

# Price County Farm Bureau

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David Meihak - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### State Assembly Votes to Keep Farm Machinery Legally on the Road

Farm groups are applauding the Wisconsin State Assembly for passing a bill that allows farmers to legally operate their farm machinery on roadways this year.

By an 82-11 vote the State Assembly approved Senate Bill 509, authored by State Senator Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) and State Representative Keith Ripp (R-Lodi), on Friday, March 21.

SB 509 was introduced to update Wisconsin's antiquated laws concerning farm machinery. It clarifies the definition of what qualifies as an implement of husbandry (IOH). It creates a new definition for agricultural commercial motor vehicles. It establishes size parameters and lighting requirements for farm machinery operated on roadways. It increases weight limits by 15 percent for IOH. It increases axle weight limits from 20,000 to 23,000, and total gross vehicle weight from 80,000 to 92,000 pounds.

The Assembly has amended the bill, previously approved by the State Senate, to change weight requirements and a permitting process for towns and counties. For tillage, planting and harvesting equipment, state law will allow these IOH to be over 23,000 pounds per axle weight. It should be noted that towns and counties have the authority to adopt a resolution or



an ordinance to establish a local permitting process to issue no-fee permits for approved routes for tillage, planting and harvesting equipment.

The legislation is the result of discussions between legislators, the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and agricultural organizations. Farm groups in support of Senate Bill 509 are the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Pork Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.

"Passing IOH legislation remains the top priority of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau before the spring planting season begins next month," said Paul Zimmerman, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Executive Director of Governmental Relations. "Farmers need to be able to legally drive their farm equipment to their fields to plant this year's crops. The Farm Bureau is pleased that the Legislature is working diligently to accomplish this."

Since SB 509 was amended by the State Assembly, it heads back to the State Senate for final approval. For updates on the IOH legislation visit [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com).

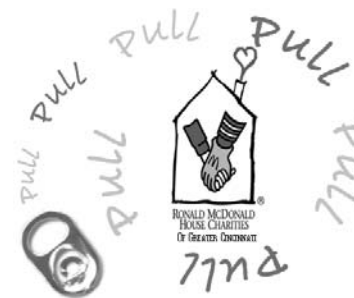
### District 8 Women's Program Serves Families at Local Ronald McDonald House

District 8 Women participated in a statewide event to promote healthy eating at the Marshfield Ronald McDonald house Friday, February 28. Ladies from Clark, Taylor and Wood counties made a meal for the families who use the house as their home when a child from their family is ill and needs to stay at the children's Hospital in Marshfield.



In February, Farm Bureau members Ashleigh Calaway, Deb Esselman and Susan Brugger prepared a meal for the families utilizing the Marshfield Ronald McDonald house.

**Don't Forget! County Farm Bureaus are still collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house. Please continue to collect those tabs!**





# COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Volunteers Make the Difference

Helping Hands from the Heartland Benefit raises \$13,000 for South Dakota Ranchers

District 8 Farm Bureau members banded together after October's winter storm Atlas affected hundreds of ranchers in rural South Dakota to raise money to help their friends in agriculture in a great time of need.

Nine Farm Bureau members representing District 8 county Farm Bureaus formed a steering committee to develop the Helping Hands from the Heartland benefit.



benefit others! The committee hosted the country/rock band Tuscan Road, who played an awesome concert during the event from 8 p.m. to midnight.

District 8 members raised \$13,000 which went directly to the South Dakota Farm Bureau CARES fund, for ranchers affected by devastating losses due to that early winter storm.



Together the committee worked for three months to develop, raise funds and implement the one-night event at Dale's Weston Lanes



on Saturday, February 22. Through the hard work of many Farm Bureau members, a steak supper was offered, with more than 40 raffle items, all to

The Helping Hands from the Heartland committee would like to thank all of the volunteers and donors who made this Farm Bureau event a success. It was truly a grassroots effort!



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## Upcoming YFA Event - Don't Miss Out

Do not miss your chance to have a blast with your friends at the Wisconsin Woodchucks- Marathon County Farm Bureau and PPA June Dairy month game on **Friday, June 20**. District 8 YFA has reserved the Ministry Health Care Fan Deck for our use during this ballgame.



The night kicks off at 7:05 p.m. with the first pitch thrown. The deck includes all-you-can-eat-and-drink brats, burgers and beer, a great view of the ballgame and fireworks to end the night!

This opportunity is limited to the first 25 people who RSVP and costs \$25.95 per person. Please RSVP to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710.



Want to receive the required reading for the Ag Community each week in your inbox?

Email [Isiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:Isiekmann@wfbf.com) to sign up for Ag Newswire TODAY!

## A Woman Rooted in Agriculture- Cheri Klussendorf



The Women's Program is featuring different women rooted in agriculture. This month meet Cheri Klussendorf from Taylor County. She is the office manager at Medford Co-op Feed and Grain Services and a grass-based dairy farmer. Her hobbies include traveling and reading.

### Tell us about your county Farm Bureau experiences:

I have been on the county Farm Bureau board for six years. I started as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair and have since been the vice president and now I'm in my third term as president. I have watched the dynamic leadership changes on the county FB board from the older to younger generation. We currently have seven Young Farmer and Agriculturist members on our board.

### What is your favorite Farm Bureau event or memory?

I personally love the WFBF Annual Meeting. I really enjoy watching the grassroots organization at its finest. I enjoy the policy development at the county level all the way to the state Annual Meeting.

### Tell us about leadership roles with other organizations:

I am a co-general leader of Little Whispers 4-H club, where I also serve as the county clover buds leader. I serve on our county dairy breakfast committee and I'm a youth soccer coach.

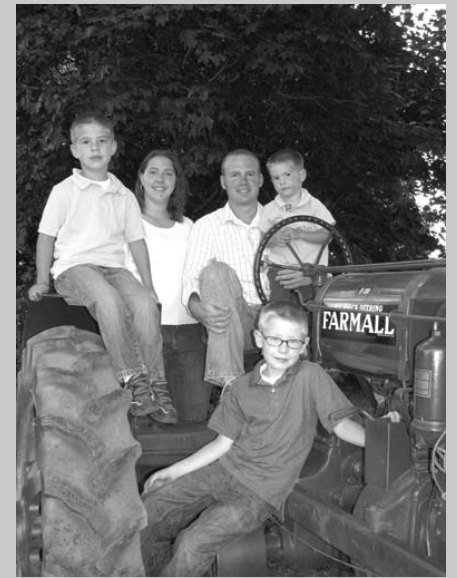
### How has Farm Bureau connected you with other women in agriculture?

Last year I attended the Ag Women's Summit for the first time. I loved the interaction with other women in agriculture. Most farm women have one thing in common for sure: farm men. We are usually the sounding board when there are problems on the farm. It's nice to know that we aren't the "only one" who deals with the stressful problems. I have had a lot of fun with the women in our county during our women's events. It is nice to have other sounding boards to talk to and to understand what we go through as farm wives. I really enjoyed the wine tasting that District 8 had this last year. After a little wine everyone starts talking and it was fun to see so many women let their "stress" go for a day!

### What bucket list item would you like to cross off this year?

I would love to take a vacation off the farm and be away from work for a while. When we won the Young Farmer Achievement award in 2011, we won a trip to Hawaii which was our first vacation away from the farm and our kids for more than

a day. We both loved the trip and the time off the farm that we made an agreement that we would take a trip away from the farm each year. One year with the kids and one year without, last year we were able to take our first real family vacation with our three sons to Disney World for eight days. This year I get to decide where we take our trip. I would like to go to Arizona for Brewers Spring Training. I don't really watch the Brewers a lot but my husband Ryan does, and with the winter we are having I would be happy anywhere warm!



## Winter Doesn't Stop YFA Members from Enjoying District Events

District 8 YFA members were busy this winter, attending various county events. Portage County hosted the first event on February 8 at the Eron's pond outside of Junction City. Quite a few of our YFA families took part in the daytime event and tried their hands at ice-fishing. While members ended up getting skunked, they still had a great time taking in the fresh air and enjoying the company.

Taylor County YFA hosted the next event; a day of tubing at Perkinstown Hill in western Taylor County. Member families enjoyed the tubing hill and had some hot cocoa in the chalet. Finally, the district held a bowling night on March 1 in Marathon County. Members enjoyed the conversation and camaraderie of the evening.

Look in your mailbox for the next YFA events, including a return of the Night at the Ball Diamond!



Taylor County YFA chair MJ Zenner and his wife Brittany stopped at the top of the hill to take this great picture!



Members of all ages had a great time during the Saturday afternoon ice fishing event held in February. Jeff Okonek and his daughter tried to catch the "big one".



A group of YFA members from across District 8 gathered for a fun afternoon at the Eron's pond outside of Junction City.



Taylor YFA members smiled before they took the big leap down the hill at Perkinstown.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

<b>Auto</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Supplies and Products</b>
• General Motors Discount	• ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card	• Case IH
<b>Communication</b>	• Stroke Detection Plus	• FS-GROWMARK Patronage
• AgriVisor (NEW)	<b>Insurance</b>	• Grainger
• The Country Today	• Rural Mutual Insurance Company	• Office Depot
<b>Financial</b>	• Farm Bureau Financial Services	<b>Travel</b>
• AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program	<b>Protection</b>	• AAA
• Farm Bureau Bank	• \$500 Reward Protection Program	• AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
	• Accidental Death Policy	• Choice Hotels International, Inc.
		• Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## Price County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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Family & Education Chair, Karen Kerner	715.550.6156
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Director, Kenneth Denzine	715.339.2092
Director, Dave Kivela	715.564.2415
Director, Gene Meier	715.564.2645
Director, Dave Welbes	715.564.2280
Price County Farm Bureau	877.583.5911
District 8 Coordinator, Lindsey Prah	866.355.7348
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.539.2892
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

## President's Message



In the last newsletter we mentioned we were looking at an old-fashioned winter. Well, as of March 20, we can confirm this winter broke many records. The amount of snow, the number of days below zero, the number of school closings, high fuel costs, the number of frozen pipes and number of people tired of winter. But cheer up, SPRING STARTED

MARCH 20. The spring equinox, on this day at noon, you cast no shadow. In our yard, a lot of melting took place!

The Ag in the Classroom field trip for the county fourth graders will be held at United Pride Dairy on Friday, May 16. This is a great experience for our students and teachers. Several teachers have expressed this is the best field trip for their students. We thank the folks at United Pride for this open door.

Saturday, June 21 is set for our annual Dairy Breakfast. We will have more details announced on the radio and in the papers.



Saturday, July 12 will be our annual Beef Cook-Out and Horse Pull held at the Ogema Pioneer Park. We thank those who have donated in the past and we are still looking for a donor for this year. We need about 80 pounds of beef that needs to be state inspected. The name of the donor will be printed on our posters.

April will be our month to increase our membership and we trust you will do your part. The Farm Bureau is the largest agriculture organization and certainly the strongest voice for agriculture in the nation.

By the time you receive this newsletter I trust the snow will be gone and we will be in the fields and looking for a great growing season (with plenty of moisture). We have a great Creator and a great creation he has given us to work with and enjoy!

**George Blomberg**  
Price County Farm Bureau President

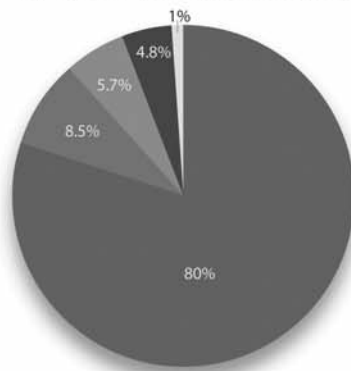
# Farm Bill 2014



## Summary

- This five-year bill provides certainty to Wisconsin farmers and consumers
- Significant dairy reform
- Funding for research and specialty crop research
- Strengthens livestock disaster programs
- Strengthens crop insurance
- Eliminates direct payments
- Creates payment limits
- Tightens eligibility rules for Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)
- Consolidation or repeal of nearly 100 programs
- 23 duplicative conservation programs consolidated into 13

## What's included in the farm bill?



\$488.6 billion will be spent over 5 years.

- Food Stamps/Nutrition (SNAP), \$390.7 billion
- Crop Insurance, \$41.4 billion
- Conservation, \$28.2 billion
- Commodity Programs, \$23.5 billion
- Other 8 Program Titles, \$4.8 billion

## Dairy

- National monthly feed costs will be calculated based on the monthly market-reported prices for corn, soybean meal and alfalfa hay.
- Dairy production margin calculation is based on a consecutive two-month period. The two-month average feed cost will be subtracted from the two-month all-milk price.
- An administrative fee of \$100 will be charged to all participating dairies.
- Production history will be the highest base from 2011, 2012 or 2013. Annual adjustment will occur based on any increase in national milk production.
- Margin protection payments are based on a consecutive two-month period. Dairies shall determine their margin coverage level annually. Coverage levels are \$4 to \$8 in \$0.50 increments. Percentage of coverage ranges from 25% to 90% in 5% increments of the production history.
- Payments will be issued when, for a consecutive two-month period, the average actual dairy margin is less than the coverage level selected by the dairy.
- The first four million pounds will be calculated at a separate coverage level from any production exceeding four million pounds. The premium for the first four million pounds of milk will be reduced by 25% for 2014 and 2015.

- Must be established by September 1, 2014
- Voluntary program
- Margin Protection Program included
- No supply management

## Crop Insurance

- Price Loss Coverage (PLC) provides a payment to the grower when the market price is below a fixed reference price for covered crops.
- Agricultural Risk Protection (ARC) payments will be provided when either a farm's revenue from all crops or the county's revenue for a crop is below 86% of a predetermined benchmark level of revenue.
- Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) is an option to purchase area coverage with an underlying individual policy or plan of insurance.