




For information on crop hail insurance, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Pierce County:

Leah Close or Steve Jenkins
(715) 425-8121

Ken Truax - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

AFBF's Thatcher Visits District 9



Pierce County Farm Bureau members heard from American Farm Bureau lobbyist, Mary Kay Thatcher on March 17 in Baldwin. They are pictured with Thatcher (on left).

American Farm Bureau lobbyist Mary Kay Thatcher made a stop in Baldwin on March 17 for an event honoring National Ag Day. Her 27 years in this position, plus degrees in animal science and agricultural economics from Iowa State and previous experience as the director of congressional and public affairs of the farm credit administration during the first Bush administration proved her to be an articulate and extremely knowledgeable presenter on ag policy from a Capitol Hill perspective. Some of the topics discussed included the farm bill, information on "big data", summary of what is happening on Capitol Hill and drones. Pierce County Farm Bureau was one of the sponsors of this event.

Inspiration Found at Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit, presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the University of Wisconsin-Extension was held in Madison, March 14-15. The purpose of the event is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

Summit attendees were engaged in diverse topics such as agriculture advocacy, personal finance, technology, photography and health and wellness. There was also entertainment by Comedy City, an improv comedy show.



Ladies who attended the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit from District 9 were (front L to R) Jolene Wester, Bethany Dado, Kristin Solum, Leah Christenson, (back L to R) Geri Wolfe, Sandy Reichel, Debbie Johnson, Roxi Solum, Cindy Bourget, Katie Mattison, Melanie Peterson and Mary Prestrud.



Laura Daniels of Cobb (left) and Karyn Schauf of Barron (right) were awarded the AgVocate of the Year Award. They are pictured with Alice in Dairyland, Kristin Olson.

The keynote speaker was Chariti Gent whose presentations included, "Bold Action: Charting the Course in Choppy Waters" and "I'm Really Gonna Do It This Time: A Simple System for Turning Those Good Ideas into Action."

The 2014 AgVocate of the Year award was also presented to Laura Daniels of Cobb and Karyn Schauf of Barron. This award honors Wisconsin women who are innovative leaders and have contributed to the success of Wisconsin agriculture.



COUNTYnews

PIERCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

Farm Bureau leaders from around Wisconsin gathered in Madison for the annual Council of Presidents. Farm Bureau leaders from around Wisconsin gathered in Madison for the annual Council of Presidents. Attending from Pierce County were John and Monica Krings.

During the two day event, leaders heard Bruce Jones speak about the status of Wisconsin agriculture, WFBF CAO Steve Freese highlighted the strategic planning process and Peter Pelizza gave an update on Rural Mutual Insurance Company. County Farm Bureau's shared their program success stories as part of the County Activities of Excellence program and the meeting concluded with Pam Jahnke, the Fabulous Farm Babe, encouraging everyone to tell their story, share what happens on their farms and community and educate those who are not familiar with where their food comes from.



Farm Bureau leaders who attended Council of Presidents from District 9 were (front L to R): Paul Hetke (Rusk County), Karyn Schauf (Barron County), Geri Wolfe (Dunn County), Mary Prestrud (Dunn County), Dave Kruschke (St. Croix County), (back L to R) District 9 Coordinator Wendy Kannel, Mike Roberts (Sawyer County), Jim Melin (Polk County), Cindy Meng (Rusk County), Jim Meng (Rusk County) and Marv Prestrud (Dunn County).

Pierce County Dairy Breakfast June 21

Mark your calendars and make sure to attend the Pierce County Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 21 at Son-Bow Farms. The address is W2686 390th Avenue in Maiden Rock City and will include Belgian waffles, cheese, ice cream and more.

There will be kids' activities and fun for the whole family. The prices are \$6 for adults, \$4 for 6-12 year olds and 5 and under are free. Watch your local newspaper for more information or "like" the Pierce County Dairy Breakfast page on Facebook! The event is sponsored by the Pierce County Dairy Promotion Committee and Pierce County Farm Bureau with help from the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board.

YFA Members Gather for Events

YFA members from across District 9 gathered on February 22 at 45th Parallel in New Richmond for a behind-the-scenes tour of the business. 45th Parallel uses high quality grain grown by a local farmer to make vodka that is entirely produced and bottled in the facility. For more information about 45th Parallel, visit 45thparalleldistillery.com.



YFA members from Pierce and St. Croix County also met on March 23 for an afternoon of bowling at St. Croix Lanes in River Falls. This event gave

members an opportunity to network and enjoy an afternoon with friends.



Members posed for a photo in the tasting room of 45th Parallel. The educational tour drew 25 people.



Members who attended the bowling event on March 23 were (L to R): Josh and Amy Shafer with Toby and Milo, Christa Mahnken, Taylor Chandler, Jennifer Webster, Peter Kimball and Katie Mattison.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2 Institute D.C. Trip
Ag Day at the Capitol
YFA Contest Dates
- 3 Monica Krings - Woman
Rooted in Ag
Euchre Party Recap
President's Message
Welcome New Members
Call Diggers Hotline
Calendar of Events

Institute Graduates Visit Washington, D.C.

Members of the Farm Bureau Leadership Institute – Class VII and the WFBF Board of Directors recently spent a week in Washington, D.C. as part of their capstone trip for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. Included in the trip were Dunn County Farm Bureau members Cindy Bourget and Katie Mattison and District 9 Director and WFBF President Jim Holte. While there, participants brushed up on agricultural issues and met with legislators to discuss those issues.



While in D.C., Farm Bureau members met with legislators to discuss agricultural topics. Pictured are WFBF President Jim Holte, Dunn County Farm Bureau member Katie Mattison, Representative Ron Kind, State Board member Joe Bragger, Dunn County Farm Bureau member Cindy Bourget and State Women's Chair Nicole Adrian.

Bourget stated, "The Leadership Institute experience was a great opportunity to learn and grow—both professionally and personally. The trip to Washington, D.C. was a great way to practice the skills we learned while getting to make a differ-

The Farm Bureau Institute is a year-long premiere leadership training course at a graduate level whose mission is to produce strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. The training focuses on personal growth and development, public speaking,

ence. Plus, you got to see the nation's capital and have a great time." Mattison added, "Participating this past year in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute has been one of the best experiences of my life. It has given me the opportunity to grow personally and has provided me the skills to succeed as a leader. I look forward to utilizing what I have gained from the class in my current leadership role with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program and into the future within Wisconsin Farm Bureau, my career and my community."

working effectively with all forms of media, creativity training, understanding the role and functions of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, training on working with government at the local, state and national levels, working to bridge the generational divide among volunteers, consideration of current national and international agricultural issues and completion of a Farm Bureau Personal Development Leadership Plan.



Members who attended the Leadership Institute trip to Washington, D.C. were (L to R) Katie Mattison, Jim Holte and Cindy Bourget.

Ag Day at the Capitol Held January 29

Nearly 400 members of various farm and commodity groups attended Ag Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 29 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison.

It was there they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin stating that farming is a way of life and highlighted the opportunities available for young people throughout our community. Members also heard from the WFBF Government Relations team of Paul Zimmerman and Karen Gefvert who briefed everyone about topics including implements of husbandry, animal welfare, raw milk and more.



Pierce County members met with Representative Warren Petryk while in Madison. Pictured (L to R): Steve Brand, Alex Brand, Jane Mueller (Eau Claire County), Phil Verges, Rep. Petryk, John Krings, Steve Strey (Eau Claire County) and Monica Krings.



Governor Scott Walker addressed farmers and agriculturists during Ag Day at the Capitol.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked up to the Capitol to meet with local representatives to speak about issues important to the agriculture community.

Cosponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation are: National Farmers Organization, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, Wisconsin Veal Growers Association and The Country Today newspaper. The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK Inc. are also major sponsors of the event.

YFA Members! Mark your Calendars!

There are great opportunities for YFA members in Pierce County to participate in district and state events. Remember that these activities are available to voting members ages 18-35.

Discussion Meet: The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet has been set for **Thursday, August 14** at the Orchard in Baldwin. Dinner will be at 6 p.m. with the discussion starting at 7. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build crucial skills in young, active farmers and agriculturalists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems. This year's topic is: **How can young farmers and ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?**

Achievement Award: The ideal candidate(s) for the Achievement Award is an individual or couple involved in production

agriculture with a majority of their income subject to normal production risks. Selection of the winning YFA competitor is based on his/her efforts in production agriculture and leadership achievement. Participation in this program with individual recognition and the resulting publicity will help build the organization. Applications are due **July 1, 2014.**

Excellence in Agriculture: The Farm Bureau Excellence in Agriculture Award Program is designed as an opportunity for YFA members, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to

Contests & Awards

earn recognition. Participants will be judged on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations (i.e., civic, service and community). The ideal candidate(s) for the Excellence in Agriculture Award is an individual or couple who

do not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risk. Applications are due **July 1, 2014.**

If you are a YFA member and are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact Katie Mattison, District 9 YFA Representative, at 715.418.0975.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto	Health	Supplies and Products
• General Motors Discount	• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card	• Case IH
Communication	• Stroke Detection Plus	• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
• AgriVisor (NEW)	Insurance	• Grainger
• The Country Today	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	• Office Depot
Financial	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	Travel
• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program	Protection	• AAA
• Farm Bureau Bank	• \$500 Reward Protection Program	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
	• Accidental Death Policy	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.
		• Wyndham Hotel Group

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

Rooted in Agriculture – District 9 Women’s Feature

A “Farm Girl” at heart, Monica Krings has enjoyed being involved in Farm Bureau. From Ag in the Classroom to beef promotions and from attending district and state women’s events to volunteering at the milk stand at the Pierce County Fair, Monica volunteers her time as the Pierce County Farm Bureau Women’s Chair.



the clerk for the Town of Union. She is also involved in her church and is a ticket-taker for ball games at school. She and her husband John have been married for 46 years and have three children and three grandchildren.

When asked what makes her excited about the future of women in agriculture, she states, “Since I have been involved in farming all my life and love being in the tractor or helping out, I feel women are a valuable asset to farming. I see where many large operations employ women. The reason for this is because they have patience, understanding and are willing to work hard. Also, behind a successful man is a good woman.”

After retiring as a secretary in the Plum City School District, a role she held for 33 years, Monica spends her “free” time as

she has done for Pierce County.

Euchre Party Success

Another successful euchre party is in the books for the Pierce County Farm Bureau. It was held on March 29 at the El Paso Bar and Grill and nearly 40 people to enjoyed an evening of fun.



Thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make the event a success including Ron Thompson, Precision Ag, West Wisconsin Nutrition, Jim Paider IBA, NK Seed – John Krings and AgStar. We hope to see everyone again next year!

Reminder to Call Before You Dig!

Building a shed? Planting a tree? Installing a mailbox? 811 is the number you should call before you begin any digging project.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

A federally-mandated national “Call Before You Dig” number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call – even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

Pierce County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dean Bergseng 715.425.6404
Vice President, John Krings 715.647.2168
Secretary, Laura Benitz 715.220.8962
Treasurer, Roy Swanson 715.273.3268

YFA Chair, Peter Kimball 715.307.3726
Women’s Chair, Monica Krings 715.647.2168
Director, Mary Brand 715.307.0903

Pierce County Farm Bureau 866.795.4792
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 Women’s Chair, Mary Prestrud 715.647.2168
District 9 YFA Chair, Katie Mattison 715.418.0975
District 9 Coordinator, Wendy Kannel 866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

We are here for you.

Call with questions or if you are interested in getting more involved in Farm Bureau!

President’s Message



Dear Farm Bureau members,

W.W.W.W. can sum up what my message is about.

First, **W**endy Kannel, after doing a great job as our District Coordinator is leaving on May 9 to head up the Ag in the Classroom program and Farm Bureau Foundation in Madison. We have appreciated all

she has done for Pierce County.

And then the **W**eather. It has been a long and hard winter from December to April and one of the coldest on record for many. Hopefully when you get this newsletter, planting will have started and the season will be a bit smoother than last spring.

Finally, **W**eights and **W**idths of implements of husbandry (IOH) has been an issue Farm Bureau has been working very hard on. New legislation has been passed which updated the rules and regulations of IOH. For more information on this new legislation, contact the extension office at 715.273.6781 or visit wfbf.com.

Wishing you all a very safe planting season.

Dean Bergseng
Pierce County Farm Bureau President

Welcome New Members

Scott Anderson	Steve Geraets**
Kevin Ballman**	William Kelly**
William Bechel**	Town of Gilman
Benitz Farms**	Stacy Wolfe
Jeff Brooke**	**Denotes Voting

Kevin Cowan
Wally Franta**
Tony Galgowski**
Scot Gavin
John Geraets**
Mark Geraets**

Welcome
to Farm
Bureau

Mark Your Calendar

May

30-June 1 Roberts Good Neighbor Days

June

8 River Falls Town and Country Day
21 Pierce County Dairy Breakfast
20-22 Cheese Curd Fest - Ellsworth

July

10-13 River Falls Days
16-20 St. Croix County Fair
18-20 Plum City Legion Fest
25-27 UFO Days – Elmwood

SAVE  DATE