



## Monroe County Farm Bureau

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**Rural Mutual Agents in Monroe County:**

**Justin Cramer**  
(608) 350-6208

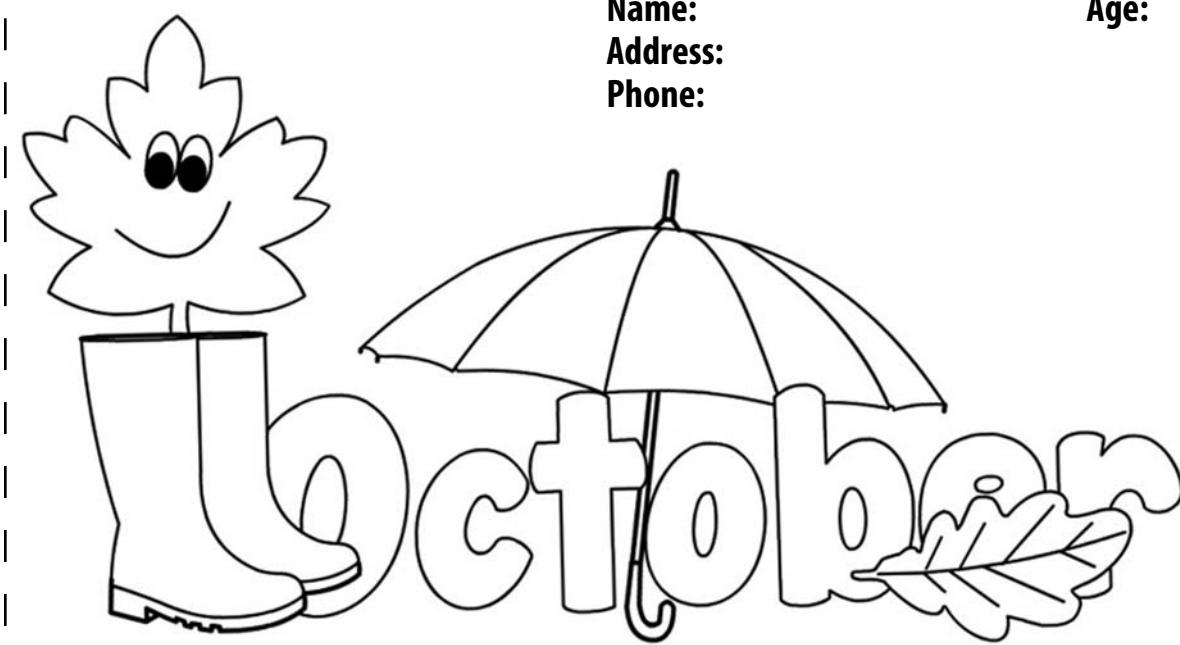
**Coulee Region Insurance Group**  
(608) 269-3173

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Monroe County Farm Bureau

### Coloring Contest

A prize is given to a winner in  
each age group.



#### Age Groups:

**3 & 4**

**5 & 6**

**7 & 8**

**Mail entries by December 1 to:**

P.O. Box 208  
Sparta, WI 54656

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Phone:**

**Age:**

### Meet the New Farm Bureau Director: Al Ferries



I grew up on a dairy farm in rural Ontario. After high school, I farmed with my parents while working part-time for a local excavating business. In 1989, my wife Deb and I purchased the farm from my parents until 1998 when we combined herds with Deb's parents in Norwalk. We have three adult children, Matthew, Chelsea and Jordan.

We milk 450 cows and crop 1,000 acres. Along with Deb, my in-laws Don and Bev Haldeman, our sons Matthew and Jordan and Jordan's fiancé Brooke, we have three generations working on the farm. We also have six additional employees.

This past spring, I completed six years on the Monroe County DHIA board and during the last several years, I also served as a Foremost Farms delegate.

I have been a Farm Bureau member for 34 years. My wife's family were lifelong members and I attended several Farm Bureau events with them. In 2015, I served as a voting delegate for Monroe County at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

This summer, I was asked if I was interested in filling a vacant position on the board and I thought it was a good opportunity to increase my involvement at the local level.

I look forward to serving on the board.



# COUNTYnews

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Monroe County Farm Bureau Holds Annual Meeting

By Dawn Powell



Kristopher Iverson  
read his essay.

Once again, there was a great turn out for the Monroe County Farm Bureau Annual meeting, which was held at Jack and Pat Herricks' farm in rural Cashton.

Members discussed and created policy that will advance to the policy development committee and then to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

We heard from local legislative candidates and Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty, and enjoyed a wonderful meal. The children enjoyed a sand pile and a bounce house. Farm tours were given after the meeting, showcasing a dairy farm team, who lead by example, in the industry and in serving our communities.



Promotion and Education chair Kathy Schmitz presented Kristopher Iverson with a plaque for winning the essay contest.



Director J. Wells did quality control of the sweet corn during the annual meeting.

A way to get involved in our organization, is by attending the county's annual meeting where you can see first-hand how the grassroots organization works. We encourage members to become delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December in Wisconsin Dells.



Members gathered for the annual meeting.

Thank you to Jack, Pat and family for hosting; to Badgerland Financial for donating ice cream; and Rural Insurance agent Justin Cramer and the Coulee Region Insurance Group for sponsorships.



(L-R) Senators Jen Shilling and Julie Lassa and Representatives Lee Nerison and Nancy VanderMeer addressed the members during the annual meeting.

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## Monroe County Farm Bureau Hosts Girls Day Out

Recently, Monroe County Farm Bureau hosted a Girls Day Out. The ladies loaded the bus in Sparta and headed to the Wetherby cranberry marsh in Warrens. Long-time Farm Bureau member and cranberry advocate Nodji Van Wychen gave a talk and tour of her cranberry business.

Attendees were fortunate to take in the unique harvesting methods of fresh-market cranberries including the modern sorting and bagging equipment and listening to Nodji talk about the history and advancements in the industry.

Next, the group went to the Cranberry Discovery Center. A lunch was served, the women toured the cranberry museum and Promotional

and Education Director Deb Raemisch shared the newly unveiled 'Playbook' for counties to use as a resource.



Women from La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, Buffalo and Jackson counties were in attendance.

The day ended at S Lazy D Ranch Bison farm near Tomah. The group learned about this niche market and the care and management of bison. The weather was beautiful for a great line-up of tours.

Keep in mind that next year we will be visiting La Crosse county.



Nodji Van Wychen took attendees to the bog to see the cranberry harvest.



Nodji showed attendees the optical sorter makes things more efficient.



Harvesting cranberries.



The last stop of the day was S Lazy D Ranch to see bison.

## President's Message



I have always felt that one of my roles as a farmer has been to be a caretaker of God's earth and to produce food to help feed His people; however, we in agriculture are facing turbulent times and more than ever before we need to unite as we reach a pivotal crossroad.

Over the years, farmers have done some amazing and incredible things. As a result of science-based research, farmers greatly increased our capacity to produce affordable, safe and healthy food.

Now, we are being told what methods we can and cannot use. These new standards are being handed down to farmers not

only by government, but farmers also are being regulated by the very processors that take our product with no regard to practicality, sensibility or reality.

We are being ordered to discontinue long-established best management practices not because of new science-based advancements in agriculture; but because of massive amounts of misinformation, lies and fear mongering about the products that we farm.

I'm an optimistic person and I believe that most farmers are as we continually look forward with the belief that the next year will be better. Even though I maintain my optimistic passion and drive for farming, the trend of more rules and standards put on us by those that don't even know farming can be very disheartening.

What is next? What is the next 'standard,' the next 'regulation,' the next 'method' of farming that will be forced on us from those who have never farmed and probably have not even been on one?

This only validates that now more than ever we need Farm Bureau to be our voice in Madison, in Washington and telling our story to the consumers of the world. As members we have many different ideas and opinions but ultimately we must learn how to support each other in becoming experts in the fields of compromise and cooperation.

### Jack Herricks

Monroe County Farm Bureau President

## Brittany Herricks Advances to State Discussion Meet

The District 4 Discussion Meet and annual Policy Development meeting was held on July 12 at the Taylor Community Center in Taylor. The discussion meet started at 7 p.m. and the policy development meeting followed.

The discussion meet topic was: **Today's food companies employ many tactics to gain a marketing edge. What is the purpose of food labels? How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that consumers understand the labels and have confidence in the safety and quality of their food?**

Brittany Herricks from Monroe County competed and placed in the top three, qualifying to advance to the state Discussion Meet. She will compete against other finalists at the YFA Conference on December 2-4 in Wisconsin Dells. We wish her the best of luck as she prepares for state competition.



Brittany Herricks gave her opening statement during the District 4 Discussion Meet.



Participants at the District 4 Discussion Meet were:  
(L-R): Cassie Olson (Jackson), Brittany Herricks  
(Monroe), Emily Harness (Trempealeau) and Kyle  
Danzinger (Buffalo).

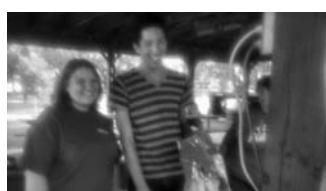
## Farm Bureau Serves Concessions at Concert in the Park

On June 29, there was another successful concert in Evans Bosshard Park in Sparta. Legends and Outlaws played classic country music.

Approximately 10 workers helped in the concession stand including Farm Bureau members and extended family. The menu included grilled

cheese, grilled ham and cheese, nachos and cheese, brownies, root beer floats, root beer and water.

Thank you to Carol Ostrem, Karen Leis, Jack Herrick and to Rudy's for donating the root beer. With everyone's help, the Concert in the Park was a successful fundraiser for the Farm Bureau.



Farm Bureau members and directors helped serve concessions during the concert in the park.

## Make It Tradition: Attend the State YFA Conference

By Derek Husmoen, District 4 YFA Chair



Are you planning to attend the 2016 YFA Conference? If not, you still have time to change your mind. The YFA Conference is December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

The theme this year is 'tradition' and the weekend is full of exciting things to do. Activities kick off on Friday evening with a welcome dinner, district YFA meetings and a reception with music by the Soggy Prairie Boys and other entertainment.

Saturday activities start with the discussion meet contest, followed by brunch and the general session. In the afternoon, you can attend the Excellence in Ag Award presentations, discussion meet semifinals, a variety of workshops and breakout sessions and the trade show.

## Show Your Farm Bureau Pride



Order your Farm Bureau t-shirt and support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation!

Adult shirt available in heather red - \$15  
Youth shirt available in red - \$12

Details and order form can be found at:  
<http://bit.ly/FBShirt>

# Monroe County Farm Bureau December Fruit and Nut Sale

We are pleased to announce that we will have these products available for purchase again this December.

For more information, please call 608.269.3173 or 608.372.9272.

Important dates:

- **November 14** - Member orders are due.
- **December 5-9** - Delivery will be made to the Monroe County Farm Bureau. When the time gets closer, we will have delivery date. Fruit will be shipped from Florida, Texas and California.



## MEMBER ORDER FORM

**Order Deadline: November 14; Delivery: December 5-9**

FRESH FRUIT AND FRUIT GIFT BOXES		MEMBER PRICE	QUANTITY	\$
<b>NAVEL ORANGES</b> Seedless and Sweet Eating Orange #1 Seller	4/5 Bushel Carton (Lg Box) approx 40 lbs	\$30.00		
	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$18.00		
<b>RED GRAPEFRUIT</b> Seedless, Sweet and Juicy	4/5 Bushel Carton (Lg Box) approx 40 lbs	\$25.00		
	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$15.00		
<b>Hamlin Oranges</b>	4/5 Bushel Carton (Lg Box) approx 40 lbs	\$25.00		
	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$14.00		
<b>TANGERINES</b> Easy to Peel, with a Sweet Zingy Taste	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$22.00		
<b>GRAND SLAM GIFT BOX</b> Contains: 6 Red Delicious Apples, 6 Di Anjou Pears, 3 Golden Delicious Apples & 17 Navel Oranges	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$24.00		
<b>Holiday Gift Box</b> Contains: 10 Navel Oranges, 11 Grapefruit & 10 Red Delicious Apples	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$24.00		
<b>Premium Gift Box</b> Contains: 6 Navel Oranges, 11 Grapefruit, 6 Red Delicious Apples and 3 Di Anjou Pears	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$24.00		
<b>Mixed Citrus Box</b> Contains: An Assortment of 20 Navel Oranges, 11 Red Grapefruit	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$24.00		
<b>Citrus Trio Box</b> Contains: An Assortment of 10 Navel Oranges, 11 Red Grapefruit & 10 Tangerines	2/5 Bushel Carton (Sm Box) approx 20 lbs	\$24.00		
<b>Red Delicious Apples</b>	Bushel	\$32.00		
	Half Bushel	\$24.00		
<b>Golden Delicious Apples</b>	Bushel	\$39.00		
	Half Bushel	\$24.00		
<b>Granny Smith Apples</b>	Bushel	\$39.00		
<b>FLORIDA FARM BUREAU'S OWN BRAND...Gourmet Quality Nuts</b>		CASE	EACH	\$
<b>CHOCOLATE Covered Peanuts (NEW)</b>	12 ounce cans pack/6 Gift Pack	\$41.00 Case	\$3.50 Can	
<b>HONEY ROASTED MIXED NUTS</b>	30 oz tin/6 tins per case	\$72.00 Case	\$12.00 Tin	
<b>CARAMEL CORN/WITH NUTS</b>	20 oz tin/6 tins per case	\$50.0 Case	\$ 8.50 Tin	
<b>BERRY NUT TRAIL MIX</b>	15 oz tin/6 tins per case	\$50.00 Case	\$ 8.50 Tin	
<b>WHOLE CASHEWS,</b>	1 lb can /12 cans per case	\$98.00 Case	\$ 8.25 Can	
<b>MIXED NUTS</b>	1 lb can/12 cans per case	\$68.00 Case	\$ 5.75 Can	
<b>PECAN HALVES, Fresh Shelled</b>	16 oz bag/12 bags per case	\$110.00 Case	\$ 9.25 Bag	
<b>CHOCOLATE COVERED PECANS</b>	12 oz can/12 cans per case	\$80.00 Case	\$ 6.75 Bag	
<b>SKINLESS 'Southern Fried' PEANUTS</b>	16 oz can/12 cans per case	\$44.00 Case	\$ 3.75 Can	
<b>BRITTLE BITES</b>	12 oz can/12 cans per case	\$43.00 Case	\$ 3.75 Can	
<b>HONEY ROASTED PECANS</b>	8.5 oz can/12 cans per case	\$74.00 Case	\$ 6.25 Can	
<b>BUTTER TOFFEE PEANUTS</b>	12 oz can/12 cans per case	\$41.00 Case	\$ 3.50 Can	
<b>HONEY KRUNCH PEANUTS</b>	12 oz can/12 cans per case	\$41.00 Case	\$ 3.50 Can	
<b>ALMONDS, Natural Roasted &amp; Salted</b>	9 oz can/12 cans per case	\$59.00 Case	\$ 5.00 Can	
<b>TOTAL \$</b>				

To place an order, contact your local county Farm Bureau by **November 14**. Deliveries will be made to your county Farm Bureau between **December 5 through 9**. You will be notified upon arrival. Your order must be picked up promptly.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd #: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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, Steve Boe	866.366.7344
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	715.514.4477

## Jack Herricks Selected for WFBF Leadership Institute

Fifteen emerging agricultural leaders have been selected to participate in the WFBF Institute. The year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said Wendy Kannel, Farm Bureau's Director of Training and Leadership Development. "The Institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

Members of the 2017 Farm Bureau Institute class include: Peter Badtke, Ripon; Sean Beres, Waukesha; Shane Goplin, Osseo; Jack Herricks, Cashton; Tina Holst, Chilton; Reuben Hopp, Waupun; Paul Jarvis, Wautoma; James Juedes, Ringle; Hallie Metcalf, Janesville; Carmen Montgomery, Argyle; Cassie Olson, Black River Falls; Julie Orth, Lancaster; Heidi Pettis, Clintonville; Jessica Stemper, Manitowoc; Becky Wellnitz, Brodhead.

The Institute consists of five multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on issues important to agriculture, development of leadership and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau and governmental leaders and staff at the state and national levels and networking with other participants.

The first session is in January and focuses on public speaking, etiquette, emotional intelligence and personality types. Subsequent sessions focus on media and advocacy training, running effective meetings, the structure and function of Farm Bureau, being a creative leader, the workings of local and state government and future national and international agriculture issues. The class capstone event is a trip with the WFBF Board of Directors to Washington, D.C., in April of 2018.

Farm Bureau members who are interested in applying for the 2018 Institute class, please contact Wendy Kannel at 608.828.5719 or wkannel@wfbf.com.

