



# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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<b>Tim Finger</b> (920) 945-0447	<b>Tom Murphy</b> (920) 262-9775	

Linda Schopen, District Manager - (920) 723-5108

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Jefferson County Farm Bureau Offers \$500 Scholarships

\$500 scholarship are available from your guidance office or from the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website, [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson).

Student must be in good standing and can be attending a two- or four-year college, including short course. The deadline to apply is **April 25**.



### 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 all of us to raise our voice 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 Jefferson 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: Jefferson County is meeting in Room 415 NW

If you are interested in attending, contact Patti Roden by March 1 at 262.689.1838 or [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).

### District 1 YFA Spring Fling Planned

**Date:** Saturday, March 18  
**Time:** Doors open at 7:30 p.m., band plays from 8 to midnight  
**Band:** FM Rodeo  
**Location:** The Columbian, West Bend  
**Tickets:** \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door



To get your advanced tickets, contact Jefferson County YFA chair Lindsay Knoebel.

### District Go-Karting Event A Success



On January 20, members from District 1 gathered for a night of pizza and go-karting at Veloce Indoor Speedway in Waukesha. Forty YFA members were in attendance and all had a great time.





# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Tradition: WFBF Annual Meeting Theme and Highlights

By Will Morris, voting delegate



Jefferson County Farm Bureau donated a baking basket to the silent auction. The basket raised \$60 for the WFB Foundation.

The 97<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Young Farmer Conference was held Friday, December 2, through Monday, December 5 at the Kalahari Waterpark and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. The theme of this year's event was Tradition. The YFA Conference started on Friday and the WFBF Annual Meeting started on Saturday.

The WFBF Annual Meeting kicked off with the opening of the trade show, where state and local businesses, schools, sponsors and other vendors showcased their products and ideas. Also in the trade show area were all of the silent auction items that people could bid on, with proceeds going to the WFB Foundation.

After taking a break from the trade show, we were treated to the entertainment of the acapella group Tonic Sol-Fa, after our Farm Bureau Proud dinner banquet. After dinner and a show, we continued back to the trade show for a reception and to await the start of trivia. The trivia contest is a fairly new tradition, but it has grown into an extremely fun, and slightly competitive time.

Sunday morning started off with devotional, the Discussion Meet finals and resolution processing. The YFA Conference finished up and the trade show re-opened for its final day with the silent auction ending later that night. During the day, there was plenty to do with breakout sessions and meetings. After our awards banquet and program, we then went to socialize with a reception.

Our final day of the conference was Monday, and this was the big day. District caucuses were held in the morning to talk about policy development changes and other items that were expected to come up during resolutions and the business meeting.

After hearing reports on how strong Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual

## Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Coming to Jefferson County in 2019

Jefferson County will serve as the host of the 2019 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days. Walter Grain Farms will host the event on **July 23-25, 2019**. Mike and Sarah Walter farm with their two sons and wives: Adam and Heather, and Brad and Kristi.

The family with combined and separate business operations grows corn, soybeans, winter wheat and some alfalfa on more than 6,000 acres. They also own and operate a farm tiling and drainage business. This will be the third time that Jefferson County is hosting the event. Mike's parents, Bernard and Beverly Walter, hosted the event in 1984.

It is expected that 40,000 or more people will attend the three-day

Insurance are doing, we then had resolutions. To see so many people so passionate about agriculture and the policy that we recommend is a great feeling.

The conference this year was a fantastic time. We met lots of new people who were all so nice, and caught up with friends from years past. Everyone there is involved with agriculture in some way shape or form, and it makes for a lot of fun. We bid on some great silent auction items, drank a few beers and had a blast at trivia.

It's so great to get to see so many Farm Bureau Proud members in one place. It certainly has become a tradition that I look forward to every year. A lot of the conference wouldn't be possible though without the help and support of the sponsors and so many volunteers, and for all of them we are so thankful.



Members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting included: front row (L-R) Jean Poulson, Karen Schadt, Dawn Jones, Jena Morris and Mary Mess; back row (L-R) Randy Mitchell, Dan Poulson, Tony Schadt, Steve Jones, Will Morris and Eugene Mess.



Jefferson County Farm Bureau delegates who sat on the delegate floor included: front row (L-R) Eugene Mess, John Morris, Will Morris, Tony Schadt and Randy Mitchell; back row (L-R) Melissa Gross, Steve Jones and Sue Marx.

event. Organizing the show will involve nearly 20 operating committees with chairs, co-chairs and members numbering in the 100s. It is expected that nearly 1,500 volunteers will be involved during the show itself.

Anyone interested in helping with this exciting event, whether volunteering or exhibiting, should contact Katelyn at the Jefferson County UW Extension Office at 920.674.7295.

For more information, visit [www.wifarmtechnologydays.com](http://www.wifarmtechnologydays.com).



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## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Sponsors Butter Promotion

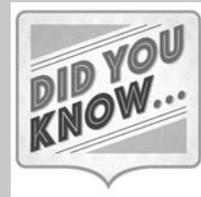
Members of the Rock Lake Troopers 4-H Club promoted butter at Sentry in Lake Mills on December 10.

They gave shoppers a free pound of Crystal Farms butter with their purchase of butter. The 4-H members put a dairy fact label on each free pound of butter.

They also handed out holiday recipe brochures to the adult shoppers and dairy coloring books, tattoos, stickers, magnets, pencils, erasers and key chains to the children.

The free butter was provided by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

## DAIRY PROMOTION FUNDING AVAILABLE

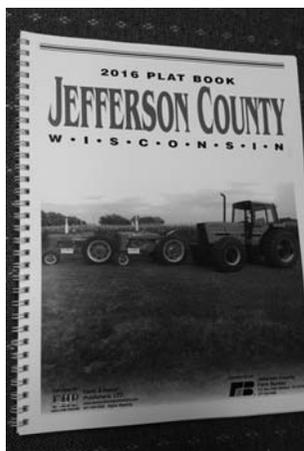


Jefferson County Farm Bureau receives support from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board to help promote the dairy industry. Farm Bureau administers funding for Jefferson County area 4-H, FFA, dairy farms or others to conduct promotional events in support of the dairy industry. Money is available on a first come, first served basis. An application can be obtained by contacting Melissa Gross at mgross43@yahoo.com or 920.988.7583 or by going on the website at wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson and clicking on the link 'Jefferson County Dairy Promotion Program.'



Members of the Rock Lake Troopers 4-H Club who promoted butter were: (L-R) Whitney Wiedenfeld, Karmyn Gross and Greta Wiedenfeld.

## Last Call for Plat Books



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau still has 2016 Plat Books available. Contact Tony Schadt if you are interested in getting a plat book.

The cost to Farm Bureau members is \$15, non-members is \$30.

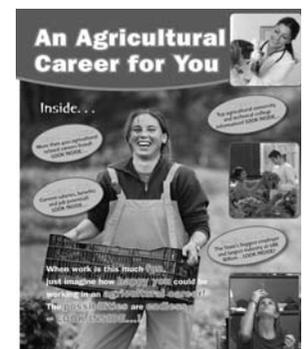
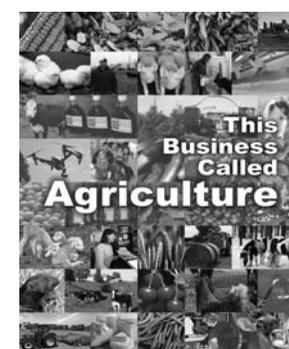
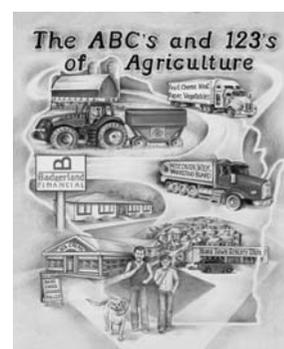
**Tony Schadt**  
414.573.5382  
schadtak@jefnet.com.

## Attention Teachers: FREE Resources Available

Ag in the Classroom has FREE resources available that you may find beneficial in your classrooms.

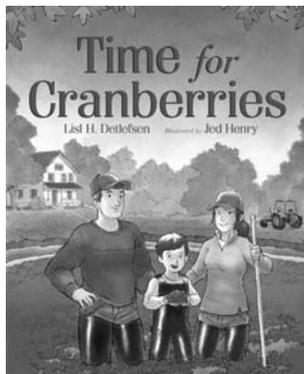
- **Pre K-K students:** "ABC's and 123's of Agriculture."
- **Fourth grade students:** "This Business Called Agriculture."
- **Middle-high school students:** "An Agricultural Career for You."

You can order any of these resources, and more, at wisagclassroom.org.



The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has a lot of free online and printed resources available, we hope you will be able to use them in your classroom.

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Focuses on Cranberries



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is promoting the 2016-2017 Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students.

The essay is titled 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' Students will be able to learn the production of cranberries in the nation's number one

cranberry producing state-Wisconsin and share their findings in their essays.

The contest is sponsored by Frontier-Insight FS, We Energies, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year 2,863 students from nine districts participated in the state's essay contest.

Contest information, lesson plans, resources and sample activities are located on the Agriculture in the Classroom website at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 800.261.3276 or [aitc@wfbf.com](mailto:aitc@wfbf.com).

Participating Jefferson County schools' fourth and fifth grade students need to submit essays by **Monday, April 1**, to Patti Hurtgen at 600 W. Blackhawk Drive, #4, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 or [jeffersoncountyagessays@gmail.com](mailto:jeffersoncountyagessays@gmail.com).

### Contest Rules

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public schools, private schools and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100- to 300-words in length (using common MS Word 'word count' methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 points), grammar and spelling (15 points) and neatness (10 points).
- Essays need to include: student's name, grade level, parent's name, teacher's name, school name and address, school phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.

### Contest Prizes

- Each Jefferson County classroom that enters essays into the contest will receive the Farm Bureau book of the year: "A Time for Cranberries" by Lisl Detlefsen.
- The Jefferson County winner will receive an ice cream party for their classroom, a \$30 cash prize and four tickets to the 2017 Watertown Agribusiness Dairy Breakfast. Cash prizes of \$20 and \$10 will be awarded to second and third place, respectively.
- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and state winners will be announced in May 2017.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in April 2017 for their class, homeroom or home school group.
- A state winner will be chosen and will receive a special award.

Jefferson county fourth and fifth grade teachers whose entire class participates in the essay contest will receive a \$30 gift certificate to Nasco. The gift cards are provided by the Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom committee.

Essay can be submitted at anytime, with a final deadline day of **April 1**. With cold weather keeping students indoor and winter could be good timing for this writing project to explore this Wisconsin favorite.

Over 200 essays were submitted in Jefferson County in 2016. Fourth-grader Alice Korth, a student at Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson was the winner.

The Ag in the Classroom is a program to help students K-12 to explain the importance of agriculture. The program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.



## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Members Gather at Holiday Party



Members from Jefferson County Farm Bureau gathered on December 7 for their annual holiday and fair worker party.

Want to be invited to next years party? To get invited to attend the holiday party, you must work at the fair food stand.



Each year attendees bring canned goods that get donated to local food pantries. This year, the donations were taken to the Rome-Sullivan Food Pantry.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR, JULY 12-16

It's never too early to plan to join us and work at the fair. The fair is **July 12-16**.

Think about gathering some friends to work with you. We hope to hear from you in June to schedule your shift. The shifts are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m., and 6-10 p.m.

Thanks for considering to help, this major fundraiser is how we fund our scholarships.



## YFA Conference By Lindsay Knoebel, YFA chair

The 2016 YFA Conference was held December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

This annual event brought more than 400 Wisconsin YFA members together for a weekend of networking, socializing and education. The conference kicked off on Friday evening with a dinner and social hour followed by individual district meetings. Jefferson County is part of District 1, and the members enjoyed a quick round of Farm Bureau and agriculture trivia. District 1 YFA events were voted on at the meeting, members chose a few events to plan for this year including a go-karting event, the annual Spring Fling and an outing to a Brewers game.

The Fabulous Farm Babe Pam Jahnke sponsored the entertainment for the evening, the popular music group The Soggy Prairie Boys. A corn hole tournament was also part of the entertainment on Friday night.

Saturday morning kicked off with the beginning of the YFA contests. The Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag and Achievement Awards are all contests that are open to YFA members. District 1 was well represented in the Discussion Meet throughout the weekend. A highlight of the conference for a lot of people was the keynote speaker during Saturday morning's brunch.

Vance Crowe is the director of millennial engagement for the Monsanto Company. He talked about the challenges facing agriculture and challenged YFA members to speak up and help educate consumers about agriculture and science.



Front row (L-R) Jena and Will Morris, Lindsay Knoebel; back row (L-R) Trip Downing, Bryce Krull and Ann and Justin Horack. Not pictured: Nick Troiola.

On Saturday afternoon, there were various breakout sessions for members to attend. Topics ranged from new technology and smartphone apps available for agriculture programs, to methods for increasing Farm Bureau involvement.

The trade show opened to the public Saturday afternoon as the rest of the WFBF Annual Meeting attendees joined the YFA members at the Kalahari. The silent auction, another popular event, displayed the many creative talents of Farm Bureau members. Saturday night brought all the conference attendees together for dinner and the evening entertainment from a lively acapella group. Many laughs were shared during the program. The WFB Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest was held after dinner, and the Jefferson County team had a STRONG showing, placing third out of 40 teams.

The YFA conference wrapped up on Sunday, after a brunch and another keynote speaker. Aaron Thomas is a motivational speaker, coach and family man. His father was a legendary football coach in rural Iowa where he was loved by all in his community. A tragic accident resulted in his father's death at the hands of a former football player. Thomas's message to the Farm Bureau community was this: Life is 10 percent what happens to you and 90 percent how you react to it. Don't let challenges in life define who you are or your outlook on life. Farmers cannot control everything in life, such as the weather, but we can control our outlook and our reactions to those things.

The dates for the 2017 YFA conference are December 1-3. If you would like to attend this conference, contact Lindsay Knoebel, Jefferson County YFA chair.



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau trivia team finished third out of 40 teams! Team members included Eugene and Mary Mess, Chris Jones, Lindsay Knoebel, and Will and Jena Morris.

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Randy Mitchell 414.899.4822  
 Vice President, Tony Schadt 920.261.8478  
 Secretary-Treasurer, Melissa Gross 920.988.7583  
 Promotion and Education Chair,  
 Mary Mess 920.248.1967  
 YFA Chair, Lindsay Knoebel 920.988.1428

Director, Sue Andersen 920.699.3840  
 Director, Steve Jones 262.495.8646  
 Director, Steve Knoebel 920.988.4866  
 Director, Suzanne Marx 262.582.3020  
 Director, Eugene Mess 920.265.9871  
 Director, John Morris 920.253.8346  
 Director, Howard Poulson 262.613.8041  
 Director, Scott Schultz 920.988.2864  
 Director, Roger Zimmerman 920.390.0657

Jefferson County Farm Bureau 877.432.9480  
 District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden 866.355.7341  
 WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels 262.878.5035  
 RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen 920.723.5108

For more details on upcoming YFA events 'Like' Jefferson County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook, and visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson).



## Estate and Succession Planning Workshop

Do you have questions about the future of your farm or business and the estate you leave behind? Please join us for a Farm and Business Succession and Estate Planning seminar on **Monday, February 28**, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Hi-Way Harry's Steakhouse in Johnson Creek. We will have two presenters: Rick Bollenbeck, an attorney who specializes in estate planning; and Jared Nelson, senior regional financial consultant from Farm Bureau Life Insurance.



Our presenters will discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin families face. The presentation will explore how to be fair to children in passing the business to heirs while also providing a fair inheritance to non-active children, how to surmount common estate-tax traps, how to prepare for retirement and the potential need for long-term care and how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors.

A complementary lunch will follow the seminar for all who attend. Please save the date and join us.

**Date:** Monday February 28th, 2017  
**Place:** Hi-Way Harry's Steakhouse, 710 Glover Lane, Johnson Creek  
**Time:** 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. with lunch included.

Please RSVP by **February 24** to:  
 • Tom Ames Agency, 920.262.9775 or [tames@ruralins.com](mailto:tames@ruralins.com).  
 • Thomas Murphy Insurance Service, 920.262.9775, [TLMurphy@ruralins.com](mailto:TLMurphy@ruralins.com).  
 • Brandon Mueller, 920.262.9775, [bmueller@ruralins.com](mailto:bmueller@ruralins.com).