



# Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

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David Meihak (715) 544-6824

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



# The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL



Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, along with sponsors, host Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important to raise your voice on issues that affect the agriculture community; mark your calendars and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on **Wednesday, January 24**, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland and we want to tell our legislators how important agriculture is in Wisconsin and Wood County. Farmers are working to do more with less; we have new record production levels and yields per acre in our fields.

Registration begins at 11 a.m., opening program at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and legislative briefings. When speaking with

your legislators, share your personal stories and thank them for their support of agriculture.

Be proud to be a part of the agriculture industry and sign-up to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP by **January 18** to District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 (call or text) or [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com), please make sure to include your name and county in your message.



## WFBF Seeks Rural Route Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. In Rural Route, WFBF wants to highlight those sights.

Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to [lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com).



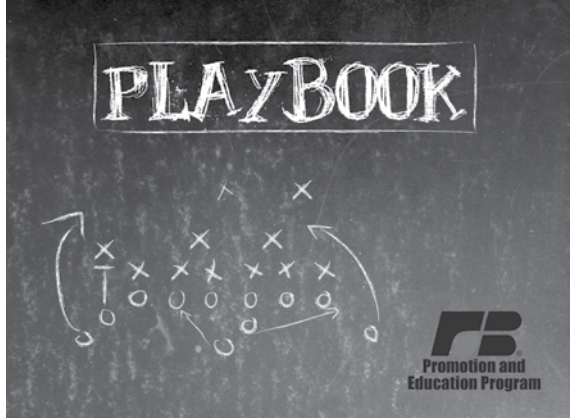
## Playbook Available Online

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee has been busy collecting plays that happen at the local level. They compiled the plays and put them together in a 'Playbook.'

The purpose of the 'Playbook' is to provide counties with ideas and resources for planning county activities and events. Throughout the 'Playbook,' you will find activities and events for all ages, timeframes and budgets.

Updates to the 'Playbook' will be made quarterly. If you have events that you want included in the next update, submit a play submission sheet.

To check out the 'Playbook,' visit [wfbf.com/programsevents/promotion-and-education/playbook](http://wfbf.com/programsevents/promotion-and-education/playbook).





# COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

The 98<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting was December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The WFBF Annual Meeting overlaps with the YFA Conference, giving members young and old a chance to network. Members are offered an opportunity to attend workshops, keynote speakers, awards banquets and the delegate session.

All farm bureau members had a great time visiting, reconnecting and networking with friends. Mark your calendars for the 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting **December 1-3**.

YFA Conference Attendees were able to hear from Michele Payn, President and owner of Cause Matters Corp. Michele has worked with farmers in 25 different countries and helped raise more than \$5 million in sponsorships for the National FFA Foundation. She

also founded the weekly online twitter conversations of AgChat and Food Chat.

Payn also is the author of two books, “No More Food Fights!” and Food Truths from Farm to Table.”

Both YFA and Annual Meeting Attendees listened to Chris Koch, who shared his motivational story of not letting limitations or obstacles stand in his way of living life to the fullest. To learn more about Chris’s story check him out on Facebook.

Members were also able to participate in a trivia contest, corn hole tournament, as well attend various breakout sessions.



Serving as the Price County Farm Bureau delegates at the 98<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting were: George (Hope) Blomberg.



Representing Taylor County Farm Bureau as delegates were: back row (from left) Rob Klussendorf, vice president; Ryan Klussendorf, president; Gary (Lisa) Kohn, director. Taylor County had four YFA members attend the YFA conference held on December 1-2. With Ryan Klussendorf representing Taylor County and District 8 in the Discussion Meet; Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf, MJ, Brittany and Mason Zenner.

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## Membership Dues Increasing October 1

Both Price and Taylor County Farm Bureau dues will be \$55 effective **October 1**. Anyone whose membership dues are due on that date will receive an invoice in mid-August reflecting the increase in dues. The additional \$5 will go to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, as they are increasing the dues at that time.

When you join Farm Bureau, you not only become a member of Price or Taylor County Farm Bureau, but also the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau.

Currently your cost to be a Farm Bureau member is \$50. That is broken down as follows:

Currently your cost to be a Farm Bureau member is \$50. That is broken down as follows:

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation = \$36.** This includes state activities, conducting programs and staffing. Consumer and youth education, issue advocacy, leadership development and member publications are services that are furnished with state dues.
- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program = \$3.** Price and Taylor counties are part of this program in which the district coordinator acts as the county secretary. There are three portions to the program that include administrative, financials and the newsletter.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation = \$4.** A portion of your dues are forwarded to support at the national level. These funds support agriculture’s voice in our nation’s capital as well as the many programs that AFBF has in place to educate consumers, share the message of agriculture and provide online resources to members.

- **Accidental Death Policy = \$1.** The accidental death insurance policy is a benefit of membership that covers you as a member, your spouse and eligible children. Coverage begins at \$500 and increases in value for the member and spouse with each consecutive year of membership up to \$3,500.
- **Price County and Taylor County Farm Bureaus = \$6.** This funds local events and activities including county meetings, scholarships, Ag in the Classroom and many more to promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in Price County and Taylor County. Anyone whose membership dues are due, will receive an invoice in mid-August reflecting this increase.

**Thank you for being a member of Price County or Taylor County Farm Bureaus.**



## Price County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Sally Denzine	715.339.2092
Vice President and YFA Chair, Dan Berg	715.657.0112
Secretary-Treasurer, George Blomberg	715.767.5579
Family & Education Chair, Karen Kerner	715.550.6156
Director, David Ames	715.767.5388
Director, Kenneth Denzine	715.564.2415
Director, Dave Kivela	715.339.2092
Director, Lance Meier	715.564.2230
Price County Farm Bureau	877.583.5911
WFBF Board Director, Donald 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

## Plan to Attend: IGNITE Conference

Join us for the 2018 IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on **April 5-6**. IGNITE: Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage is a statewide information, training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau members.

The purposes is the 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 will be offered 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 a great opportunity to network with other county leaders and get more involved. Mark your calendars now.



## Focus on Membership



The membership year is October 1-September 30, and each year the county has new goals to achieve to maintain current membership numbers.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation provides membership volunteers and county farm bureaus with incentives to achieve their goals.

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member they sign between October 1, 2017 and September 28, 2018.

Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

County Farm Bureau will receive \$1,000 cash award if the county Farm Bureau reaches its new voting goal by the March 30, 2018 month-end cut-off.

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year.

Members of the 2018 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse/guest will receive exclusive recognition at the December 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

## Carry Farm Bureau Down the Field

**First Down:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up at least one new member by **January 31** will receive Farm Bureau microwave popcorn.



**Two-point Conversion:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up two or more new members by **February 28** will have the opportunity to autograph their district's commemorative Farm Bureau Proud Football that will be displayed at county and statewide meetings and awarded by drawing one of those who signed it at the end of the membership year.

**Field Goal:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up three or more new members by **March 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Knit Cap.

**Touchdown:** Volunteer membership workers who sign up seven or more new members by **July 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Fleece to be presented at their county annual meeting.

For membership applications or further information contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com).

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Is Proud to Be Part of Local Communities and Youth Groups



President Ryan Klussendorf presented Bailey and Sam Krause with the 4-H Key Award



Taylor County Farm Bureau partnered with Renee Blair for this years Medford Area River Walk.

## 100 reasons to celebrate By Rob Klussendorf

We are approaching the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation! This year, Taylor County Farm celebrated 46 years.

As we amp up to celebrate 100 years of advocating for Wisconsin agriculture, we want to hear from you. We are actively trying to collect memories of what Farm Bureau means to you or your most memorable experiences with Farm Bureau.

I want to share one of my memories of how Farm Bureau affected me. When I first got involved with Farm Bureau, I lived in Waukesha County. Waukesha County Farm Bureau and UW Extension set up a meeting to bring area farmers together and talk about how property taxes were putting a strain on family farms.

It was from that meeting we were able to identify that the assessed value tax that was causing the strain.

Shortly after, Farm Bureau brought together 18 farmers from the area who were experiencing hardships due to the assessment on their land being so high.

That group hired a lawyer who helped them gain a reduced assessment that ultimately saved them thousands of dollars in property taxes. This is just one of my many Farm Bureau memories.

If you have a memory you want to share, please send them to me at [rfklussendorf@gmail.com](mailto:rfklussendorf@gmail.com).



## Sharing Your Agriculture Story By Rob Klussendorf

Have you ever felt like sharing why you farm? Giving consumers insight on what it takes to grow the food they eat?

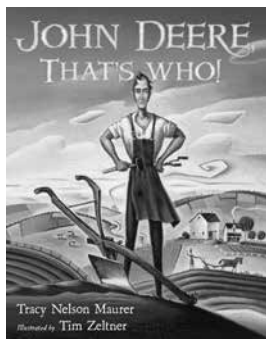
The Promotion and Education Committee is wants to put together one-minute videos that tell different stories of agriculture to share on Facebook.

Those of us involved in agriculture need to tell our story and because if we don't, someone else will.

If you are interested in being a part of this project or other agricultural promotional opportunities, please contact Rob Klussendorf at [rfklussendorf@gmail.com](mailto:rfklussendorf@gmail.com) or 715.560.2201.



## John Deere, That's Who



This year's ag in the classroom book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, provides students with inspiration for this year's ag in the classroom essay contest.

Read the book to find the answers to these questions (answers can be found in the last paragraph).

### America's breadbasket means:

- The different types of bread made in the Midwest.
- The types of containers a baker uses.
- The wheat that is grown to make bread.
- The area known as the prairie fields of grain.

### Forge means:

- A mountain.
- The workplace of a blacksmith.
- Fireplace.
- Where a blacksmith heats the metal.

Using the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," this year's essay topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students will write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity.

The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public schools, private schools and home school programs

Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.

The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length. The essays must be postmarked by **April 1**, and sent to:

### Taylor County essay contest coordinator:

Rob Klussendorf  
404 E. Conrad Drive  
Medford, WI 54451-2035

### Price County essay contest coordinator:

George Blomberg  
N2134 State Highway 13  
Ogema, WI 54459-8372

For more information, please visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

In the book "John Deere, That's Who!," the Deere family decided to move to Moline, Illinois, so the company was closer to the Mississippi River for better waterpower and easier deliveries. The 'prairie fields of grain' became known as America's breadbasket.

John was a young blacksmith originally from Vermont where his forge burned to the ground and he rebuilt it before moving to Illinois. A forge is the workplace of a blacksmith. It also means fireplace, or hearth, where the blacksmith heats the metal.

## Happy writing to the fourth and fifth grade students in Price and Taylor counties.

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ryan Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Vice President and Promotion and Education Chair, Rob Klussendorf	715.785.5092
Secretary-Treasurer and YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner	715.748.9280
Director, Jack Johnson, Jr.	715.785.7777
Director, Cheri Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, Dick Wesle	715.678.2407
Director, Matthew Winnie	715.427.0227
Director, John Zuleger	715.560.8397
Taylor County Farm Bureau	866.583.7597

## District 8 Membership Kick Off and Committee Training

**When:** Saturday, January 27

**Location:** Randall's Beers and Cheers, Abbottsford

**Time:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., lunch will be provided.

Come and learn the ins and outs of running a successfully committee by WFBF Director of Leadership and Training Wendy Kannel. This is open to all members.

We also will be hosting the District 8 membership kick off. Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege will discuss the importance of not only gaining but retaining members to ensure your county Farm Bureau stays healthy.

SAVE the DATE

## Save the Date: YFA Tubing Party at Perkingstown Hill

It's time to break out your winter gear and spend a day on the slopes with area Young Farmers and Agriculturists.

We hope to see you at Perkingstown Hill on **Sunday, February 4**.



## 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](mailto:smarketon@wfbf.com).