

Portage County Farm Bureau

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Jenni Zinda-Mancl (715) 341-5808
Lauren McCann (715) 544-1611

Dave Meihak, District Manager - (715) 544-6824

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Drone Training and Cow Signals Courses Available through Northcentral Technical College



Northcentral Technical College is pleased to partner with the Wausau Downtown Airport and local drone operators to present drone training for the central Wisconsin area.

Whether you are considering purchasing a small drone as a gift this holiday season or looking to gain more information on operating drones recreationally or commercially, these courses are for you.

These courses will be offered at the Wausau Downtown Airport, 725 Woods Place, Wausau.

Drone Operator Training Series

This series of short courses will go in-depth on drone pilot topics and best practices. Lead by an experienced drone pilot and featuring guest lessons by area flight instructors, these courses will prepare you to be a better, safer and smarter drone pilot. This series will also prepare students and businesses to take



the FAA's Part 107 Remote Pilot Exam; upon completion of an exam, students would be certified to operate a drone for commercial or business purposes.

Students may attend only those sections that interest them or the full series to better prep for the Part 107 exam.

Module 1: sUAS Landscape

In this class, students will begin to understand the sUAS landscape, with various topics including knowledge of different types of drones, their features and operations as well as the different industries in which they are used.

Thursday, December 14
6-9 p.m.
\$20

Cow Signals Series Courses

Transition Cow Diseases

This course will cover common causes, signs, and symptoms of fresh cow diseases. Part 1 is classroom/lecture based, while Part 2 will build upon classroom learning by using the Northcentral Technical College animals to perform fresh cow exams and identify the diseases. It is recommended that participants take Part 1 prior to participating in Part 2.

Part 1

Tuesday, December 5
6-8 p.m.

Part 2

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
6-8 p.m.

Cow Disease Prevention

This course will focus on nutritional and management tools used to prevent and reduce fresh cow disorders.

Tuesday, February 6,
2018
6-8 p.m.

Management of Cow Lameness

This course will focus on identifying lame cows in the early stages, along with common causes of lameness and the management tools used to combat lameness.

Tuesday, March 6, 2018
6-8 p.m.

Pricing

The Cow Signals Series is \$49 to attend all sessions or \$15 per individual session.

Location

Northcentral Technical College Agriculture Center of Excellence, 6625 County Road K, Wausau, WI 54401.





COUNTYnews

PORTAGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Grassroots Policy at Its Best during Portage County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



In mid-October members from across the county gathered at the Eron's Event Barn to celebrate another successful year. This gathering is a time for members to elect directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organizations.

Below is the list of resolutions that the Portage County Farm Bureau board of directors presented at their annual meeting on October 17. All resolutions passed and were shared with the WFBF Policy Development Committee for review.

The WFBF Policy Development Committee is made up of volunteers from across the state. Last year the committee reviewed close to 500 resolutions submitted from county Farm Bureaus.

If you have questions or concerns or maybe you believe that there is another pressing issue that needs to be dealt with, then be sure to make sure your voice is heard by contacting your county board member.

State

1. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and fines across the state for farms that intentionally and willfully allow manure and/or leachate to enter waterways or wetlands and do not follow nutrient management plans. **Natural Resources and The Environment: Nutrient Management Regulations**
2. We are in favor of giving more control to the state and local government over the railroads. **Transportation: Railroad**
3. We support managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank and wetland management. **Natural Resources and The Environment: End**
4. We support all school busses flashing both amber and red lights 200 feet prior to a stop. **Transportation: Safety**
5. We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles to have a slow-moving vehicle sign, effective lighting, and reflective tape on public roads. **Transportation: Safety**
6. We support a hunting season on sandhill cranes with ag tags available in problem areas. **Hunting and Wildlife: Hunting Seasons**

7. We support more equal distribution of state road funds to rural areas.

Transportation: Highways

8. We support uniform training of milk inspectors to reflect current technology, construction and production practices.
9. Inspectors should be required to attempt contact with the farmer/farm manager upon arrival dairy-inspection.
10. We support allocating the forfeitures for violating water quality standards being directed to the UW Discovery Farms program for water quality research.

Water Quality: Environmental Regulations

11. We support the addition of All sources of nutrients must be included in one nutrient management plan being added to line 39 of Nutrient management regulations. **Nutrient Management Plans: Natural Resources and the Environment**
12. We oppose False, misleading, negative or deceptive marketing and promotion and/or label claims such as food products derived from the use of biotechnology.
13. We oppose use of 'all-natural' and 'GMO free' synonymously with 'organic' as a way to avoid producer certification as an organic grower.
14. We oppose any product labeling that states or implies that organic food is in any way superior to other farm products

Federal

1. We support the removal of wolves from the endangered species list. Sec. 565 p. 235 (4.27): Addressed.
2. We oppose the EPA WOTUS. Sec. 547 p. 212 (3.1): Reaffirmation.
3. We encourage the EPA and American Farm Bureau Federation to meet to work out disagreements with WOTUS. Federal Internal Resolution.
4. We oppose the EPA proposal to ban atrazine. Sec. 336 p. 113-114 (1): Ag Chemicals are important (6.5) EPA consider risk/benefit for ag chemicals (6.12) Atrazine effective and economical, must be made available.
5. We are opposed to price gouging by pharmaceutical companies. Sec. 154 p. 34 (5.2) NEW – This would be a new number under the 'we oppose' section for 'Access to Health Care.'
6. We support the new farm bill to minimize/eliminate the use of the word subsidies due to the negative connotation.



Steve is the Director of Local Affairs at Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and served as our guest speaker this year.

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District 8 Discussion Meet and District YFA Update

By Beth Schaefer, District 8 YFA Committee Chair



(from left) Katie Zoromski, Marathon County; Will Litzer, Marathon County; Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County; and Jill Niemann, Marathon County. Ryan, Katie and Jill will be representing District 8 at the Discussion Meet in December.

Earlier this fall we hosted the District 8 Discussion Meet in conjunction with the District Policy Development meeting at Randall's Beers and Cheers in Abbottsford.

Participants included Katie Zoromski, Marathon County; Will Litzer, Marathon County; Ryan Klussendorf, Taylor County; Jill Niemann, Marathon County; Katie, Ryan and Jill will represent Marathon County at the Discussion Meet in December. Thank you to the judges: Clark Turner, Jolynne Schroepfer and Steve Boe.

YFA Achievement Final Four

Congratulations to Ryan and Lindsay Prah (Marathon County) and Hank and Shannon Boschma (Marathon County) for being named to the Achievement in Agriculture Award Final Four.



Ryan and Lindsay Prah and family.

2018 Events and Ideas

We will be setting the district calendar of events and activities for the upcoming year. Please send ideas for new activities, dates for YFA events that your county is hosting and other tidbits to me or District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway so that I can share them on the YFA calendar.

YFA and Promotion and Education Consumer Confidence Committee

Calling ag-vocates. District 8 YFA and Promotion and Education are teaming up to create a Consumer Confidence Committee. If you are passionate about telling your ag story and helping consumers understand how food is produced safely,



Hank and Shannon Boschma and family.

humanely and with care, we need you.

If you want to be a part of this committee, please contact me at eprior.schaefer@gmail.com or Lauren McCann at lauren.l.mccann@outlook.com.



Wild Parsnip Identification and Control



Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) is classified as a noxious weed in Portage County and must be destroyed if found on public or private property. Wild parsnip is an herbaceous plant that establishes as a rosette with upright leaves persisting for at least one year.

Plants flower in subsequent years, typically second or third year, but after plants flower, they die (monocarpic perennial). Flowering stems are stout, hollow, grooved and up to five feet tall.

Caution: Sap contact with skin in the presence of sunlight can cause a rash that often leads to blisters and discoloration of the skin (phytophotodermatitis). The blisters may produce a sensation similar to a mild to severe sunburn.

The blisters do not spread or itch, as poison ivy rashes do, but they are uncomfortable and leave brown scars that last for a number of months to two years.

Wear gloves, long sleeves and pants when handling.

For more information on wild parsnip, please contact the Portage County UW- Extension office at 715.346.1316.



Announcing the IGNITE Conference

Join us for the 2018 IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6, 2018**.

IGNITE: Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage is a statewide information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purpose is to strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureau by providing them with program ideas, resources and new skills to carry out the mission of their county Farm Bureau. More than 20 workshops available following four training tracks: 1. Governance and organization 2. Building Farm Bureau 3. Communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau 4. Policy, issues and advocacy.

No matter what your involvement in Farm Bureau is, this is a great opportunity to network with other county leaders and get more involved. Mark your calendars now.



District 8 Promotion and Education Committee Chair Update



As annual meeting season wraps up, I want to take a moment to thank all of you who attended your county annual meeting and our county leaders for their support and organization. I was able to attend all but one annual meeting this year. I look forward to another great year serving as the District 8 Promotion and Education Committee Chair.

Ag in the Classroom News

The 2018 Ag in The Classroom Book of the Year has been announced. The book is "John Deere That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer. I'm so excited to get the opportunity to talk about something that I'm sure most of the children have seen driving around but do not know the history of. And this is a great chance to get our local John Deere dealers involved.

Update to the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

For the past six years the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit was hosted in partnership by Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Badgerland Financial (now Compeer Financial) and UW Extension. The

partners announced on September 1, their joint decision to discontinue the event.

During the next year, Farm Bureau will re-evaluate the Ag Women's Summit and determine how it can more effectively draw new and repeat attendees and better serve Farm Bureau members. After a full evaluation, Farm Bureau plans to host a new event in Spring 2019 in partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

There will be an event in 2018 called the IGNITE Conference. This event is a member-engagement conference and will be on April 5-6, 2018, in Stevens Point. The purpose is to provide county Farm Bureau leaders with resources and ideas.

The IGNITE Conference is sponsored by WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. This will be the 2018 event of the year that you don't want to miss.

As always if there is an idea or event that you want to try, please contact me or visit the 'Playbook' on the WFBF website.

Lauren McCann

District 8 WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Chair

District 8 Coordinator Message



It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. This marks my fourth year of annual meetings. For me, annual meeting season is much like fall harvest.

Counties have worked all year long, tending to the seeds they have planted, with only a narrow window to showcase

their work and dedication to the industry. This once-a-year celebration also lays out how the year is going to be, much like a fall harvest.

Each year your county membership works to layout policy that directly impacts their members as well as their family farms or businesses.

A friend of mine shared that over the years, farmers have farmed in bad times and in good times, but never have they had to farm scared. Scared that every move they make is going to draw attention from activists who don't understand, scared that one wrong move could end generations of family farming, scared that their livelihood lays in the hands of people that have never sat up all night tending to a calf, sick cow or in putting their entire future in the hands of Mother Nature. As Stephen Covey said, "Strength lies in differences, not in similarities." It doesn't matter if you come from a hobby farm, organic farm, small or large farm; we are in this together. It will take all of us working together to address the issues facing farming.

Nationally and locally, Farm Bureau is working for you while you are busy working the fields, tending to your herds, or

Plan to attend the ...

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and YFA Conference
December 1-4
Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells**



spending those precious moments with your family. We represent all aspects of agriculture with our mission being to "Lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations, leadership development and providing services and benefits to members."

I think J.K. Rowling said it best, "We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided."

I encourage you to tell your story, take a stance not for big or little, conventional or organic, GMOs or non-GMOs but for agriculture and together we can make a difference.

From my family to yours, thank you. Thank you for being a member, for supporting agriculture and being a part of the one percent who feed the other 99 percent. May this coming year be filled with bountiful harvests for you and yours.



Portage County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, John Eron	715.498.5222
Vice President, Mark Zajackowski	715.457.2860
Secretary/Treasurer, James Isherwood	715.344.9654
Promotion and Education Chair, Melissa Eron	715.498.7013
Director, John Herman	715.630.7317
Director, John Kosmalski	715.677.3857
Director, Leroy Miller	715.677.3435
Director, Mark Schaffner	715.370.2904
Director, Nathan Wolosek	715.421.5342
Portage County Farm Bureau	888.385.5945
WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke	715.573.7208
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Lauren McCann	715.539.2892
WFBF YFA Chair, Beth and Matt Schaefer	920.728.4948
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

Members: Share Your Story on Social Media

Are you passionate about sharing your agriculture story with the public? Wisconsin Farm Bureau is looking for members to share their story on social media. Some ways you can get involved are:

Ask A Farmer Friday: Film a short video answering a common question about food or farming to be shared on Facebook.

Instagram or Snapchat Takeover: Give WFBF followers a glimpse into a typical day on your farm or at work.

Guest Blog: If you are passionate about writing and telling stories, share your family, farm or cooking experiences on the WFBF blog.

If you are interested in getting involved, or want to learn more, contact Sarah Marketon at 608.828.5711 or smarketon@wfbf.com.

Virtual Commodity Tour: If you are on Facebook, you can join the secret Facebook group 'WFBF Commodity Tours.' Each month, a virtual farm or agri-business hosts a virtual tour so Farm Bureau members can learn more about Wisconsin agriculture.

Lunch and Learn Webinar: On the first Wednesday of each month, Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosts a webinar starting at noon.

You can RSVP by watching social media channels for the link to register or contact smarketon@wfbf.com or wkannel@wfbf.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture in Portage County contributes \$386 million to the county's total income.