



# Marathon County Farm Bureau

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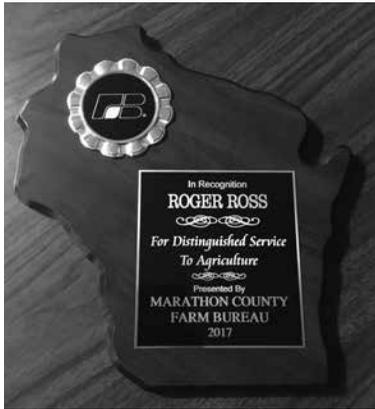
**RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN MARATHON COUNTY**

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

# Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award Presented during Marathon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



Marathon County Farm Bureau presented their 2017 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award to Roger Ross in October at the Marathon County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

The distinguished service to agriculture award is the most prestigious award the county Farm Bureau

can give. It is awarded to those that have gone above and beyond in serving the agricultural industry.

To those who know Roger know how dedicated he is to not only farming but to the people who are lucky enough to call him a friend.

Roger is a graduate of Marathon High School and the UW Madison Dairy Short Course program. He started farming full-time with his parents shortly after graduation. In 1974, he married the love of his life and has since been blessed with two children and three grandchildren.

In 1976, he bought his first farm, which is considered the main farm today. In the early 1980s, Roger was one of the first farmers in the county to have no-till corn.

Roger and his family hosted Wisconsin Farm Progress Days in 1996 and in 2000, welcomed his son to the farm. It was then that the Ross' started cash cropping corn, soybeans and oats.

Since then, Roger and his family have worked to diversify and expand their family farm. Over the years, they have added a grain facility that can hold up to 220,000 bushels and dry up to 1,000 bushels of corn an hour.

One thing has held true over the years Roger has worked hard to stay up to date on many of the new advances in agriculture. Currently using GPS, auto steer, row shutoffs on planters and advanced seed technology to lessen the use of chemicals while keeping crops clean and healthy.

Last year his farm was responsible for 2 percent of the oats in Marathon County, which is no small feat.

Currently Roger and his son farm 2,600 acres of corn, soybeans, oats and alfalfa across two townships. They do this while milking 150 cows, raising their calves and still find time to buy and sell straw, oats, rye and sunflower seed. Roger is the type of guy who will

stop and help anyone no matter his schedule for the day. He once shared that his personal goal is to meet one new person every day.

For these reasons and so many more we were honored to present Roger Ross the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.

## Congratulations Roger Ross!



Vice president Randy Wokatsch presented Roger Ross with the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.



# COUNTYnews

MARATHON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Grassroots Policy: Marathon County Farm Bureau Members Approve Resolutions

In early October, members from across the county gathered at the Rib River Ballroom to celebrate another successful year. This gathering is a time for members to elect directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organizations. Below is the list of resolutions that the Marathon County Farm Bureau board of directors presented at the annual meeting on October 5. All resolutions passed and were shared with the Policy Development Committee for review.

The WFBF Policy Development Committee is made up of volunteers from across the state. Last year the committee reviewed close to 500 resolutions submitted from county Farm Bureaus. If you have questions or concerns or maybe you believe that there is another issue that needs to be discussed, be sure to make sure your voice is heard by contacting your county board member.

### State

1. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and increased fines across the state for farms that intentionally, willfully, or neglectfully allow manure to enter waterways or wetlands and do not follow nutrient management plans. **Natural Resources and The Environment: Nutrient Management Regulations**
2. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank and wetland management. **Natural Resources and The Environment: End**
3. We support minimum state conservation standards without cost sharing with the exemption of capital improvements such as manure pits. **Natural Resources and The Environment: Nonpoint**
4. We support ending the Stewardship Program as the state does not have funds to purchase additional land. **Land Use: Stewardship Program**
5. We support the striking of line 33 and 34. Dairy: School milk
6. We no longer believe that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board should provide financial incentives for the placement of vending machines in schools due to Smart Snack Restrictions. **Dairy: Promotions**
7. We support amending the current fence law. Livestock owners should be required to build and maintain fences to contain their animals. **General Government: Fences**
8. We are in support of harvesting wetland vegetation for agricultural use. **Natural Resources and The Environment: Wetlands**
9. We support all school busses flashing both amber and red lights 200 feet prior to a stop. **Transportation: Safety**
10. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles to have a slow moving vehicle sign, effective lighting and reflective tape on public roads. **Transportation: Safety**
11. We support uniform training of milk inspectors to reflect current technology, construction and production practices.
12. Inspectors should be required to attempt contact with the farmer/farm manager upon arrival. **Dairy: Inspection**
13. We support conversations amongst dairy farmers and creameries/cheese processors to create a program to aid in supply

management.

14. We support to strike the 30/20 program initiative.
15. We support legislation authorizing the DNR to have explicant authority to regulate CAFOs at their current level.
16. We support allocating the forfeitures for violating water quality standards being directed to the UW Discovery Farms program for water quality research. **Water Quality: Environmental Regulations**
17. We support conservation credit as part of the nonpoint program. We oppose any regulation that requires landowners to give an easement for public access to participate. We support allowing temporary manure stacking when weather conditions prevent spreading on eligible land in accordance to NRCS standard 313. **Water Quality: Nonpoint**
18. We support increased phosphate, nitrogen and potash levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better use these nutrients. **Nutrient Management Plans: Natural Resources and the Environment**
19. We support the addition of All sources of nutrients must be included in one nutrient management plan being added to line 39 of Nutrient management regulations. **Nutrient Management Plans: Natural Resources and the Environment**
20. We oppose False, misleading, negative or deceptive marketing and promotion and/or label claims such as food products derived from the use of biotechnology.
21. We oppose use of 'all-natural' and 'GMO free' synonymously with 'organic' as a way to avoid producer certification as an organic grower.
22. We oppose any product labeling that states or implies that organic food is in any way superior to other farm products.
23. We are in favor of term limits for legislators.

### Federal

1. The FCC needs to hold companies accountable that receive federal funding for rural broadband. Sec. 163 p. 41 (New): Not addressed
2. We support a national security policy that prioritizes protection from cyber terrorism. Sec. 179 p. 47 (2.3): This would be an addition to AFBF's National Security Policy priorities.
3. We are in support reforming the Dairy Margin Protection Program. Sec. 238 p. 71 (1.2): No specific numbers included in policy.
4. We are in favor of mandatory drug testing for any and all recipients of the SNAP Program. **General Government: Nutrition Assistance**
5. We support the new farm bill to minimize/eliminate the use of the word subsidies due to the negative connotation.
6. We are in favor of term limits for legislators.

### Internal Resolutions

1. We support the UW-Collegiate Farm Bureau membership also include two-year technical and community college campuses.
2. We encourage Wisconsin Farm Bureau to work jointly with commodity organizations for lobbying efforts to represent agriculture.

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# District 8 Discussion Meet and District YFA Update

By Beth Schaefer, District 8 YFA Committee Chair



(from left) Katie Zoromski, Marathon County; Will Litzer, Marathon County; Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County; and Jill Niemann, Marathon County; Katie, Ryan and Jill will represent District 8 at the Discussion Meet in December.

Earlier this fall we hosted the District 8 Discussion Meet in conjunction with the District Policy Development meeting at Randall's Beers and Cheers in Abbottsford.

Participants included Katie Zoromski, Marathon County; Will Litzer, Marathon County; Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County; Jill Niemann, Marathon County; Katie, Ryan and Jill will represent Marathon County at the Discussion Meet in December. Thank you to the judges: Clark Turner, Jolynne Schroepfer and Steve Boe.

## YFA Achievement Final Four

Congratulations to Ryan and Lindsay Prah (Marathon County) and Hank and Shannon Boschma (Marathon County) for being named to the Achievement in Agriculture Award Final Four.



Ryan and Lindsay Prah and family.

## YFA and Promotion and Education Consumer Confidence Committee

Calling ag-vocates. District 8 YFA and Promotion and Education are teaming up to create a consumer confidence committee. If you are passionate about telling your ag story and helping consumers understand how food is produced safely, humanely and with care, we need you.

If you want to be a part of this committee, please contact me at [eporior.schaefer@gmail.com](mailto:eporior.schaefer@gmail.com) or Lauren McCann at [lauren.l.mccann@outlook.com](mailto:lauren.l.mccann@outlook.com).



Hank and Shannon Boschma and family.

## 2018 Events and Ideas

We will be setting the district calendar of events and activities for the upcoming year.

Please send your ideas for new activities, your dates for YFA events that your county is hosting and any other tidbits to me or Ashleigh so that I can get them shared on the Wisconsin YFA events calendar.



# Drone Training and Cow Signals Courses Available through Northcentral Technical College



Northcentral Technical College is pleased to partner with the Wausau Downtown Airport and local drone operators to present drone training for the central Wisconsin area.

Whether you are considering purchasing a small drone as a gift this holiday season or looking to gain more information on operating drones recreationally or commercially, these courses are for you.

These courses will be offered at the Wausau Downtown Airport, 725 Woods Place, Wausau.

## Drone Operator Training Series

This series of short courses will go in-depth on drone piloting topics and best practices. Led by an experienced drone pilot and featuring guest lessons by area flight instructors, these courses will prepare you to be a better, safer and smarter drone pilot.



This series will also prepare students and businesses to take the FAA's Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam; upon completion of an exam, students would be certified to operate a drone for commercial or business purposes.

Students may attend only those sections that interest them or the full series to better prep for the Part 107 exam.

## Module 1: sUAS Landscape

In this class, students will begin to understand the sUAS landscape, with various topics including knowledge of different types of drones, their features and operations as well as the different industries in which they are used.

Thursday, December 14

6-9 p.m.

\$20

## Cow Signals Series Courses

### Transition Cow Diseases

This course will cover common causes, signs, and symptoms of fresh cow diseases. Part 1 is classroom/lecture based, while Part 2 will build upon classroom learning by using the Northcentral Technical College animals to perform fresh cow exams and identify the diseases.

It is recommended that participants take Part 1 prior to participating in Part 2.

### Part 1

Tuesday, December 5

6-8p.m.

### Part 2

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

6-8 p.m.

## Cow Disease Prevention

This course will focus on nutritional and management tools used to prevent and reduce fresh cow disorders.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

6-8 p.m.

## Management of Cow Lameness

This course will focus on identifying lame cows in the early stages, along with common causes of lameness and the management tools used to combat lameness.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

6-8 p.m.

## Pricing

The Cow Signals Series is \$49 to attend all sessions or \$15 per individual session.

## Location

Northcentral Technical College Agriculture Center of Excellence 6625 County Road K, Wausau, WI 54401.



## District 8 Promotion and Education Committee Chair Update



As annual meeting season wraps up, I want to take a moment to thank all of you that attended your county annual meeting. I also want to personally thank all the county leaders for their support and dedication to Farm Bureau. I attended all but one annual meeting this year. I look forward to another great year serving as the District 8 Promotion and Education Committee Chair.

The 2018 Ag in The Classroom Book of the Year has been announced. The book is "John Deere That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer. I'm so excited to get the opportunity to talk about something that I'm sure most of the children have seen driving around but do not know the history of. And this is a great chance to get our local John Deere dealers involved.

### Update to the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

For the past six years the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit was hosted in partnership by Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Badgerland

Financial (now Compeer Financial) and UW Extension. The partners announced on September 1, their joint decision to discontinue the event.

During the next year, Farm Bureau will re-evaluate the Ag Women's Summit and determine how it can more effectively draw new and repeat attendees and better serve Farm Bureau members. After a full evaluation, Farm Bureau plans to host a new event in Spring 2019 in partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

There will be an event in 2018 called the IGNITE Conference. This event is a member-engagement conference and will be on April 5-6, 2018, in Stevens Point. The purpose is to provide county Farm Bureau leaders with resources and ideas. The IGNITE Conference is sponsored by WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. This will be the 2018 event of the year that you don't want to miss.

As always if there is an idea or event that you want to try, please contact me or visit the 'Playbook' on the WFBF website.

### Lauren McCann

District 8 WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Chair

## District 8 Coordinator Message



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. This marks my fourth year of annual meetings. For me, annual meeting season is much like fall harvest.

Counties have worked all year long, tending to the seeds they have planted, with only a narrow window to showcase

their work and dedication to the industry. This once-a-year celebration also lays out how the year is going to be, much like a fall harvest.

Each year your county membership works to layout policy that directly impacts their members as well as their family farms or businesses.

A friend of mine shared that over the years, farmers have farmed in bad times and in good times, but never have they had to farm scared. Scared that every move they make is going to draw attention from activists who don't understand, scared that one wrong move could end generations of family farming, scared that their livelihood lays in the hands of people that have never sat up all night tending to a calf, sick cow or in putting their entire future in the hands of Mother Nature. As Stephen Covey said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities." It doesn't matter if you come from a hobby farm, organic farm, small or large farm; we are in this together. It will take all of us working together to address the issues facing farming.

Nationally and locally, Farm Bureau is working for you while you are busy working the fields, tending to your herds, or spending those precious moments with your family. We represent all aspects of agriculture with our mission being to "Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members."

I think J.K. Rowling said it best, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."



I encourage you to tell your story, take a stance not for big or little, conventional or organic, GMOs or non-GMOs but for agriculture and together we can make a difference.

From my family to yours, thank you. Thank you for being a member, for supporting agriculture and being a part of the one percent who feed the other 99 percent. May this coming year be filled with bountiful harvests for you and yours.

### Thank you for your service

We would like to thank the Chad Erickson and Ryan Prahm family for their years of service to the Marathon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



## Marathon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Bill Mueller	715.675.3489
Vice President, Randy Wokatsch	715.443.2457
Secretary, Mark Zimmermann	715.571.5512
Treasurer, Thomas Mueller	715.536.6161
Promotion and Education, Heather Schlessler	217.714.1837
YFA Chair, Katie Zoromski	715.581.8870
Director, Michael Borchardt	715.897.5356
Director, Amber Cordes	715.781.3236
Director, James Juedes	715.581.3121
Director, Joe Kaiser	715.218.1298
Director, Kelly King	715.581.5850
Director, Will Litzer	715.370.5718
Director, James Riehle	715.551.9826
Director, Beth Schaefer	608.577.6845
Director, John Utecht	715.845.9335
Marathon County Farm Bureau	877.583.5880
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.573.7208
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Lauren McCann	920.728.4948
WFBF YFA Chair, Beth and Matt Schaefer	608.577.6845
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

## Get Social with WIFarmBureau



## Ag in the Classroom Update

Ag in the Classroom Information Meetings offer an opportunity to learn more about Ag in the Classroom, essay contest, Book of the Year, National Ag Day events, Journey 2050, Ag Today Readers, educational resources, and activities you can use to teach others about agriculture.

The meetings and training are open to Ag in the Classroom volunteers, 4-H Extension staff and club leaders, agriculture education instructors, FFA Food for America committee chairmen, FFA Alumni, commodity groups, home school

parents, teachers of all grade levels and subjects, Farm Bureau members and others interested in learning more about Ag in the Classroom. There is no charge and no need to register!

### Dates, Locations and Schedule

The meetings located around the state. You are welcome to attend any of the meetings depending on the location, date and time that works for you.

**Wednesday, November 15, from 12:30 to 2 p.m.: T.B. Scott Free Library, 106 W. First Street, Merrill, WI 54452; Lincoln County.**

For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644. Learn more about Ag in the Classroom by visiting [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

