



Pierce | St. Croix County Farm Bureaus

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RURAL MUTUAL AGENTS IN PIERCE & ST. CROIX COUNTY

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Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (715) 514-4477

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Your Calendars for Ag Day at the Capitol



AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL
Wednesday, March 8 • Monona Terrace Convention Center,
1 John Nolen Drive, Madison

Join farmers and agriculturists from across Wisconsin in Madison and learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with our state legislators.

Early Registration Deadline: March 1

Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Capitol Visits

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Ride the Bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Don't want to drive yourself or worry about parking?

Ride the bus to Ag Day at the Capitol!

Bus Schedule

Depart:

- 6:30 a.m. **Baldwin:** Park and Ride, south of McDonald's
 - 7:05 a.m. **Menomonie:** Walmart parking lot, west side
 - 7:45 a.m. **Eau Claire:** Walmart parking lot, off Highway 53 and Golf Road
 - 8:15 a.m. **Osseo:** Osseo Inn parking lot
 - 8:40 a.m. **Hixton:** Hixton Travel Plaza
 - 9:40 a.m. **Tomah:** McDonald's by Greyhound pickup area.
- There will be a 15-minute break.

11:15 a.m. Arrive at Monona Terrace Convention Center.
5:30 p.m. Load bus and return home.

Note: Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus have money available for sponsorship of members to attend Ag Day at the Capitol.

To reserve your seat, please contact District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Indicate which location you want to be picked up at.

Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today.



COUNTYnews

PIERCE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | ST. CROIX COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

Tradition



Dave Kruschke, St. Croix County, received the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award.



Leslie Svacina was one of four finalists in the Excellence in Agriculture competition.

Bureau chapter.

1,140 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members and Farm Bureau members converged on the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 2-5 for the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. More than 490 of the total attendees were young farmers and agriculturists attending the YFA Conference. Of the 1,140 members, more than 100 members were from District 9, including members from the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm

Some of the best and brightest YFA members competed in contests, attendees learned at breakout sessions and listened to excellent keynote speakers, members were recognized and awarded for their hard work and member delegates made their voices heard by setting policy that will guide the legislative agenda for the



Pierce County members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



St. Croix County members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



District 9 was well represented by Young Farmer and Agriculturist members.

state's largest general farm organization during the next year.

District 9 Highlights

- Representing District 9 in the YFA Discussion Meet were: Laura Benitz, Pierce County; Kirsten Konder, St. Croix County; and Isaac Christenson, Polk County.
- Representing District 9 in the Excellence in Ag Final Four were Leslie Svacina, St. Croix County; and Teresa Marker, Barron County.
- Teresa Marker won the Excellence in Ag and represented Wisconsin at the AFBF Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Sally Albers of UW-River Falls won the Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet.
- Dave Kruschke of St. Croix County received the highest award that WFBF bestows upon its members: the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award.
- Leslie Svacina of St. Croix County graduated from the WFBF Institute, Class X.
- WFBF top 10 membership workers included: Dean Bergseng, Pierce County, signing ten new members; and John Krings, Pierce County, signing nine new members.
- Members who signed five or more new members enjoyed being part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club (formerly the Producer Club) and received preferred seating for the Farm Bureau extravaganza and a special meal. Farm Bureau Proud Club members from District 9 were: Brian Douglas, Darryl Kovacik, Dean Bergseng, John Krings, Terry DuSell and Amber DuSell.
- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President.

Young Farmer and Agriculturists Perspective



Travis Kopp is a Pierce County Farm Bureau member and was sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

Farm name: Blue Harvest Farm.

Number of years in Farm Bureau: Less than 1 year.

Number of years attending YFA Conference: First time attending.

What was your favorite part of the YFA Conference: Socializing with other committed and passionate ag professionals. It is great to see the future of agriculture is in great hands. The entertainment also was great!

Why should other YFA members attend the YFA Conference: YFA members should attend this conference because it gives you an understanding of how Farm Bureau works and what a great organization it is. This is a great conference.



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Pierce County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Secretary, Laura Benitz 715.220.8962
Treasurer, Roy Swanson 715.273.3268
Women's Chair, Monica Krings 715.495.6286

Director, Peter Kimball 715.307.3726
Director, Kevin Knutson 715.760.2692
Director, Eric Turner 715.307.7262
Pierce County Farm Bureau 866.795.4792

District 9 Contacts

WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski 715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson 715.879.5472
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 715.514.4477

UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Success



The first semester for the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau was filled with events. To kick off, we offered members free cheese curds from Ellsworth Creamery for attending the first meeting. We volunteered at White Pine Berry Farm's Fall Family Day and ended the day with a barn dance. About 30 students attended.

The next event was the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet with three contestants including: Matt Kortbein, Sally Albers and Makayla Klumpyan. Matt and Sally advanced and Sally will represent Wisconsin in the national collegiate Discussion Meet at the AFBF FUSION Conference.

We also held a showing of *Farmland* and plan another showing this spring. Members volunteered for Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, Minnesota and 105 people packed meals to feed 77 people for a year.

YFA Conference rounded out the semester with 21 members attending. They enjoyed the conference and look forward to attending next year.

Ag Day will be on **April 18**. Agriculture-related clubs and businesses come together to teach people about agriculture. If you want to participate as business, educational stand or donate in any way please contact us at uwrfcb@gmail.com.

As a chapter, we look forward to volunteering more, welcoming speakers and more educational opportunities for members. We appreciate the support from WFBF.

Pierce: Welcome New Members

Marvin Bamman*, Eric Bechel*, Steve Becker, Marc Cernohous, Jennifer Clay, Dominic Donath, Walter Longen and Donovan Naebers.

*Denotes voting membership.

Pierce County President's Message



Happy New Year Pierce County Farm Bureau members,

In December, we wrapped up the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Eight individuals from Pierce County Farm Bureau attended.

Laura Benitz participated in the YFA Discussion Meet. John Krings, Jim Harsdorf and I were delegates.

It was a great weekend of networking and making policy decisions for 2017. John Krings and I also were recognized as top 10 membership workers with a combined total of 19 members signed.

Membership is very important to Pierce County Farm Bureau in many ways. Hitting our yearly membership goals is one way

Pierce County Farm Bureau makes money to spend on programming throughout the year. This year we need 25 new members by **March 31** to reach our goal and qualify for a spring bonus.

One program that Pierce County Farm Bureau spends money on is Ag in the Classroom. This is the second year that we have donated agriculture books to a public library in Pierce County. This year, Elmwood Public Library received the books. We also are sponsoring the Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students.

Congratulations to St. Croix County president Dave Kruschke on receiving the WFBF Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award.

Dean Bergseng
Pierce County Farm Bureau President

You're Invited to the Farmer Card Party Euchre Tournament

When: Friday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.

Where: El Paso Bar and Grill
W4277 County Road G
Ellsworth, WI 54011

Details: Pierce County Farm Bureau is hosting a Euchre tournament.

Cost: \$5 per player
Set charge of \$0.50 per couple with the pot being divided among five people if they had their name in the pot. Partners change after eight hands. Eight games will be played.

The top winners will receive cash prizes. Additional door prizes were donated by Pierce County Farm Bureau, AgStar, AgSource, NK-Syngenta Seeds, Western Wisconsin Ag Supply and Countryside and Precision Ag.



Dinner will be provided by the Pierce County Farm Bureau board of directors.

We hope to see you there.

Pierce County Farm Bureau Donates Books to Elmwood Library



Farm Bureau board members John Krings and Monica Krings presented the Elmwood Public Library with a set of *Ag in the Classroom* books, accepting the books was Misty Price.

In December, Pierce County Farm Bureau donated a set of the *Ag in the Classroom* book of year from the past eight years to the Elmwood Public Library.

The books donated included: *Time for Cranberries*, *Sugarbush Spring*, *The Beeman*, *First Peas to the Table*, *Fantastic Farm Machines*, *Farmer George Plants a Nation*, *Seed Soil Sun* and *How Did that Get in My Lunchbox?* These books will provide the public with an under-

standing of how their food is produced.

Ag in the Classroom seeks works to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: agriculture.

The goal of the program is to help individuals 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.

Meet: Kay Gilbertson, District 9 Promotion and Education Chair



Kay Gilbertson was elected to represent District 9 on the Promotion and Education Committee.

Kay lives in Elk Mound with her husband Kevin and their three children: Brandon, Bailey and Kaleb, who are involved in their farm, FFA, 4-H, church and school activities.

They are members of Dunn County Farm Bureau and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. The couple is in partnership with Kevin's family on the family farm, Gilbertson Farms. They milk 475 cows and grow crops on 1,900 acres.

Kay serves as the Dunn County *Ag in the Classroom* coordinator, general leader of Elk Meadow 4-H club and as Sunday school superintendent. She is an alumnus of UW-River Falls, where she earned a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Meet: Julie Wadzinski, District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Chair



Hello District 9! I am Julie Wadzinski and I will represent District 9 on the YFA Committee for the next three years.

I am originally from Marathon County, where I grew up on my family's 400-head Century dairy farm. In 2006, my family sold our dairy cows.

Technical College as a farm business production management instructor. Currently, I reside in Barron County.

In my spare time, I enjoy creating memories with my son, Bryan. I also enjoy reading, crocheting, gardening and outdoor adventures.

One of my passions is agricultural advocacy and sharing the ag story with consumers in addition to advocating for fair policy. I sought out training opportunities for advocacy and hope to use and hone those skills and passion on the YFA committee.

St. Croix County President's Message



Greetings St. Croix County Farm Bureau members,

St. Croix County Farm Bureau has been busy the past couple of months.

In November, St. Croix County Farm Bureau sent a letter to the County Board Supervisors regarding our concerns with a proposed moratorium on the expansion of livestock operations.

Several of our members testified at the County Board hearing resulting in striking the moratorium and assembling a water quality study committee.

This committee will report to the board in six months. Two of our members have agreed to serve on this committee.

Ag Day at the Capitol is on **Wednesday, March 8**. There will be a bus from northwest Wisconsin to Madison. With several new legislators from the area, it is very important to show our support and explain our views on issues and how they affect our farms and business.

If you want to attend, please contact me or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison. I hope to see you soon at some of our upcoming events.

Dave Kruschke
St. Croix County Farm Bureau President

St. Croix County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, David Kruschke 715.246.6461
Vice President, Leslie Svacina 651.261.3079
Secretary/Treasurer, Jenny Mueller 715.749.3583
Women's Chair, Melanie Peterson 715.665.2142
YFA Chair, Kirsten Konder 715.977.7351

Director, Lynn Brosi 715.425.5575
Director, James Lund 715.684.3936
Director, Dean Mueller 715.760.1501
Director, Gary Peterson 715.665.2142
Director, Randy Roquette 715.684.3303
Director, Greg Zwald 715.222.4349

St. Croix County Farm Bureau 888.830.2574

Scholarships Available from St. Croix County Farm Bureau



The St. Croix County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that it will award \$250 higher education scholarships to graduating seniors in 2017.

The scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school senior students who are enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college. All majors will be considered.

The applicant or his or her parents must be a current St. Croix County Farm Bureau member. Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 25**.

For questions or to request a scholarship application, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com or for a scholarship application, visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/st-croix.

St. Croix County Farm Bureau Awards Farm Bureau Boy and Girl

Mae Buttles of Sunnyside Shamrocks 4-H Club received the Farm Bureau Girl Award. She is active in her 4-H club and is involved in fair projects including: horse, dairy and goats.

Mae demonstrated her responsibility in caring for these animals and is willing to help others when help is needed.

The 2016 Farm Bureau Boy Award went to Nathan Thompson of Lone Pine 4-H Club. Nathan served in leadership positions including club officer and as a 4-H camp counselor.

He is a role model for younger members and demonstrates leadership skills in the poultry and sheep projects. Nathan is willing to help younger members and lend a helping hand when needed.

The Farm Bureau Boy and Girl Awards are sponsored by the St. Croix County Farm Bureau. Recipients of these awards are youth who demonstrate leadership potential and overall achievement. Clubs may nominate one boy and one girl from their club.



St. Croix County Farm Bureau vice president Leslie Svacina presented Nathan Thompson with the 2016 Farm Bureau Boy Award.

Ag in the Classroom Program Awards Mini-Grants to Teachers

The Ag in the Classroom program awarded 12 teacher mini-grants to use in agricultural literacy lessons and activities. The WFB Foundation funded the grants.

The grants provide opportunities for teachers to get funding that may not be available through their school budgets.

Seven of the 12 teacher mini-grants were awarded to teachers in St. Croix County. These teachers were awarded \$100 grants that will be used this school year:

- 3 Sisters Garden Table Project, Tim Olson and Lisa Wasson, Houlton Elementary, St. Croix County.
- Gardening Tool Shelving Project, Mary Wicker and Dan Rock, Houlton Elementary, St. Croix County.
- Greenhouse Table Project, JoAnn Augustin and Heather Bohl, Houlton Elementary, St. Croix County.
- Nutrition Services Greenhouse Project, Kristie Faust, Houlton School, St. Croix County.

- Planting Table and Work Table Project, Patrick Sahli, Houlton, Elementary, St. Croix County.
- Pumpkin Seed Project, Lisa Persinger and Natalie Thorson, Houlton Elementary, St. Croix County.
- Rural Life Reads! Kirstin Thompson, Greenfield Elementary, St. Croix County.

The Ag in the Classroom program also has matching grants available to groups and organizations that conduct agricultural literacy projects. Applications are due by **April 1** and can be downloaded at www.wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.



Mark your Calendars, the Dunn-Pierce-St. Croix County Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Picnic is Thursday, June 22.

SAVE the DATE

Are You Farm Bureau Proud?

If you are Farm Bureau Proud, you want to share that excitement with your friends and neighbors.

- **2x4:** Sign up 2 new members by April 1 and you will be awarded with Farm Bureau work gloves.
- **5x5:** Sign up 5 new members by May 1 and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau Proud Carhartt vest.
- **8x8:** Sign up 8 new members by August 1 and you will be awarded with a Farm Bureau farm sign.



For more information, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.

St. Croix: Welcome New Members!

Shane Demulling, Frank Griffin*, Derek Miller, Michael Sutton, Greg Tschumper and Hans-Paul Walker.

*Denotes voting membership.

Summit 2017
Save the Date!
March 10-11, 2017
Madison Marriott West, Middleton

WISCONSIN Ag Women's SUMMIT

#WAWS17
WiAgWomensSummit.com