

# **Marathon County Farm Bureau**

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For information about our farm safety campaign, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

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<b>Brian Deffner</b> (715) 298-512	<b>Diane Echols</b> (715) 218-8280	<b>David Meihak - District Manager</b>

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## A Member Benefit the Whole Family Can Enjoy!



### Northwoods League

Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks ready! The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company are teaming up for a special Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Day at the ballparks of the eight Wisconsin Northwoods League teams.

"This will be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members to take part in a member event and enjoy America's favorite past time," said Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

From May through August, there will be three Farm Bureau Member Appreciation games at each of the eight Wisconsin teams. This will be a special event for Farm Bureau members with deals on game tickets that will include a team hat, soda and a hot dog.

There also will be special recognition of

Farm Bureau during the game as well as advertising in the program book and radio ads so support your local Northwoods League team!

The Northwoods League teams in Wisconsin include Eau Claire Express, Lakeshore Chinooks, Madison Mallards, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Green Bay Bullfrogs, Kenosha Kingfish, La Crosse Loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters.

"Nothing beats sitting in your favorite ballpark, watching your favorite team on a hot, sunny day, with a hot dog smothered with all the goods in one hand and an ice cold drink in the other," said Todd Argall, Vice President of Customer Acquisition and Service with Rural Mutual Insurance. "We are looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark."

Tickets can be purchased by ordering from each team's website or by calling their ticket office. To receive the discounted price use the promotion code 'farmbureau'. For the full list of Farm Bureau games visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Welcome to the Dairy Days of Summer

By **Beth Porior Schaefer**, Regional Program Manager, Wisconsin Dairy Council and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

It is almost here ... sunshine, fresh cut alfalfa and the 30 dairy filled-days of June Dairy Month.

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is taking the month of June and extending the celebration of our state's dairy heritage to all summer long.

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is excited to bring the third Annual Dairy Days of Summer back to Wisconsin.

The Dairy Days of Summer website at [www.dairydaysofsummer.com](http://www.dairydaysofsummer.com) is complete with dairy recipes, events and farm breakfasts for the ultimate June Dairy Month experience!

New recipes featuring Wisconsin dairy products include Berry Oat Breakfast Smoothie, Parmesan Herb Veggie Dip, Berry and Cream Muffins, Apple Coleslaw with Lemon Ginger Yogurt Dressing, PB and J Bars, Heirloom Tomato, Basil Caprese Warps...just to name a few. Visit [dairydaysofsummer.com](http://dairydaysofsummer.com) for a complete to tempting dairy flavors.

If June Dairy Breakfast is your favorite way to celebrate, don't miss out on these June Dairy breakfasts!

**Sunday, June 7**  
Marathon Partnership for Progressive Agriculture

June Dairy Breakfast at Marathon Park, Wausau. Serving from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Stratford FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast, Country Aire Ballroom, Stratford. Serving from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Sunday, June 14**  
Edgar FFA Alumni Dairy Breakfast, Ross Farms, Edgar. Serving from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Friday, June 19**  
Spencer Chamber of Commerce June Dairy Breakfast, Village Park. Serving from 5 to 10 a.m.

**Sunday, June 20**  
Portage County June Dairy Breakfast, Bulgrin Grandview Farms LLC, Milladore

Wisconsin Rapids June Dairy and Berry Breakfast, Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids  
**Saturday, June 27**  
Pittsville June Dairy Breakfast, Pittsville Septic, Pittsville

Auburndale June Dairy Breakfast, Auburndale  
**Sunday, June 28**  
Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, Al and Vicki Beran Farm, Birnamwood

For more information on June Dairy Month events, visit [www.dairydaysofsummer.com](http://www.dairydaysofsummer.com).



# COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capital



Ag Day at the Capitol was held March 11 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

It is the largest gathering of farmers and agriculture industry officials from across the state representing a variety of farm and agriculture-related groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees listened to Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy.

Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, an attorney with Dewitt Ross & Stevens who spoke to the group about high capacity wells and the UW System budget and Bob Welch, Wisconsin Corn Growers, who spoke about transportation.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked up to the Capitol to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to our agriculture industry.



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## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is Successful

During the last five years, hundreds of women from around the state have gathered in March for a day and half retreat the Madison area.

This year was no exception! This annual event is a like a mini vacation for a lot of farm and agribusiness women who attend.

It is hard to believe that during this 27-hour conference women



were able to attend breakout sessions covering everything from farm succession, home office organization, how to dress for any occasion, along with how to turn trash into treasure and so much more.

This year's keynote speaker Scott Zimmer talked about "When Generations Connect," helping us to relate to the four generations now working together on our farms and other workplaces.

During the evening festivities the women enjoyed the sights and sounds of Piano Fondue.



## Meet Marathon County Farm Bureau YFA Chair: Shannon Boschma



Shannon Boschma has been a member of Farm Bureau for more than four years and proudly served as your county YFA chair for the last two years.

Shannon, her husband Hank and son Gabe run Sky-Reach Holsteins, a registered Holstein and Red and White Holstein Farm. They milk 45 cows and raise 55 heifers.

Shannon recently resigned from her position as a technical support specialist with Ag Source DHI where she worked for 10 years. This decision wasn't an easy one but they agreed that

her time can best be spent concentrating on their dairy farm and spending quality time with family.

Shannon became involved with Farm Bureau as a way to network and build relationships with others in the Marathon County farming community.

When asked what she thought the greatest benefit to being a Farm Bureau member, Shannon shared that it is having a strong voice directed to our government offices and learning how to address our legislators with matters that are important to agriculture.

Shannon and Hank also are active outside of their county Farm Bureau. They are members of Marathon County Holstein Breeders as well as Wisconsin Holstein Breeders.

Next on their agenda is 4-H because they were active members growing up and are excited for their son to experience the same opportunities.

We asked Shannon why she thought it was important to be part of the ag industry?

"Agriculture is our life," Shannon said. "We grew up on dairy farms learning the importance of hard work morning to night. There are many job opportunities offered to all ages in the ag industry as well. It is wonderful to know we are part of an industry that strives to produce a healthy lifestyle for all."

Shannon is honored to be serving as the county YFA chair and looks forward to continuing to grow strong relationships with her peers in Marathon County Farm Bureau.

## Friend of Rural Health Initiative" Campaign Increasing Awareness throughout Marathon County



Front (L-R) Jilayne Radtke, Tiffany Ludka-Gaulke, Gail Kell, Judy Burrows; back (L-R) Jean Maszk, Gary Beastron, Brittany Schreiber, Tara Marciniak, Antonina Olszewski and Misty Vogel.

The Rural Health Initiative (RHI) launched its 2015 Friend of Rural Health Initiative networking campaign in January 2015 with a goal of making 1,000 individual friends throughout Marathon County in 2015.

RHI Outreach Health Coordinator Brittany Schreiber and Project Manager Gail Kell have been working to extend the invite during routine screenings, visits and appointments.

In fact you may have heard one of them say the campaign slogan, "I'm a Friend. Are You?" or perhaps you have seen a colleague or friend pose for a photo with our campaign poster.

Becoming a Friend of the Rural Health Initiative is easy. The cost is \$10 and we request an email address. All the money stays local to provide convenient on-site preventive health screenings to farmers, agribusinesses and agriculturists within Marathon County.

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Winners are All the Buzz...

The Marathon County Ag in the Classroom committee members mailed books and information about the essay contest to every fourth grade classroom in Marathon County.

The results from this approach? The committee received almost 300 essays from students in Marathon County who were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay on "Why are bees important to

When you provide your email, you will automatically be added to the email distribution list for our upcoming electronic newsletter, which will share news and updates. We won't share your email address with anyone else and we plan to send a maximum of one email per month.

To become a Friend of RHI, visit [www.wirural-health.org](http://www.wirural-health.org) or contact Brittany Schreiber at [brittany@rhiwi.org](mailto:brittany@rhiwi.org) or Gail Kell at [gail@rhiwi.org](mailto:gail@rhiwi.org).

Overall, residents of Marathon County have been receptive. Thank you! We are hoping to connect with more people to increase awareness of our program.

We have 41 friends including Bob Kulp, Paul Daigle, Mandy Wright, Mandy Myszka, Diane Abitz, Marge Lastrow, Pat Duffield, Mike McNamee, Mark Gaulke, Melissa Dotter, Carol Schairer, Norman Lambright, Matt Kiefer, Rick Linder and Tom Rau.

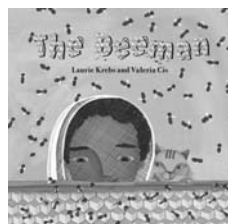
Rural Health Initiative is a local 501(c)3, community-supported, program that brings preventive health services directly to local farms, agribusinesses and agriculturists, in efforts to improve and sustain their overall health and safety.

It's a concept that we call Kitchen Wellness, which includes complimentary preventive health screenings with immediate test results, health coaching, and referral information.

Thank you for your support as we continue to serve as a bridge to improve and sustain the health and safety of farm families in Marathon County.

Wisconsin agriculture?"

Sam Nitzke, a student at South Mountain School in Wausau, was the District 8 and Marathon County winner of the contest. He will receive a Kindle Fire and classroom presentation.



## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute Program: An Opportunity to Grow and Learn

By Randy Wokatsch and Bill Mueller



This is what Randy Wokatsch and Bill Mueller have to say about their experience in the institute so far.

We are grateful to have this opportunity and have come away looking at things with a different view.



Sometimes there seems like there is only one answer to a particular question but when talking to our group, we found more ways to look at the question than most of us realized.

For several years, it has been a goal of ours to qualify for and attend the Farm Bureau Institute. Last year we applied and we were chosen to be in Institute Class 9!

There are fourteen of us and we just completed Session 3 of five total sessions. What a great experience it has been!

Dale Beaty, director of leadership development for WFBF is our instructor. It is a leadership class with sessions at locations around the state and out of state.

We've already learned so much about public speaking, how to advocate, what it takes to be a leader, how to conduct meetings, ethics and so much more.

We talked about networking and social media, how it is here, how to get the word out now, it's really quick and more people are getting their information from that then they did before all this new technology was introduced.

Times are changing so we also must change to make life more enjoyable and profitable.

Applications for the next Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute are due August 14.

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Hits April 30 Membership Goals!

By Randy Wokatsch, Membership Chair

I'm proud to tell you that we have accomplished our goal of recruiting 40 new voting members by April 30.

bers and I want to welcome all the new members and say thank you for supporting us.

The Farm Bureau membership year runs from October 1 to September 30 but we earn \$1,000 by achieving this number of memberships by the early-bird date of April 30.

We were the first county in District 8 to reach our goal!

Thank you to everyone who signed mem-



## Marathon County YFA Members Events

Marathon County YFA members participated in a tour of four Marathon County dairies on May 2. Host farms included Van Langen Farm (Edgar), Double P Dairy (Marathon), Maple Ridge Farms (Stratford) and Arnold Farms (Edgar).

The tour showcased robotics, grazing, organic and conventional dairies. Each shared their story of how they have made dairying work for their facilities, families and long-term goals.

A special thank you to United FCS Wausau for sponsoring lunch, CRI for sponsoring boots and Shannon Boschma for arranging the day's events.

Don't miss the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual YFA Night at the Wisconsin Wood-

chucks. This year we will be catching the Sunday, July 5, game against the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters. First pitch is at 5:05 p.m.

This is a Rural Mutual sponsor night. Promo tickets are \$11 and includes a soda, hot dog and a hat. General admission tickets also are available for \$6. In addition, it is \$1 night on hot dogs, soda, beer and popcorn.



After the game, Marathon County YFA will be sponsoring ice cream for YFA members in attendance. Please contact Beth Schaefer at 608.577.6845 or eaprior@uwalumni.com to reserve your tickets by Friday, June 26. Bring the whole family for a night at the ballpark!

## District 8 YFA Update By Melissa Eron

### June 23

District 8 YFA members are invited to attend the 2015 Friends of Millcreek Watershed Conservation Tour. It is co-hosted by Bulgrins Grand View Dairy and Mark and Lisa Totten in Milladore.

The tour is a hayride style and will highlight conservation efforts practiced by the landowners. If time permits we also will tour a historic round barn owned by the Bulgrins. Please RSVP to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710, seating is limited.

### July 1

Applications due for the Excellence in Ag and Achievement awards. The Excellence in Ag award is for someone involved in the agriculture industry but doesn't not have the majority of its income from production farming. The Achievement award is for someone in production agriculture. For more information, please talk to your county YFA chair.

### August 14

WFBF InSTITUTE Class X applications due. This is a great leadership opportunity and is open to all ages, not just YFA members.

Rural Sponsorship due. Consider nominating someone who will be attending the YFA Conference for the first time. Rural Insurance will cover their registration and hotel costs.

### August 25-27

Farm Technology Days in Dane County.

### August 29

District 8 Discussion Meet. This year it will be held at the

Abbyland Travel Center in Curtis. We will be having the buffet that consists of chicken, ribs, scalloped potatoes, soup, salad and dessert for \$10.75. Before the discussion meet we will be touring Munson Bridge Winery at 10 a.m. This was a dairy farm before a winery and the tour will cover the converting process. The cost of the tour and tasting is \$5 per person. Plan to make a day of it by attending the Loyal Corn Festival Breakfast in the Park. The breakfast is sponsored by the Clark County Farm Bureau with all proceeds benefiting their scholarship fund. The breakfast is from 7 a.m. to noon.



### Day at a glance

- 7-10 a.m.** Breakfast in the Park, Loyal
- 10 a.m.** Tour and tasting at Munson Bridge Winery, W6462 Bridge Road, Withee
- 12 noon** Travel to Abbyland Travel Center, 219 Plaza Drive, Curtis
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch and Discussion Meet

You don't have to compete to attend or if you can't attend the whole day, you are welcome attend part of it. Please RSVP by **August 24** to Melissa if attending any of the events and if you are participating in the Discussion Meet.

To save on printing costs and postage, we will not send postcards for upcoming events. Please share your contact information or email address with Melissa Eron at mklein211@hotmail.com. We will send reminder emails and create Facebook events to promote the events.

## Looking for Ways to Get Involved in Marathon County Farm Bureau? Check Out the New and Improved Committee Lists!



During the last month a special task force made up of county directors and members reviewed the list of standing committees that were in place.

The task force found that some of the committees no longer served their purpose. The task force also found that in order to move the county Farm Bureau forward they needed to add new committees.

If you are interested in learning more about the committees or how you can get involved, please contact the chairs of the committee or visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/marathon](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/marathon).

**Ag in the Classroom:** Lindsey Prah, 715.842.1061; Lindsay Buettner, 715.680.1003

**Policy Development:** Randy Wokatsch, 715.443.2457

**Little Britches:** Mike Borchardt, 715.897.5356

**Fair Stand:** Helen Traska, 715.842.1957

**Membership:** Randy Wokatsch, 715.443.2457

**Annual Meeting:** Nikki DeJong, 715.379.6861; Ryan Prah, 715.842.7167

**YFA:** Shannon Boschma, 715.330.4450

**Women's:** Nikki DeJong, 715.379.6861

**PR/Media:** Beth Schaefer, 608.577.6845

**PPA Committee/Farm City Dinner/Dairy Breakfast:** Eric and Misty Vogel, 715.539.3781

**By-Law Committee:** The board is looking for a committee chair, if interested, please contact Steve Schmidt, 715.536.8153

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steve Schmidt 715.536.8153  
 Vice President, Ryan Prah 715.842.7167  
 Secretary, Nikki De Jong 715.379.6861  
 Treasurer, Beth Schaefer 608.577.6845  
 YFA Chair, Shannon Boschma 715.205.2655  
 Women's Chair, Nikki De Jong 715.379.6861

Director, Michael Borchardt 715.897.5356  
 Director, Wayne Breitenfeldt 715.842.8868  
 Director, Chad Erickson 715.352.3589  
 Director, Joe Kaiser 715.218.1298  
 Director, James Riehle 715.675.6111  
 Director, Chad Stockinger 715.432.6760  
 Director, Eric Vogel 715.539.3781  
 Director, Randel Wokatsch 715.443.2457  
 Director, Mark Zimmerman 715.571.5512

Marathon County Farm Bureau 877.583.5880  
 District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway 866.355.7348  
 WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke 715.539.2892  
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

## FARMLAND Film On Sale Now

Academy Award®-winning filmmaker James Moll's feature-length documentary, FARMLAND, is available on DVD at Walmart and Walmart.com.

The availability of the documentary at retail locations across the country and online, provides another opportunity for viewers to experience the film, which offers a firsthand glimpse inside the world of farming by showcasing the lives of six young farmers and ranchers in their twenties.

This film is a great tool for educating others about agriculture. There are many ways to use this film in 'ag'vocating efforts. For example you could donate copies to your local schools and libraries or could set up a movie night in your community to watch the film together and discuss it after.

FARMLAND premiered in theaters across the country in spring 2014, and now, is available on hard disk for rent and purchase at Netflix, Amazon, select retail outlets and via On Demand platforms.

DVDs of FARMLAND are available at Walmart locations and on Walmart.com. The documentary also is available to rent on DVD from Netflix and to purchase on Amazon, with continued availability for rent and purchase via digital download on iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Blockbuster On-Demand, Sony PlayStation, Vudu.com, Xbox and YouTube.

"I'm thrilled by how wide the distribution has been for Farmland," said Moll. "There's a lot of interest out there in the lives of young farmers and ranchers. It is a fascinating topic and I'm glad that there's such a demand for the film."

Produced by Moll's Allentown Productions, FARMLAND was made with the generous support of the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance®. Check out the official trailer and more information about the feature length documentary at [FARMLANDfilm.com](http://FARMLANDfilm.com) and on Facebook.

