

# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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<b>Renee Blair-Soine</b> (920) 262-9775	<b>Chad Wiedenhoeff</b> (920) 563-9355

Linda Schopen- District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### County Fair Successful



Walt Coussens and Lindsay Knoebel

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau had a successful stand at this year's fair. Cream puffs were popular this year; we sold 89 dozen and went through 144 quarts of whipping cream. We also went through 40 gallons of white milk, 100 gallons of chocolate milk, 60 gallons of vanilla ice cream, 57 gallons of chocolate ice cream, 60 pounds of strawberries, four large cans of hot fudge and 576 ice cream cones.

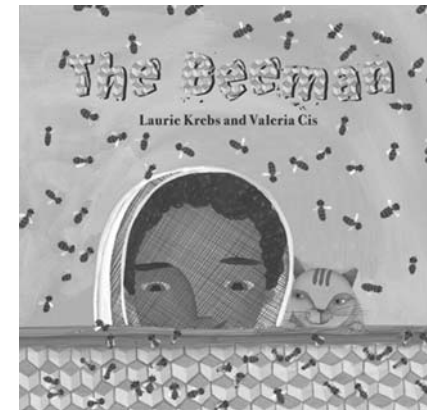
Thank you to all the great volunteers who helped Jefferson County Farm Bureau have another successful year at the Jefferson County Fair, July 9-13! The money raised is used for scholarships, this past year we gave out five scholarships. We could always use more help, so keep this in mind for next year.

Thank you all for your help!



### The Beeman to Buzz into Schools

Told from the viewpoint of a child whose Grandpa is a beekeeper, this rhyming text offers an accessible and engaging introduction to the behavior of bees. Children will learn where they live, how honey is made, what a beekeeper does and more. The 2015 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is "The Beeman" by Laurie Krebs.



"Why are bees important to Wisconsin Agriculture?" is the topic of the essay contest from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program.

Essay submissions must be between 100 to 300 words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. All contest rules, lesson plans, county contest coordinators and sample classroom activities are located at [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org). Participating students and schools need to submit essays by April 1 to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator.

### Save the Date – Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit



The 2015 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held **March 13-14** at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Visit [www.wiagwomensummit.com](http://www.wiagwomensummit.com) for more information and to register.



# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on Sunday, September 28 at the Plattdeutscher Hall in Watertown with 90 people in attendance. Karen Gefvert, WFBF Director of Governmental Relations, spoke about the new implements of husbandry legislation.



The newly elected officers for Jefferson County Farm Bureau are (L to R): Melissa Gross (secretary/treasurer), Randy Mitchell (president) and Tony Schadt (vice president).

Congratulations to those who have been elected to serve on the board of directors for a three-year term:

- Northwest Quadrant – Eugene Mess
- Northeast Quadrant – Randy Mitchell
- Southwest Quadrant – Sue Marx
- Southeast Quadrant – Steve Jones
- At Large – Carrie Mess and Adam Walter

Those elected as Women's chair and Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair will serve a one-year term:

- Women's Chair – Mary Beth Mess
- YFA Chair – Lindsay Knoebel

Also at the county annual meeting delegates were elected for the WFBF Annual Meeting. Randy Mitchell, Roger Zimmerman, Melissa Gross, Steve Jones, Steve Knoebel, Sue Marx and Eugene Mess were elected. The first alternate is Tony Schadt. The delegates will attend the WFBF Annual Meeting, December 6-8, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.



Service to Agriculture Award winner Sam Skemp.

Service to Agriculture Awards were also presented. The purpose of the Service of Agriculture Award is to recognize an outstanding individual or other who demonstrates a commitment to agriculture in Jefferson County. This year two awards were presented to Deb Schut from FSA and Sam Skemp from Frontier Servco. Congratulations Deb and Sam!



Service to Agriculture Award winner Deb Schut.

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## Jefferson County YFA Update

Fall is one of the most exciting seasons in the world of agriculture, especially for young farmers and agriculture enthusiasts. Fall harvest is a time to reap the benefits of a long growing season and all the hard work dedicated to producing a crop. With all the excitement of harvest, remember there are many other young farmers and agriculturalists in the county and state who appreciate this time of year as well. One of the goals of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program is to help members network with each other and get ideas from others around the state. One of the best ways to begin networking is by attending the YFA Conference, December 5-7, at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. If you cannot attend this year, consider attending next year. First year attendees have the opportunity to be selected to attend the conference for free, courtesy of Rural Mutual Insurance.

By Lindsay Knoebel, YFA Chair

Contact Lindsay Knoebel, Jefferson County YFA chair, for more information on the annual conference.

Jefferson County YFA members showed their support at the Jefferson County Fair this year by working in the Farm Bureau food stand during the fair. The food stand is the main support for the high school scholarships awarded each year. Farm Bureau is very appreciative of all the help received this year by all members!

The Jefferson County YFA program is continuing to grow in numbers and more opportunities will be available for members to stay involved this winter. Be sure to like our Facebook page, Jefferson County Farm Bureau and YFA, for updates on events!



## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual YFA Spring Fling

**Date:** Saturday, April 11  
**Location:** Circle B, Cedarburg  
**Band:** The Mantz Brothers.

Watch the next newsletter for more information.



## Policies Approved at Annual Meeting

Jefferson County Farm Bureau voting members were presented the following policies at the annual meeting. Each of these policy measures will be passed on to the WFBF Policy Development Committee for potential consideration at the state delegate floor. Below you will find each of the state resolutions approved by our county voting members.

1. DNR Stewardship Program should be changed to allow for permanent conservation of agricultural land used for agricultural purposes.
2. We support the agricultural cleanup program with funds not to be allocated to other purposes. Total funds should be capped at a sufficiently large amount and fees only levied to keep the fund full.
3. Water rights are a very important part of Wisconsin agriculture. We need to be sure that the water laws of this state protect its agriculture interests, thus allowing proper drainage and means of discharge maintained. Urbanization should not be able to concrete, or blacktop where it would interfere with the natural flow of water. We need to encourage state and counties to maintain and support the historic drainage concept.
4. Under the new state wetland legislation, mitigation of wetlands is allowed giving farmers more options as they work

to upgrade their farm drainage systems. However under federal law and the farm bill, farmers may be in violation of the swamp buster provisions and in turn could have to forfeit federal farm payments.

Therefore, be it resolved, that Farm Bureau will work to make the new Farm Bill portion of swamp buster more compatible to Wisconsin law, allowing mitigation without being in violation and causing forfeiture of funds.

5. We support legislative reform of the Public Service Commission (PSC) to make it more responsive to consumers, including code specifically mandating that the PSC is responsible for the health and safety of consumers as it relates to the industries they regulate.
6. We support requiring each wind turbine to comply with current electrical codes, especially the National Electrical Safety Code and the IEEE 519 to avoid having wind turbines cause TV and radio reception problems as well as health problems for people and animals.
7. Invasive Species: We oppose the FSA penalizing farmers for denying reenrollment in the CRP program because of standing reed canary grass.
8. Technical Colleges: Because the technical college system is funded by the local property tax, the local area should pro-

vide the training that is needed for the businesses common to the area (i.e. agriculture, electrical).

9. Safety: We encourage law enforcement officials to force bicyclists to obey appropriate traffic laws and ticket accordingly.
10. Wisconsin's agricultural products have a positive economic impact for Wisconsin's farmers and agri-businesses. Preference for State funded grants or loans shall be given to, but not limited to, any "agribusiness" within an Agricultural Enterprise Area.
11. Reinstate PACE.
12. We support lowering the "stray voltage" action threshold to 10 mV peak to peak measured without a 500 ohm resistor, using equipment that can measure transients and other high frequency events.
13. We support lessening the requirement for county UW-Extension agents to have a four year bachelor degree instead of a master's degree.
14. We support Farm to School Programs to promote buying local foods and education of food promotion, nutrition and the environment.
15. We support funding of USDA ACEP Agricultural Conservation Easement Program for protection of agricultural lands and wetlands.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Contest Results

### Discussion Meet

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Each Wisconsin Farm Bureau district holds their own Discussion Meet. The District 1 YFA Discussion Meet was held on August 19 at Williams Farm in Waukesha County. Those present toured Williams' Farm and enjoyed watching the discussion meet and a delicious cook out.

Thank you to Lindsay Knoebel for being the time keeper for the evening. There were five participants, and three were chosen to compete at the YFA Conference on December 5-7. Those who competed in the contest were Becky Assmann (Ozaukee County), Ryan Brueggemann (Waukesha County), Amanda Carlson (Waukesha County), Garrett Goeller (Washington County) and Emily Watson (Walworth County). The three finalists were Ryan Brueggemann, Amanda Carlson and Emily Watson. Good luck Discussion Meet finalists!

### Achievement Award

The Achievement Award evaluates participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years. The top four applicants have been chosen, and Mark Mayer from Ozaukee County and District 1 has been named a finalist.



**Amanda Carlson, Waukesha County**

**Amanda Carlson** grew up on a registered Holstein dairy farm in south eastern Minnesota. After graduating college with a bachelor's degree in agricultural marketing communications, she worked full-time on her family's farm before interning with Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. Earlier this year, Amanda moved to Hartland to work as an account manager for Charleston | Orwig, an agricultural marketing agency. To keep her boots in the dairy industry she milks a few nights a week at a neighboring farm and enjoys contributing to her blog with "cow talk".



**Emily Watson, Walworth County**

**Emily Watson** lives in Elkhorn. She was an active 4-H member and showed Brown Swiss cattle growing up. After joining her FFA chapter in high school she dedicated herself to the program and its events. From 2012-2013 she was a Wisconsin FFA Officer. In September she was selected as the 2015 Walworth County Fair, Fairest of the Fair. She plans to continue her education and pursue a degree in agricultural education and communication, to become an agriculture education teacher and FFA advisor.



**Ryan Brueggemann, Waukesha County**

**Ryan Brueggemann** farms in partnership with his brother Glenn, on a rented farm. They have 100 cows and farm 500 acres. Ryan is a graduate of UW-Madison's Farm & Industry Short Course and is a current member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Leadership Institute. In his free time Ryan enjoys snowmobiling and motorcycling.



**Mark Mayer** lives in Fredonia. After purchasing his first dairy cattle and utilizing rental facilities, Mark purchased his current farm in 2006. He farms 550 acres. He attended Lakeshore Technical College for dairy herd management. Mark is the vice president for Ozaukee County's YFA committee and also serves on the policy development board and board of directors. Mark likes to spend time with his family, including his 12 nieces and nephews. He also serves on his local fire department.

*If you see any of these finalists wish them good luck as they compete at the YFA Conference on December 5-7.*

*Good Luck  
Amanda, Emily,  
Ryan and Mark!*

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
  - Grainger
  - Polaris (NEW)
  - Office Depot

- Communication** .....
- AgriVisor
  - The Country Today
- Insurance** .....
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
- AAA
  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
  - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial** .....
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
  - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection** .....
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
  - Accidental Death Policy

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Membership Goal Achieved!

The 2013-2014 membership year-end was September 30, and Jefferson County was successful in achieving a total AND voting membership gain. Jefferson County has 720 voting members and 1,546 total members.

Thank you to all the Rural Mutual Insurance agents and volunteers who made the membership gain possible.

### Membership Incentives

#### Membership Worker Recruitment Incentive

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member they sign between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

#### 2015 Farm Bureau Producer Club

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Producer Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2015 Producer Club will enjoy an exclusive gathering for members and spouse/guest at the December, 2015 WFBF Annual Meeting. Producer Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

#### County Early Bird Bonanza

County Farm Bureau will receive \$1,000 cash award if the

county Farm Bureau reaches its new voting goal by the April 30, 2015 month-end cut-off.

#### Summer Renewal Rally

Volunteer membership workers signing up past-due membership renewals or new members between July 1 and September 30 will be entered in a drawing for one of five \$100 cash awards. Volunteers signing ten or more renewals during this period will also be entered in the grand prize drawing for a trip for two to the AFBF Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL January 10-13, 2016. For every new or past-due member signed, the membership worker must complete and mail in an entry card with the membership payment. A drawing will be held on September 30 (membership year-end).

#### 2015 Membership Incentive Rebate Program

- Counties reaching a gain in voting membership by year-end will be paid \$1 per voting member. County will receive an additional \$2 per voting member for every voting member that exceeds the previous year's voting membership.
- Counties reaching a gain in total membership by year-end will be paid \$1 per voting member. County will receive an additional \$2 per member for every member that exceeds the previous year's total membership.
- The minimum amount a county can earn by reaching the above gains is \$400 for a voting gain and \$400 for a total gain.

## Pop Tabs Wanted

Keep saving your pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House! Ronald McDonald House is a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill or injured



children. Since their doors opened in 1984, more than 35,000 families have stayed at the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee while their child received critical medical care. In 2013 alone, they served nearly 1,000 families. They have been at full occupancy with their 38 guest rooms—often with a wait list of anywhere from five to 20 families each day.

At the district 1 Ronald McDonald House event on May 3, 78.85 pounds of pop tabs were collected. Each district is

having a competition that goes through December, so keep saving your pop tabs.

Since 2000, little aluminum tabs on the tops of soda cans have meant more than \$210,000 to the Ronald McDonald House. Revenue from recycling these little bits of aluminum helps provide a home away from home for families whose seriously ill children are undergoing treatment in the Milwaukee area.

#### Pop Tab Revenue History for the Ronald McDonald House:

- 2013 - \$29,250
- 2012 - \$26,200
- 2011 - \$24,506
- 2010 - \$26,171
- 2009 - \$14,845

Let's help make a difference and save your pop tabs! Any pop tabs that you have can be given to any member of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau board.

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Randy Mitchell 414.899.4822  
 Vice President, Anthony Schadt 920.261.8478  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Melissa Gross 920.988.7583  
 Women's Chair, Mary Mess 920.261.0735  
 YFA Chair, Lindsay Knoebel 920.988.1428

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 262.582.3020  
 Director, Carrie Mess 920.988.7384  
 Director, Eugene Mess 920.261.0735  
 Director, John Morris 920.262.9490  
 Director, Dan Poulson 262.495.2439  
 Director, Adam Walter 920.699.2912  
 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 262.522.8620

## Implements of Husbandry Meeting

You're invited to attend an informational Implements of Husbandry meeting.

**Date:** December 11

**Time:** Registration 9:30 a.m., Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

**Location:** Jefferson County UW-Extension Meeting Room (864 Collins Road, Jefferson)

## Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Below is a tentative schedule:

- 11 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3 p.m. Capitol Visits

Individual registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 after March 5. For more information contact Patti Roden at 262.689.1838 or [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com).

