

# Langlade County Farm Bureau

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David Meihak - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### FFA Members Sponsored to Farm Forum

Antigo FFA members were among the more than 140 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids, February 21-22. Students were sponsored by the Langlade County Farm Bureau and Frontier FS.



Members of the Antigo FFA chapter who attended the FFA Farm Forum included (from left) Brittney West and Cassandra Borneman.

"The Farm Bureau is proud to host this annual event with the FFA to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders in Wisconsin," said Jim Holte, president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, current legislative issues and misconceptions about agriculture and biotechnology.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were two young dairy farmers who regularly engage the public on social media: Rick Roden of West Bend, a former chairman of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee, and Carrie Mess of Lake Mills, who blogs under the name Dairy Carrie.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 42nd year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

### Langlade County Brunch on the Farm By Judy and Dick Bolen

The Langlade County Breakfast on the Farm will be taking place on **Sunday, June 22 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** The Langlade County Farm Bureau is a silver sponsor for this event. It will be hosted by:

**Nagel Dairy Farms, LLC**  
N6841 County Road V  
Deerbrook, WI 54424

The Nagel family raises all their own young stock and has a total of 1,240 head of cattle and milks an average of 700 cows. They raise all of their forages on more than 2,000 acres. The farm currently has 15 full time employees and four part-time employees.

The breakfast menu consists of scrambled eggs, sausages, pancakes, real local maple syrup, cheesy hash browns, donuts, cheese, milk, orange juice, coffee and ice cream.

There will be fun activities for the entire family including a mini tractor pull, petting zoo, candy drop, jumping castle, music, and tractor and wagon rides.

The Langlade County Farm Bureau will also be providing the opportunity for kids to try out the new "My Ameri-

can Farm" video game kiosk. The 16 different video games that are part of the kiosk teach youngsters about agriculture in a fun way. The games cover a range of grade levels, and there are several games that are designed for each grade level from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. (They are fun for the whole family to play together, too, so check it out Mom and Dad.) The games and many other fun resources may also be accessed from your home computer at [www.myamericanfarm.org](http://www.myamericanfarm.org).





# COUNTYnews

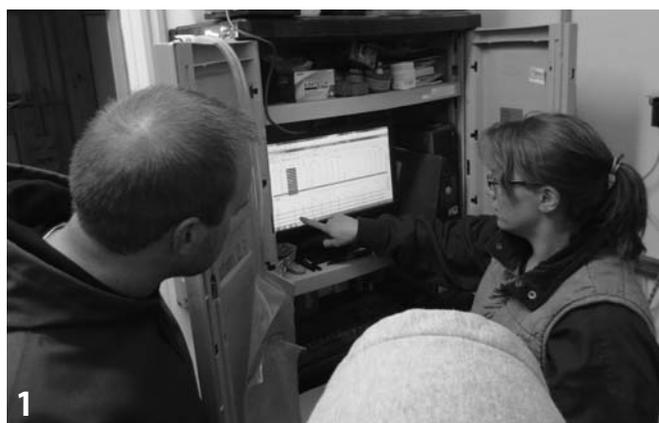
LANGLADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## District 7 YFA Members Tour Valley Line Dairy By Kristi Fiedler

On April 26, twenty-six people attended the Valley Line Dairy District 7 YFA Tour near Oconto Falls and three of them are now new Farm Bureau members. Valley Line Dairy is operated by Oconto County Farm Bureau members Troy and Patty Sellen. The highlights of the tour were the new transition barn and refurbished calf barn with automatic calf feeders. Cow health and comfort is the number one priority for the Sellens. This was demonstrated by the improvements made to the facilities and the passion shown

throughout their presentation. Thank you to Troy and Patty Sellen for letting us tour their farm and sharing their story.

After the farm tour, everyone met at the nearby Oconto Falls Town Hall for some pizza, beverages and social time.



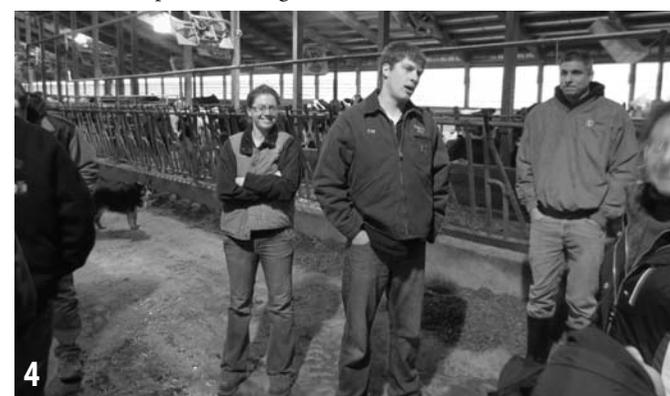
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**Captions;**

1. Patty Sellen explained how the calf self-feeding system computer reports help her manage calf health.
2. Visitors checked out the calf barn's computerized calf self-feeding system.
3. Everyone enjoyed some pizza and conversation after the tour.
4. The Sellens (center) told YFA visitors about the many changes they've made to improve cow comfort and productivity.
5. Patty Sellen talked about the new transition barn's maternity and new-born calf nursery facilities.
6. Patty Sellen explained how she keeps the calves healthy and frisky.



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## District 7 YFA Report By Brian and Kristi Fiedler

Spring has finally arrived! We wish you all a safe planting and hay making season.

### YFA Members! Mark your Calendars!

There are great opportunities for YFA members in District 7 to participate in district and state events. Remember that these activities are available to voting members ages 18-35.

**Discussion Meet:** The District 7 Discussion Meet has been set for **Thursday, August 7** at the CRI Resource Center in Shawano. Dinner will be at 7 p.m. with the discussion starting at 8 p.m. 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.**

## Contests & Awards

**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 and are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Kristi Fiedler, District 7 YFA Representative at 920.737.7640 or kfiedler@crinet.com.

## Ag Day at the Capitol Worthwhile

By Joel Zalewski, Frontier-Servco FS

I had the privilege of attending Ag Day at the Capitol in January as a member of the Frontier-Servco FS Company Spokesperson Committee. We attended the luncheon and had the pleasure of listening to keynote speaker Governor Scott Walker praise the value and virtues of agriculture in Wisconsin. It was a very enjoyable experience.

Not only was this my first visit to the Capitol, it was also the first time I had the opportunity to meet with legislators. We were warmly received and found ample opportunity to express our support and concerns. Heather Thompson, a member of the GROWMARK, Inc. Government Affairs Department, did an excellent job of setting up appointments with key legislators for each of our teams.

My team met with Senator Jerry Petrowski and Representative Keith Ripp, coauthors of the Implements of Husbandry legislation, along with Senator Thomas Tiffany and Senator Luther Olson. Each of these men expressed strong support for agriculture and listened carefully to our concerns. Final amendments to the Implements of Husbandry legislation addressed our primary concerns. We'd like to believe that the sentiments we shared during Ag Day at the Capitol had some impact. Overall it was a very positive experience for me and I urge others to consider getting involved.

## Ag in the Classroom Program Update

By Jolynne Schroepfer

Antigo FFA is working with local fourth grade teachers on their Ag in the Classroom grant project. The grant was provided by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. This project is based on the book by Chris Peterson called Seed Soil Sun. For some students this may be their first chance to try this science project to start seeds in germination. The process of seeing those seeds emerge from their seedcoat is a revelation in how plants start to grow. Even in the high school horticulture class I have a few students who have never touched soil before coming into class this semester. The opportunity for students to play in the dirt doesn't get lost on them. I hope that by introducing students at a much younger age their understanding and appreciation for how plants grow will help them to have a better understanding of agriculture.

Grant money will be put towards a copy of the book by Mrs. Peterson as well as the supplies for the science experiments included in the book. That would include starting soil, seeds and germination supplies. All teachers in Langlade County including Elcho and White Lake, will be included with this grant project.

Antigo FFA is excited for the opportunity to work with fourth-grade students throughout the county.

## Our Food Link Replaces Food Check-Out Week

By Wes Raddatz, WFBF District 7 Coordinator

Many of you might be familiar with a program called 'Food Check-Out Week'. Historically, this week has been used to celebrate the week that many families have earned enough income to buy their groceries for the year. As our Farm Bureaus are able to get more active and engaged and there are more opportunities to meet with consumers throughout the year, the American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee worked hard to design a program that could meet the needs of Farm Bureaus that work tirelessly promoting agriculture all year at various events.



Langlade County Farm Bureau Women's committee chair Bev Brecklin mentioned the changes in the last newsletter, but I'd like to emphasize them as well. "Our Food Link" is a year-round program that county and state Farm Bureau volunteers can use to effectively reach consumers of all ages and backgrounds with information about today's agriculture. The AFBF has designed a planning toolkit to help counties get started thinking about projects that will engage people in your community. It includes sample activity ideas, media outreach sample text, program graphics and plenty of room to customize Our Food Link to your area. You can find more information about this program online at [www.fb.org/index.php?action=programs.ourfoodlink](http://www.fb.org/index.php?action=programs.ourfoodlink).

If you have an idea to help promote one of the many agricultural commodities in Langlade County, please let us know. Maybe you're willing to host a farm tour for consumers, or maybe it is to write an article for the county newsletter to share more about what you do. Maybe you aren't a farmer and you've got questions about how things on farms work or you might be an agri-business owner willing to open up your doors and play host to some of our Young Farmer and Agriculturist members. Whatever your idea is, we'd like to hear it. Please feel free to email your comments to Bev Brecklin at [bnpbreck2010@hotmail.com](mailto:bnpbreck2010@hotmail.com) or Wes Raddatz at [wraddatz@wfbf.com](mailto:wraddatz@wfbf.com). Our Food Link is full of opportunities and we're looking forward to making agriculture stronger in Langlade County using them!

## Beef Promotion Planned for July



Hopefully everyone survived the long, hard winter that continued into spring. Regardless, we all have to think positive and keep going! It could always be worse if we had tornadoes or earthquakes.

When July arrives I plan on doing a beef promotion at Michael's Restaurant in Antigo. The owners are very happy that I will do the promo for July Beef Month at their restaurant. It will not only promote beef, but it will be great publicity for the restaurant as well. A date hasn't been set yet, but we are planning for mid-July.

The dairy industry is a main-stay in Wisconsin, but the beef industry is quite important as well. On-farm beef production and processing provides 35,100 jobs in Wisconsin. It contributes \$2.1 billion in total income and accounts for \$6.94 billion from on farm and processing revenue. Wisconsin's beef industry generates more than \$200 million in state and local

government revenue as well. Much of the state's beef cow herd is located in western and southwestern portions of the state. Grant County is the #1 beef county and has nearly 10% of the state's beef cows. Marathon County ranks #10, with our Langlade County reporting just less than 2,000 head of beef cattle. Dairy steers and cull cows contribute to the beef market too. Surprisingly, Wisconsin has 1,975 more beef farmers than dairy with 14,775 beef farms. Average feedlot size is 28 head. Yet, beef cattle are ranked third in agricultural cash receipts for the state behind dairy and corn. Wisconsin ranks fifth in the U.S. for cattle harvested and is home to three of the four largest AI companies, which are ABS Global, Genex Cooperative and Accelerated Genetics.

So, when people ask, "Where's the beef?" tell them a lot of it is in Wisconsin. Hats off to our state's beef farmers! Until next time, let's hope for a nice summer growing season because we deserve it!

**Bev Brecklin**  
Langlade County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

<b>Auto</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Supplies and Products</b>
• General Motors Discount	• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug	• Case IH
<b>Communication</b>	• Savings Card	• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
• AgriVisor (NEW)	• Stroke Detection Plus	• Grainger
• The Country Today	<b>Insurance</b>	• Office Depot
<b>Financial</b>	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	<b>Travel</b>
• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	• AAA
• Farm Bureau Bank	<b>Protection</b>	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
	• \$500 Reward Protection Program	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.
	• Accidental Death Policy	• Wyndham Hotel Group

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

## District 7 Board Report



Hello District 7 Farm Bureau members,

This has been a long, cold, snowy winter. I'm sorry I have missed several of your counties' monthly board meetings and activities, but we have had some major health problems in our family that we have been working through.

Spring came back in March, however winter didn't leave. This has shortened the planting season so drastically that getting the nutrients and fertilizer to the fields plus tilling and planting has become a rat race. No matter how hectic the days, don't compromise safety, be courteous in traffic and take some time with the ones near and dear to you.

The IOH (implements of husbandry) legislation was signed into law April 23 and took effect in May, however, some parts won't go into effect until 2015. More information is available about IOH on [wbf.com/legislative/ioh](http://wbf.com/legislative/ioh).

I hope to see you this summer at your county meetings and activities.

**Wayne Staidl**  
District 7 Board Member

## Langlade County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Date Set

The Langlade County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held Wednesday, October 15 at the Ackley Town Hall, west of Antigo, at 7 p.m.

Guest speakers will be UW-Extension agent Stephanie Plaster, Marie Graupner from the Land and Water Conservation Department and Antigo FFA Advisor Jolynne Schroepfer. Members of the Antigo FFA will talk about their "Seed Soil Sun Kit" project.

save • the • date  
10 • 15 • 14

## Langlade County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Tom Houdek	715.627.2156
Vice President, Robert Fronek	715.623.2416
Secretary/Treasurer, Christy Sveda-Schreiber	715.623.7097
Women's Chair, Beverly Brecklin	715.623.4153
YFA Chair, Mary Fronek	715.623.2416
Director, Richard Bolen	715.623.6974
Director, Jake Bula	715.623.6779
Director, Darlene Eckerman	715.623.2520
Director, James Jansen	715.623.6261
Director, Lee Parsons	715.623.6618
Director, Jolynne Schroepfer	715.627.2539
WFBF Board Director, Wayne Staidl	715.582.3671
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

## County President's Report

Hello everyone. As I'm writing this article on April 30, I can still see some snow piles left over from our 'fantastic' winter. Hopefully by the time you read this the snow will be gone and summer will be here. That means it will not be long and the 2014 Langlade County 4-H Fair will be here. The fair will take place from Wednesday, July 23 to Sunday, July 27. The theme for this year's fair is "A Cluck, A Moo, and a Carnival Too".

This year Langlade County Farm Bureau is sponsoring four trophies: Champion Market Beef, Reserve Champion Market Beef, Reserve Champion Beef Female and Reserve Champion Beef Female Crossbred. Frontier Servco FS will be one of the sponsors of two Holstein calves that will be given away to 4-H dairy exhibitors at this year's fair. The new livestock pavilion, with a stall sponsored by Langlade County Farm Bureau, is now completed. Come check it out this July, along with all the other events that will be going on.

**Tom Houdek**  
Langlade County Farm Bureau President

## Let's fight HUNGER

# 1 ACRE

at a time.

FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE FORM AND ALLOCATE A DONATION AMOUNT.

DELIVER YOUR CROPS WITH YOUR DONATION FORM TO THE GRAIN ELEVATOR.

100% OF YOUR DONATION FUNDS LOCAL HUNGER RELIEF.

As a farmer, you take pride in feeding the world, but did you know there's a great need to feed the hungry right where you live? That's why the Invest An Acre program® is asking you to give an acre of hope by donating a portion of your crop sales to fight hunger directly in your community. Your donation will be doubled, up to \$675,000 nationally, by the Monsanto Company, so just the value of one bushel can provide as many as 100 meals. Imagine the impact of donating the value of one acre — the equivalent of thousands of meals for families in your community!

MONSANTO MATCHES YOUR DONATION, DOUBLING YOUR IMPACT.

THE LOCAL FOOD BANK WILL DISTRIBUTE THE DONATION TO FEED PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

INVEST AN ACRE AND FEED YOUR COMMUNITY.

Visit [HarvestToEndHungerWI.org](http://HarvestToEndHungerWI.org) for easy steps to enroll in this life-changing program. Made possible by generous support from UnitedHealthcare.

\*Engagement in Invest An Acre is one way to participate in Harvest to End Hunger Wisconsin. ©2014 Harvest to End Hunger WI

### Participating Food Banks

Across Wisconsin, the six food banks affiliated with the Wisconsin Association of Feeding America Food Banks™ each have their own service area and procure and distribute food to thousands of food pantries, meal programs, and other hunger relief agency programs in the state.

*\*The mission of the Wisconsin Association of Feeding America Food Banks is to coordinate, support and enhance the work of Feeding America food banks that serve the state of Wisconsin by obtaining more food and funds, raising public awareness, and creating the partnerships necessary to end hunger. Together, we are striving forward toward a hunger-free Wisconsin.*

For more information on becoming a partner please contact:

**Keith Michalski**  
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin  
[kmichalski@feedingamericawil.org](mailto:kmichalski@feedingamericawil.org)  
414.831.6318

## HarvestToEndHungerWI.org

**Feeding America**  
Attn: Invest An Acre Program  
35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2000  
Chicago, IL 60601

Enclosed is a donation for the Invest An Acre Program.

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Check has been made payable to the Invest An Acre Program