



Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

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Rural Mutual Agents in Taylor & Price County:

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David Meihak - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL
 March 11, 2015
 Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Schedule of Events:	Early Registration Deadline: March 5
11:00 a.m. Registration	Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
11:30 a.m. Opening Program	\$30 after deadline and at the door.
11:45 a.m. Lunch	
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing	
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits	

Presented by: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

The Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK Inc. are major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau include a variety of other dairy, beef, pork, horse, corn, soybean, cranberry, potato and vegetable groups.

Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit March 13-14

Women from the Wisconsin agriculture community are encouraged to attend the annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is presented by Badgerland Financial, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and University of Wisconsin-Extension. The purpose of the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit is to connect women involved in all areas of Wisconsin's diverse agriculture community.

Go to wfbf.com/programmevents/womens-program/wisconsin-ag-womens-summit for the full schedule of events.

Register online by going to wiagwomenssummit.wordpress.com/register.





COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

2014 YFA Conference Wrap Up

On December 5 more than 475 YFA members from across the state attended the YFA Conference. This annual conference held each year in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting was another huge success.

YFA members were able to take part in breakout sessions covering everything from agri-terriosim to social media. YFA members also were able to compete in state wide contests such as Excellence in Agriculture, Achievement Award and the Discussion Meet.



95th WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights

On December 6-8 Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to take part in the 95th Annual Meeting.

Members were able to take part in breakout sessions including Farm Succession Planning and how to incorporate technology into their farms. Members also were able to enjoy comedic relief from Wisconsin native Roger Radley.

On Sunday more than a 1,000 members gathered to listen to motivational speaker Chad Hymas tell his story of perseverance even through life's roughest moments. In 2001, at the age of 27, Chad's life changed in an instant when a 2,000-pound bale of hay fell on him and shattered his neck leaving him a quadriplegic.

For more information about Chad's story, visit www.chadhymas.com/.



Price County members at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Taylor County members at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

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Price County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, George Blomberg	715.767.5579
Vice President, Lance Meier	715.564.2230
Secretary-Treasurer, Sally Denzine	715.339.2092
YFA Chair, Dan Berg	715.657.0112
Family-Education Chair, Karen Kerner	715.550.6156
Director, David Ames	715.767.5388
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, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.539.2892
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220



5 for Farming's Future

Five dollars
cannot buy
much anymore.

That is, unless we're talking about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation; then \$5 can make a huge impact.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation provides the funding for the Ag in the Classroom program, collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at three Wisconsin universities, Farm Bureau's leadership Institute, as well as the Women's and Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs.

Keeping these programs financially viable is critical to growing future farm leaders and educating consumers about agriculture. To help fund the Foundation, in 2015 you will notice a \$5 voluntary contribution line-item for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation on your Farm Bureau dues renewal statement or Rural Mutual Insurance bill. We hope you'll view this as an investment in farming's future and choose to make a contribution.

Why is this necessary?

Aside from contributions from generous supporters, the Foundation has traditionally relied on two annual fundraisers: the Wisconsin Ag Open golf outing and a silent auction at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. Programs like Ag in the Classroom and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program were moved under the Foundation's umbrella a few years ago. While this has provided a tremendous cost savings to our bottom line, it also means that additional funds are needed to keep these programs sustainable.

We in the agricultural community have always seen the importance of growing our future.

Moving forward, we want young students to know that farmers grow their food. We want college students from all backgrounds to see agriculture's opportunities. We need to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders and help Farm Bureau members find their voice. The Foundation and this \$5 contribution is our vehicle to make these things happen.

In closing, we are asking you to:

GIVE to a way of life you love.

ENRICH the education of young people through agricultural education.

PLEDGE to get young people started in agriculture.

COMMIT to tomorrow's leaders.

INVEST in the future of farming.

Price County President's Message

The new year is off to a great start for Farm Bureau members in Price County! Nicole Harmon received her \$500 scholarship after successfully completing her first semester at North-central Technical College. Good job Nicole!

On January 10, Farm Bureau members, friends and family members of Dean Kurth gathered at Ogema Elementary to help raise funds for a great family. All money raised from the benefit went directly to help cover medical expenses. It is estimated that more than 400 people attended to support the Kurth family. None of this would have been possible without the amazing group of volunteers that donated their time and talent to this great benefit.

The 2015 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest is in full swing. All of the educational materials and instructions for this year's essay contest were delivered to the schools across the county.

Last year we had nearly 100 students participate and we were

pleased to have the state winner from our county; she competed with 2,500 students. We will give \$20 to each school winner and a Kindle Reader to our county winner.

We also have delivered the scholarship information to the three school districts in the county. The winner of the Price County Farm Bureau Scholarship will receive a \$500 scholarship. If your child is graduating this spring and pursuing a degree in an agriculture field, please have them get an application from their school.

Already sick of winter? Don't worry. Planning for Price County June Dairy Breakfast, July beef cook-out and horse pull and our peach and blueberry sale are underway.

If you are interested in helping with any of these events, please contact me. We are always looking for volunteers.

George Blomberg
Price County President

Winter Strategies to Enhance Teat Health and Milk Quality

By Heather Schlessler, Marathon County UW-Extension Dairy Agent

With the temperatures dropping below zero many farmers are concerned with teat end cracking and increased incidence of mastitis. Throughout the year we need to be applying germicide and moisturizers to the teat end to help promote health and prevent mastitis, but in the winter it becomes even more important. When choosing a winter dip to use there are several choices:

1. Normal lactating cow dips which contain 5-10 percent conditioners
2. Barrier dips require 20 minutes to dry and tend to be harder to get off at the end of the winter
3. Winter dips (For use in cold temps when there is a threat of the teats freezing or dehydrating quickly). There are two main types of winter dips:
 - Dry powder – hard to apply, can wick moisture on teat. Need to cover the teat completely to fully protect and moisturize the teat.
 - High emollient dips have more than 50 percent skin conditioner (like antifreeze). These dips minimize initial freezing risk post milking because they are slow to evaporate. However the teat is oily/ wet for 2-6 hours.
 - With both types of winter dips you need clean stalls because they can wick bacteria onto the teat and they cost 2-3 times more than normal lactating cow dips.
 - Keep in mind that winter dips are only more effective than normal lactating cow dips when temperatures are really cold.
4. Chlorine dioxide must be mixed daily and creates a drop on the teat end that keeps the teat end soft and hydrated. Chlorine dioxide is a very effective germicide but it is very costly.
5. Quit dipping – Not a very good option. The teats are still wet after milking and have no contagious mastitis control. Without skin conditioner the teats dehydrate quicker as well.
6. Salves – usually do more harm than good. Salves lead to a higher colonization with *Staph aureus*, coat or trap infection, provide for spreading of contagious mastitis. Salves also lead to greasy hands and equipment. The grease attracts dirt and debris. They are water based therefore



offering little or no protection. If you must use salves use ones with a proven germicide, use them sparingly applying to the teat end only.

Remember that teat cracking is due mostly to changes in temperature, if you can minimize temperature changes you can minimize cracking. Teat end cracking can occur very rapidly, usually within two to three days. Temperatures don't have to be below 0 to see teat end cracking.

Even the "best dips" have variable effectiveness depending on the situation or conditions in which they are used. Therefore it is important to take into consideration your circumstances when choosing a dip and making changes.

To help minimize cracking of teats:

- Windbreaks: if wind is less than 5 mph, -20°F can be tolerated
- Feed and house indoors where possible
- Avoid drafts/humidity
- Avoid direct wind chills post milking if possible
- Temperature changes are devastating
- Remember that even the best machine is an irritant/stressor to the cow – so want to maximize let down and avoid over milking

If cracking does occur:

- Minimize other stressors that exacerbate problem
- Keep teat disinfected/ healthy/soft
- Minimize secondary bacterial infections
- Do not use salves – can help breed bacteria

Keep in mind that *Staph aureus* love wounds. Having cracked teats amplified the chance of getting *Staph aureus* by 100 percent even if you do not have any cows with *Staph aureus*. Also remember that good teat health depends on excellent nutrition. Fluctuating temperatures lead to fluctuating intakes, so if you can minimize temperature changes you can minimize fluctuations in intake and teat end cracking.

Taylor County President's Message - "We Still Dream"

When I was little I can remember dreaming about who I would marry, how many kids I would have and what I would do for a living. I was lucky enough to meet the man of my dreams during college and get married. Ryan and have three wonderful sons, Kale (10), Owen (8) and Max (6).

We are two of the very few young farmers that are able to say that we have built our farm from the ground up. We started dairy farming one year after college, were married and then had our first child all within a year.

We have grown so much during the last 11 years, but we still dream. I dream about what our farm will look like in 10 years, if my children will go on to school, what their occupations will be and if I will ever be lucky enough to be a mother-in-law or have grandchildren. It seems to me that no matter what your age, you always have something to dream about.

I seem to dream about the big picture far in the future. Ryan's dreams revolve around the farm and what new piece of machinery he might need. Our sons on the other hand dream "BIG" all of the time.

I noticed the boys thinking about the future while we were driving. Anywhere we go, they watch the fields like a Sunday driver. I hear from the back seat, "Oh look at that tractor," or "They're tanking manure over there."

I could care less what random farmers are doing out in their fields. I have way too many things to think about then what day of the week the neighbor cut his hay; however, the boys notice everything and will inform Ryan when we get home. Weeks after they started, I noticed the loud, "I'd buy that tractor" or "I'd buy that disc." They actually fought over who was going to buy the equipment in the fields or right out of some farmer's yard to use on their farm when they grew up. It was comical listening to them debate who was going to be the owner of this brand new combine in the field, even though one of them just bought the combine a few miles back. It doesn't really matter if it is a Case, John Deere or

New Holland, as long as it runs and looks bright and shiny! Now you can only imagine on a nice day with all sorts of farmers in the field how a headache could happen in just a short drive to town. I encouraged the boys to not be so loud and as with most good things, it finally came to an end. Seriously, I have three sons, nothing comes to an end, it only gets more creative. Ryan has lots of things to do during the day on the farm while I am at work. So when the mail comes, he throws it on the table, eats lunch and goes back to work. Most farmers know that Thursday is farm paper day and the paper is on the table until chores are done at night then Ryan reads it while the rest of us are watching TV.

The most the boys have ever looked at the farm paper was when they have to pick it up on Saturday morning to throw it in the recycling; however, recently one of them noticed that there were implement ads in the farm paper. Now, it is a race to see who gets to the farm paper first, markers in hand and circles in every color of the rainbow with M, O or a K right next to it.

I was so happy that this was a quieter way to dream about their future farms; however, to a farmer who loves to dream about what his farm might need or who is looking for the next score on equipment this is a bad thing!

As a mother I am proud that my boys strive to have a bigger, better farm then we do.

Ryan and I have three tractors, two were gifted to us and the third was an auction score because it went cheap! We have two old, and I mean OLD, International tractors and a Hess-ton, the cheap one, but it has heat, which is a better than the others.

Someday maybe farmer Ryan will be able to swing, in Owen's words, a big eight-wheeled Case tractor, but in the meantime, he can watch the ads in the farm paper for the next great deal if he gets to them first!

Cheri Klussendorf, Taylor County President

Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Cheri Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Vice President, Mike Brugger	715.965.7763
Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Klussendorf	715.785.5092
Women's Chair, Susan Brugger	715.965.7763
YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner	715.965.7840
Director, Karyn Eckert	715.748.4816
Director, Jack Johnson	715.785.7777
Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, Timothy Wesle	715.678.2716
Director, Matthew Winnie	715.427.0227
Taylor County Farm Bureau	866.583.7597
WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke	715.573.7208
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

State-Wide Pop Tab Challenge

On December 11, Susan Brugger, District 8 Women's Committee Representative, had the privilege of delivering close to 250 pounds of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in Marshfield. This was just a third of what was collected during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

"I feel honored to serve on the state Women's Committee which spearheaded this statewide effort," Susan said. "To all of the members who helped us - THANK YOU! We will be doing this next year so - start saving!"



2015 Calendar of Events

February

- 9 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 13-16 AFBF Engagement Conference – Nashville (YFA and Women)
- 13 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit early registration forms due; for more information, visit wfbf.com/programsevents/womens-program/wisconsin-ag-womens-summit/
- 20-21 FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids

March

- 6 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit; final registration due
- 9 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 Ag Day at the Capital
- 12 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 13-14 Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant Applications due; Ag in the Classroom Essays due to county board of directors. For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org/
- 13 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 16 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 30 Early Bird Membership Bonanza comes to a close; interested in sharing what Farm Bureau has to offer, contact Cheri Klussendorf, Taylor County President or George Blomberg, Price County President

May

- 11 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 14 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 21 July Beef Promotion Material Orders due

June

- 8 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 11 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 15 Summer Ag in the Classroom (AITC) training and Bus Tour Registration deadline; to keep up to date on AITC programs, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WIAgintheClassroom

July

- 1 Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Achievement and Excellence in Agriculture Awards due
- 9 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 13 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting

August

- 9 Wisconsin Ag Open Golf Outing Registrations due; for more information, visit wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/wisconsin-ag-open/
- 10 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 13 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 15 Rural Mutual Sponsorship Forms due; are you between 18 -35 years old and interested in attending the YFA

Conference for the first time? Contact M.J. Zenner, Taylor County YFA chair or Daniel Berg, Price County YFA chair for a chance to be sponsored by RMIC

- 25-27 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Dane County
- 31 WFBF County Activities of Excellence Entries due
- 31 AFBF County Activities of Excellence Entries due to WFBF
- Top Women's and YFA Program forms due to WFBF

September

- 10 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 14 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- County Annual Meeting (Date and location TBA)

October

- 8 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 31 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Registration due to your District Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway

November

- 9 Price County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting
- 12 Taylor County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting

December

- 4-7 96th WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference