



Monroe County Farm Bureau

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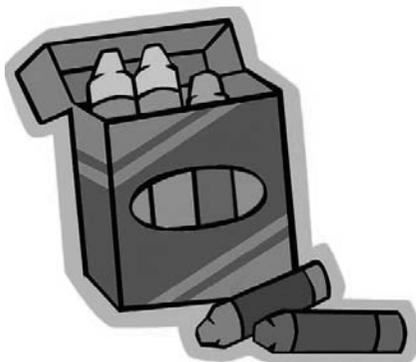
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Monroe County Farm Bureau

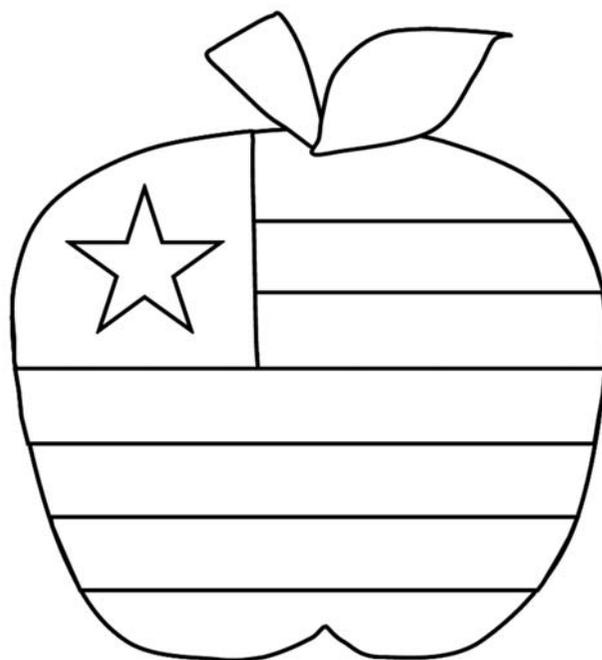
Coloring Contest

Age Groups:

- 3 & 4** A prize is given
5 & 6 to a winner in
7 & 8 each age group.



Mail entries by August 1 to:
P.O. Box 208
Sparta, WI 54656



Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Age: _____

Monroe County Fair is Set, July 27-31

Wednesday, July 27

- 5:15 p.m. - Business After 5
- 7:30 p.m. - Hug-A-Pig and Kids Big Wheel Races

Thursday, July 28

- 6:30 p.m. - Championship Rodeo
- 7 p.m. - Wisconsin Talent Search Semi-Finals
- 9 p.m. - Music in the Beer Garden

Friday, July 29

- 5:30 p.m. - Mutton Bustin Contest
- 6:30 p.m. - Championship Rodeo
- 9 p.m. - Music in the Beer Garden

Saturday, July 30

- Noon - Draft Horse Hitch Show
- 7 p.m. - Livestock Auction
- 7 p.m. - Motokazie Motorcross
- 8:30 p.m. Music in the Beer Garden

Sunday, July 31

- 10 a.m. - Ag Olympics
- Noon - Draft Horse Halter Show
- 1 p.m. Kids Pedal Pull
- 1 p.m. - Bean Bag Tournament





COUNTYnews

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Monroe County Farm Bureau Announces Three Scholarship Winners



Lynn Luckasson presented Timothy Fish with his scholarship certificate.

The winners were Timothy Fish, who was home schooled; Ryan Menn from Brookwood High school and Alex Hurtz from Cashton High School.

Lynn Luckasson, Rural Mutual agent, presented Fish with his certificate. He plans to attend Hawkeye Community College and major in electronics engineering technology. Fish plans to test and develop new farm equipment as a product development specialist for John Deere. His parents are Wayne and Rosalie Fish.

Ryan Menn received his scholarship during the awards program at Brookwood High School on May 11. He will attend

Western Technical College and major in diesel mechanics and stationary power units. He hopes to get a job working on agricultural equipment. Another option is working on the family farm. He is the son of Harvey and Jackie Menn.

Alex Hurtz received his scholarship from Beth Wells during the awards program at Cashton High School on May 11. He plans to attend Southwest Wisconsin Technical College and major in agricultural power and equipment technician. Alex plans to work at an implement dealer near the family farm. His long-range goal is to purchase the farm, making it a four generation farm. His parents are Ronald and Lynda Hurtz.

Many Attend the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast



The Monroe County Dairy Breakfast was on June 4 at the Denise and Tom Murray Farm at 26016 County Highway W near Kendall. The Murray's not only milk cows, but goats, too.

The breakfast was served from 7 to 11 a.m. and attendees enjoyed ham and cheese omelets, pancakes, coffee cake, cookies and Culver's strawberry sundaes.

Bussing from Kendall was provided to and from the farm. Attendees also enjoyed horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm, a petting zoo and an education tent with activities for the kids.



Jack Herricks and his grandchildren had fun seeing different animals.



Tom and Denise Murray, along with their family, at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast.



Monroe County Farm Bureau board of directors volunteered during the breakfast. (L-R) Scott Schmitz and Jack Herricks flipped pancakes.

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President's Message

This is the time of the year for finishing up the last of the spraying and harvesting alfalfa. It also is the time when many of us take advantage for family vacations and other summer time social activities.

One such event on **Sunday, August 14**, is the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting and picnic at our farm at 12130 Highway 33, east of Cashton. It will start at noon with pulled pork sandwiches and grilled sweet corn.

Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, so there will be a great selection of delicious food.

You can see cows and calves and how a dairy farm functions. Other activities for the youngsters include a bounce house and a sand pile with buried quarters. Everyone can enjoy wagon rides to tour the farm.

The social aspect is appealing, but it also will

be our annual meeting. A few of items of business include reviewing financials, electing directors and choosing delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Because it is an election year, there will be several local candidates with brief presentations. Everyone is welcome.

Jack Herricks
Monroe County Farm Bureau President



District Board Report



Where will it stop? Let me once again say, "the consumer is not always right, someone just does a better job convincing them what is good or bad."

My wife Noel loves to watch the hit TV series *Mad Men*, a show that followed the lead character through the evolution of advertising in the decades following World War II. Watching this show with Noel gave me a real appreciation for the power of advertising and its ability to influence mass numbers of people.

Recently, those of us who have dairy farms have been notified that we will lose two management tools, tail docking and the use of Posilac. Both of these are on the way out because the consumer demands it.

Recently, I was visiting with another farmer who queried, "The price of milk should go up when guys can't use Posilac?" Well, perhaps the price might go up a little when the average 8 to 10 pounds of milk gained by Posilac is gone; however, rest assured when I asked if there would be a premium for Posilac-free milk the consumer demands the answer was no.

Now, the interesting part after my friend, who has several hundred cows in a robot system, mentioned the price increase through loss of Posilac. I asked, "what's next, when someone can no longer advertise *bst*-free what will they use to distinguish their product while inadvertently disparaging others? Will they now add antibiotic free, pasture fed, hand rubbed, snuggled, raised in the family home with the family? What's next?"

I continued and asked what he would do if the consumer demanded pasture fed dairy cows? My friend said, "I can't graze with my robot system." Then I decided to consume a large amount of beer, not get excited and have fun at the party.

The next morning my headaches started not just from the beer but unbelievably I received a Facebook post from another friend who grew up on a dairy farm but hasn't had contact with dairy cows for more than 30 or 40 years and remembered the 'good old days.' She posted a photo of some cattle on pasture with the tag 'look at these happy cows grazing.' Now, she had no idea about the conversation that I had the night before so I found it ironic that this happened and I was left wondering if I was one of the prophets.

In the case of tail docking, I keep hearing that there is no science to support the practice, on the other hand with *bst* there is science to show that there is no difference in the milk produced. Science or not, I guess we have a new manager on our farms called the consumer whether knowledgeable or not will now be able to dictate how we farm unless we stop the madness and figure this out.

Well, I think that I will start to market my own arsenic-free milk so that I can differentiate and capture market share. Good news, if the thing takes off everyone will have to be arsenic free, which will be fine as there is no such thing as arsenic milk.

I don't have the answers but invite you to share your thought's at braggfam@triwest.net.

As always, 'enough is too much.'

Joe Bragger
District 4 WFBF Director

Watch for Ag Transportation Tidbits on WFBF's Facebook Page

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau 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 example, did you know that it is not legal to pass an implement of husbandry or ag commercial motor vehicle (Ag-CMV) in a no-passing zone?

For other tidbits from WFBF's 'Today's Ag Transportation Tidbit', visit facebook.com/WIFarmBureau.

Seeking Applicants for WFB Foundation's Leadership Institute

By Derek Husmoen



Do you have a desire to become a stronger leader? Do you want to be more involved in Farm Bureau?

If so, you should apply for the 2017 WFB Foundation's Institute.

I am participating in the 2016 Institute class and is a great experience. I quickly became friends with the other 13 members from around the state.

During the first three weekend sessions, we had orientation, learned about personal development and Farm Bureau, participated in creativity training, put together a group project presentation, had an etiquette dinner and participated in media training so that we become better advocates.

At our last two sessions this fall, we will learn about Wisconsin government at the Capitol as well as national and international agricultural topics when we travel to the Indiana Farm Bureau Center in Indianapolis. The class will end with a trip to Washington, D.C., next June.

The class is a great way to meet fellow Farm Bureau members who have a similar passion for agriculture. You will meet new friends, improve your communication skills, learn from expert trainers, step outside of your comfort zone and grow as a leader.

The deadline to apply for the 2017 Institute class is **August 15**. Applications can be found online at www.wfbf.com. Simply click the 'Programs and Events' tab, then select 'Leadership Training Institute.'

For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at 608.863.0105 or dhusmoen@gmail.com.

Farm Facts Brochure is Available

Did you know that agriculture contributes 413,000 jobs to Wisconsin's economy or 11.9 percent of total employment?

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2016 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure. The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and it's interactive.

The brochure lists where Wisconsin ranks in several commodities and what the Top 10 agricultural exports are.

To order the brochure, visit wisagclassroom.org and use the resource form.



Lemonweir School Student is Ag in the Classroom Essay Winner

Kristopher Iverson, a fourth grade student from Tomah, is the Monroe County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. Kristopher is the son of Chad Iverson and Samantha Turnmire and Michelle Brine is his teacher at Lemonweir School.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about producing maple syrup in Wisconsin.'

More than 3,000 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Insight FS and We Energies. Monroe County had 55 essays submitted from Lemonweir School and LaGrange Elementary.

The county winner received a certificate, a Farm Bureau product, \$10 and an invitation to the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how food is produced. The program works within curricula to provide basic information about the nation's largest industry: agriculture.

Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is facilitated by a network of educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.



Kathy Schmitz, Monroe County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair, presented Kristopher with a certificate and check.

Farm Bureau Members Tour John Deere Combine Factory

By Derek Husmoen, District 4 YFA Representative

On February 29, 60 District 4 Farm Bureau members traveled to Moline, Illinois, to tour the John Deere Harvester Works facility where combines and headers are manufactured.



After picking up people at Centerville and Onalaska, the tour bus departed for the 3.5 hour trip. It was a nice, sunny day with clear roads and just outside of Moline, we stopped for lunch at Pizza Ranch.

Upon arriving at the factory, we watched a short introduction video about the history of the facility. For the tour, we rode around the factory in groups on a train of wagons pulled by a garden tractor. The tour guide communicated to us through a headset that we each wore, so it was easy to hear what they were saying over the noise in some areas of the factory.

It should be noted that the tour guides at the Harvester Works facility were retired workers, many who had worked 20 to 30 year or more, so they knew what they were talking about.

The 90-minute tour took us around the facility; from where the raw steel comes in and parts are bent, shaped and stamped

to the massive series of paint tanks where every part is dipped to the assembly area where the combines are put together, first started and drove off the assembly line.

Along the tour, there were several stops where we could get out and take

an up-close look at certain aspects, like the paint process. Every combine that rolls out of the factory is already sold.

After the tour, we looked in the gift store and climbed in and looked at a combine on the show room floor. After a group photo, we boarded the bus.

Thank you to those who were on tour. The annual bus tour would not have been possible without the generous support of Tractor Central, who sponsored the bus. Finding sponsors for these trips helps keep the cost per person at a minimum.

We are open to suggestions for future bus trips. Whether it's feedback about the distance that you are willing to travel, types of industry that you want to see or places to tour, we welcome your input. Please contact me at 608.863.0105 if you have any ideas, comments or suggestions.

Growing, Sharing our Voices

By Cassie Olson, Jackson County Farm Bureau member and Dairy Star columnist



Just short of a year ago, I submitted a membership application to join the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF). As a new Farm Bureau member, my understanding of the organization was limited, but in the 10 months of my membership, I understand the opportunities that this organization offers.

With active sites in all 50 states, the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) mission is: AFBF is the unified national voice of agriculture, working through our grassroots organizations to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities. With the slogan: The Voice of Agriculture, AFBF has a positive reputation to live up to.

As my membership has evolved, I am fortunate to experience a great array of opportunities. From an agricultural tour of Trempealeau County with other women in my district, to the state

Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Conference or visiting with state legislators during Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison, if there is one thing that this organization has taught me, it's that, as farmers and agriculturists, we have a voice and it is vital that we share it.

If you turn on the market report or look at your milk check, it is no secret that we are in some tight times. During my travels with *Dairy Star*, I often receive off-record remarks about this particular challenge among others. While I practice discretion by keeping these individual thoughts and concerns confidential, they often resonate with me and help me shape my own vision of the industry that we work in. Farm Bureau is the way I have shared my vision for dairy and agriculture with others.

Recently, I was in Washington, D.C., with fellow YFA members to share our stories and voices on national and international levels. We were briefed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, visited with the New Zealand Embassy and met with members of Congress. To say that I was honored to have this opportunity is a great understatement.

Monroe County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jack Herricks	608.654.7740
Vice President, Dawn Powell	608.823.7380
Secretary & Treasurer, Miranda Leis	608.654.5524
Promotion & Education Chair, Kathy Schmitz	608.269.7031
YFA Chair, James Herricks	608.386.8936
Directors, Karen Leis	608.269.7052
Director, Carol Ostrem	608.487.0831
Director, Scott Schmitz	608.269.2058
Director, Jim Van Wychen	608.378.4813
Director, J. Wells	608.366.1011
Monroe County Farm Bureau	888.377.0296
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 P&E Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Derek Husmoen	608.863.0105
District 4 Coordinator, Steve Boe	866.366.7344

Save the Date: Annual Meeting

Come and join the Monroe County Farm Bureau at their annual meeting on **Sunday, August 14**, at the Jack and Pat Herricks Farm, 12130 Highway 33, in Cashton.



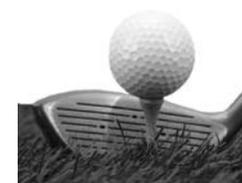
A Farm Bureau social will start at 11 a.m. and the meeting will start at noon. Everyone is invited.

Register for the Wisconsin Ag Open

The Wisconsin Ag Open is **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, FFA, agricultural literacy efforts, other education, youth and leadership programs.

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



It's not just about sharing our farm stories with consumers or promoting the consumption of our product, it's about sharing our livelihood with those who represent us. Get to know your government officials whether at the local, state or national level, and share your story with them, too.

Just as importantly, get involved in an activity or organization that connects you to others in your profession. For me, Farm Bureau is where I found that connection, but there are many other groups that can give you similar opportunities. While it isn't feasible for every farmer to take a week off the farm to meet with members of Congress, it is important to tell your story. You never know who might hear your story during a meeting and have an impact on.

The successes, struggles, concerns and beliefs of the farmers who I am fortunate to work with are always on my mind. They continue to shape my view of agriculture in the world and motivate me to share my voice when I am able. I have been blessed to find an outlet to share my voice; never be afraid to grow and share yours.