



# Jackson County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Jackson County Farm Bureau YFAs Attend YFA Conference

By Erica Olson, Jackson County YFA chair



Seventeen YFA members from District 4 attended the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-3.

This past December, Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

Jackson County Farm Bureau had a great representation of five county YFA members who attended the conference. The conference included entertainment, workshops, networking, keynote speakers and more.

I was one of those members who attended the YFA Conference, and was really glad I did. Here are a few of my highlights from the weekend:

### District 4 Meeting

On the first night of the conference, YFA members from District 4, met to get to know each other and congratulate participants in the Discussion Meet and YFA competitions. To break the ice among members, we split into teams and played some fun and silly games.

We played a Christmas-themed game where we split into teams and raced to dress up a member of our team as a Christmas tree. I thought this game was hilarious and those who got decorated were really good sports.

### Casino Night

New this year, the YFA Conference hosted a casino night. Although real money was not used, there were some pretty awesome prizes at stake, so people got pretty competitive. I enjoyed learning how to play blackjack and horse racing. This event was a good opportunity to meet other YFA members and socialize.

### Keynote Speakers

The YFA Conference planning committee brought in excellent keynote speakers. My favorite was Chris Koch and his message titled, 'If I Can.' Chris is a farmer and motivational speaker who was born without arms and legs. When he was asked, "What does it feel like to have no arms and legs?" his response was, "It feels pretty normal." Chris makes it a point to live a normal life, and do anything he sets his mind to without second guessing himself. I was truly inspired by him and his outlook on life.

This was my fourth time attending the YFA Conference. Each year, I learn something new and meet new people. I always come away with a greater appreciation for my family's farm and my involvement in agriculture.

This year, I made new friends, and got to see old friends. It is rare to have so many people similar in age in one room passionate about agriculture.



As a part of the District 4 YFA meeting, Jackson County YFA member Savannah Brown volunteered to be 'Christmas trees' during their team relays.



# COUNTYnews

JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Steve Kling Receives 'Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau' Award

Jackson County's Steve Kling has received the highest award Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation bestows upon its members. Kling was presented the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 'Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau' award during the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on December 3.

Kling has been an active member of Farm Bureau for 39 years and served in key leadership roles at county and state levels.

"It is because of his selfless dedication to others and agriculture that I am extremely proud to recognize Steve's distinguished service to Farm Bureau," said WFBF President Jim Holte. "Steve is an advocate for Farm Bureau and has devoted countless hours during his years as Jackson County Farm Bureau president. His leadership and experience are assets to our organization."

Kling's history in Farm Bureau runs deep. His grandfather Walter was a founding member of the Jackson County Farm Bureau and his father Bob served on the board of directors. Kling served on the county board of directors for all but two years since 1977, and now his son Nathan is serving on the board of directors with him.

He attended the Farm Bureau leader trip to Washington, D.C., and makes it a point to attend Ag Day at the Capitol. Kling also served on the WFBF Dairy Committee and Policy Development Committee. He has been a Farm Bureau Proud Club (formerly Producer Club) member numerous times and has signed more than 35 new Farm Bureau members.

Kling was instrumental in the creation of the annual District 4 policy development meeting. In the mid-2000s, with the help of Todd Quarne of Trempealeau County, they brought county Farm Bureau leaders together to discuss policy resolutions as a district for the first time.

"Steve truly embodies what Farm Bureau is about," said Darby Sampson, Jackson County Farm Bureau promotion and education chair. "He is a member at a local level making an impact in Farm Bureau that reaches all the way to the top of our organization. He is paving the way for generations to come."

Kling and his wife, Pat, have hosted the Jackson County Dairy Breakfast twice. They were the 2016 Jackson County Farm Family of the year and 2012 Farm Family of the La



Steve and Pat Kling of Taylor, Wis. were presented with the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award by WFBF President, Jim Holte, on December 3rd.

Crosse Farm Show. In 2005, they received the Jackson County Land Conservation Department Watershed Farmer Award and were finalists for the 2012 Leopold Conservation Award.

The couple has hosted more than eight foreign exchange students through 4-H and DFA programs.

Sampson added, "To Steve Kling, Farm Bureau isn't just an ordinary organization; it's an organization made up of neighbors, friends and of family from across the state and nation that come together for a common cause."

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## Volunteers Needed: Jackson County Farm Bureau Lunch with a Farmer

The second annual Lunch with a Farmer event will be held in the Melrose and Mindoro Elementary Schools on March 20. In 2017, more than 20 farmers participated. Local farmers are invited to the schools to eat lunch with students, chat with them about how the food on their trays is grown and share about their own farms. We want to hold similar events in other Jackson County schools.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Darby Sampson at 715.299.1409.



More than 20 farmers participated in the 2017 Lunch with a Farmer at Melrose and Mindoro Elementary Schools.

## Meet: District YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger



Hello! My name is Rosli Bragger. I am 23-years-old and have been a Farm Bureau member for three years.

During this time, I have completed in discussion meet twice. I have helped make milkshakes with the Buffalo County Farm Bureau for as long as I can remember.

Currently, I am a nursing student in Eau Claire where I also work at the Mayo Clinic. While I am very busy

with school, I do come home and help on my family's farm in Buffalo County on the weekends.

This past summer, my sister and I showed dairy cattle through the Wisconsin Holstein Association. I am very excited for the next three years and look forward to being more involved with agriculture through Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the District 4 YFA Chair.

## We're Going all the Way: A Message From the District 4 Director



I have never been prouder to be a part of Farm Bureau than after going to this year's AFBF Annual Convention and seeing the impact our state has.

Wisconsin is quite small with more than 40,000 members when you compare us to Tennessee's 600,000 plus members. Imagine our three delegates up against theirs

during the policy development process.

Before I dive into AFBF, I want to start from the beginning with a local resolution going all the way to the top and building national consensus.

A resolution that was brought forth by a Buffalo County Farm Bureau member was adopted by the membership of Buffalo County Farm Bureau during the county annual meeting in 2016. The resolution: We support industrial hemp production.

This was not the first time it was proposed, but confusion between industrial hemp and its very close cousin, marijuana, prevented the adoption of the resolution in 2015. After gathering more information and presenting at the District 4 Policy Development meeting, several other counties in District 4 also considered forwarding a resolution in favor of industrial hemp production in Wisconsin and the USA.

The following resolution was adopted: We support the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be regulated by the USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Great, we have a resolution; does it stop there? Absolutely not! Following the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting, the task of promoting our policies went to our outstanding Governmental Relations team including: Paul Zimmerman, Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Steve Boe.

Rob Richard became the lead person studying and promoting industrial hemp legislation. Our resolutions process is closely

followed by many of our legislators and after our approval of industrial hemp, Representative Jesse Kramer (R-Kewaskum) approached Rob Richard with his bill supporting industrial hemp and, we were off to the races. Following a process of educating people on the differences between industrial hemp and marijuana, the once huge industrial hemp processing capacity that existed not only in the USA but with Wisconsin being one of the largest producers and the current \$600 million of hemp products being imported in the USA. We were in a position to have a hearing on the bill, so close.

With a lot of support and advocacy from Farm Bureau members, especially in Monroe County, we moved the bill forward and guaranteed its success. The members came through!

Countless phone calls and contacts were made from our members especially in Monroe County, county agents expressed interest in researching new opportunities that industrial hemp could provide for farmers, as well as our governmental relations team making contacts at high levels.

The Industrial Hemp Bill got a hearing without opposition expressed by anyone. The bill passed the Assembly and the Senate without opposition and was signed into law as ACT 100 by Governor Scott Walker on November 30, 2017. That's right, Google it: Wisconsin ACT 100, 2017.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has 90 days from November 30, to set up the rules by which farmers can grow industrial hemp. We will have seeds in the ground in 2018!

Back to AFBF Annual Convention, where I started. While Wisconsin may have a small number of delegates, we accomplished much by our ability to build partnerships with other states.

The Wisconsin delegation organized and held two meetings on industrial hemp and dairy policy with other interested states. On the issue of industrial hemp, Congressman James Comer (R-Kentucky) discussed the strong interest in industrial hemp legislation from a bi-partisan perspective and what was needed for national legislation to happen.

Rob Richard secured the written support of 27 state Farm Bureau presidents. AFBF delegates passed a resolution in sup-



(from left) District 4 Director Joe Bragger, District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr., Kentucky Congressman James Comer, WFBF President Jim Holte and District 7 Director Adam Kuczer met during AFBF Annual Convention and discussed the future of industrial hemp.

port of industrial hemp and now we will complete the process of pursuing legislation at a federal level so that we can move this process to home base.

I am very pleased to announce that in our District, Congressman Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin), signed onto the bill Congressman Comer authored. Five of Wisconsin's eight congressional delegates have signed onto Congressman Comer's bill, tied with Colorado for most co-sponsors from any state.

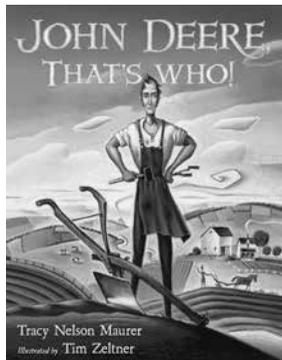
For more information about industrial hemp, please visit [www.hemptrade.ca/eguide](http://www.hemptrade.ca/eguide).

Whether it is industrial hemp, dairy policy or several others including the allowing of milk to be labeled by its fat free content (99% fat free versus 1% fat), Wisconsin Farm Bureau has worked to build strong credibility with other states. Even if we are relatively small in relation to other state Farm Bureaus, we carry a lot of weight for our members.

So, remember to share your issues or ideas ... we really can make things happen. As always, enough is too much.

**Joe Bragger**  
WFBF District 4 Board of Director  
715.530.0466  
[braggfam@trivest.net](mailto:braggfam@trivest.net)

## Ag in the Classroom Announces Essay Contest



The 2018 Wisconsin 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.'

"Technology is something that many students don't associate with agriculture," said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "This year's book and essay contest will give students the opportunity to explore how technology is help-

ing produce food, fuel and fiber and for teachers to incorporate ag into their STEM curriculum."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at [wisagclassroom.org/whats-new](http://wisagclassroom.org/whats-new). Essays are due **April 2**.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the WFBF 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 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, more than 2,800 students participated in the contest.

Questions about the book or how to place an order can be directed to Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.08.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).

## Plan to Participate in the Wisconsin Ag Open

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, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.



## Meet : Chris Curran, Jackson County Farm Bureau Director



The Curran family includes (from left) Chris and Mary Curran, Grace and Aj Walsh-Brenizer and Ariel and Zack Curran. Chris serves on the Jackson County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Hello, Farm Bureau members. My name is Chris Curran and I serve as a director for the Jackson County Farm Bureau. I grew up on our family's dairy farm near Taylor where I was a member in a couple local groups including 4-H and FFA.

While growing up, I was interested in agriculture and lived it every day. I was interested in crop production at a young age and more interested in dairy cattle as time went on. I attended UW-River Falls and earned my bachelor's degree in broad area ag with a minor in agronomy.

Upon graduation, I started my first job with Land O'Lakes Feed as a livestock production specialist in Tomah and Black River Falls. I worked there for four years and then returned to the farm with my wife, Mary. We ran the dairy farm with my parents, John and Gloria, and our two young children, Zack and Grace. We sold our dairy herd in 2012 and now rent out the cropland.

I was able to get a job again with Land O'Lakes Feed doing the same job as I had previously done, working with farmers with feed and animal nutrition. I work in Jackson, Trempealeau and Buffalo counties for Countryside Cooperative. I really enjoy working with farmers and enjoy helping them meet their goals but also have been through some of the same challenges that I see every day.

Mary works in the office at Land O'Lakes in Black River Falls. Our children are now grown and both were married this last summer. Zack served six years in the U.S. Air Force as an intelligence analyst and now works for a large intelligence contractor company. His new bride, Ariel, is wonderful. They live in Denver, Colorado.

Grace attended UW-River Falls and majored in dairy science and minored in ag business. She made college seem easier than I remember and met her husband, Aj, there—an absolutely great guy. They live in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, and both work for Jennie-O Turkey, Grace as a production supervisor and Aj as a maintenance engineer.

We are very proud of our family and appreciate having the time to visit our children. In our spare time, Mary and I enjoy hiking, biking, camping and anything outdoors.

When I was young, I knew that Farm Bureau was an agricultural organization that was affiliated with Rural Mutual Insurance and was involved with ag policies. As a member, I understood that certain ag policies were supported by the Farm Bureau and some were not.

After serving on the county board, I was learned more about the grassroots beginning of policy. I could see how ideas that started as a discussion at a county Farm Bureau meeting or a conversation with a neighbor may be proposed at our District Policy Development meeting and carefully researched and worded to be presented at the state level.

I really enjoy being on our county Farm Bureau board as we have had a very dedicated group with committed leadership for farmers and landowners alike. The Farm Bureau, both local and state, do an excellent job with the Young Farmers and Agriculturist educational activities and leadership training that is offered.

It is very encouraging to see the involvement of young farmers and ag professionals on our board and committees. They have a great perspective, provide great discussion and make it rewarding for all to come together for agriculture.

## National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Maine

The National Ag in the Classroom Conference is an opportunity for volunteers, teachers and staff involved in agricultural literacy to learn about resources, share ideas and network with others involved in agricultural education.

The 2018 National Conference will be **June 26-29** in Portland, Maine. Hotel information is available and conference registration opened on **January 15**.

The conference offers workshops, mini-workshops and traveling workshops. The traveling workshops (or tours) offered by the conference offer participants an opportunity to learn about

production agriculture, agri-businesses, food systems, the green industry and other aspects of agriculture.

Thanks to the support of the WFB Foundation's Jeanette Poulson Fund, three \$500 scholarships are offered to non-traditional educators and volunteers. Applications are due May 1 and can be downloaded at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) under 'What's New.'

For information, visit [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org). If you have questions, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).

## 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**. Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage or IGNITE is a information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting.

The purpose is the strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing programs, resources and skills to carry out the mission of county Farm Bureaus. More than 20 workshops will be offered following four training tracks including: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and policy, issues and advocacy.



## Jackson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steven Kling	715.662.5053
Vice President, Chris Curran	715.662.5500
Secretary/Treasurer, Nate Kling	715.662.2600
Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
YFA Chair, Erica Olson	715.299.2678
Director, Savannah Brown	715.896.8780
Director, Norman Johnson	715.284.2390
Director, Brady Laufenberg	715.533.0846
Director, Leonard Olson	715.284.7180
Director, Will Prindle	715.896.2631
Director, Alan Sampson	715.797.5031
Director, Ryan Sawyer	715.396.1021
Director Megan Stuessel	715.896.3700

WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
WFBF YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409 715.630.4801
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

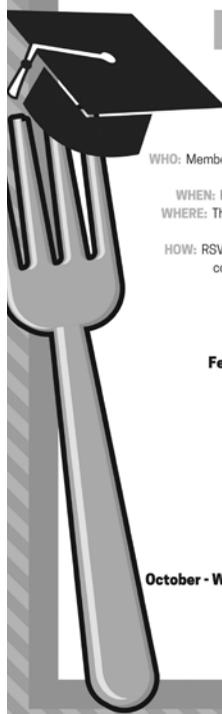
## Apply for Jackson County Farm Bureau's Scholarship

Students encouraged to apply for \$500 scholarship

Jackson County Farm Bureau will be offering a \$500 scholarship to students of our county Farm Bureau members.



Information and applications will be available at area high schools or by contacting Darby Sampson at 715.299.1409 or [darbysampson@hotmail.com](mailto:darbysampson@hotmail.com).



### Lunch & Learn

with 

**WHO:** Members who want to learn more about Farm Bureau & agriculture  
**WHAT:** Educational Webinars  
**WHEN:** First Wednesday of every month from noon-12:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The comfort of your own home or business. Tune in on your computer or any handheld device.  
**HOW:** RSVP at <http://bit.ly/WFBFLunchLearn> and we will send you a confirmation and directions on how to participate

**2018 Lunch & Learn Topics**

- January - AITC Essay Contest**
- February - WFBF's Local Affairs Program**
- March - Discovery Farms**
- April - Agrability**
- May - DATCP Farm Center**
- June - WFBF Leadership Institute**
- July - Election Update**
- August - What's happening in Policy**
- September - Farm Safety**
- October - WFBF Annual Meeting & YFA Conference Preview**
- November - Policy Topic Discussion**
- December - No Lunch and Learn**