



Monroe County Farm Bureau

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www.ruralmutual.com/farm-dividend

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Randy Palmer, District Manager - (608) 828-5642

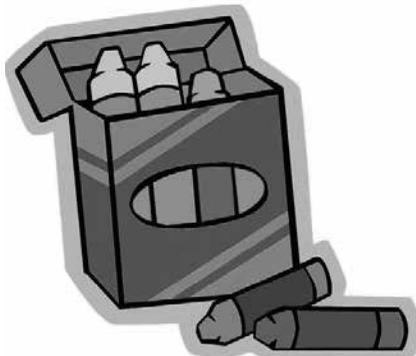
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

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



Coloring Contest

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

Monroe County Fair is Set, July 26-30

Wednesday, July 26

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

Thursday, July 27

- 6:30 p.m. - Championship Rodeo
- 7 p.m. - Wisconsin Talent Search Semi-Finals

Friday, July 28

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

Saturday, July 29

- 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 30

- 9 a.m. Annual Car Show
- 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



Cassie Olson Assumes District Coordinator Position



Greetings Monroe County,

My name is Cassie Olson and it is my pleasure to introduce myself as the District 4 Coordinator. I was born and raised on a dairy farm near Black River Falls and have proudly called Jackson County home my entire life.

I returned to the area after graduating from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in May 2015. Prior to joining the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation staff, I was a regional staff writer with "Dairy Star," a newspaper based out of Sauk Centre, Minnesota, covering dairy industry news in southwestern Wisconsin.

Ever since I was a kid, I always seemed to be surrounded by Farm Bureau. My parents were members as I was growing up and numerous friends of mine were involved in the organization throughout college. I became a member after returning to Wisconsin and have

been involved in numerous facets.

I served on the Jackson County Board of Directors for the last year as the YFA chair, attended numerous district and statewide events and am a member of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XI. As a member of Farm Bureau, I have grown personally and professionally in ways I never thought possible.

I am incredibly proud of the members of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and am excited to begin working with those of you in District 4 as I assume my duties as district coordinator. I thoroughly support the mission and vision that make Farm Bureau such a strong organization. It is my hope that I bring a positive energy to each of your counties as we continue to grow our district and its leaders.

Thank you for welcoming me into my new role and I look forward to working with you soon,

Cassie Olson
District 4 Coordinator

Monroe County Dairy Breakfast is a Success

The Monroe County Dairy Breakfast was on June 3 at the Mlsna East Town Dairy Farm. The farm is located at the intersection of Knapp Valley and County Highway D in Cashton. The breakfast provided those who attended with ham and cheese omelets, pancakes, toast, coffee cake, cheese, milk and coffee.

Bussing from Cashton Elementary School and Cashton Village Hall was provided to and from the farm. Once you were on the farm and your belly was full there were horse drawn wagon rides, a petting zoo, education tent with tons of activities for the kids.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2018 Monroe County Dairy Breakfast.



Jack Herricks worked hard to flip some pancakes.



Jack Herricks and Scott Schmitz worked hard to keep people fed at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast.



The 'Three Amigos' (from left) Scott Schmitz, James Herricks and Jack Herricks took a break from flipping pancakes to snag a photo.

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President's Message

This is always a busy time of the year if you're in production agriculture. Planting is finished, two crops of hay have been harvested and if you dairy, the work is always ongoing.

It also has been a very busy 'season' for Farm Bureau activities. Some of those include: working at the dairy breakfast, preparing and selling food at the June 28 concert in the park and preparing for the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting and picnic to be held at our farm starting at noon on **Sunday, August 13.**

Tony Bowers who is a beekeeper from Cataract will be the guest speaker. He promises an interesting presentation focusing on bee care, honey production and the important job of pollination that bees do for so many crops. He will also have some suggestions that we can do to improve bee habitat.

I have already completed three sessions of the WFBF Leadership Institute. Some of the main focus areas have been speech preparation, public speaking, doing an interview with a reporter and leadership. A good take home message for us

would be to contemplate a bit on our lives and discern of all the activities we do how many of them would we regard as an obligation and how many as an opportunity.

Spend some time with your family and enjoy the summer.

Jack Herricks

President Monroe County Farm Bureau

Message from WFBF District Board Representative



The cup runneth over.

Imagine if you will, finding out that in a month or two you will no longer have a place for your product and that everything you and your family have worked tremendously hard at setting up is possibly going to the wayside.

This is what happened to several dairy farmers around the state when their milk processors notified them that they would have to find another place for their product. "No big deal, we'll just go somewhere else." Until you find out that there is no-one else willing to pick up your milk?

That's right, only a few short years after the Dairy 30 by 20 Program went into effect that was designed to increase milk

production in Wisconsin so that our processors would have the milk to meet their demands, we have risen to the call and now find ourselves with too much. So often when I go out or visit with folks I am asked, "Who do you ship milk to, and are they still going to take your milk?" This is new territory for us as never before have we worried, "will they still take our milk?"

Perhaps a friend of mine was correct when he said, "Processors don't want more milk, they just want a lot of cheap milk."

How do you invest long term into your farm with uncertainty of being able to sell your milk? How comfortable will lenders be? What will happen to premiums dairy farmers in Wisconsin have been able to receive? Can I expand in the future if family members want to join the farm? Will I get a letter telling me to find somewhere else to go?

While this event has certainly rocked our world, there is something to celebrate and that is the effort of many farm groups in Wisconsin; with Farm Bureau in a lead role that worked hard to find a home for the milk the affected farmers produced. Sec-

retary of Agriculture Ben Brancel and the folks at the Department of Trade and Consumer Protection should be thanked for their outstanding efforts.

Farm Bureau has also called its Dairy Committee into action to look at policy to help to keep Wisconsin the 'Dairy State.'

So while many dairy farmers around the state have hosted or attended June Dairy Month celebrations, many have done so wondering what the future holds for their family farms.

As always, enough is too much. I guess this really applies to milk as well?

Joe Bragger

WFBF District 4 Farm Bureau Director

Please share your thoughts:

715.530.0466 (cell), 715.985.2314 (home)
braggfam@trivest.net

YFA Members We Want You! Apply by July 10



The **Excellence in Agriculture Award** judges participants on their involvement

in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

The **Achievement Award** judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

Get your application at:
bit.ly/WTYFAContests.

Be a part of the 2018 Institute Class

Personal Growth & Development

Connect with Legislators

Discover more about Farm Bureau

Improve Public Speaking Skills

Network with other Farm Bureau members

Apply Today! Applications due August 15 > <http://bit.ly/WFBFInstitute>

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

Health

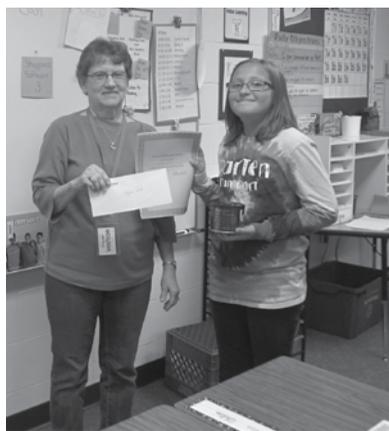
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Kaylee Holt is Monroe County Essay Contest Winner



The 2017 essay contest winner for Monroe County is Kaylee Holt, daughter of Kelly and Brad Holt of Tomah. Kaylee is a student of Mrs. Gerke at La Grange Elementary School in Tomah.

The topic for this year was 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' There were 51 essays turned in from two schools, La Grange Elementary and St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and School.

Kaylee Holt received her gifts from Monroe County Farm Bureau essay contest chair Peggy Wright.

The winner was presented a certificate, a \$10 award and a can of one of Farm Bureau's nut products. Kaylee also will receive a plaque at the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting at the Jack Herricks farm in Cashton. The other students were presented a certificate of participation. Isabelle Neumann of St. Paul Evangelical School in Tomah was presented her certificate by her teacher Mr. Remmele.



Mrs. Gerke's class, along with Karen Leis, a member of Monroe County Farm Bureau board of directors, who presented the certificates.



Mrs. Guenther and Mr. Lange's classes, along with Karen Leis, a member of Monroe County Farm Bureau board of directors, who presented the certificates.

Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set



Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more

about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about the industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoards Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment. The tour will start early on Tuesday morning in Johnson Creek and will end on Wednesday afternoon.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are welcome.

For the schedule and registration, visit wisagclassroom.org and click the teacher tab.

★ **WANTED:** ★

First Time Attendees

Join us for the 2017 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for FREE! You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. **BUT HURRY!** This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application by August 15 at <http://bit.ly/YFARuralSponsorship>

REWARD

Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.

★  ★

Monroe County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jack Herricks	608.487.3094
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
Director, Al Ferries	608.823.7400
Director, Karen Leis	608.269.7052
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 Promotion and Education Chair Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Derek Husmoen	608.863.0105
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	715.514.4477

Save the Date: Monroe County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Come and join the Monroe County Farm Bureau at their annual meeting on **Sunday, August 13**, at the Jack and Pat Herricks Farm at 12130 Highway 33 in Cashton.

SAVE the **DATE**

The meeting and meal will start at 12 noon. It will be a great time and we hope to see you there.

Addison Arndt Wins Monroe County Farm Bureau Scholarship

By Peggy Wright

Monroe County Farm Bureau has named the winner of the 2017 scholarship. We only received one application this year from Addison Arndt from Brookwood High School.

She will be attending UW Madison and her field of study will be agribusiness, theater and eventually law school.

Addison will receive a \$500 scholarship after proof of her first semester attendance. The scholarship is co-sponsored by Monroe County Farm Bureau and Coulee Region Insurance, both of Sparta.

Congratulations Addison!



Welcome New Members

Tim Kortbein
Michael Krueger
Nathan Schmitz
Jake White

Welcome to **Farm Bureau**