



# Juneau County Farm Bureau

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### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Make Plans to Attend the Juneau County Fair

152<sup>nd</sup> Juneau County Fair  
Mauston, Wisconsin

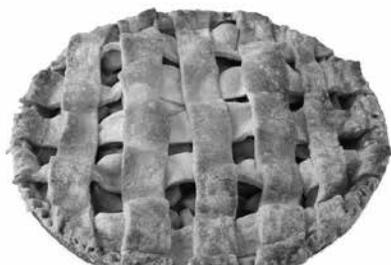
"Cowboy boots & Hometown roots"

August 13-20, 2017  
Premium Book  
www.juneaucountyfair.com  
Alysa Froh

The Juneau County Fair is **August 13-20** in Mauston and the Juneau County Farm Bureau will be selling pie in the commercial building.

Make sure to stop at the booth, visit with members and of course, enjoy some homemade pie. The pie sale helps fund the county Ag in the Classroom program.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the pie.



## DISTRICT 5 YFA CANOEING AND PICNIC

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
**Young Farmer and Agriculturist**  
Program

ATTENTION YFA MEMBERS!

**When: Sunday, July 30**  
**Time: Noon picnic with canoeing to follow**  
**Where: Mekan River Outfitters, W720 State Road 23, Princeton, WI 54968**

For more information contact District 5 YFA Chair  
Amanda Knoch  
at 608.369.1091



# COUNTYnews

JUNEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Juneau County Conducts Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

By Tonra Degner, Juneau County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



Wonewoc Center Elementary essay winners: (from left) Trinity Cox, Jo-De Goffin and Estanna Graewin.



Tyler Finnegan, essay winner from Grayside Elementary in Mauston.



Aria Schnurr, essay winner from St. Paul's Elementary School in Wonewoc.



Allie Roose, essay winner from St. Patrick's Catholic School in Mauston.

The Juneau County Farm Bureau sponsored the Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students this year. We received 201 essays from seven different schools in the county. This year's theme was 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The trophy winners are as follows: Brayden Morey from New Lisbon Elementary, Aria Schnurr from St. Paul's Lutheran School in Wonewoc, Tyler Finnegan from Grayside Elementary in Mauston and Sam Zebell from New Lisbon.

Brayden's essay was selected to represent the county in the District 5 competition. There were four honorable mention winners: Allie Roose from St. Patrick's Catholic School in Mauston; Trinity Cox, Jo-De Goffin and Estanna Graewin from Wonewoc Center Elementary School. The most creative essay award went to Arias Lang of Necedah Elementary. These students received special recognition when I visited and did a program and activity for the students who participated and those mentioned received a special invitation to come in September to the Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting and share their essays with Farm Bureau members.

## Tell Us About Cranberry Production in Wisconsin During One of the Four Seasons

By Brayden Morey



Essay winners Brayden Morey and Sam Zebell from New Lisbon Elementary School.

The fall season is a very busy time for cranberry farmers in Wisconsin because it is harvest time. The season lasts about 7 - 8 weeks. The cranberry is one of the few fruits native to the USA. Cranberry farmers flood the bogs in late September. Cranberries can float because they have four air pickets in them. The berries are still attached to the vine when the bog is flooded. So, workers ride machines called beaters to knock the berries off the vines. After the berries are off, workers push the berries to the center of the bog. They corral all the berries with a boom. Then the workers corral a smaller amount of berries to push onto a conveyor belt. The belt leads up to a truck

and dumps them in the back of the truck. The berries are washed and any leaves or branches are picked out. Cranberries are then sent to be cleaned and tested to see if they are product worthy.

In the plant, the cranberries go through a series of tests. One of them is the bounce test. The ripe cranberries bounce. Next, the small cranberries are sifted out. The last test is to make sure the white and red cranberries are separated. After the berries are sifted, they go on a conveyor belt to where the workers sort them. The workers sort out the remaining berries into different groups of red and white.

Cranberries are used to make different products. The cranberries then go to Ocean Spray to be made into juices and craisins. They are then sent to stores. That is how cranberries go from the bog to the table. Cranberries are good to eat and are also important to Wisconsin's economy.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 District Director Report  
Policy Development  
District YFA Update  
Discussion Meet
- 3 Most Creative Essay  
District Promotion and  
Education Update  
Annual Meeting  
Walsh Receives Scholarships  
Board Contacts

## District Director Report



With the upcoming crop year comes much anticipation. Will the yields be adequate? Can we manage the margins to make a profit? Or will it make quality feed for the livestock it is intended for? This year, also brings much skepticism. How will commodities prices move? Or do you have enough of your production marketed or insured?

I believe with the crop year we need to manage what we can and let the good Lord do the rest. I also believe we have a similar situation in our federal government administration.

There is much anticipation and skepticism on the direction our nation will take this year. The administration has given intentions to help create a simpler tax system, fair trade, secure borders, eliminating burdensome regulations and fixing a broken health care system.

This is no easy task for any government body but can be done. Through the process, we in agriculture need to remind them who helped them get elected, and continue to portray our needs.

In most trade deals, agriculture commodities are the balancer. We need to continue to partner with countries that need our products. Managing and protecting relationships that have taken generations to create. In some cases, raw products are exported, made into value added products, and then imported back into the U.S. We need to eliminate the unnecessary regulations that typically cause this and bring those jobs back to the U.S.

Canada also has developed regulation to help protect their dairy industry at a detriment to our trade. The administration needs to hold them accountable. We also need to push for a trade deal in Oceania. Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) laid out many sanitary and labor requirements that would put the U.S. and many other countries on a level field, making trade much fairer among countries.

The administration is responsible for securing our borders and knowing who is crossing them. They also are responsible

for developing an immigration system that works for business and agriculture in this country. Labor needs continue to be challenging in many agriculture commodities including fruit, vegetables, aquatics, dairy, meat processing and many others.

This is not a large versus small farm issue. As many farmers continue to get older, the need for help with physical labor on farms continue to grow. This also leads into the health care system. As we move to fix a broken system we also need to care for our aging population.

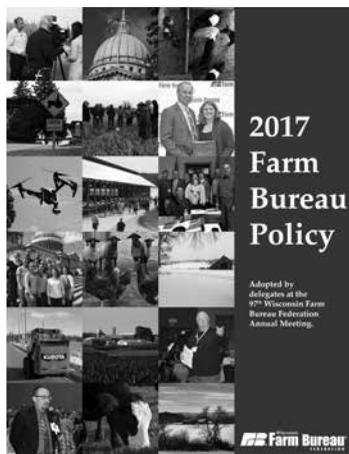
As with a new cropping year we have an opportunity to start anew, so is following an election. This administration and congress was voted in by the 'fly over' states.

We need to continue to hold them to the task moving forward. Along with being fiscally responsible, as we in our businesses.

God bless and have a safe growing season,

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Director

## Policy Development: Grassroots in Action By Mike Leahy, Fond du Lac County YFA chair



I have had the humbling experience during the last 16 months to represent not only Fond du Lac County, but all of District 5 on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Policy Development Committee.

What is policy development and why is it so important? Farm Bureau policy is the road map for the organization. It sets the goals and direction for the board of directors and the staff at the state office. Without clear direction, our organization would wander from issue to issue. No one voice. No vision for agriculture.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization and that policy road map is created at the county level. Last year, I saw this first-hand when 430 policy resolutions were submitted from counties across the state to the Policy Development Committee.

Our job as the Policy Development Committee is to go through those resolutions. Combine similar policies. Discard overlaps. Eventually after two days have a concise list of policies to be presented to the delegate body for a vote.

Do all of the resolutions pass the scrutiny of the delegates? Of course not. Which is okay. That is how the process is supposed to work.

The ones that do though, set the foundation for our governmental relations staff to work with the legislature and governor to promote good solid public policy in Wisconsin.



## District YFA Update



Happy summer!

I hope that everyone is having a good start to 2017 and I pray that planting went well for everyone.

2017 has been a great year for YFA. In March, we had great representation at Ag Day at the Capitol and we had our county chairs meeting, which also was well attended.

We hosted a great cheese and wine event at Vines and

Rushes on April 23.

On June 21, we held a District 5 YFA contest training night in Montello where members participated in a mock discussion meet and were able to get assistance in filling out the Achievement Award and Excellence in Agriculture award application.

Applications for Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award were due on July 1. The District Discussion Meet will be on **August 23** in Green Lake.

If you are looking for a social gathering over the summer we will have the annual canoeing and summer picnic in Princeton on **Sunday, July 30**.

If you have any questions about these events, please contact me at 608.369.1091 or visit our events on Facebook.

**Amanda Knoch**  
District 5 YFA Committee Representative

## District 5 Discussion Meet

Date:  
Wednesday, August 23

Time:  
6:30 p.m. Dinner - Pizza Buffet  
7:00 p.m. Discussion Meet  
7:30 p.m. Policy Development Meeting

Cost: \$12/person

Location:  
Goose Blind Bar & Grill  
512 Gold Street  
Green Lake

Question to be discussed:

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?



For more information contact District 5 YFA Representatives Josh & Amanda Knoch at 608.369.1091 or joshamandaknoch@gmail.com To RSVP by August 16, call text or email District 5 Coordinator Becky Hbicki at 920.517.2445 or rhbicki@wfbf.com

## Most Creative Ag in the Classroom Essay By Arias Lang



*Hi, I'm the fact knowing cranberry. Do you know who I am? If not, I'm green in the beginning, then pink, then ruby red. I can also be white. I have four air chambers inside me so I can float. This helps the workers pick me. The workers put cuttings down, and my roots grow into the grounds until I form blossoms and become full grown.*

**Ariah Lang from Nece-dah received the most creative essay award.**

*In December, the cranberry fields are flooded and covered with dirt, so we don't freeze. In October, the fields are flooded again, but this time it is so we can be harvested. During harvest season, the workers use a machine that shakes us all up and we float to the top of the bed. The workers then gather us up and put us on a big truck.*

*Once we are on the truck we travel to a factory. In the factory, we find out if we are going to be made into craisins, juice, or dried for a bitter tart snacks. Sometimes we are left whole so we can be made into bread, muffins or cakes. Once we have made it to the factory, the process at the cranberry fields begins all over again. The workers begin to put the cuttings down for the next season.*

*People today learned how to harvest cranberries from the Native Americans. The Native Americans used almost the same process to harvest the cranberries except without machines. Native Americans also called cranberries, *ibimi*. They also used the cranberries in a different way. They dyed their clothing with them and made pemmican from them. Native American Medicine Men would also use the cranberry to help heal the wounded and the sick.*

*I hope you have learned a lot from our little adventure about the cranberry.*

## District Promotion and Education Update



Hello! My name is Lynn Dickman and I am your newly appointed District 5 Promotion and Education Chair. I am originally from Green County, growing up on an 80-cow dairy farm in Argyle. After earning a bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-Madison in 2010, I began working for Heartland Farms, Inc., in Hancock.

Today I serve as a research agronomist on this 24,000-acre potato farm that grows and markets 8,000 acres of potatoes for potato chips each year. In June 2016, I completed my master's degree at UW-Madison where I studied stem end defect in potato chips for my thesis project. This year I participated in the Potato Leadership Institute and Potato D.C. Fly In.

I am the YFA chair for Waushara County, was a graduate of WFBF Leadership Institute Class VIII, and in the final four for YFA Excellence in Ag in 2016. In addition, I have been president of Tri-County FFA Alumni since 2014.

Outside of agriculture, I am a member of the Stevens Point Curling Club, City Band, Ignite Leadership Network of Por-

tage County and a board member for Meals on Wheels. As the District 5 Promotion and Education committee representative, I am excited to get out and serve you as your liaison for state and national outreach activities. I plan to attend at least one board meeting and the annual meeting of each county in our district.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you want me to attend county event. Please say hello and introduce yourself if I see you at an event. If you are looking for ideas, activities or events, visit [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com) to download a copy of the 'Playbook,' a book of plays compiled and maintained by the Promotion and Education Committee. The Promotion and Education Committee, which replaced the Women's Committee in 2015, is a group of nine leaders who represent the nine Farm Bureau districts.

Committee members develop, promote and implement projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural committee.

### Lynn Dickman

District 5 Promotion and Education Committee Representative  
608.558.9713  
[ldickman87@gmail.com](mailto:ldickman87@gmail.com)

## Juneau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Sheahan 608.415.0810  
Vice President, Kip Weber 608.462.8573  
Secretary/Treasurer, Richard Santas 608.489.3509  
Women's Chair, Tonra Degner 608.464.3312  
YFA Chair, Sally Turpin 608.462.3387

Director, Carl Degner 608.464.3312  
Director, Bill Robinson 608.847.4144  
Director, Matt Schmidt 608.464.7498  
Director, Patrick Stanek 608.462.5083

Juneau County Farm Bureau 866.666.8012  
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.570.0158  
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 866.355.2029  
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Lynn Dickmann 608.558.9713  
WFBF YFA Chair, Amanda and Josh Knoch 608.297.8198

RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.630.4801

## Save the Date: Juneau County Annual Meeting

The Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held **Thursday, September 21**, at the American Legion Hall in Elroy.

The year the program will start at 7:30 p.m. Watch your mail later this summer for the postcard invite.



## Walsh Receives Scholarships



Daniel Walsh, son of Dan and Lisa Walsh of Lyndon Station, was awarded the \$250 Juneau County Farm Bureau Scholarship and the \$250 George Weber Memorial Scholarship.

Walsh is a 2017 graduate of Mauston High School. This fall, he will attend Iowa State University to study ag biochemistry and pre-veterinary science.

While in high school, Daniel was a member of the National Honor Society and

on the cross country and track and field team. He also was a member of 4-H and FFA.

He was a member of the Juneau County Livestock Judging Team and has been very involved in showing livestock. Daniel and his brother have started Walsh Bros. Cattle Company, where they focus on raising, breeding and marketing high quality beef cattle.

## Welcome New Members

Chet Bell, Cary Cattle, Alden Fessey, Clayton Filbrun, Randal Hastings, Beth Kolodzinski, Matt Miller, Kathryn Murphy, Brande O'Rourke, Lee Pearsoll, Josh Roehling, Isaac Rowe, Allyson Stanek, Brett Stanek, Terry Turpin, Alana Voss, Gary Wagner, Hana Weber and Kade Weber.

## Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour

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.

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

**Adams and Juneau County YFA  
Brewer Game  
Sunday, August 13**

The Juneau and Adams County YFA committees are organizing a trip to the Brewer game on Sunday, August 13th against the Cincinnati Reds. This is a 1:10pm game. \$25 (\$35 for non-member friends) will cover the cost of your ticket and bus ride to the game.

The group will tailgate at the park before the game.  
Open to members from the district and neighboring counties.

More details to follow. Please RSVP ASAP so tickets can be ordered.  
Payment will be due by July 15th to hold your spot.

RSVP to Juneau County YFA Chair Sally Turpin at 608.462.3387