

# **Marathon County Farm Bureau**

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<b>Shayne Courneya</b> (715) 842-0886	<b>Rudy Mikulich</b> (715) 581-1837
<b>Diane Echols</b> (715) 218-8280	<b>Leon Woller</b> (715) 257-1414
<b>Jennifer Howen</b> (715) 384-2826	<b>Brian Deffner</b> (715) 298-5012

Dave Meihak - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap-Up



Did you know that once a year Marathon County Farm Bureau hosts an annual meeting for its members? This year was no exception more than 70 members throughout the county gathered on Thursday, October 9 to celebrate all of the county's accomplishments.

This once-a-year gathering is also a time for members to elect new directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organization.



## District 8 Women's Committee Update

It has been an amazing year for District 8 Farm Bureau members! Whether you were a volunteer for the Helping Hands benefit or assisted



with the Ronald McDonald House project District 8 Farm Bureau members made a



difference for many through volunteer efforts. This continues with the collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The WFBF Women's Committee is asking members to continue to collect pop tabs as this makes an immeasurable difference for the families that utilize their facilities.

The WFBF Women's Committee would like to invite you to attend the **Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in Madison, March 13-14**. It is a premier event for ladies to attend. Please contact me if you are interested in attending as we have done some carpooling in the past from District 8.



I wish your county Farm Bureau success as you plan for the coming year's activities.

**Susan Brugger**  
District 8 Women's Committee Representative



# COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Marathon County Little Britches Kiddie Showmanship Earn National Recognition

Marathon County Farm Bureau members will be headed to sunny San Diego this January for the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention to be recognized for a local project. The Little Britches Kiddie Showmanship event was chosen as an American Farm Bureau Federation County Activities of Excellence award winner. The awards provide national recognition for unique volunteer-driven programming at the local level.

Marathon County was selected in the category of ag education/promotion for the Little Britches Kiddie Showmanship events held at the Athens and Wisconsin Valley Fairs. The events began as a way

to encourage more kids to enroll and take part in the junior dairy show. Since the inception of the program three years ago, more than 200 children led a calf in the show ring and sampled the dairy project.

Twenty-four county Farm Bureaus from across the nation, including Shawano County, were selected to present a display of their winning activity during the AFBF Annual Convention Tradeshow. Winning counties receive \$2,250 toward expenses incurred to participate in the CAE program at the convention. Congratulations to Marathon County Farm Bureau members on this great achievement.



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## Meet 2014-15 Marathon County Farm Bureau President Steve Schmidt

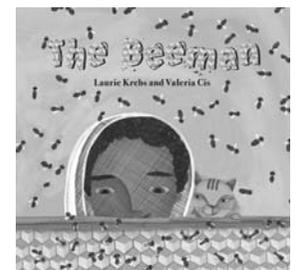


Steve Schmidt has been a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member for more than 12 years. Steve and his wife, Barbara, ran a dairy farm for more than 38 years. Now the Schmidts raise a few heifers and steers along with cash cropping. Steve and Barbara have two sons, Josh (wife Gwen) and Dustin.

Steve got involved in Farm Bureau through his friendship with past Marathon County Farm Bureau president Willie Schult. Steve served on the Marathon County Farm Bureau board for the last eight years. During that time, Steve has enjoyed spreading the benefits of agriculture in Wisconsin along with making new friends throughout the county and beyond. Steve's favorite benefit of being a Farm Bureau member is having a voice down in Madison while he is in Marathon County working his fields or helping customers at his off-the-farm job at Ace Hardware.

## 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 for fourth and fifth grade students 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 Marathon County Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator Lindsey Prahl.

## From the Desk of Don Radtke



Greetings from the state office and your Board of Directors! I wanted to share some of the great things Farm Bureau has been working on.

This year has been an interesting year with the passing and implementation of the Implements of Husbandry (IOH) legislation, and hopefully you were able to attend one of the informational meetings

Farm Bureau hosted along with the county UW-Extension offices. We encourage farmers to learn if their county and/or townships are requiring permits with regards to IOH. If you have comments or questions feel free to contact me.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau also worked on a strategic plan where we asked our members and affiliated companies (Rural

Mutual Insurance and FS GROWMARK) via listening session around the state what they were thinking and where they envisioned Farm Bureau to be in the future. The core ideas that were brought forward from the listening sessions include:

- Building relationships/alliances with other ag or ag-related organizations that have the same interests that Farm Bureau has and how we can work together on issues.
- Improve teamwork and working together to better develop shared expectations of the board role.
- The board also recognized the need to use technology to be able to connect with members. They also agreed on the importance of 'modeling the way' if we are going to be asking members to improve their technology skills.
- Strengthening the WFB Foundation through new fundraising opportunities to continue funding programs such as the

Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Women's Program and Ag in the Classroom. Fundraising efforts will be increasing as we move forward.

- Revision of the Farm Bureau Mission Statement to contain some reference to member benefits or services to members.
- Staying on the road to financial stability.

I encourage everyone to attend their respective county Farm Bureau annual meeting next year, as this is where the WFBF policies are created...at the grassroots. As always, please contact me at 715.573.7208 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding Farm Bureau.

**Don Radtke**  
WFBF District 8 Board Director

## Marathon County Partnership for Progressive Agriculture



The Marathon County Partnership for Progressive Agriculture is seeking a part-time coordinator. This part-time Wausau area position works with all admin-

istrative aspects of the Partnership for Progressive Agriculture (PPA). Additionally, provides leadership, support and promotes programs within the PPA, such as the Farm/City Dinner, June Dairy Breakfast and Ag Adventure Tent. The ideal candidate will have experience working with volunteers, possess a working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel, Publisher and the Internet. Applicants should have a flexible schedule and be a dependable, self-starter with a positive attitude. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, visit [marathonppa.org](http://marathonppa.org) or contact Dale Bowe at [dabowe@wisconsinpublicservice.com](mailto:dabowe@wisconsinpublicservice.com).

**Save the date!** The Farm/City Dinner will be on Thursday, March 12. This year's dinner will take place at the Jefferson Street Inn. The PPA is currently looking for donations to the silent auction and raffles. For donation inquiries, contact Melissa Heise at [melissaheise@swiderskiequipment.com](mailto:melissaheise@swiderskiequipment.com).

The Marathon County Partnership for Progressive Agriculture membership drive will begin in December. If you or your business is interested in becoming a member or member partner of the PPA, contact Chad Glaze at [chad@vinevestnorth.com](mailto:chad@vinevestnorth.com).

## 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 Ashleigh Calaway at [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com).

## Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board Update

Did you know that the Wisconsin Milk



Marketing Board and the dairy farm families of Wisconsin offer special opportunities for Wisconsin schools? The Wisconsin Dairy Council (WDC), the school nutrition education division of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, works with Wisconsin's K-12 schools to offer free dairy and agriculture resources for Wisconsin classrooms. The WDC has a wide variety of programs designed for kindergarten through high school that help students understand how dairy helps grow their bodies and drives Wisconsin's economy.

Each lesson is presented by WDC staff and features interactive presentations, a dairy snack and great support materials for teachers and students. Plus each lesson meets several of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for a variety of subjects including social studies, health, nutrition, science and agriculture, food and natural resources. All presentations are free to Wisconsin schools. For more information visit [wisconsinmilkmarketingboard.com](http://wisconsinmilkmarketingboard.com), or contact, Beth Schaefer, Regional Program Manager for the Wisconsin Dairy Council, at [bschaefer@wmmb.org](mailto:bschaefer@wmmb.org).



Ag Day at the Capitol  
**Wednesday, March 11**

## Do YOU Follow a Farmer?

**Blogs to follow:**

- **Carrie Mess**; [dairycarrie.com](http://dairycarrie.com)
- **Ryan Goodman**; [agricultureproud.com](http://agricultureproud.com)
- **CommonGround**; [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com)
- **Wanda Patsche**; [mnfarmliving.com](http://mnfarmliving.com)
- **Katie Olthoff**; [onthebanksofsquawcreek.com](http://onthebanksofsquawcreek.com)
- **Brian and Kelly**; [daddystractor.com](http://daddystractor.com)
- **Emily Webel**; [webfamilyfarm.blogspot.com](http://webfamilyfarm.blogspot.com)

**List of ag blogs:**

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau blog**; [wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs](http://wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs)
- **American Farm Bureau Blogs**; [fblog.fb.org](http://fblog.fb.org)
- **via Janice Person**- [janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmlblogs](http://janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmlblogs)
- **via Michele Payn-Knoper**- [causmatters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/](http://causmatters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/)

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- **I Am Ag Proud**; [facebook.com/AgricultureProud](http://facebook.com/AgricultureProud)
- **Keeping it Real: Through the Lens of a Farm Girl**; [facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl](http://facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl)
- **Humane Watch**; [facebook.com/HumaneWatch](http://facebook.com/HumaneWatch)
- **Douglas Behnke Farms**; [facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950](http://facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950)
- **Grenawalt Farms Red Angus**; [facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?ref=ts](http://facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?ref=ts)
- **Smith Farms**; [www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef](http://www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef)

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Elects New Executive Officer Team

At the October board meeting the Marathon County Farm Bureau board of directors elected a new officer team.

**President: Steve Schmidt**  
**Vice President: Ryan Prahl**  
**Secretary: Nikki DeJong**  
**Treasurer: Beth Schaefer**



## 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).

## District 8 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



District 8 YFA had a busy year. Many members were a part of the Helping Hands from the Heartland benefit. This brought together members from the counties for a wonderful cause. We had a nice turnout for the ice fishing gathering, even though no one caught any fish. In May we joined past Alices in Dairyland for a tour of Grassland and Munson Bridge Winery. We hosted a picnic following Farm Technology Days and had a tour of

our farm. The District 8 YFA Discussion Meet had five very qualified contestants. We wish Melissa Ploeckelman - Marathon County, Ryan Prahll - Marathon County and MJ Zenner - Taylor County, good luck at the state competition. We thank those who attended the events throughout the year and are excited for 2015.

### Melissa and John Eron

District 8 YFA Committee Representatives

## Four Ways You Can Help Fun'd the Foundation at the WFBF Annual Meeting

Did you know that at the WFBF Annual Meeting there will be multiple opportunities to win awesome prizes and support the WFB Foundation?

1. Silent Auction
2. 50/50 Raffle
3. Trivia Contest
4. Gun/Quilt Raffle

What does the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation do?

It supports agricultural education programs and develops agricultural leaders. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Foundation – we couldn't do it without members like you!

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Women's Program for Education and Leadership
- Farm Bureau leadership Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

The Foundation also funds 4-H and FFA activities, scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin, Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council.



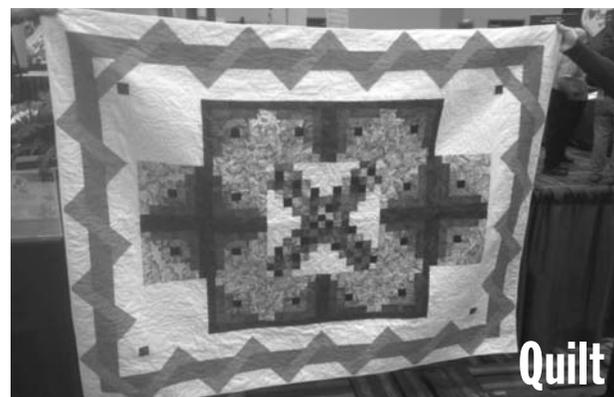
### Silent Auction



## 50/50 Raffle



## Trivia Contest



### Quilt



### Remington 870 Shotgun

## Marathon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steve Schmidt 715.536.8153  
 Vice President, Ryan Prahll 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, 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  
 Director, Sam Zimmermann 715.218.8619

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

## Hunters, Landowners Must Heed Trespass Law

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation wants to make sure hunters and rural landowners are aware of Wisconsin's trespass law for the upcoming deer hunting season.



"Good communications between hunters and rural landowners can help ensure a safe and enjoyable hunting season," said Paul Zimmerman, Farm Bureau's Executive Director of Governmental Relations.

"Wisconsin's trespass law states that you must have permission to hunt on someone's land," Zimmerman explained. "Some people still think that landowners must post a sign to prevent hunting on their land, but that law was changed in 1995. Today, you simply must have written or verbal permission to hunt on someone's land."

"If landowners are having issues with trespassers, they are to call their county sheriff's office," Zimmerman said. "DNR wardens do not have the authority to investigate trespassing complaints."

Zimmerman also noted that although hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve game they have killed or injured, hunters may not trespass to retrieve such game.

The one exception (primarily found in northern Wisconsin) to the trespass law is the case of inholdings, which is private land that is surrounded by public land. In that situation, a landowner must post a sign to prevent hunting by the public.

"Farmers wish hunters a successful hunting season because they are the best tool we have to manage our state's deer herd," Zimmerman said. "Rural landowners also have property rights that need to be respected. Adherence to the trespass law and open lines of communication will result in a successful hunt for all parties involved."