

Iowa County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Agriculture Promotions Update - Join Us at Farmers Appreciation Day By Melissa Doyle



Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 29th consecutive year on **Sunday, July 13.**

The day will kick-off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, a live auction, educational displays and food at Harris Park. Dodgeville Kiwanis members will serve their famous beef and pork sandwiches, while the ladies of Upland Hills Health Auxiliary will have a variety of delicious pies on hand for dessert. There will be learning opportunities for the youngsters and plenty of fun for people of all ages.

This is the first year the Iowa County Farm Bureau is partnering with the Dodgeville Chamber of Commerce to help plan the event. Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan and myself have taken active roles on the organizing committee and are excited to see the event grow and incorporate several new activities, including a live auction conducted by On Point Auction Service.

The parade theme, "A Day in the Life of a Farmer," was submitted by the Pleasant View 4-H Club. As many of us know, it's hard to sum up just one day in a farmer's life, but easy to overlook everything farmers and agribusinesses do for our local communities. Farmers Appreciation Day has become a truly wonderful tradition and great way of saying thank you to these agriculturists for all they do. It also serves as an excellent opportunity to promote and educate the general public about agriculture.

We hope many of you will join us at this year's Farmers Appreciation Day, and look forward to helping this event succeed for many years to come!

Board Member Spotlight – Don Ley

Greetings everyone! My name is Don Ley and I'm a member of the Iowa County Farm Bureau board of directors. I'm 18 with 42 years of experience.

The best advice I ever got was to find a wife who could put me to bed at night and kick my butt out in the morning. That yielded Pauline of 31 years and five children: Dawn, Dennis, Kayla, Kelly and Krista and one granddaughter, Anabelle. We own 300 acres of the family farm and rent 180 acres. We milk 100 cows and house 120 replacements. I am on the membership committee and welcome any thoughts you might have on how to make Farm Bureau better.



Don Ley owns and operates Dawn-Dusk Dairy with his family.

Iowa County YFA Update

We held our ice fishing and sledding party in February and although it was a little chilly, a good time was had by all who attended. We are planning to have a picnic on a farm as well as a Lake Louie Brewing tour this summer, so watch for postcards to be sent out on these events. The YFA Achievement and Excellence in Agriculture awards are due July 1. I strongly encourage anyone interested to apply for these awards.



Jackie McCarville
Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

Save the Date - County Annual Meeting - September 24

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting on September 24 at Ludden Lake in Mineral Point.

09 • 24 • 14



COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Ag in the Classroom Update By Livia Doyle

A total of 20 fourth grade students from around the county participated in this year's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. This year's topic was "Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us." These fourth grade participants did a fabulous job demonstrating and sharing the importance of growing and maintaining bountiful gardens that are able to provide food for families year round. Students also touched on the importance of buying local produce and supporting our hard working and dedicated farmers from around our state and nation! This year's winning essay was awarded to Ella Fox, a fourth grade student in Mrs. Ross's class at Mineral Point Elementary

School. Ella and her family enjoy gardening throughout the spring, summer and fall. Their beautiful garden serves as a place where they can work together in the planting, caring, and harvesting of crops for their family. Ella enjoys gathering the crops from her family's garden to create and cook healthy meals that her family enjoys year round.

A special thank you to Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest sponsors: by Frontier Servco FS, WE Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.



Essay Winner Ella Fox.

Ella's Essay:

"Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us"

The first time I ever planted a garden was when I was five years old. I helped my parents plant the garden. We planted spinach, radishes, strawberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash, zucchini, basil, chives, peas, beans, peppers, watermelon, pumpkins and cantaloupe. All of those plants taste different and can be used in different ways. My little sister started eating cherry tomatoes from our garden when she was a baby and she loves them. My brother likes putting lettuce from the garden on sandwiches and tacos. My dad loves radishes from the garden, especially when they're really spicy. This year my mom can't wait to have the fresh spinach from our garden.

What I'm looking forward to most this year in the garden is having fresh juicy strawberries. I like to eat the strawberries right off the plant. I also like making

preserves (a type of jelly). Last year was the first year I ever made preserves. The first batch was really juicy, so we used that for strawberry shortcake. Then we made a new batch, and it was delicious. My mom said it was just like her grandma's. I entered it in the county fair and I also gave it for Christmas gifts to my relatives.

Last year, my dad helped to build a beautiful garden at our school. That garden will help the school lunches be healthier, and teach people to love fruits and vegetables. If somebody doesn't have a garden at their house, the school garden will help them learn about growing fruits and vegetables and let them try a bunch of new things that maybe they haven't tried before. I can't wait until we get to start planting fruits and vegetables in the school garden, and helping people learn how Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us.

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Policy Development Meeting - July 28



The Iowa County Farm Bureau will host their policy development meeting on **Monday, July 28, at 7 p.m.** Supper will be served. Please RSVP to Laura Daniels by July 23. The policy development meeting is an opportunity for you to come and share ideas related to legislative actions that you feel are necessary. These resolutions are then taken to the county annual meeting and, if passed, forwarded on to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Some of the issues that will be up for discussion this year are: high capacity well and related groundwater issues, county UW-Extension, driver's licenses for immigrant workers, drones and privacy issues and agricultural enterprise areas.

YFA Picnic - July 20

Mark your calendars for a YFA picnic on **July 20**. The picnic will be at **noon** at the Tippy Dairy on Blotz Road in Dodgeville. Bring a dish to pass, a lawn chair and your own beverages.

Women Rooted in Agriculture: Crawford County Member Colette Hromadka

Colette joined Farm Bureau in 2002 when she and her husband, Craig, needed insurance. They attended some YFA events and county events but did not become active until 2007 when Craig was elected to the county board. She then became active on the Women's committee. She started helping with Ag in the Classroom and the essay contest. She also started helping with the Dairy Bar at the county fair. About two years ago they started co-chairing the Crawford County YFA committee.

Colette attended the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit a couple times, but for her, the most memorable one was two years ago. She got a lot of information from it and it is always fun to get away for a few days. She also enjoys working the Dairy Bar at the county fair because she gets to meet and see people and enjoys talking to them.

A stay at home mom, Colette also works seasonally at Cabela's in Prairie du Chien. Colette enjoys gardening and working

outside on the lawn. She also enjoys reading. Craig farms with his parents and they have three children. They enjoy spending time with family, hunting, fishing, canoeing and many other outdoor activities.

What makes you excited about the future of women in agriculture?

"I don't know if women in agriculture have changed or not, but what you hear about them has certainly changed over the years. Today, we hear a lot more about their involvement when it comes to educating others about agriculture. When I was in school, I don't remember having a lot of classroom visitors who spoke



Colette is pictured here with her three kids, Abigail, Danielle and Aaron.

about careers, but now people are visiting classrooms of all ages and talking about how agriculture affects them. More and more, kids are beginning to realize that agriculture is so much more than pigs and cows. There is even more involvement in the Ag in the Classroom programs and essay contest. I am also excited about women coming together and bringing ideas together. I like to connect and learn ideas from others using forums like LinkedIn, and other social media and events where women come together. It is amazing to network in these ways and learn new ideas from other women in agriculture."

The Beef Farmer and the Peanut Butter Sandwich

In early May I had the chance to visit a classroom of kindergartners to talk about how we raise beef cattle and what nutrition it can provide as part of a balanced diet. Throughout the day I saw four-year-olds through third graders so I was catching on to a few commonalities among the classes; they liked to tell stories and they could turn any story into a question just so they could tell it. At one point I made the statement that beef has protein, just like peanut butter. One young lady immediately raised her hand. I went through my normal screening process to a hand being raised. 'Is this a question?' She said 'no.' 'OK, is it a story?' Again, her response was 'no.' 'OK, go ahead then.' So, she took a deep breath and said, 'I have a peanut butter sandwich in my lunch today.' She was right. Not a question or a story, merely a statement of fact.



It took me a few days to realize it, but she taught me a pretty important lesson that day. While she didn't have a question or a story to share, she stated a fact that made a connection between her and me. She took the time to find the thing that linked us together and then she shared it with me. How often do I do that when I have a conversation? How often do you? You see, there are plenty of opportunities for us to tell our story, or answer questions and we hope people will make a connection. But what if they don't? Can we find ways to help them connect to the work we do, whether it relates directly to agriculture or not? If you have small children in your life, I'm sure you have stories that could match this one and you probably find yourself chuckling at the connections that little kids make to the things you say. Even though there might not always be a question or a story (though there usually is), sometimes a statement of fact gives us a chance to establish a connection.

There are 16 schools in Iowa County. Perhaps you have children or grandchildren who attend one of these schools. Have you ever taken time to visit their classroom and share what you do each day? If you are a banker, they probably figure you swim in money and count it all day long. Perhaps if you're a farmer, they think you milk cows by hand and ride a horse to work. It doesn't matter what career path you have chosen for yourself, sharing your experiences could help lead another person down that path and help them see the world through your eyes. Admittedly, it will help you see the world through their eyes too.

Not sure about visiting a classroom by yourself? Give me a call, I'd love to go along, I'll even bring the peanut butter sandwiches.

Gretchen Kamps
WFBF District 3 Coordinator

District Director's Message



As I wrote earlier this year, Farm Bureau has been undergoing a comprehensive strategic planning process. First, thank you to everyone who participated in the listening sessions. The board and staff listened to our members; what are their values, concerns and expectations as we move the organization towards its 100th anniversary?

We held six listening sessions around the state collecting input from members. The information was collated and the board met in April to put together common themes and to prioritize them for action plans.

What we found out didn't surprise us too much. We're doing a lot that is right. Our members found great value in our governmental relations division and a strong desire to increase our involvement on issues that impact our farms.

Our members also appreciate and believe there is room for greater development of the Ag in the Classroom program. Today there are hundreds, if not thousands, of media outlets telling people what they should think about today's modern agriculture.

We, agriculture, have to tell our story or someone else will tell it. Who's better than those of us that live our lives on the farm to tell our story?

We're more than halfway through our strategic process, but the real test will be implementing the plan. It will be you, the membership working with the board and staff, that will determine the success of our organization as we approach our 100-year anniversary.

Be safe.

Richard Gorder
District 3 Board Director

Upcoming Dates!

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for these exciting events!

July 8-9 – Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour

July 13 – Farmer's Appreciation Day – Dodgeville

July 29 – YFA Potluck – Talmer Bank, Darlington, 7:30 p.m.

August 26 – District 3 YFA Discussion Meet – Lancaster

September 24 – Iowa County Annual Meeting – Ludden Lake

September 30 – YFA Pot Luck – Seneca Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

December 5-8 – WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference – Wisconsin Dells



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

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- Grainger
- Office Depot

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

District YFA Update



As we get into summer one thing comes to our YFA minds, contests! The first applications due will be the Achievement Award and Excellence in Ag. We had a Young

Farmer and Agriculturist Contest Night on June 18, at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building in Lancaster. If you know of anyone interested in any of the contests, but they missed this informational meeting, please tell them to contact us. Both awards are for people who are living up to the Farm Bureau motto- "Doing great things for agriculture." The Achievement Award is for an individual or couple who is involved in production agriculture and at least 51% of their income comes from the farm. The Excellence in Ag award is for someone who earns 51% or more of their income off the farm. Teachers, salespeople, or anyone that spends time promoting agriculture are perfect for the Excellence in Ag award. The applications are due on July 1.

Another big contest coming up this summer is the Discussion Meet. On August 26, we will be having our annual District 3 Discussion Meet at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building. We will have supper before the Discussion Meet starts. More details about the Discussion Meet and supper will be shared in July. The top three participants in the Discussion Meet will advance to the state contest in December at the WFBF

Annual Meeting. If you know someone with the gift of gab and knowledge of agriculture, get them involved!

As we started our role as the District 3 YFA representatives we were looking for a way to be more involved as a district. In April, we started the "5th Tuesday Potluck" and we were very pleased with the turnout and are excited about the future ones. The next "5th Tuesday Potluck" will be July 29 from 7-10 p.m. at Talmer Bank in Darlington. We hope to see everyone there for a night of fun, friends and food!

District 3 YFA

5th Tuesday Potlucks
7-10 p.m.

.....
Tuesday, April 29
Grant County Farm Bureau Building
9755 U.S. Highway 61 in Lancaster
.....
Tuesday, July 29
Talmer Bank
Corner of Highway 18 & 23 in Darlington
.....
Tuesday, September 30
Seneca Townhall
21041 Town Hall Road in Seneca
.....
Tuesday, December 30
Richland Community Building
1050 N. Orange Street in Richland Center
.....

Please join us for a night of socializing and eating! This will be a chance to connect with other Farm Bureau members and catch up with old friends.

Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks will be provided.

RSVP to:
Derek and Charisse Orth (608.778.9049 | dereksejersys@gmail.com)
Gretchen Kamps (866.355.7343 | gkamps@wfbf.com)

We look forward to seeing everyone out and about this summer! If there's anything we can help with or planning events to give your YFA a boost, feel free to contact us!

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives

District Women's Update



I am looking forward to this summer after what seemed to be an extra-long winter with a short spring. It has been an exciting spring for me on the WFBF Board of Directors working with strategic planning and the process of it. Our state board does an amazing job looking at the future of the organization and agriculture together.

I want to thank all the counties for the Ag in the Classroom essays this year. We had close to 200 essays from District 3. The winner was a student from Belmont schools in Lafayette County. All of the counties sent in excellent essays and it was a hard decision to make. This summer we will pick a book and a topic for next year.

It was great to see many of you at the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in Madison. This year we had many great speakers and are always looking for input for future years. If you have not attended and would like more information please let me know.

This fall we are looking at having the District 3 Fall Summit in Vernon County. I will have more information at a later date about it. Please remember to save your pop tabs for the WFBF Annual Meeting. Let's see if we can win this challenge. This is my second go around with Women Rooted in Ag. I am always looking for suggestions of great women in our district to talk to. If you know someone please contact me.

Nicole Adrian
District 3 Women's Committee Representative and Committee Chair

Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Krista Dolan	608.574.4565
Vice President, Laura Daniels	608.513.0210
Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Adams	608.623.2135
YFA Chair, Jackie McCarville	608.604.0321
Ag Promotion's Chair, Melissa Doyle	608.574.9884
Ag in the Classroom Chair, Livia Doyle	608.574.9882

Director, Ross Blotz	608.574.6129
Director, Bob Daentl	608.623.2731
Director, Ryan Dolan	608.574.6280
Director, Justin Doyle	608.574.9882
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Director, John Meyers	608.924.4746
Director, Roger Schambow	608.943.8546

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WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder	608.987.3424
RMIC District Manager, Dave Larson	608.935.9500

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Reminder to Call Before You Dig!

Building a shed? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

A federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.