

Portage County Farm Bureau

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For information about our farm safety campaign,
contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Portage County:

Michael Olson **Jenni Zinda**
(715) 570-7054 (715) 341-5808

David Meihak - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Ag in the Classroom Presents New Farm Facts Brochure

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2015 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure.

The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and is now interactive.

Using a free app called, Aurasma, users can make the brochure come to life with additional facts and videos related to Wisconsin agriculture.

To download the app, visit the app store on your tablet or smart phone and find Aurasma. Download the app and make sure to follow WIAITC.

Copies of the brochure are available by visiting wisagclassroom.org and using the resource order form.



You're Invited!

Portage County Summer Picnic

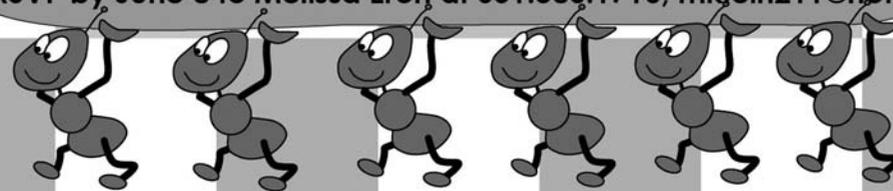


Sunday, June 14
1 to 4 p.m.

Jordan East Park
8500 Jordan Road
Stevens Point

*Fun Filled
Sunday in the
Park!*

Please RSVP by June 8 to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710, mklein211@hotmail.com.



Brats, hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, milk, soda and water will be provided. Guests please bring, last name initial, A-M: dessert; N-Z: side dish. If you bring a non-Farm Bureau member, your name will be entered into a drawing. Please note, no pets are allowed in the park.



COUNTYnews

PORTAGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Ag Day at the Capital Draws Nearly 500

This year's Ag Day at the Capital was one for the record books! Close to 500 farmers, agriculturists and Farm Bureau members attended the event in Madison on March 11. Members talked with their representatives about critical issues that are affecting their livelihood.



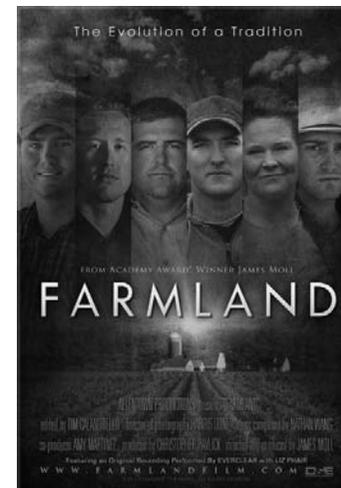
Volunteers Needed!

This year's Portage County June Dairy Breakfast will be held at Bulgrin Farm, near Milladore, on June 20. We are fortunate to be getting two My American Farm kiosks for the breakfast. My American Farm features interactive games that educate children about agriculture. We are looking for volunteers to help supervise their use. You do not have to be "tech-savvy", just willing to monitor them.

Like in past years, we also will have tattoos, cheese samples and information about Farm Bureau. Last year more than 4,000 people attended the event. This is a great outreach opportunity; please consider giving a few hours to help out. We are hoping to have enough help so you can have time to enjoy the breakfast as well. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710.

FARMLAND Film On Sale Now

Academy Award®-winning filmmaker James Moll's feature-length documentary, FARMLAND, is now available on DVD at Walmart and Walmart.com. The availability of the documentary at retail locations across the country and online, provides another opportunity for viewers to experience the film, which offers a firsthand glimpse inside the world of farming by showcasing the lives of six young farmers and ranchers in their twenties.



This film is a great tool for educating others about agriculture. There are many ways to use this film in 'ag'vocating efforts. For example you could donate copies to your local schools and libraries or could set up a movie night in your community to watch the film together and discuss it after.

FARMLAND premiered in theaters across the country in spring 2014, and now, is available on hard disk for rent and purchase at Netflix, Amazon, select retail outlets and via On Demand platforms.

DVDs of FARMLAND is for sale at select Walmart locations and on Walmart.com. The documentary is also now available to rent on DVD from Netflix and to purchase on Amazon, with continued availability for rent and purchase via digital download on iTunes, Amazon Instant Video, Blockbuster On-Demand, Sony PlayStation, Vudu.com, Xbox and YouTube.

"I'm thrilled by how wide the distribution has been for Farmland," said Moll. "There's a lot of interest out there in the lives of young farmers and ranchers. It is a fascinating topic and I'm glad that there's such a demand for the film on DVD and online."

Produced by Moll's Allentown Productions, FARMLAND was made with the generous support of the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance®. Check out the official trailer and more information about the feature length documentary at FARMLANDfilm.com and on Facebook.

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A Member Benefit the Whole Family Can Enjoy!



Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks ready! The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company are teaming up for a special Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Day at the ballparks of the eight Wisconsin Northwoods League teams.

"This will be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members to take part in a member event and enjoy America's favorite past time," said Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

From, May through August, there will be three Farm Bureau Member Appreciation games at each of the eight Wisconsin teams. This will be a special event for Farm Bureau members with deals on game tickets that will include a team hat, soda and a hot dog.

There also will be special recognition of Farm Bureau during the game as well as advertising in the program book and radio ads so support your local Northwoods League team!

The Northwoods League teams in Wisconsin include Eau Claire Express, Lakeshore Chinooks, Madison Mallards, Wis-



consin Woodchucks, Green Bay Bullfrogs, Kenosha Kingfish, La Crosse Loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters.

"Nothing beats sitting in your favorite ballpark, watching your favorite team on a hot, sunny day, with a hot dog smothered with all the goods in one hand and an ice cold drink in the other," said Todd Argall, Vice President of Customer Acquisition and Service with Rural Mutual Insurance. "We are looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark."

Tickets can be purchased by ordering from each team's website or by calling their ticket office. To receive the discounted price use the promotion code 'farmbureau'. To see the full list of Farm Bureau games visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

5th Annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit Held

For the last five years, hundreds of women from across Wisconsin have gathered in March for a day and a half retreat. This year was no exception! This annual event is like a mini-vacation for a lot of the farm and agribusiness women who attend.

It's hard to believe that during this 27-hour conference, women attended breakout sessions covering everything from farm succession, home office organization, how to dress for any occasion, along with how to turn trash into treasure and so much more. During the evening festivities, the women enjoyed the sights and sounds of Piano Fondue.



WISCONSIN
Ag Women's
SUMMIT



Members Participate in National Ag Day

Farm Bureau members from across Wisconsin celebrated National Ag Day on March 18. Wisconsin Farm Bureau brought back the #WIAgProud campaign for the second year in a row and encouraged all farmers and agriculturists to share what they do and why they do it on social media. Members were encouraged to share what makes them proud of Wisconsin agriculture by using #WIAgProud on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Five photos were randomly selected to receive a prize and they included Kelsi Mayer, Green County, Jenna Fletcher, Dane County, Jamie Propson, Manitowoc County, Leahy Farms, Fond du Lac County and Cylon Rolling Acres, St. Croix County.



Meanwhile, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom engaged students in a coloring contest. Over 200 entries were submitted and three winners were chosen. Each winner received a package with Ag in the Classroom materials and goodies.

National Ag Day, organized by the Agriculture Council of America, is designated to help educate the world how food is grown, the role it plays in Americans' lives and the U.S. economy and to highlight the various careers it involves.

District 8 YFA Update

By Melissa Eron, District 8 YFA Representative



June 23 - District 8 YFA members are invited to attend the 2015 Friends of Millcreek Watershed, Conservation Tour. It is co-hosted by Bulgrius Grand View Dairy and Mark and Lisa Totten in Milladore. The tour is a hayride-style and will highlight conservation efforts practiced by the landowners. If time permits, we also will tour a historic round barn owned by the Bulgrius. Please RSVP to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710 as seating is limited.

July 1 - Applications are due for the YFA Excellence in Ag and Achievement Awards. The Excellence in Ag award is for someone involved in agriculture but doesn't have the majority of their income from production farming. The Achievement Award is for someone in production agriculture. Please talk to your county YFA chair for more information.

August 14 - WFB Foundation Institute Class X applications are due. The Institute is a great leadership opportunity and is open to all ages, not just YFA members.

August 14 - Rural Sponsorship applications are due. Consider nominating someone who will be attending the YFA Conference, held December 4-6 in Wisconsin Dells, for the first time. Rural Mutual Insurance will cover their registration and hotel costs for Friday and Saturday nights.

August 25 -27 - Farm Technology Days in Dane County



August 29 - District 8 YFA Discussion Meet at the Abbyland truckstop in Curtis. There will be a buffet of chicken, ribs, scalloped potatoes, soup, salad and dessert for \$10.75. Before the Discussion Meet, we will tour Munson Bridge Winery at 10 a.m. Munson Bridge was a dairy farm before a winery and the tour will cover the converting process. The cost of the tour and tasting is \$5 per person. Plan to make a day of it by attending the Loyal Corn Fest breakfast at West Side Park. The breakfast is put on by the Clark County Farm Bureau with all proceeds benefiting their scholarship fund. The breakfast runs 7 a.m. to noon.

Day at a glance:

- 7-10 a.m. - Breakfast at West Side Park, Loyal
- 10 a.m. - Tour and tasting at Munson Bridge Winery, W6462 Bridge Road, Withee
- 12 p.m. - Travel to Abbland Truck Stop, 219 Plaza Drive, Curtis
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch and Discussion Meet

You don't have to compete to attend. If you can't attend the whole day, feel free to come to part of it. Please RSVP by August 24 to Melissa if attending any of the events and/or participating in the Discussion Meet.



Like us on
Facebook

Please share your contact information or email address with Melissa Eron at mklein211@hotmail.com. We will send out reminder emails and create Facebook events to promote the events.

www.facebook.com/WisconsinYFA

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto**
- General Motors Discount
- Health**
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
 - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products**
- Case IH
 - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
 - Grainger
 - Polaris
 - Office Depot

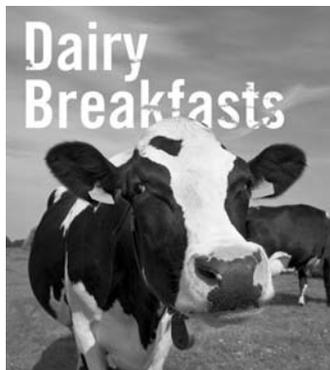
- Communication**
- AgriVisor
 - The Country Today
- Insurance**
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
 - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel**
- AAA
 - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
 - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
 - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial**
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
 - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection**
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
 - Accidental Death Policy

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

Dairy Days of Summer

By Beth Porior Schaefer, Regional Program Manager, Wisconsin Dairy Council-Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board



It is almost here...sunshine, fresh cut alfalfa and the 30 dairy-filled days of June Dairy Month. The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is taking the month of June and extending the celebration of our state's dairy heritage to last all summer long. Welcome to the Dairy Days of Summer!

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is excited to bring the 3rd annual Dairy Days of Summer back to Wisconsin. The Dairy Days of Summer website www.dairydaysofsummer.com is complete with dairy recipes, events and farm breakfasts for the ultimate June Dairy Month experience!

New recipes featuring Wisconsin dairy products include berry oat breakfast smoothie, Parmesan herb veggie dip, berry and cream muffins, apple coleslaw with lemon ginger yogurt dressing, PB & J bars, heirloom tomato, basil caprese warps...just to name a few. Visit dairydaysofsummer.com for a complete guide to tempting summer dairy flavors.

If a June Dairy Breakfast is your favorite way to celebrate, don't miss out on these June Dairy Breakfasts:

- Sunday, June 7** – Marathon Partnership for Progressive Agriculture June Dairy Breakfast at Marathon Park
- Sunday, June 20** – Portage County June Dairy Breakfast, Bulgrin Grandview Farms LLC, Milladore
- Sunday, June, 20** – Wisconsin Rapids June Dairy & Berry Breakfast, Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids
- Saturday, June 27** – Pittsville June Dairy Breakfast, Pittsville Septic, Pittsville
- Saturday, June 27** – Auburndale June Dairy Breakfast, Auburndale
- Sunday, June 28** – Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, Al and Vicki Beran Farm, Birnamwood

For the most up-to-date information on June dairy events and June Dairy Breakfasts, including directions, cost and attractions, visit www.dairydaysofsummer.com.



Portage County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Gene Gagas 715.347.7755
 Vice President, Mark Zajackowski 715.457.2860
 Secretary/Treasurer, James Isherwood 715.344.9654
 YFA Chair, Melissa Eron 651.380.1710

Director, John Kosmalski 715.677.3857
 Director, Leroy Miller 715.677.3435
 Director, Richard Roth 715.457.6646
 Director, Mark Schaffner 715.370.2904
 Director, Leonard Wiza 715.457.6648

Portage County Farm Bureau 888.385.5945
 WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke 715.573.7208
 District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway 866.355.7348
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Want to avoid spending a day in the dark? Or being without heat or air conditioning in your home? What about not being able to connect to the Internet, email or social media?



Know what's below.
 Call before you dig.

Preventing these issues may be as simple as calling 811.

Digging can damage the underground utilities that we all rely on every day. By calling 811 a few days prior to your digging project, whether it is a large or small, you can avoid these digging related damages and keep yourself and your family safe.

Your call to 811 will be routed to the local One Call center and the center's customer service representative will take down information about your project such as where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing.

Then One Call center staff will notify the local utility operators to mark their facilities.

Within a few days a local representative will mark the approximate location of the underground lines, pipes and cables so that you can dig safely. The call and the service are FREE!

Farmers are not exempt in making notifications to the One Call center. Projects may include installing drain tile, building terraces, chisel plowing, sub-soiling, deep ripping, building waterways, drilling wells, building holding ponds and installing fence posts.

In fact, some states have laws that require notifying the One Call center whenever the project goes deeper than a specified number of inches. Be sure you know the state law requirements.

When digging, make sure to always carefully hand dig around the marks or flags. Some utility lines may be buried at a shallow depth and even a misplaced shovel can have costly consequences.

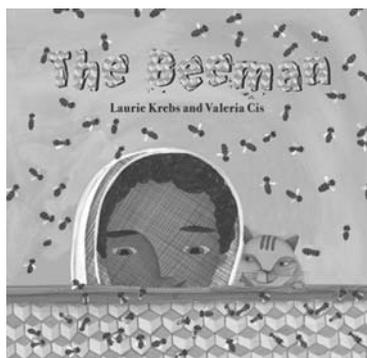
For those bigger projects around large pipelines, make sure you have a pipeline representative present while you dig.

Don't forget that erosion, land movement, root structure growth or other factors may affect the amount of dirt surrounding the underground utility. Safe digging is no accident.

Protect yourself, your family and community and make sure to spread the word about 811.

Portage County Ag in the Classroom Essay Winners are all the Buzz...

Every year the Portage County Farm Bureau participates in an essay contest that is open to all fourth and fifth grade students in Portage County. The topic changes every year to encourage a variety of agricultural educational opportunities for students. The topic this year was "Why are bees important to Wisconsin Agriculture?"



We had an amazing response with more than 100 entries from all around the county. The essays encompassed a variety of topics from pollination to beekeeping. Our county winner was Rachel Kurszewski, a fifth grade student from Rosholt Elementary. Our two runners-up were Braeden Slowinski and Karrlyn Phillip, both fifth grade students from Kennedy Elementary in Junction City.

Congratulations Rachel, Braeden and Karrlyn!

Rachel's Winning Essay:

Why Bees Are Important to Wisconsin Agriculture

Bees are very important creatures. They keep food on our table such as cucumber, pumpkins, blueberries, apples and much more. They also keep our gardens, flowers and fruit trees healthy and fresh. Bees collect sugary juice from flowers and give the pollen to other flowers. Many people such as gardeners love these very helpful creatures. Bees are very great insects but bees die from the bad pollution around the world. Of all the food we have in our life 70% of our food is pollinated by bees. Although all of our food depends on bees!

In each nest there are thousands of female workers, hundreds of male drones, and one single queen. Bees communicate by the shapes they make when they fly. Then other bees know where a lot of pollen is. Honey bees are about a half inch long. They have orange and black stripes and many yellow hairs. Bees are mostly found by flowers and sometimes you can even find a hive in a hollow tree. All bees are very helpful to our world and we should be good to them. That is why bees are important to our agriculture.