



Oconto County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Hungry for Brats! By Dennis Jahnke

We held the Oconto County Farm Bureau brat fry at the Oconto Falls Piggly Wiggly grocery store on June 2. Again, this year, we had fantastic weather. With the rain this year, we really got lucky.



The whole crew showed up to buy some delicious Farm Bureau brats.



Dennis Jahnke (left) and Rural Mutual Insurance agency manager Tom Gustafson kept the great food coming during their shift.

We had several Oconto County Farm Bureau board members who helped and Ken Harter was grill master again. We had a pleasant day of conversation and good food again this year.



Ken Harter took on the responsibility of chef for the day.



Thank you to those who patronized the brat stand to support Ag in the Classroom and other programs of the Oconto Farm Bureau.

Breakfast on the Farm Is a Success By Kayla Steffel

Butter making: It was a beautiful day, and many children visited the Farm Bureau booth at the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm. We had an extra helping hand with some Oconto Falls FFA chapter members helping.

The Lena FFA Chapter also donated whipping cream and sample bottles to shake the cream in and turn it into butter. Everyone had fun and enjoyed learning this do-it-yourself project.

Interactive video games: We also had a few kids playing on the My American Farm video game tablets while waiting for face painting or a balloon animal.

Overall it was a great day and a wonderful turn out at the Breakfast on the Farm.

Oconto County Fair Booth Report By Dennis Jahnke

Our Farm Bureau booth at the Oconto County Fair was a success in that we sold the milk, but not so much as the cooler weather kept people from buying ice cream. The rain didn't dampen spirits much as it was just a drizzle.

We had the young man from Lena making balloon animals again this year. He is very skilled and makes them a bit more ornamental than I have seen before. He was sponsored by the Oconto Dairy Promotions. Again, we were pleased to see the tech club across the way. Lots of good entertainment with the robot antics during the slow times. And, they sell slushies.

I want to thank those who spent time at the booth. A shout out to Bill La Brosse, the former Rural Mutual Insurance agent, and Casey Boye, our present Rural Mutual Insurance agent who, between the two of them, take a big chunk of Friday.

All-in-all, it was a very nice fair. We just need to get more people to attend on Sunday.



COUNTYnews

OCONTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Oconto County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights



District 7 YFA Committee representative Brian Preder, talked about his plans for 2017.

tions to propose to Farm Bureau policy.

On September 26, Oconto County Farm Bureau president Dennis Jahnke convened the 2017 Oconto County Farm Bureau annual meeting at S&S Home-town Bar and Restaurant in Oconto Falls with 26 members and guests attending.

The members present elected members to the board of directors, elected delegates to represent Oconto County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, and approved resolutions to propose to Farm Bureau policy.

Directors elected to two-year terms from Board District 1 were: Russ Brock, Dennis Jahnke and Dave Schneider. Elected as Promotion and Education Committee chair was Kayla Steffel, and elected as Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair was Walter Taylor.

Delegates elected were: Ken Harter and Dave Schneider.

The resolutions that passed were:

1. We as farmers know we need to create good relations with our urban neighbors, and we as farmers know we need good roads and we need to contribute to those roads, therefore, we support raising the fuel tax 5 cents per gallon and having road fuel used in all semi tractors.
2. We support elimination of all school voucher and independent charter school programs.



Oconto County Farm Bureau president Dennis Jahnke welcomed members and guests to the annual meeting.



Rural Mutual Insurance agency manager Tom Gustafson, updated the group.



Ryan Gabrielson, Insight FS, told about the ways FS helps their patrons succeed.



District 7 WFBF Board of Director Adam Kuczer talked about the WFBF Farm Bill Committee's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.



District 7 Promotion and Education Committee representative Katelin Steege introduced the group to the new Promotion and Education Committee Leadership Boot Camp that will be held on November 11.



Oconto Farm Bureau policy development committee chair Russ Brock started the Resolutions portion of the meeting with a couple stories that he said were 'mostly true.'

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District 7 YFA Report By Brian Preder



As we get busy with fall harvest, we can't forget about the annual YFA Conference on **December 1-3** at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

It's a great opportunity to network with fellow YFA members from around the state. Of course, we can't forget it's also a well-deserved vacation after the final harvest of the year.

This year's YFA Conference is one not to miss. Friday will feature the first ever 'Vegas Casino Night.' On Saturday, you can enjoy the talented District 7 YFA members including Brian Fiedler from Shawano County, Kyle Much and Jake

Hoewisch from Waupaca County as they compete in the state Discussion Meet to represent Wisconsin at the AFBF Annual Meeting.

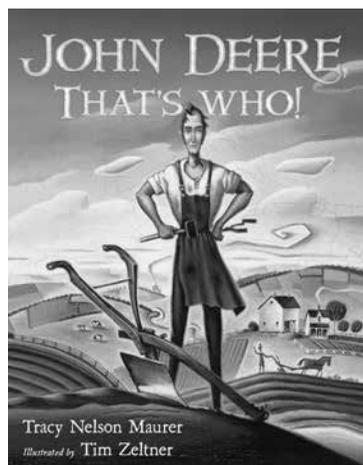
We also have two members who were selected for the Final Four in Excellence in Ag: Kristi Fiedler from Shawano County and Kelly Oudenhoven from Outagamie County. Congratulations and good luck to the members competing at the YFA Conference.

I look forward to meeting you during the upcoming county annual meetings and YFA Conference. Here is to another great year for District 7 YFA.



(from left) Kyle Much, Jake Hoewisch, Katelin Steege and Brian Fiedler competed at the District 7 Discussion Meet at the Shawano Four Seasons Resort on August 28.

Ag in the Classroom Announces 2018 Essay Contest



The new Ag in the Classroom book of the year has been announced and though it is about John Deere, the blacksmith and inventor, it's real theme is how innovation and technology have served agriculture. Here are the details about the book and this year's essay contest topic.

Book of the Year

"John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, 2017. In the 1830s, a young blacksmith from Vermont was about to make his mark on American history.

This is the story of a young man who moved to Illinois, where farmers were struggling to plow through the thick, rich soil they called gumbo, and tinkered and tweaked and tested until he invented a steel plow that sliced into the prairie.

For the updated book order form, lesson plans and supporting materials, please visit www.wisagclassroom.org. The book has some lesson plans already developed by California Ag in the Classroom that are on the National Ag in the Classroom curriculum matrix.

Essay Contest Topic

'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

Using the book of the year as one resource, the topic will allow students to write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity.

This will tie into STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), connect with careers in agriculture, look at the stories behind some of the inventions and their inventors and offer opportunities to learn about technology and equipment related to agriculture.

For contest rules, lesson plans and other supporting documents, visit www.wisagclassroom.org. The essay contest is open to fourth or fifth grade students.

Remember, you don't need to be a teacher or an Ag in the Classroom coordinator for the county Farm Bureau to buy the book. It will make a great Christmas gift.

Individual essay contest entries also are welcome. Visit the website for entry rules and details and send your essay and contact information to me (9635 Hoffman Road, Coleman, WI 54112) or to WFBF by **April 1, 2018**.



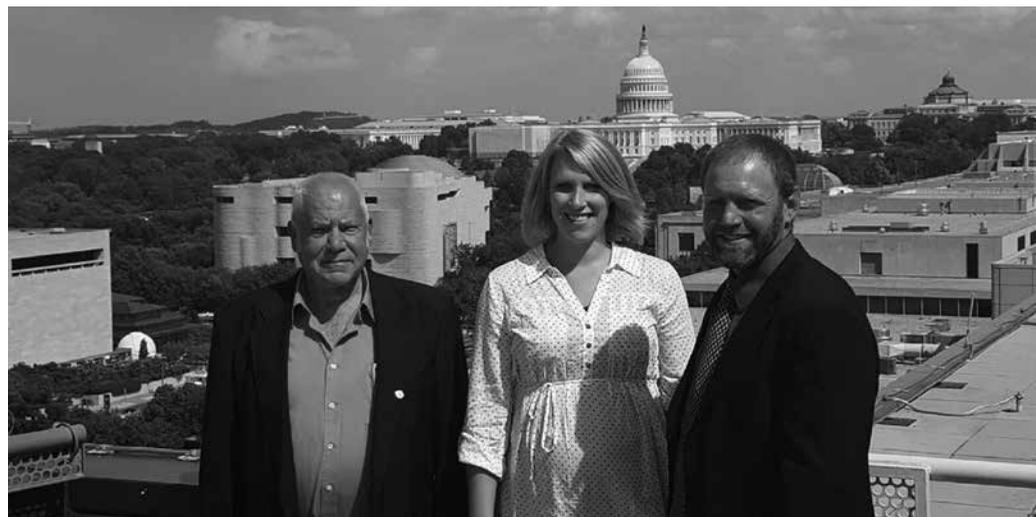
WFBF Farm Bill Committee Report By Mike Salter

Members of the WFBF Farm Bill Committee were in Washington, D.C., for the farm bill update to our representatives.

Members of the committee from District 7 were Kristy Erickson and Mike Salter led by District 7 WFBF Board of Director Adam Kuczer.

The members visited with Congressman Mike Gallagher and he was very receptive to the Farm Bureau's proposal for the new farm bill. If you have other personal comments about the farm bill, please contact his office.

After visiting many congressional and administrative offices, we ended the day with this photo from the top of the American Farm Bureau building.



(from left) Mike Salter, Kristy Erickson and Adam Kuczer discussed what Wisconsin farmers need in the farm bill with legislators in Washington, D.C.

Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

It's great to do nothing, and then rest afterward.

Sven and Ole were out in a boat quietly fishing when suddenly Ole says, "I tink ahm gonna divorce Lena ... she ain't spoke to me in over two months."

Sven slowly scratched his chin and says, "Ya better tink it over Ole ... vomen like dat are hard to find."

Wife: What are you doing today?

Husband: Nothing

Wife: You did that yesterday.

Husband: I'm not finished yet.

When the fortune teller broke out of prison, a news bulletin warned the public to watch out for a small medium at large.



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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

Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Kayla Steffel

This year, we had 15 St. Anthony's School students participate in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. There were so many wonderfully written articles it was a difficult decision, but the Oconto County essay winner won District 7.

I attended the Ag Women's Summit in March. While I was there, I explored more options in sharing my agriculture story. The opening and keynote speaker Jane Jenkins Herlong was incredibly inspiring and shared her story of being runner up in the Miss America pageant.



Ag in the Classroom coordinator Kayla Steffel (right), recognized Hailyn St. Louis as the District 7 winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Hailyn's teacher, Ms. Beschta, was presented with "Time for Cranberries" for her classroom.

In May, Director of Ag in the Classroom Darlene Arneson came to my house and helped sort through information, resources and handouts. Much of it was outdated, so we organized what was left. Now, I am hoping to better provide teachers and 4-H leaders with resources and activities.

My goals once our wedding is over is to contact Darlene, and have her help me prepare an email to send to principals and teachers in other county elementary schools. This year, I hope to be overwhelmed with essays.



Darlene Arneson conducted a short Ag in the Classroom program for the District 7 essay contest winner's class.

Farm Succession Planning Workshop November 8



Is retirement in your future? Do you have questions about the future of your farm and the estate you leave behind?

Please join us for a Farm Succession and Estate Planning workshop from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

Wednesday, November 8, at Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake.

We will have three presenters: Rick Bollenbeck: an attorney who specializes in estate planning; David McNurlen: Regional Financial Consultant from Farm Bureau Life Insurance; and Sarah Mills-Lloyd: Oconto UW Extension agent.

Attendees will discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face. The presentation will explore how to be fair to children in passing the business to heirs, while also providing a fair inheritance to

non-active children, how to surmount common estate-tax traps; making sure attendees and their spouses are prepared for retirement and the potential need for long-term care; how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors; and how to bring all these aspects together to make it work for the long-term benefit of your family and farming operation.

At noon, a complimentary lunch will be served during the seminar.

Please save the date and join us.

Date: Wednesday, November 8

Place: Romy's Holiday Inn, 9600 County Road G, Suring (Kelly Lake), WI 54174

Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with registration at 10 a.m. and lunch at noon

Please RSVP by **November 1** to Casey Boye at 920.835.2161 or cboye@ruralins.com.

SAVE the DATE

Oconto County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dennis Jahnke	920.834.4707
Vice President, Dave Schneider	920.321.6701
Secretary/Treasurer, Maryann Monette	920.826.7703
Promotion and Education Chair, Kayla Steffel	920.373.0261
YFA Chair, Walter Taylor	920.980.7865
Director, Gordon Aprill	920.846.2465
Director, Russel Brock	920.842.2257
Director, Ken Harter	920.846.2046
Oconto County Farm Bureau	888.377.0295
WFBF Board Director, Adam Kuczer	920.822.2772
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair Katelin Steege	715.210.5384
WFBF YFA Chair, Brian Preder	920.851.5776
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346
RMI District Manager, Tom Gustafson	920.420.1106

Oconto County Is on Facebook

Search for 'Oconto County Farm Bureau' on Facebook and you will find the latest information and notices about events going on in the county Farm Bureau.



Please 'Like' us.

District 7 Promotion and Education Report

By Katelin Steege

Leadership Boot Camp Series

Have you thought about applying for WFBF's Leadership Institute but are worried about the time commitment or have you completed the Leadership Institute but want a refresher? Then the new Leadership Boot Camp Training Series developed by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee is for you.

We will have sessions throughout the state at different times of the year covering a variety of topics. Our first session will cover policy development and will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Saturday, November 11**, at Heartland Farms in Hancock. Lunch will be provided.

During the morning, WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe and Director of Wisconsin Lottery Cindy Polzin will present: 'Having an Influence, Making an Impact: Best way to convey your message.' This program will cover how to make connections with elected officials, how to get through to a staffer and how to prepare for Ag Day on the Capitol.

In the afternoon, WFBF Senior Director of Governmental Relations Rob Richard will lead a discussion on 'The Grassroots Process of Crafting Policies to Benefit Members.' This program will focus on how members can get involved in policy development, how to craft a resolution and amendments and what happens on the delegate floor. The cost of the program will be \$10 per member.

I will promote the Leadership Boot Camp Series at the District 7 annual meetings but if you have questions, please contact me at katelinsteege@gmail.com or 715.210.5384.