



Marathon County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Marathon County Farm Bureau Proud Club Members

Membership is the key to a healthy and growing organization. Below is a list of members who are leading the charge for the 2016 membership year.

- Mark Zimmerman: 10 new members
- Randy Wokatsch: 5 new members
- Don Radtke: 5 new members
- James Juedes: 5 new members
- Joanne Juedes: 5 new members
- Beth Schaefer: 2 new members
- Shannon Boschma: 2 new members
- Ryan Prah: 1 new member



Attention Pine and Scotch Creek Watershed Farmers

Earlier in the year Marathon County Farm Bureau committed to assist the villages of Marathon and Edgar to meet new phosphorus discharge regulations.

The county Farm Bureau is working diligently with village administrators Andy Kurtz and Allan Huebsch. A dedicated committee of county Farm Bureau directors also worked with the Marathon County Planning and Zoning personnel to implement a phosphorus trading program between the villages and upstream farmers. Since last fall the committee worked to develop a streamlined plan.

On May 17, many local farmers were invited to Rib River Ballroom to be part of the discussion. It was a very good meeting. As things progress your county Farm Bureau will work hard to keep you updated on the progress.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact committee chairs Don Radtke at 715.573.7208 or Randy Wokatsch 715.506.1355.



Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

Now that the implements of husbandry (IOH) trilogy is complete, but so many questions still remain, there was discussion of creating a Wisconsin agriculture transportation guide book. It will encompass aspects of operating or transporting ag-related equipment and supplies within Wisconsin, highlighting state and federal laws.

WFBF Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard and Cheryl Skjolaas from the UW-Extension are working with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to write this guide book with a goal of completing it by September 1.

In preparation for the guide book, WFBF is rolling out 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit' on social media. These posts are simple, yet important, transportation laws or rules that apply to ag-related equipment and its operation or transport on Wisconsin roads.

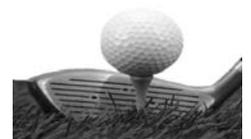


Even though you may know these laws, it's our hope that you share them via social media to reach and educate a much wider audience. More importantly, any feedback that you provide will help us prioritize specific issues for the guide book.

For tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit,' visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

Register Now for the Wisconsin Ag Open

This year's Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 12**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells. The event supports the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's efforts to expand agricultural leadership, 4-H and FFA program, agricultural literacy efforts, and other education, youth and leadership programs.



For more information, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open.



COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2016 District 8 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Farm Tour

By Shannon Boschma, Marathon County YFA Chair



Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from District 8 gathered on April 1 to enjoy a day of learning in central Wisconsin.

Our first tour was at H&S Manufacturing in Marshfield. We learned about the business history and building philosophies of H&S from tour host Ron Zygarlick. We also enjoyed a tour of the manufacturing plant.

From there we went to the Marshfield Agricultural Research Station auditorium to listen to an insightful presentation from staff with the

National Farm Medicine Center regarding farm safety topics and training. While there we enjoyed lunch sponsored by the National Farm Medicine Center and WFBF YFA.

Our next tour was Seehafer's Farm and Creamery in Marshfield. We learned about their agri-tourism venture in starting a creamery on-farm from Nikki Seehafer. Staff from the National Farm Medicine Center also presented some key points to consider when welcoming visitors on farm. Joey Ploeckelman gave a tour of the dairy farm and answered questions about milking practices, feed mixes and calf-heifer raising.



The last tour was at the UW-Marshfield Agricultural Research Station Farm in Stratford. Nancy Esser and Will Cordes presented the group with a lot of interesting information regarding what kinds of trials are conducted on UW research farms, why those trials take place and how dairy farms use and benefit from their findings.

Thank you to the tour hosts: H&S Manufacturing, Seehafer's and Marshfield Agricultural Research Station, the guest speaker from the National Farm Medicine Center and to everyone who participated in the tour. We hope you enjoyed the tour and found it informational.

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District 8 YFA Update

Calling all Young Farmer and Agriculturist members. Some exciting events and opportunities are on the horizon including the District 8 Discussion Meet, Rural Mutual Sponsorship for the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference and bus to World Dairy Expo.

‘Today’s food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?’

Do you have some ideas on how to answer this question? If you are between the ages of 18 and 35, come and share your knowledge and thoughts on this question by participating in the 2016 District 8 Discussion Meet Contest. The District 8 YFA Discussion Meet will be at 7 p.m. on **Sunday, August 28**, at Abbyland Travel Center and Restaurant in Curtiss. The dinner will follow at 7:30 p.m.

The top two individuals will advance to the state competition held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-4 in Wisconsin Dells.

Never competed before? Check out the 2016 Discussion Meet Manual and Tips for competing at www.wfbf.com. Look

for the updated YFA page for contest details. If you plan to participate or have questions, please contact Beth Schaefer at eaporior.schaefer@gmail.com or 608.577.6845.

This year the District 8 Policy and Development meeting will be held immediately following the YFA Discussion Meet, so come participate or cheer on our district YFA members and stick around to participate in the foundation of our organization – grassroots policy development.

Summer officially started on June 20, but planning for the YFA Conference is in full swing. Mark your calendars for December 2-4, when more than 500 YFA members will descend on the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to learn, compete, network and celebrate with YFA members from across the state.

Never been to the State YFA Conference? How about attending for free? That’s right, free. Rural Mutual Insurance Company will sponsor the registration and hotel for up to 50 YFA members and their guests who have not attended the YFA Conference.

For an application and details about the Rural Mutual Sponsorship, visit www.wfbf.com. Applications are due **August 15**. Want to go to the 50th World Dairy Expo in Madison? Want

to enjoy the cattle shows, vendors and networking, but don’t want to drive? Catch the YFA bus, and leave the driving to us.

The bus will travel to World Dairy Expo on **Saturday, October 8**, and return after the Supreme Champion is named Saturday afternoon. The bus will tentatively leave from Wausau and pick up in Stevens Point and Westfield. More details, including cost, will be available at www.wfbf.com under the events calendar. Don’t miss the 50th World Dairy Expo.

Do you have the next idea for a YFA event? Please share your ideas with Beth Schaefer, State YFA Committee Representative for District 8 at eaporior.schaefer@gmail.com or 608.577.6845.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program

Register NOW for Little Britches!



Sponsored by:

Marathon County Farm Bureau
and
Marathon County Holstein Breeders



Little Britches Showmanship Registration Form

Youth's name _____

Address _____

Age (as of January 1, 2016) _____

T-shirt size _____

My child will participate in the Marathon County Farm Bureau and Marathon County Holstein Breeders' Little Britches event at the Wisconsin Valley Fair and the Athens Fair.

I understand that if my child participates, any injury or accident that may occur is of no fault of Marathon County Farm Bureau, Athens Fair Board, Wisconsin Valley Fair and the two organizations listed above will not be held liable for any injuries or accidents related to this event. I understand that my child and I will be responsible for the child's behavior with the animals, and if any behavior is brought to question before, during, or after the event my child will not be allowed to participate in the event, or show an animal in this event. I also give consent for my child's photo to be taken and used for Marathon County Farm Bureau Little Britches show promotional uses.

Parents' or guardians' signatures _____

Date _____

Please return completed registration to:

Mike Borchardt
Marathon County Farm Bureau Little Britches Committee
W4370 Wien Drive
Edgar, WI 54426-9605



I'm attending!

Will you?

Join us for the 2016 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells!

Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for **FREE!** You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. **BUT HURRY!** This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application at <http://bit.ly/YFAConference2016>

Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend!

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.

(Limit one award per family and you must be present at Friday night's banquet to qualify.)

We're Growing Leaders.

Be a member of the 2017 Leadership Institute



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute develops strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders of all ages and experience. As an Institute member you will participate in engaging and interactive sessions where you will develop your personal leadership skills, dive into your creative side, advocate for agriculture and learn more about Farm Bureau's grassroots policy development process.

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/WFBFInstitute>. You won't regret this rewarding experience!

Applications are due August 15, 2016.



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Life Line (NEW)
- Supplies and Products**
- Case IH
 - Caterpillar
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Polaris
 - 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**
- Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection**
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
 - Accidental Death Policy

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Marathon County Scholarship Winners

Marathon County Farm Bureau was honored to handout \$1,000 worth of scholarships to graduating high school seniors across Marathon County.

If you know a high school senior looking to pursue higher education in 2017, please encourage them to complete our scholarship application.



Congratulations (L-R) Katherine Hiebl, Edgar High School; and Nathan Utecht, Wausau West High School.



Marathon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, James Riehle 715.551.9826
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 WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke 715.539.2892
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

Faulting Shingles? By Randy Wokatsch

With the agriculture commodities being what they are, I wanted to pass on some information that I found.

Attention to those who have asphalt shingle roofing on their homes, barns, sheds or other buildings: If your shingles were manufactured by CertainTeed Corporation between July 1, 1987 and December 31, 2005, you may qualify for a settlement because these shingles are defective.

For information and a claim form, visit www.certainteedshinglesettlement.com. Company representatives are available to help as well.

If you have any questions, please call me at 715.443.2457 or 715.506.1355. I completed the form and have received payment. During these trying times every bit helps so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute Graduates Talk Ag on Capitol Hill



(L-R) Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County; William Litzer, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; Congressman Sean Duffy; and Bill Mueller, Marathon County.

Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., on April 13-14.

The topics discussed were trade, immigration, wolves, food labeling and the farm economy. Graduates of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute leadership course were joined on Capitol Hill by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Board of Directors.

The trip marked the completion of the Institute, a year-long leadership training program available to Farm Bureau members.

"Being aware of political changes and how they can or will affect my farm and life are important to me. The Institute has helped me to think outside of the box when talking with my representatives. I was able to share with them exactly how their

"Being in the institute program I learned the value of being fearless. By being fearless you can accomplish more in life like having the experience of meeting our representatives in Washington, DC., Having the opportunity to talk and share our experiences and concerns on agriculture issues with them was a benefit. Going through the institute has helped develop my confidence." -Brad Weber

decision will impact me," said Janet Clark, a dairy farmer and Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member. While in Washington, Farm Bureau members met officials from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture where they discussed issues pertaining to wetland conservation, telecommunication and broadband expansion, food safety and national preparedness for animal disease. A visit to the New Zealand Embassy included a conversation on trade and the global agricultural economy.



In addition to

meeting with Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and their representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives, Farm Bureau members also toured the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives' chambers.



(L-R) Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County; Brad Weber, Wood County; and Bill Mueller, Marathon County.

Members of the Institute Class IX who attended the Washington, D.C., trip were: Hannah Barthels, Milton; Amanda Carlson, Hartland; Janet Clark, Rosendale; Jayne Dalton, Endeavor; Erin Daluge, Janesville; Will Litzer, Marathon; Kelsi Mayer, Monroe; Bill Mueller, Wausau; Sarah Sacker, Browntown; Taylor Schuetz, Brooklyn; Kim VandenAvond, Luxemburg; Brad Weber, Marshfield; and Randy Wokatsch, Marathon.

For more information about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Institute, visit bit.ly/WFBFInstitute.