





# Marquette County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Platteville, WI 53818  
Permit No. 124

FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**  
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY  
**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOYALTY!

Rural Mutual Agent in Marquette Co:

Jeanna Gaudet  
(608) 297-2120

Kurt Johnson, District Manager - (608) 828-5734

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Marquette County Farm Bureau to Celebrate 75 Years

SAVE the DATE

This year, the Marquette County Farm Bureau will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The board has organized a committee that will look at ways to celebrate this milestone. The county will be celebrating at the county annual meeting in October.

Please watch the next newsletter for more details.

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students are being encouraged to participate in the Wisconsin Ag in Classroom essay contest answering the statement, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. For contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org). Participating students and schools need to submit essays by **April 1**. The essay contest coincides with the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2018 book of the year, "John Deere That's Who!"

One county winner will be selected and will be forwarded on to the district level. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in May for their homeroom or class. A state winner will be selected from nine district winners in May by the WFB Foundation's Promotion and Education Committee. As a special treat for the state winner this year, the author of the book will visit his or her classroom to do a special presentation. Last

year, more than 3,000 students participated in the contest, which is sponsored by Insight FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

For more information, please contact Amanda Kuchar at 608.369.1366.

Ag in the Classroom is designed to help students in kindergarten through high school to understand the importance of agriculture. It is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

For essay contest information and rules, and more about Ag in the Classroom, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org)



## Be Farm Bureau Proud

Take advantage of every opportunity you have to invite your friends and neighbors to join the Farm Bureau. As a thank you for membership workers, there are many incentives for signing up new Farm Bureau members:



**Two-point Conversion:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **February 28** will have the opportunity to autograph the district's commemorative **Farm Bureau Proud** Football that will be prominently displayed at county and statewide meetings and awarded by drawing one of those who signed it at the end of the membership year.

**Field Goal:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up three or more new members by **March 31** will receive a **Farm Bureau Proud** Knit Cap.



**Touchdown:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up seven or more new members by **July 31** will receive a **Farm Bureau Proud** Fleece to be presented at the county Farm Bureau annual meeting.

The county is working hard to reach its early-bird membership goal of signing 17 new voting members. If the county reaches this goal, the county will receive \$1,000, which will help the county fund many Ag in the Classroom, dairy promotion and youth sponsorship activities.



# COUNTYnews

MARQUETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2018



(from left) Al Klapoetke and Amanda Knoch served as Marquette County Farm Bureau delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting held on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

On December 4, 250 delegates attended the 98<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells and established new policy directives for the organization.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2018. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grass-roots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on various dairy policy items. They supported milk processors giving farms 60 days' notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees and giving 90 days' notice before termination of service.

They also supported Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to define clear and concise rules and regulations for automated milking installations and programs that emphasize manufacturing and marketing strategies.

Delegates supported a \$0.05 per gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance.

Regarding nutrient management, they supported increased nitrogen levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better use these nutrients and efforts to

assist agriculture to understand its role regarding nutrient management for surface water and groundwater. They supported the need to continue the reasonable scientifically-based best management practices for the protection of groundwater resources in high risk areas such as Karst areas.

Delegates supported increased trade deals that benefit Wisconsin and U.S. Agriculture.

Regarding marketing initiatives, delegates opposed using misleading food labels for a marketing campaign. They supported changing fat percentage labelling on bottled milk from '2% Fat' to '98% Fat Free', '1% Fat to 99% Fat Free', etc., and use of the non-GMO label only on products that have a GMO alternative.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to support:

- Legislation that allows wineries and craft brewers to have equivalent operating hours as taverns and restaurants.
- Allowing tasting rooms to sample wines and ciders made by other producers.
- Managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
- In a time of disaster or emergency, any fees, permits or hold times should be waived to aid people with bridges and creek crossings.
- Allowing stream bank damage following a storm to be returned to pre-storm locations.
- Controlling predatory wildlife populations.
- A tax incentive for selling and renting land to beginning/young farmers.
- Mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver's education classes.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Fair regional pricing within the Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage program.
- Over the road truckers should be exempt from e-logging requirements when transporting livestock or perishable agricultural products.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 District Director Report  
District YFA Update  
District Promotion and  
Education Report  
Scholarship Offered
- 3 YFA Conference  
County Dairy Breakfast  
Wine and Cheese Tasting  
Upcoming Events  
Board Contacts

## Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Attend the Marquette County Fair



**What:** Marquette County Fair  
**Where:** Marquette County Fair Grounds  
757 South Main Street, Westfield  
**When:** July 5-8

For more information about the Marquette County Fair, please contact 608.297.1000. While you are at the fair, make sure to stop by the Marquette County Farm Bureau food tent.



## District 5 Director Report



*Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members.*

Our mission statement helps define who we are and what we do. From time to time reflection of ourselves and our organization helps us continue to meet the needs of our members.

A person or an organization should never be afraid to ask why. Just because something has always been done doesn't mean it should continue. History is important in any organization but new leaders will need to make decisions on an ever changing political environment.

Some challenges ahead for local Farm Bureaus may include:

1. The state administration continues to handcuff local municipalities on funding sources. The local governments find it easy to blame farmers for road deterioration when lack of proper maintenance over the past 10 plus years have led to major problems. We need to continue to advocate for a solid local infrastructure in order to move crops, cattle, machinery and fertilizer.
2. Public perception sees agriculture using more water, yet farmers continue to use less land and less water per bushel produced than any time in history. Technology advancements have allowed applying water in the correct amount at the correct time while excess infiltrating back into the soil. Where municipal water is dumped into rivers and leaves our communities quickly. Researchers need to be held accountable to present all evidence to the public. And Farmers need to continue to be involved in discussions of water.
3. Manure is the other ag topic getting pressure at the local level. Manure is a vital, organic nutrient for crops. Land conservation departments and the DNR have the engineering experience to be regulator authority of this nutrient. Local units of government do not have this expertise yet

they continue to push for the authority. We need to push for science based regulations, based on soils not on town lines.

Farmers face many challenges this year because of low commodity prices. Farm Bureau leaders at all levels need to be the voice for our fellow farmers. But I want to call out members that are not active. It's easy to say, "I'm too busy," but getting active is the only way to control your future. I accept some of this is difficult for a county Farm Bureau to take on alone. That is one reason why WFBF developed a local affairs position as a resource.

With the help of new and experienced leaders, and leader development programs, we will make the dynamic decisions to lead the farm and rural communities into the future.

God bless and happy new year.

**Kevin Krentz**  
WFBF District 5 Director

## District 5 YFA Update



Hi, my name is Sally Turpin and I am serving as your District 5 YFA Committee representative. I grew up on my family's 100-cow dairy farm near Hillsboro. I earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy and animal science from the UW-Madison. After college, I worked as an agronomist, but now I am a dairy consultant for Star Blends, an independent feed mill in Sparta.

I have served as the Juneau County YFA chair since 2014 and I am a graduate of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute, Class VI. I also have competed in the Discussion Meet.

I enjoy many outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, hiking and running, as well as traveling. I have really enjoyed my time in Farm Bureau and look forward to serving you on the State Committee.

### WFBF YFA Conference Was a Success

We had approximately 60 members from District 5 at the 2017 YFA Conference and more than 550 total YFA members in attendance. Members from our district competed in Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag, with Lynn Dickman winning the Excellence in Ag competition and Jenny Leahy making it to the Discussion Meet Finals.

There also were many workshops and speakers like Michelle Payne addressing ag advocacy and Chris Koch giving an inspirational talk 'If I can ...' about not letting his physical limitations get in the way of achieving his goals.

If you have never attended the YFA Conference, please talk to me or your county YFA chair about the Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship. Rural Mutual generously covers the registration and hotel for individuals or couples who are first time attendees of the conference.

If you have any ideas for District 5 events, please contact me at 608.462.3387 or sally.turpin@gmail.com. I love to hear what members want to see for educational or social opportunities.

**Sally Turpin**  
District 5 YFA Representative

## District 5 Promotion and Education Report



Happy winter! I hope that everyone who loves snow and the winter season is enjoying it. For those who aren't the biggest fans of winter, enjoy some hot chocolate. Spring will be here before we know it.

2017 was a great year for the Promotion and

Education Committee. We continued to promote the 'Playbook' that we introduced at the end of 2016. The 'Playbook' is a resource that contains events, programs, and activities that happen throughout the state on a local level.

If you are looking for something to do, visit [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com). Updates are made quarterly to the 'Playbook.' If you want an event or activity from your county added, please contact me.

We held our first leadership training series boot camp in District 5 at Heartland Farms on November 11. WFBF governmental relations staff Steve Boe and Rob Richards served as guest speakers.

They covered topics and answered questions relating to policy development, contacting and connecting with your legislators, staying informed on critical issues and raising your voice and speaking up for agriculture.

Farm Bureau members Laura Daniels, Brian Preder and Julie Wadzinski served as panel members for the discussion about

the grassroots process of crafting policies to benefit members.

We look forward to hosting another boot camp in 2018 with a different topic and in a different location. We hope to see you there.

The Promotion and Education Committee will be assisting with the essay contest for fourth and fifth grader students offered by the Ag in the Classroom program again this year.

This year's topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' We encourage each county promotion and education committee to work with the elementary schools to help teachers engage the students in this essay contest as it will be a valuable agricultural learning experience.

2018 looks to be an exciting year. We look forward to working with Megan Rebut as our new WFBF committee advisor who has filled Deb Raemisch's position upon her retirement.

If you have questions or want help with promotion and education events, do not hesitate to contact me at [ldickman87@gmail.com](mailto:ldickman87@gmail.com) or 608.558.9713.

All the best District 5,

**Lynn Dickman**  
District 5 Promotion and Education  
Representative

## Marquette County Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

The Marquette County Farm Bureau is offering a \$250 scholarship.

**Application deadline:** The application must be postmarked on or before **March 31**.

### Selection criteria:

- The applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a current member of Marquette County Farm Bureau. Due to financial operations of our organization, it is thought that a person should have membership involvement with Farm Bureau prior to applying for education funds.

- Although pursuing a career in agriculture is not a requirement, preference will be given to a student applicant whose course of study is agriculture-related.
- This scholarship also is available to home schooled students.



For more information or to request an application, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445.

## More than 60 District 5 YFA Members Attend YFA Conference



More than 60 YFA members from District 5 attended the YFA Conference held on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.



(from left) Marquette County YFA members Victoria Smith, Erika Holsted, Zach Holsted, Matt Mateske, Jordan Bittelman, Kaycee Bittelman, Amanda Knoch and Josh Knoch attended the YFA Conference held on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

On Friday night, YFA Conference attendees had the chance to participate in a casino night. Thank you to Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Jahnke, for sponsoring the entertainment.

On Saturday morning, Michele Payn, Cause Matters Corp. shared with YFA Conference attendees why it is so important to be a champion for agriculture and lead the conversation around food and farming. At the Saturday night Extravaganza

banquet, comedian Scott Novotny entertained attendees. Thank you to the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board for sponsoring Scott.

On Sunday morning, a very inspirational keynote speech was given from Chris Koch. He reminded attendees to find the good in each day, laugh a little more and work toward your goals until you reach them.

## Marquette County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Al Klapoetke, Sr. 608.296.3435  
 Vice President, Aaron Wachholz 608.297.7109  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Brooks Buchholz 608.369.0366  
 Women's Chair, Amanda Zuehls-Kuchar 608.369.1366  
 YFA Chair, Kaycee Bittelman 608.296.2262

Director, Jordan Bittelman 608.296.2262  
 Director, Bob Blum 608.369.1436  
 Director, Dennis Fenner 920.293.4331  
 Director, Tom Hell 608.617.7174  
 Director, Zach Holsted 920.789.0365  
 Director, Josh Knoch 608.369.1321

Marquette County Farm Bureau 888.644.8366  
 WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz 920.361.7380  
 WFBF Promotion and Education,

Lynn Dickman 608.558.9713  
 WFBF YFA, Sally Turpin 608.462.3387  
 District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki 920.517.2445  
 RMIC District Manager, Kurt Johnson 608.828.5734

## Marquette County Dairy Breakfast

**Marquette County Fairgrounds  
 757 Main Street, Westfield, WI**

**Sunday, June 10  
 7 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Menu: Pancakes, scrambled egg bar, sausage, fried potatoes, apple sauce, cheese, milk, coffee, juice and ice cream**

**Cost:**



**Under 6 - Free**

**6-12 - \$5**

**12 and older - \$7**



**Activities:**

**Little Farmer Dress Up Contest at 10 a.m.**

**Kids games and educational activities**

**Farm animals**

**Live Music from Genesee Depot**

**Questions or for more information contact**

**Brooks Buchholz at 608.369.0366 or Bob Blum at 608.369.1436**



*Wine & Cheese Tasting*

**Saturday 3.3.18**

*Noon - 3:00pm*



*Lunch Creek Vineyard & Winery  
 W1845 Cty Rd E, Neshkoro*

## Upcoming Events

**March**

- 3 Marquette County Wine & Cheese Tasting, Lunch Creek Winery, Neshkoro
- 20 National Ag Day
- 31 Marquette County Farm Bureau Scholarship deadline

**April**

- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay contest deadline
- 5-6 IGNITE Member Engagement Conference, Stevens Point

**June**

- 10 Marquette County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast, Fairgrounds