

# Polk County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

# AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 24, 2018

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

**Early Registration Deadline: January 18**

**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. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: 

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 GROWMARK

## Ride the Bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

Join farmers and agriculturists from around Wisconsin for an important day in Madison. Learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with your state legislators to speak up for agriculture. Don't want to drive yourself or worry about parking ... ride the bus!

### 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 of Highway 53 and Golf Road

8:15 a.m. **Osseo:** Osseo Inn parking lot

\*There will be a 15-minute break at the Tomah pickup.

9:40 a.m. **Tomah:** McDonald's by Greyhound pickup area

Arrive at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center at about 11:15 a.m.

The bus will depart Madison to return home at 5:30 p.m.

The bus trip is limited to the first 40 people who register and pay. Reserve your spot today.

To reserve your seat, please contact District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com). Please indicate which location you want to be picked up at.

**Registrations are limited so reserve your seat today.**



# COUNTYnews

POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Polk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



Serving on the 2017-2018 Polk County Farm Bureau board are: back row (from left) Chris Owens, Trent Jensen, Erik Melin, Jim Melin and Michael Garvey; front row (from left) Crystal Meier, Dale Wester, Ken Nelson and Andy Gould.

The guest speaker was Steve Boe, WFBF Director of Local Affairs, who shared with attendees that ordinary people are capable of doing extraordinary things.

Andy Gould of Amery and Chris Owens of Frederic replaced Don Ellefson and Tim Mares on the board of directors.

Polk County Farm Bureau presented the following resolutions,

The Polk County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 28 at Wolter's Shoreview Supper Club in Amery. Members enjoyed a buffet dinner. Then, members voted on policy, board of directors and delegates to the 2017 WFBF Annual Meeting.

passed during this meeting, for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. Amend page 7, line 47-48, Shooting and Nuisance Permits, to "We support continuing the shooting permit program to allow the additional harvest of deer, bear, wild turkeys and Canadian Geese."
2. We are opposed to land being required to be opened to public hunting for farmers that utilize the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program.
3. We are in favor of eliminating the bag limit on Canadian Geese until the population is under control.
4. We support availability of ARC and PLC coverage through FSA as well as MPCCI coverage under the federal crop insurance program for crops planted after harvesting a forage crop.
5. Any equipment utilized for agriculture purposes, regardless of classification, should be considered an IOH.

Delegates who represented Polk County Farm Bureau members at the WFBF Annual Meeting were: Jim Melin, Andrew Gould and Dale Wood.

For more information on Polk County Farm Bureau, call 715.485.3010 or visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/polk](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/polk).

## Meet: New Polk County Farm Bureau Board Members



**Chris Owens** is a farm hand/calf feeder on his family's dairy farm. He also is a firefighter.

Chris has been a Farm Bureau member for eight years. When he is not farming or fighting fires, he enjoys hunting.

"I was born into agriculture and I look forward to getting more involved in Farm Bureau to help improve farming statewide. I see one of the greatest benefits of Farm Bureau membership being the grassroots discussion on policy."

**Andy Gould** works in grain operations at Countryside Coop. He also raises beef cattle, chickens and vegetables with his family and is a broadcaster for local sporting events.

"One of the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member is the opportunities it provides to meet new people and network with other farmers around the state."

**Welcome to the board, Chris and Andy!**



## Welcome New Members

Karl Aberle, Jacob Anderson, Jay Benson, Daniel A. Czepa, Meikah Dado\*, Ryan Darwin, Marshall Hatleli\*, Richard Hippauf, Carrie Hunter, Sarah Juleff, Glen Matz, Maria Menart\*, Carl Radke, Lorraine Radke, Karina Rohde, Scott Schaber, Monica Soderbeck, Derek T. Spafford, Michael Sparre, Jessica Spychalla and Amy Strobach\*.

\*Denote voting membership.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture in Polk County is diverse with high ranks in vegetables and livestock production, particularly sheep. Fresh market vegetables also are on the rise in the county as local foods markets are increasing. Numerous CSAs, farmers' markets and food cooperatives established in the county are supplying locally produced foods direct from farmer to consumer.

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## Members Advocate for Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Polk County Farm Bureau member, Rick Wester, along with 28 other members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Dairy and Farm Bill Committees and Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Board of Directors visited Washington, D.C.

Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation on September 13. The issues discussed were the 2018 Farm Bill, dairy policy and immigration reform.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau members

took the opportunity to discuss their concerns with the leaders who make decisions on their behalf," WFBF President Jim Holte said. "These committee members have spent time studying and researching, in-depth, what the future should look like for a 2018 Farm Bill and specifically the MPP program. The group was highly impressive on the Hill with their questions, concerns and asks."

Attendees also met with officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Embassy along with the U.S. Trade Representative.



Members on the Washington, D.C., trip on September 12-14 included: Peter Badtke, Ripon; Bill Barlass, Janesville; Joe Bragger, Independence; Dave Daniels, Union Grove; Lynn Dickman, Plover; Kristy Erickson, Clintonville; Rosalie Geiger, Reedsville; Tim Geiger, Whitehall; Dick Gorder, Mineral Point; James Hebbe, Green Lake; John Herricks, Cashton; Roger Hildebrandt, Hutisford; Jim Holte, Elk Mound; Lloyd Holterman, Watertown; Derek Husmoen, Arcadia; Peter Kimball, River Falls; Kevin Krentz, Berlin; Adam Kuczer, Pulaski; Dan Meyer, Kiel; Arch Morton, Jr., Janesville; Rosie Lisowe, Chilton; Lyle Ott, Hilbert; Don Radtke, Merrill; Bob Roden, West Bend; Michael Salter, Black Creek; Renee Schaal, Burlington; Dan Vantertie, Bussels; Rick Wester, Centuria; and Sam Zimmermann, Ringle.

## Money for Farmers for Conservation Practices

By Eric Wojchik, Polk County LWR Department conservation planner

Polk County Land and Water Resources Department has money available for design and installation of practices aiming to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality. Cost shareable practices must address a natural resource concern and continue to be maintained after installation to receive cost sharing of up to 70 percent.

For more information, please contact the Polk County Land and Water Resources Department at 715.485.8699. The amount of funding is limited. Please contact us soon if you are interested.

## You Could Win a Gun for Signing Up New Farm Bureau Members

Agriculture is a major driver of Wisconsin's economy. We have a vested interest in helping to maintain a safe, affordable and abundant food supply. As a member of Farm Bureau, you help support programs and policies that ensure that farmers can continue to feed and clothe us, while helping keep Wisconsin's economy strong.

Farm Bureau is a membership organization that relies on membership dues as a primary source of revenue. By joining Farm Bureau, you become part of an organization that provides numerous member benefits while helping to support Wisconsin's #1 industry.

YOU can get involved with membership and earn great rewards at the same time.

- For every NEW member you sign, you get \$20.
  - For every two new members you sign, you will get an entry to win a gun.
- If you have any questions, please contact WFBF District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 715.418.0975.

2017-18  
DISTRICT 9

# 'AIM FOR 2'

## MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVES

- **Prize:**  
Gun – worth \$500
- **Dates:**  
October 1, 2017 – July 31, 2018  
Drawing will be held at the District 9 Policy Development meeting on Wednesday, August 1.
- Members get **1 entry for every 2 new members** they sign up and **1 entry for every 2 past due members** renewed (a form must be completed and given to the District Coordinator to receive credit for the past due members).



## Do You Know Someone Who Should Be a Farm Bureau Member?

To the right is a membership application for Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The dues in Polk County are \$55 per membership. Below are a couple of quick hints for you as you go through the membership application. Membership applications can be found at [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) or by contacting District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com).

1. Can my spouse and I share a membership? Yes. Each membership is one vote for the county Farm Bureau. If you and your spouse feel you can have a shared opinion on county happenings, then you can have a shared membership. If you'd rather have two votes, you would each have to buy a membership.
2. Why do you need my date of birth? Your birthday is used for the accidental death benefit that comes with your county Farm Bureau membership. It also helps us target our Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members so that we can be sure to include them in activities that are specific to them. We won't sell it to anyone, it helps us.
3. What is the Ag Newswire? Ag Newswire is produced by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation each Friday and it is a summary of agriculture news for the past week.
4. How do I know what my membership type is? Polk County Farm Bureaus have established that a voting member is someone engaged in agricultural purposes, actively engaged in the business of producing agricultural products, or owners of property where such business is conducted and that an associate member is other persons, partnerships, unincorporated associations and corporations interested in the philosophy and objectives of this association can be a member, but without the right to vote or serve as a director. Typically, associate members are those without direct ties to agriculture, but carry a Rural Mutual Insurance policy.
5. Who is the membership worker? At Farm Bureau, we like to reward those who help us grow our membership. So, if you are giving this membership newsletter to someone in hopes that they will also join, please write your name in the membership worker blank. We will send you \$20 for each new member who you sign up. It's a great way to be rewarded for taking time out of your day to make the visits and help us grow our membership.

6. Where do I mail my application? You can drop it in the mail to WFBF, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705, or you can drop it off at the Rural Mutual Insurance office in Balsam Lake.
7. When should I send in my payment, when is it due? Your membership starts on the day we receive your membership application and that will remain your renewal date. So, if you know that your cash is a little tight in the summer, but you could manage the renewal in September, send it in September. We'd be glad to have your membership anytime.

## Welcome to the Farm Bureau Family

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive WFBF's weekly email newsletter, Ag Newswire?  Yes

Would you like a Rural Mutual Insurance agent to contact you?  Yes

Membership Type:  Associate  Voting

County of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**



A Voice for Farmers.  
A Vision for Agriculture.®

## District Coordinator Message: Life is a Marathon, Not a Sprint ...



We have probably heard the saying, "Life is a marathon, not a sprint." What does that really mean?

This year, I found out. On June 17, I ran my first marathon, Grandma's Marathon in Duluth. That's right, I ran 26.2 miles.

Running for 26.2 miles allows for a lot of thinking and reflecting. Looking back on the past year, there are many points that are similar when trying to complete a marathon and navigating through life, especially in agriculture.

**Perseverance:** Farming, running a marathon ... anything that we do has its difficulties. Sometimes it seems hard to push through the difficulties, but you know you must, and want to, keep going. Agriculture is turbulent, and always has been, but we are where we are because we have persevered.

**Dedication:** Whatever it is that you do, you do it because you are committed.

Many of you have been doing what you do for years and you are dedicated to continuing the tradition of agriculture. There are even some young farmers who are dedicated to starting a farm from scratch.

**Heart:** When you no longer have anything left, it's heart that gets you through. In a marathon, as in life, there are times when there is nothing left except heart. We have that heart to keep going. Especially in agriculture, we do what we do for the LOVE of agriculture.

**Support:** Always have someone to turn to, to lean on and to push you. I never even thought about running a marathon if it weren't for the support of my running group, my family and my friends. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is here to support you and what you do.

**Training:** I seriously trained for a marathon for six months. The desire to farm starts practically at birth ... you have trained for what you do your whole life. You got this!

This past year in agriculture has been turbulent, to say the least. For those of you who have been in agriculture your whole lives, you have seen turbulent

times before and you will see it again. In agriculture, and in life, there are ups and downs, we can expect that. There are times when it would be easier to quit than to keep going. But we just need to push through, it will be worth it. Just as for me, running a marathon was challenging, but it was worth it.

Before I ever began running, the idea of running a mile seemed impossible. And of course, it was, until I ran a mile. But I did it! I ran, and finished, my first marathon. That is something that I am proud of.

You should be proud of what you do as well. It is no small feat to be involved in agriculture. The fact that you do what you do and continue to do it despite the challenges. Know that you are part of a great organization that will support you, and is dedicated to helping you, your farm and your family in any way that we can. Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to have you as members.

If you have any questions or comments, or if you want to chat, please contact me. I would love to hear from you.

**Katie Mattison**  
WFBF District 9 Coordinator

## Outstanding District 9 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet was on August 3 at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie. The question that participants discussed was: **Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?**

Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build these crucial skills in young farmers and agriculturists. 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.

The YFA Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Tour Owens Farms

On September 30, District 9 YFA members socializes and toured the newly updated calf barn facilities at Owens Farms in Frederic. Members learned about the Owens' new calf barn ventilation and watched a smoke bomb demonstration by the system designer, Crystal Creek Natural, LLC. Attendees also watched the calf feeding with a milk shuttle.

In addition to farm tours, YFA members enjoyed a cookout.



A representative from Crystal Creek Natural LLC, demonstrated how the ventilation in the calf barn worked.



Attendees checked out calf feeding at the Owens Farm using a milk shuttle.



Congratulations to Isaac Christenson, Nate Kringle and Laura Benitz who will compete at the WFBF Discussion Meet.

Each of WFBF's nine districts holds a District Meet during late summer or fall. Three contestants from each district move on to the WFBF Discussion Meet at the YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells in December.

## Polk County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jim Melin	715.488.2261
Vice President, Dale Wester	715.646.1447
Secretary/Treasurer, Trent Jensen	715.268.8211
YFA Chair, Erik Melin	715.566.0803
Promotion and Education Chair, Crystal Meier	715.292.7798
Director, Mike Garvey	715.825.3229
Director, Andrew Gould	
Director, Dean Johnson	715.491.9146
Director, Ken Nelson	715.268.6426
Director, Chris Owens	
Office Secretary, Lisa Thomfohrda	715.485.3010
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski	715.432.8740
Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson	715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson	715.514.4477

## Thanks for Your Service Don Ellefson

Don Ellefson is no stranger to Farm Bureau. He has been a member since taking over the farm from his father in 1979.

Shortly after, he was contacted by, then Polk County Farm Bureau president, Brad Mabry, asking if he would be interested in serving on the Polk County Farm Bureau board.

In July of 1982, Don began his 35 years of service to the members of Polk County Farm Bureau.

We thank Don for his 35 years of service as a Polk County Farm Bureau Board member.



## Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Essay Topic

The 2018 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year is John Deere, That's Who! by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner.

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.

This year's essay topic 'Inventions that have made agriculture great,' is linked with the book and students will be using the book as one resource.

Participants need to submit essays by **April 1, 2018**, to their county Farm Bureau essay coordinator.

For questions or to obtain materials, please contact Polk County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Crystal Meier at meierc@workforceresource.com or 715.292.7798.