

Make sure to mark your calendar for the District 3 Discussion Meet on **August 29** at the Grant County Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. Do you like discussing important and relevant agriculture issues? Join us! We also welcome an audience to support our contestants and give feedback. This year's district contest question is "Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?"

**Tammy Wiedenbeck**  
District 3 YFA Representative

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## Lunch and Learn

WFBF is excited to announce a new Lunch and Learn series for members. Follow Wisconsin Farm Bureau on Facebook to stay up to date on webinar topics.



## County Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

The Ag in the Classroom program has been out in full force this spring. It's been a busy past few months, but that's how we like it.

Last March, I talked with children ages 1 to 5 at the Mineral Point Public Library for their story hour program. The focus was on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and the little ones loved it. We read a book titled "PB&J, Hooray!" written by Janet Nolan.

In addition to the story hour program, Melissa Doyle and Jackie McCarville presented at the library for an after-school program in May. They focused the topic around soil by crafting our favorite 'Soil Sammies' as well as making dirt dessert and discussing each layer of soil with the students.

This spring, Iowa County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program also played a role in three farm tour field

trips throughout our county.

Preschool students from Pecatonica Elementary School visited Gilbertson Dairy Farm in Hollandale, fourth grade students from Iowa-Grant Elementary School visited Leix Dairy Farm in Montfort and fourth grade students from Mineral Point Elementary School visited Schaaf's Dairy Goat Farm in Mineral Point. At these events, we planned and led educational lessons and provided students the opportunity to learn and experience life on the farm.

To kick-off June Dairy Month, Governor Scott Walker traveled to Mineral Point Elementary School to sign the bill making cheese Wisconsin's official State Dairy Product. This newest state symbol was proposed by the fourth-grade class after they realized that cheese was not recognized anywhere as an official state symbol.

They originally presented their idea to Representative Todd Novak and Senator Howard Marklein, who played an instrumental part in helping make their idea a reality. The excitement of the students grew throughout the four-month process, and they couldn't have had a better end to their school year knowing they're truly a part of Wisconsin history.

Iowa County is proud to announce that Bryce Roelli, a fourth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary, was selected as this year's District 3 Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner. The essay focused on cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.

### Congratulations Bryce!

As always, if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, please contact me at [livia.doyle@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:livia.doyle@mp.k12.wi.us) or 608.574.9253.

*Bryce Roelli's winning essay*

### Cranberry Time

It's Fall in Wisconsin cranberry time! Cranberries are Wisconsin's #1 fruit crop, and its official state fruit. Wisconsin leads the country in cranberry production with about 60% of the nation's supply. The cranberry harvest begins in about mid-September and extends for a few weeks. People often think cranberries grow in water because they see them in water. The reason for this has to do with how they are harvested.

To gather the fruit, the growers flood their marshes with up to 18 inches of water the night before the harvest. They then use machines, often called 'eggbeaters', that agitate the water with enough force to dislodge the berries. Each berry has a small pocket of air that allows it to float to the surface of the water. The berries are then collected with large nets and loaded on trucks. This type of harvest is called 'wet-harvest.'

Cranberries are good for you because they contain vitamin C and fiber. They also have antioxidants that are thought to prevent certain types of cancer and improve immune function. They are processed into delicious juice, sauce, jam and sweetened dried cranberries. Nearly one-fifth of the entire cranberry harvest is consumed on a single day ... Thanksgiving.

Cranberry farmers put in a lot of hard work and long hours during harvest time. I am reminded of this when I eat cranberries, and I appreciate all they do. I especially enjoy eating Craisins after swim meets. They are a tasty and nutritious snack.

