

Polk County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

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.



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

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

POLK 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 Polk County were Jim and Patty Melin.

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).

Welcome New Members

Sharon Blanding

Hannah Jacobson

Jackie Myrmel

Jerry Schultz

Joshua Yunker

Welcome
to Farm
Bureau

District 9 Woman Rooted in Agriculture

Jolene Wester of Centuria in Polk County is certain of one thing: no two days are ever the same. Her family has a crop farm with corn and snap beans and also raises a few beef cattle for private sales. Three years ago, the family expanded their grain farm to include a truck scale, more storage and a larger dryer which then led to the decision to become a licensed grain dealer and warehouse. They now have a custom corn drying and storage business for neighboring farms.



Jolene is responsible for the books for the farm and the grain business. She also helps with outside farm work when needed. When she is not helping with the farm, Jolene enjoys knitting, reading and gardening. Additionally, she is in her first year serving as the Polk County Women's chair and in the past has attended WFBF Annual Meetings.

Scholarship Recipients Named

The Polk County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that it has selected two graduating seniors to receive scholarships. The scholarships were chosen based upon school and community activities and the student's essay where they answered the question, "Identify what you feel are the top three agriculture issues and propose solutions for each."



The first recipient is Osceola High School senior Mykayla Getschel. She will receive a \$500 scholarship. Mykayla plans to attend Iowa State University and major in ag business. She is involved in 4-H, Junior Holsteins, FFA, FBLA, National Honor Society and track. In identifying the top issues affecting agriculture, Mykayla noted the disconnect between consumers and producers, the growing global demand for commodities and the uncertainty and instability in ag law.

The second recipient is Reese Johnston of Unity High School who will receive a \$250 scholarship. Reese plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and pursue a degree in animal science. He is active in football, golf, ice fishing, FFA, Skills USA and Symphonic band. When identifying the top issues in agriculture, Reese noted the recent cases of PEDv in pigs, GMOs and frac sand mining.

Congratulations Mykayla and Reese!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 YFA Contests

Ag Day at the Capitol

Digger's Hotline

Photos Wanted

3 Institute Trip to D.C.

Meet Tim Mares

Ag Newswire Sign Up

Social Media

Member Benefits

Board Contacts

YFA Members! Mark your Calendars!

There are great opportunities for YFA members in Polk 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

Contests Awards

YFA members, while actively contributing and growing through their involvement in Farm Bureau and agriculture, to 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.

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.

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.



Polk County Farm Bureau members met with Senator Sheila Harsdorf and Representative John Murtha during Ag Day at the Capitol. The topic of discussion was implements of husbandry.



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



Jim and Patty Melin (front) represented Polk County during Ag Day at the Capitol. Also in the photo are St. Croix County Farm Bureau members (in back L to R) Lynn Brosi, Dave Kruschke and Greg Zwald.

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.

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.



WFBF Seeks Photos for *Rural Route*

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work on some of the most beautiful pieces of land. In *Rural Route* WFBF would like to highlight those sights and special moments with your families and friends.

Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to ssutton@wfbf.com.

(Due to the high volume of photos received, we are unable to include every photo.)



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto

- General Motors Discount

Communication

- AgriVisor (NEW)
- The Country Today

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
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- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
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- Grainger
- Office Depot

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- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

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

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.



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

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 difference. 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



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.

leadership role with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program and into the future within Wisconsin Farm Bureau, my career and my community.”

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, 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.

Polk County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 District 9 Women’s Chair Mary Prestrud 715.455.1495
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 RMIC District Manager, Ken Truax 715.514.4477

Meet Farm Bureau Member Tim Mares

Having worked as an agronomist for Winfield and Land O’ Lakes for the last 32 years, Tim Mares is no stranger to the agriculture community. He has been a member of the Polk County Farm Bureau for the past 15 years and became involved when a customer and friend asked him to join. Tim thought it was a good idea to be involved in an agriculture organization because it would provide local community involvement and the benefit of supporting rural areas that provide a great lifestyle. Tim finds that it is important to be a part of the agriculture community because agriculture is food for America and is the greatest lifestyle and occupation for him. It also provides exciting new technologies.



Tim has also been involved with his church board, American Society of Agricultural Engineers and National Certified Agronomist. His family includes his wife Diane and daughters Danielle, Eryn and Devon. When not at work, Tim also has a small hobby farm with beef cattle.

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