



# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### District 1 Policy Development Meeting Set for July

The District 1 Policy Development meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 6.**

The Machine Shed  
N14 W24145 Tower Place, Pewaukee

6:15 p.m. - Social  
6:30 p.m. - Buffet dinner  
7-9 p.m. - Policy Development Meeting

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



### Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



Pictured: (from left) Waterloo FFA members Tristin Braunschweig and Kassie Haase.

Nearly 200 high school students attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 17-18.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau sponsored students from Oconomowoc, Waterloo and Lake Mills High Schools.

Those who attended the FFA Farm Forum attended a Jefferson County Farm Bureau board meeting to thank the board members for their support and they shared about their experience.



Pictured: (from left) Lake Mills FFA members Mackenzie Windl, Mackenzy Meschke, Alexis Schultz and Colton Klecker.



Pictured: (from left) Oconomowoc FFA members Matthew Griebow, Garrett Deneen, Tia Gunderson and Bianca Bavuso.

### AgVocate of the Year



Pam Jahnke presented Jefferson County Farm Bureau member Carrie Mess with the 2017 AgVocate of the Year Award.

More than 250 women gathered in Madison for this year's Ag Women's Summit.

Carrie Mess, also known as Dairy Carrie, is passionate about showing consumers what dairy farming is like in a fun and engaging manner. She has a large online presence with her Facebook page and also speaks at conferences and facilitates workshops. She encourages fellow agriculturists to share their stories and make connections with consumers.

### Discussion Meet Scheduled in August

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

**Date:** Tuesday, August 15

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. - Farm Tour, 7:30 p.m. - Discussion Meet, cookout to follow

**Location:** Cozy Nook Farm, S11 W30780 Summit Avenue, Waukesha

**Topic:** 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?

If you are interested in participating or attending this fun event, please contact Charlie Oberhaus at 262.337.2448 or Patti Roden at 262.689.1838 or [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).



# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Advocating for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol



Jefferson County Farm Bureau members (from left) Steve Knoebel, Scott Schultz, Eugene Mess, Dawn and Steve Jones attended Ag Day at the Capitol.

After being briefed on topics affecting Wisconsin farmers, Jefferson County Farm Bureau members walked to the Capitol to meet with legislators. There was a lot of discussion on the funding for highway maintenance and regulations for high capacity wells. We asked our legislators to ...

- Support the high capacity well bill.
- Support transportation and explain more rural road and bridge funding is needed.
- Co-sponsor the industrial hemp bill.
- Support the bill for rural broadband.
- Co-sponsor the farmer student loan assistance program.

Members from Jefferson County Farm Bureau had great discussion with their legislators and hope that more members can join Ag Day at the Capitol in 2018.

**Save the date: Ag Day at the Capitol  
January 24, 2018**

The annual Ag Day at the Capitol was held on March 8. Lunch was served at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center followed by guest speaker Governor Scott Walker. Governor Walker spoke on the importance of agriculture and his 2017-2019 biennial budget proposals and how they will benefit rural Wisconsin.

## Fourth Grade Students Getting Down on the Farm

The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Jefferson County Fourth Grade Farm Tour took place at the Kutz farm in the Town of Hebron. About 648 students visited the farm where they traveled between 11 stations to learn everything from milking cows to crops.



Jefferson, Fort Atkinson, Palmyra-Eagle, Cambridge, Johnson Creek and Lakeside Lutheran high schools' students, who are part of various FFA chapters, auditioned to be presenters at each station while other FFA members served as tour guides.

The farm tour focused on sustainable farming practices, as well as educating students on the importance of agriculture.

Kutz Dairy, LLC, is a second-generation family dairy farm that milks approximately 1,900 Jersey cows, works just over 2,000 acres of crop ground and currently employs about 30 full-time employees.



Walt Coussens and Mariah Hadler co-organized the event.



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## District Director Report

When the calendar turned from 2016-2017 there was a sigh of relief that this year is over and the next year will be better.

After the last month, when dozens of dairy farmers got the notice, I began to wonder. It was a short time frame, 30 days, to find a home for hundreds of gallons of milk to be processed.

Dairy Farmers take care of their cows and know how to keep them healthy and well fed so they can produce milk. They rely on someone else to process that milk and deliver it to consumers in various forms of products.

There needed to be a short-term fix so this milk can find a home and be processed. Your organization stepped up to the plate and had those discussions. DATCP, members of the Farm Bureau Board and your Government Relations team, along with other producer groups, discussed the situation to

find a short-term solution. They laid out solutions; some were useful to see if processors would take these farm families in and pick up their milk.

Come May 1, we saw and heard Director of Governmental Relations Karen Gefvert report that almost 100 percent of those farm families were taken in and had a place for their milk. That was the short-term solution.

Now we have to look at the long-term solutions. Do farmers have long-term contracts with processors they ship their milk to for stability? Will bankers look at or insist that these contracts be in place before monies are borrowed? Will processors require dairy farmers to sign long-term contracts so they have milk available to them? Many more questions and many not answered.

These are not the only long-term solutions that need to be

focused on. Immigration is a hot topic, will there be a federal solution or a state-by-state solution? Are there enough markets for beef farmers to ship their cattle to? Trade and the consequences of trade not being fair enough? These are the challenges that your organization is addressing and providing input.

We have a District 1 Policy Development meeting scheduled for **Thursday, July 6**. This is where we want your input and knowledge on these subjects and others. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there.

Happy growing season to all,

**Dave Daniels**  
WFBF District 1 Director

## District Spring Fling A Success!

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual District 1 YFA Spring Fling was held on March 18 at The Columbian in West Bend. Over 350 attendees enjoyed listening to music by FM Rodeo.

Throughout the years, the Spring Fling has always covered their costs and used their profit to host other educational or networking events throughout the district. This year members wanted to give back in a different way.

Many of the attendees are from the agriculture community, and those in agriculture always help their neighbors out. As we were hearing more devastating news about the wildfires hitting Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Kansas, we wanted to help. The worst of the wildfires were in Kansas, so the committee did some research and determined they would raise money for the Kansas Farm Bureau.

"The farming community has a history of sticking together and supporting on another in times of need," said Jefferson County YFA chair Lindsay Knoebel. "A lot of the farmers and ranchers affected by the fires may not ask for help, but I know for a fact that if the tables were turned, they would do everything they could to help us in Wisconsin. So, we did what was right and gave the Kansas Farm Bureau our Spring Fling profits. We didn't do it for the publicity it would bring our event, we did it because it was the right thing to do." Throughout the evening, members walked around and collected donations from the crowd. Ozaukee County YFA co-chair Bob Nash walked around the crowd asking for donations carrying a cowboy boot. Bob mentioned that he "was not expecting much to be collected, but everyone kept throwing \$10s or \$20s in the boot. It was so neat to see how many people care about the agriculture community."

They used cowboy boots and a cowboy hat to collect donations. In total, they got over



Jefferson County members attended the Spring Fling for a night of fun. Attendees included: (from left) Paige Wollin, Dustin Nora, Libby Knoebel, Lindsay Knoebel, Zach Walsh and Nick Gallitz.

\$300 donated. The planning committee has decided to donate a total of \$750 to the Kansas Farm Bureau, spending their profits from the year.

Bob Nash states that "it was just the right thing to do. I have driven through Kansas and Texas a lot. Knowing what the landscape looked like and seeing pictures now is heart breaking. They lost everything so I wanted to do anything I could to help out, and the Spring Fling was the perfect opportunity."

Dave Daniels, WFBF District 1 Board of Director, is "proud of the District 1 YFA members who had a dream to start the Spring Fling 10 years ago, and who have now taken it to a whole new level collecting donations and giving their profits to those in need."

Although our donation may be small, we are happy that we can help the Kansas Farm Bureau out in time of need. We know that others would do the same for us.

Mark your calendars for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual District 1 YFA Spring Fling – **March 24, 2018**, at The Columbian in West Bend.

We hope to see more participants enjoy a night of music, dancing and socializing with other District 1 YFA members.

## Scholarship Winners Announced

This spring we awarded five scholarships to the following students ...

- **Matthew Griebnow:** Son of Joel and Lisa Griebnow of Watertown. He will be attending Fox Valley Technical College of Appleton, studying to be an agriculture equipment service technician.
- **Anastasia Keinhofer:** Daughter of Richard Keinhofer of Watertown. She will be attending UW-Madison, studying political science.
- **Brendan Kind:** Son of Jeff and Deb Kind of Jefferson. He will be attending Madison College, studying towards a liberal arts transfer degree.
- **Carley Krull:** Daughter of Cindy Krull-Begeman and the late Brian Krull of Lake Mills. She is attending Iowa State University, studying dairy science.
- **Alexis Schultz:** Daughter of Scott Schultz and Nancy Graff-Schultz of Watertown. She will be attending UW-Madison, studying agronomy.

**Congratulations to the scholarship recipients. Best wishes on your future endeavors.**

## Wisconsin State Fair Volunteers Wanted



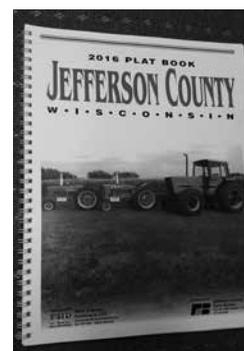
Farm Bureau has signed up to help at the Wisconsin State Fair House of Moo on **Saturday, August 12**. Volunteers are wanted from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 to 8 p.m. Volunteers receive a fair admission ticket, House of Moo t-shirt, free sandwich coupon for the Real Wisconsin Cheese Grill and water.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).

## Last Call for Plat Books

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau still has 2016 Plat Books available. If you are interested in getting a plat book, please contact Tony Schadt at 414.573.5382 or [schadtak@gmail.com](mailto:schadtak@gmail.com).

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



## Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set

Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about the industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoards Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment. The tour will start early on Tuesday morning in Johnson Creek and will end on Wednesday afternoon.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are welcome.

For the schedule and registration, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) and click the teacher tab.

# St. Paul's Lutheran School Student Tops County Agriculture Essay Contest



Becky Graumann's fourth grade class at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson was excited to receive the ice cream sundae party. Front row: (from left) Vivian Stahl, Ivy Belzer, Elijah Vik, Caleb Lembrich, Isabel Kuchta, Benett Thompson, Lillian Frohmader, Bobby Butz, Chaz Grandt, Nathan DeNoyer, Isaac Garcia, Tanner Hartwig; back row: (from left) Mykenna Gray, Christian Hudson, Evan Wisch, Leaf Deavers, Elijah Riess, Nathan Walker, Colin Schrader, Allison VonAlven, Ben Reeves, Tessa Schmocker and Jaden Bautzmann.

Farm Bureau's 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 2017 topic was 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.'

One hundred eight-eight essays were submitted in Jefferson County, the most in the eight-county District 1. This year, the winning essay was from fourth grade student Isabel Kuchta of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson. She also won the district contest and advanced to state judging.

On May 10, Patti Hurtgen, Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom essay coordinator thanked the students at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson for submitting essays. Isabel Kuchta read her essay to the class and was presented with her certificate and check. For writing the county's winning essay, Isabel also received four tickets to the Watertown breakfast on the farm and an ice cream sundae party for her entire class.

The students enjoyed ice cream sundaes with a variety of toppings in celebration along with Isabel's teacher, Becky Graumann and principal William Hinz.

The third place essay winner was Lillian Frohmader, also a student in Graumann's fourth grade class at St. Paul's. Lillian also read her essay to the class and received a certificate and cash prize.



Ag in the Classroom essay contest coordinator Patti Hurtgen posed with Isabel Kuchta and Lillian Frohmader, first and third place, respectively.



Olivia Virgo posed with her teacher Brent Roberts and Ag in the Classroom volunteer Daphne Holtermann. Olivia earned second place in the essay contest.



Students enjoyed their ice cream sundaes with Mrs. Graumann in the background.

*Isabel's winning essay:*

## Harvesting Wisconsin Cranberries in Fall

There are two ways to harvest cranberries. Growers take different steps when harvesting cranberries depending on how the cranberries will be used. If the cranberries are to be used for fresh fruit, growers will first flood the fields. Then, a picking machine will be used to pick the cranberries. Before their machines were invented, growers would use a hand rake to harvest the berries. After the cranberries are picked by the picking machine, they are dumped into floating bins and finally loaded onto trucks. The trucks take the berries to a warehouse where they are sorted for color and firmness. After the berries are sorted by hand, they are packed in plastic bags and sold in stores across the country.

Cranberries are also harvested to make juice, cranberry sauce and dried cranberries. When growers harvest cranberries to make these products they first flood the fields. Then, a harvest machine is used to knock the berries from the vines. The berries float on top of the water and are corralled to one end of the field. The cranberries then are pushed up an elevator and into a truck. Some growers use a suction pump to move the cranberries into a cleaner before loading the berries onto a truck. The berries are then taken to plants across the state to be cleaned and processed.

I celebrate the cranberry harvest each year by attending the Cranberry Festival in Warrens, Wisconsin. The festival takes place each year during the last weekend in September. My favorite cranberry products are dried cranberries, cranberry taffy and cranberry juice.

This is the third time in six years that the county essay winner hails from Graumann's class. Writing the essay is part of the class curriculum each year. Students utilize the school's computer lab to conduct research on the topic prior to writing their essays.

Second place honors went to Olivia Virgo, a fourth grade student in Brent Roberts' class at St. Henry's Catholic School in Watertown. Ag in the Classroom volunteer Daphne Holtermann presented Olivia with her certificate and check.

All of the teachers in the county whose classes submitted essays received \$30 gift cards to Nasco, provided by the Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom organization. Participating schools include Cambridge Elementary School, Johnson Creek Elementary; St. Henry's Catholic School in Watertown, St. Joseph's Catholic School in Fort Atkinson, Webster Elementary in Watertown and St. Paul's Lutheran Grade School in Fort Atkinson.

Ag in the Classroom is a Farm Bureau program. It provides many opportunities to educate youth about agriculture. Earlier this month, several fourth grade classes participated in the Fourth Grade Farm Tour at Kutz Dairy Farm in Jefferson. Throughout the spring, second grade students in the county are treated to A Day without Agriculture presentation by the Ag in the Classroom volunteers.

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

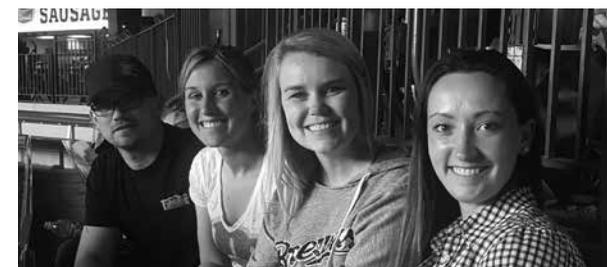
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Director, Suzanne Marx	262.582.3020
Director, Eugene Mess	920.265.9871
Director, John Morris	920.253.8346
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Director, Scott Schultz	920.988.2864
Director, Roger Zimmerman	920.390.0657

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).

## District Brewer Game A Hit



Although the Brewers didn't pull off a win, Jefferson County members enjoyed attending the District 1 YFA Brewer Game. Pictured: (from left) Eric Baneck, Lindsay Knoebel, Ann Horack and Kendall Herran.

## County Fair Volunteers Needed

Your help is needed to work at the Jefferson County Fair on **July 12-16**. Gather your friends and sign up to serve cream puffs, shakes, sundaes, cones and milk. The money we raise is used for scholarships.

The shifts are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. If you are only able to work a couple of hours, we can work with you. I look forward to your call to get the time and date you would like.

To sign up, please contact Mary Mess at 920.248.1967. See you at the fair.

