

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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**Tim Finger (920) 945-0447**  
**Chad Wiedenhoeft (920) 563-9355**  
Linda Schopen - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Ronald McDonald Event

"The best meals in town!"

That's what the residents of the Milwaukee Ronald McDonald House said on Saturday, May 3. Women and men from six counties around District 1 came together to make and serve brunch, lunch and dinner.

With delicious fruit salads, egg casseroles, French toast, sausages and a wonderful array of muffins and breakfast breads along with juice and milk, Ozaukee, Walworth and Waukesha counties got families ready to start their day.



their dinners waiting for them. Pork chops, cheesy potatoes, vegetable and lots of salads. A meal would not be complete without dessert, and there were many wonderful choices.

Besides food we left the house with \$325 for their wish list including a variety of activities for the children and snacks for the people staying there. Let's not forget about the pop tabs. With the annual Tab Toss being held on May 17, District 1 gave them a head start with close to 79 pounds of pop tabs.



Thank you to Melissa Gross and her daughters from Jefferson County who helped at the Ronald McDonald House. This photo shows everyone who helped pack the box lunches on May 3. hospital that evening, Kenosha and Walworth counties had

Jefferson and Racine County Farm Bureau members made and packed lunches for everyone in the afternoon. This allowed families to quickly grab them on their way to the hospital on Sunday morning.

When families returned from the

BUT don't stop collecting pop tabs! We have a state challenge that goes until the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells, December 5-8.

In 2013, pop tab recycling generated nearly \$30,000 in revenue for the Milwaukee Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you to all who gave of their time or donated food, money and wish list items.

District 1 is awesome.

**Kathleen Papcke**  
District 1 Women's Committee Representative

### Jefferson County Farm Bureau Donates to Local Food Pantry

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Women's committee recently donated \$100 to the Rome-Sullivan Food Pantry. Dawn Jones (right) presented the check to Nancy Stephan (left), chair of the food pantry.



### Women's Spring Fling Held

The District 1 Women's Spring Fling was hosted by Kenosha County and held on Saturday, March 29 at the Civil War Museum. Everyone in attendance had a great time.





# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Fourth Grade Farm Tour Brings Students to Kutz Dairy

Shrieks of delight, laughter, as well as ooohs and aahhhs split the air all across the Kutz Dairy farm on Wednesday, April 30 during the fourth grade farm tour organized by Jefferson County Agribusiness Club and Jefferson FFA.



Photo credit: Daphne Holterman

ble in order to produce milk of the highest quality, while being environmentally conscious stewards of the land.

It is our goal to provide safe, healthy and affordable milk for the enjoyment of all, while providing for our families and the families of our employees.

Nearly 850 students from 23 schools attended, along with 43 teachers and 166 adults. Those attending spent nearly two hours visiting 10 stations learning about:

- Beef
- Sheep
- Agricultural careers
- Milking parlor
- Land conservation
- Animal health/veterinary
- Dairy cows (Jerseys!)
- Soils
- Crops
- Calf barn
- Farm technology and tractors



Photo credit: Daphne Holterman

More than 50 FFA students from Jefferson and Palmyra manned the various stations, along with other local ag experts. Lunch was served courtesy of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Some of the questions posed by students:  
 What happened to this calf's head? (Dehorning paste was applied)  
 How much does this calf weigh? (60 pounds)  
 How old is she and what kind is she (beef cow)? (1.5 years, Polled Hereford)  
 How much does a new combine cost? (\$500,000 or more)  
 Why does she have a bump on her head (dairy cow)? (That's how God made them.)  
 Why are there stripes on their backs (dairy cow)? (It identifies which pen the cows belong in; all red cows are in one pen together)  
 Why is her udder so big? (She gives lots of milk)  
 Do cows ever get sick at night? (Yes, and the veterinarian drives out to the farm on a "house call" then)  
 How much of the earth can grow crops? (Just 1/32 of the earth is suitable for growing food for people and animals)  
 What does moooo mean?



Photo credit: Daphne Holterman

Thanks to Kutz Dairy, LLC for opening up their farm again this year! They milk 1,400 Jerseys and raise about 1,600 heifers. They farm about 1,400 acres. Ron and Pam, Aaron and Melanie, Allan and Katie, Andrew and Robin and their families work at the farm. Walt Coussens and Mariah Hadler of the Jefferson County Agribusiness Club co-chaired the event, working with the FFA students and advisors.

Kutz Dairy, LLC's Mission:  
 To use our God-given talents to give our animals the best care possi-



Photo credit: Daphne Holterman

Margaret Burlingham talked about farmland preservation.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

#### 2 YFA Contests

Farmland Protection  
 Ag Day at the Capitol  
 County Annual Meeting  
 Scholarship Recipients

#### 3 Essay Contest

Dairy Promotion Funding  
 Service of Ag Award  
 Jefferson County Fair  
 District PD Meeting

## YFA Members! Mark your Calendars!

There are great opportunities for YFA members in Jefferson County to participate in district and state events. Remember that these activities are available to voting members ages 18-35.

**Discussion Meet:** The District 1 Discussion Meet has been set for **Tuesday, August 19** at Williams Homestead Farm (W289N520 Elmhurst Drive, Waukesha). A farm tour will be at 6 p.m. with the Discussion Meet starting at 7 p.m. Snacks will be available following the Discussion Meet. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build crucial skills in young, active farmers and agriculturalists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and

solve problems. This year's topic is: **How can young farmers and ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?**

**Achievement Award:** The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks. Selection of the winning YFA competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the organization. **Applications are due July 1, 2014.**

**Excellence in Agriculture:** The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for YFA members, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to earn recognition. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who do not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk. **Applications are due July 1, 2014.**

If you are a YFA member interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Peter Muth, District 1 YFA Representative, at 262.689.2536.

## Farmland Protection Moving Forward in Jefferson County

By Margaret Burlingham, Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Chair (landesignmb@gmail.com | 920.723.4898)

Through the Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission, 415 acres of farmland have been protected in perpetuity through voluntary paid easements and 218 acres through voluntarily donated easements.

In December 2013, the county purchased a paid agricultural conservation easement on the Dale Neupert farm in the Town of Waterloo. Mr. Neupert is also the Town Chair. The first paid easement was on the Rodell Lea and Ned and Sara Healy farm in the Town of Oakland.



Margaret Burlingham and Dale Neupert at the closing for his easement.

"By putting a permanent easement on the farm it guarantees that the farm will remain as it is today and always used for agricultural purposes" said Neupert. "Due to the lay of the land, some of it being prime agriculture and some wooded areas, I always felt it should stay this way and not split up for development."

The 190-acre farm has been in the Neupert family since 1893. Dale Neupert purchased the farm from his father Edward in 1968, and is the third generation to live on the land. Today the farm is in a rotation of corn and soybeans.

By putting a permanent agricultural conservation easement on the land, Mr. Neupert gave up the right to develop three lots. Only agricultural activities are allowed on the farm. The easement will be monitored annually by the Jefferson County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Half of the easement was funded by a grant from the USDA Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program, 25 percent from Jefferson County and a donation of 25 percent of the easement value from Mr. Neupert. By donating 25 percent of the value of the easement, Mr. Neupert is helping Jefferson

County stretch the dollars available for paid easements.

Funding for the Jefferson County portion of the easement came from the sale of county-owned land for the STH 26 Jefferson bypass and for an assisted living center.

The Jefferson County Agricultural Conservation Easement Commission has a waiting list for paid easements but will accept applications for both paid and donated easements. Donated easements may qualify for substantial federal income tax deductions. The landowner gives up the rights for residential and non-farm commercial development but retains the rights to sell the land, inherit the land, farm according to a conservation plan and build structures needed for agricultural production.

Please contact Michelle Staff at the Jefferson County Zoning and Planning Department or call 920.674.8638 for more information.

## Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Members of Jefferson County Farm Bureau attended the annual Ag Day at the Capitol for legislative briefings and capitol visits. The day began at the Monona Terrace Convention Center where we were briefed on current legislation issues and addressed by Governor Walker. The major topics that we were briefed on included implements of husbandry, groundwater, raw milk, use value assessment of farmland and animal welfare.



Members of Jefferson County met with legislators at the Capitol. We had a productive discussion with them and covered a wide variety of issues. Thank you to Steve and Dawn Jones, Dan and Jean Poulson, Christy Strobel, Roger and Laura Zimmerman who raised their voices and attended from Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Whether or not you attended Ag Day at the Capitol, it is important for all of us to raise our voice on topics. Take a few minutes to be familiar with a topic that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in Jefferson County and share your views on topics and how they affect your farm. Remember when you talk to your legislators to be respectful and thank them for their support of agriculture.

Be heard and raise your voice for agriculture!

## Annual Meeting Date Set

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting date has been set for **September 28** at the Plattdeutscher. *Watch your mailbox for a postcard with further details as the meeting date approaches.*

save • the • date  
09 • 28 • 14

## Scholarships Awarded

Scholarships were awarded in May! Recipients included:

- o Dustin Winkelman, son of Arnie and Carmen of Watertown, will be attending UW-Platteville to study animal science.
- o Cody Stelse, son of Tony Stelse and Mindy Stelse of Jefferson, will be attending UW-Madison's Farm & Industry Short Course.
- o Nicole Wright, daughter of Mark and Linda Wright of Watertown, will be attending UW-Madison's Farm & Industry Short Course.
- o Aubrey Doherty, daughter of Shawn and Nancy Doherty of Johnson Creek, will be attending Black Hawk-East Junior College-Kewaunee to study animal science.
- o Mikayla Kind, daughter of Jeff and Debbie Kind of Jefferson, will be attending either Wisconsin Lutheran College or UW-Whitewater to study biology and pre-dentistry.

Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

## Family Farm Weekend Planned

The Milwaukee County Zoo welcomes families to enjoy a bushel full of fun and activity down on our farm, as Family Farm Weekend, sponsored by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, takes place Saturday and Sunday, September 6 and 7.



Attendees enjoying last year's Family Farm Weekend.

Most of the day's activities will be in the Zoo's Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, the last working farm in the city of Milwaukee, complete with dairy cows and a milking parlor. The weekend features activities like food demonstrations, children's pedal tractor-pull contest and a local farmer's market featuring fresh goodies like maple sugar, fruits and gourmet hot sauces.

There's something for everyone to enjoy during Family Farm Weekend at the Zoo. Activities take place both days from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. All activities are free with regular Zoo admission.

Farm Bureau volunteers will be helping at the Milwaukee County Zoo for the Family Farm Weekend. We look forward to seeing you at the Milwaukee County Zoo!

## St. Paul's Lutheran Students Top County Agriculture Essay Contest



The students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson were the recipients of the ice cream sundae party. Bear Deavers stood with his first place certificate and Grace Lemke knelt with her second place certificate.

The Ag in the Classroom program sponsors an essay contest each year for fourth and fifth grade students in Wisconsin. Jefferson County selects the top three essays and submits the winning entry to the district competition, where the district winner then advances to the state level. The 2014 topic was "Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us . . ." Jefferson County had 252 essays submitted the most in the eight-county District 1. This year the winning essay was from fourth-grader Bear Deavers of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson. Here is his winning essay:

### Our community garden

*You may ask why we grow a garden. We grow a garden for a lot of reasons! I love to see how plants start from little seeds and then grow into big plants. Our family likes to eat produce right from the garden. We also like to be outside doing work in the garden.*



Bear's Community Garden.

*First we decide what we want to grow in the garden, and then we buy the seeds from the store. Then we start some seeds in the basement under a special light. Once the weather is nice enough we move the plants outside. The next step is to get the dirt ready in the garden. Next we put our plants in the garden, and a fence around it. During a hot summer we water the garden every day.*

*Everyone in my family likes to grow different things! In the past we have grown: tomatoes, carrots, watermelon, cucumbers, jalapenos, green peppers, radishes, corn, squash and peas. I love to eat cherry tomatoes right off the plant!*

*After we pick the produce we usually eat it right away. We also make things from the vegetables in our garden. We like to make salsa and pickles.*

*When the gardening season is done we need to empty out our Community Garden. (Which is always sad.) We need to pull up the plants, take down the fence, and clean up our area.*

*Since we do not have a garden in our yard, it is a nice place to have a spot at the Community Garden. One of my favorite things to do in summer is to ride my bike to check on how the garden is doing!*

On the afternoon of May 1, an Ag in the Classroom volunteer thanked the students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson for submitting essays. She also had a surprise for Bear and his classmates. For writing the county's winning essay, Bear received a check and an ice cream sundae party for his entire class. Second place honors went to Grace Lemke, also a student at St. Paul's. Grace and Bear read their essays to the class and were presented with certificates. The students, along with teachers Mrs. Rachael Hinz and Mrs. Becky Graumann, enjoyed ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings in celebration.

The third place essay winner was Peter Hansen, who is a student in Mr. Roberts' fifth grade class at St. Bernard Catholic School in Watertown. He also received a cash prize.

All teachers whose classes submitted essays received \$30 gift cards to Nasco, provided by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Bear's essay advanced to the district level, where it was selected as the top entry. It now competes at the state level.

Several fourth grade classes took part in another Ag in the Classroom project last month. The "4th Grade Farm Tour" was again held at Kutz Dairy in Fort Atkinson. And throughout the spring, second grade students in the county were treated to "A Day without Agriculture" presentation by the Ag in the Classroom committee.



Students enjoyed ice cream sundaes as part of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner's celebration.

## Dairy Promotion Funding Available

Jefferson County Farm Bureau administers funding for area 4-H, FFA, dairy farms or others promoting the Wisconsin dairy industry in Jefferson County. Funding is open year round from January to December, awarded on a first come, first served basis.

For more eligibility information and to obtain an application, visit the Jefferson County Farm Bureau webpage at [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/Jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/Jefferson). Applications can also be obtained by contacting Melissa Gross at 920.988.7583 or [mgross43@yahoo.com](mailto:mgross43@yahoo.com).

## District 1 Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

**The District 1 Policy Development meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7 at 7 p.m. at The Machine Shed (N14W24145 Tower Place, Pewaukee, WI 53072).**

For more information about the policy development meeting contact Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Randy Mitchell	414.899.4822
Vice President, Roger Zimmerman	920.390.0657
Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Gross	920.988.7583
Women's Chair, Mary Mess	920.261.0735
YFA Co-Chair, Lindsay Knoebel	920.988.1428
YFA Co-Chair, Matt Tokarski	262.490.9962

Director, Mark Anderson	920.563.3465
Director, Norm Bradley	920.728.2434
Director, Steve Jones	262.495.8646
Director, Catherine Kleiber	920.478.9696
Director, Steve Knoebel	262.593.8272
Director, Suzanne Marx	920.674.6371
Director, Eugene Mess	920.261.0735
Director, John Morris	920.262.9490
Director, Dan Poulson	262.495.2439
Director, Gerald Raatz	920.648.2582
Director, Vicki Raatz	920.648.2582
Director, Anthony Schadt	920.261.8478
Director, Christy Strobel	920.206.6354

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	262.522.8620

## Wanted: Nominations for Service of Agriculture Award

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors is looking for applications for its annual Service of Agriculture Award program. Applications will be accepted until the **August 15 deadline**. Announcement and presentation of this award will be held at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting in September. Applications are available on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau webpage, [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/Jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/Jefferson), or by contacting Melissa Gross at 920.988.7583 or [mgross43@yahoo.com](mailto:mgross43@yahoo.com).

The service award recognizes an outstanding individual or group who has exhibited leadership in the promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County.

## Jefferson County Fair Volunteers Needed

Fair time is fast approaching and we need your help! If you could spare a few hours and are able to help at the Jefferson

County Fair, **July 9-13**, please consider volunteering at the Farm Bureau food stand. Proceeds go back to the community and membership by supporting Ag in the Classroom, Our Food Link and scholarships.

Shifts are from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. or 6-10 p.m. Gather a group of friends to work with you, since it takes five to six people per shift. Call Mary Mess at 920.248.1967 to schedule your preferred time during the Jefferson County Fair.

