



# Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Donates Books to Area Libraries

The Taylor County Farm Bureau has again donated the Wisconsin Farm Bureau book of the year to area libraries.

This year's book is "Time for Cranberries" by Wisconsin author Lisl H. Detlefsen. Wisconsin is the nation's number one producing state for cranberries.

By donating these books, we allow children to learn about

the production of cranberries, without being on the farm.

Area libraries receiving books include: Medford Public Library, Stetsonville Elementary School, Medford Elementary School, Holy Rosary Catholic School, Immanuel Lutheran School, Rib Lake Elementary School and Gilman Elementary School.



**WANTED:**

**First Time Attendees**

Join us for the 2017 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference, December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

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Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for FREE! You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. BUT HURRY! This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application by August 15 at <http://bit.ly/YFARuralSponsorship>

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**REWARD**  
Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.





# COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Spring Time Scare By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator

Spring time in central Wisconsin is a time filled with a variety of emotions, sights and sounds. Most farmers are chomping at the bit to get into the fields while others are patiently waiting for their livestock to give birth. This spring was no different for us, well besides the excessive wet conditions and the loss of two ewes to a wolf.

Those of us that work with livestock know that it is not a matter of if an animal will pass, but when. Death on the farm is something that few ever talk about because of the emotional impact it has on the quiet, private, hardworking and dedicated people who care for the livestock every day. Unfortunately, death is something that we've had to deal with many times and it's never taken lightly. On that note, it's been a rough spring on the farm.

It started March 20, when we had a cow die due to birthing complications. On the bright side, we were able to save the calf. Shortly after, we had a cow calve while we were at work. She struggled giving birth and we unfortunately lost her, too. We were wondering, as most farmers are when death happens, what we could have done differently and how we could have saved them. Fast forward about five weeks. While we had some control in the prior instances, this time it wasn't anything that we could have prevented. That is the part we just can't get out of our minds.

My father-in-law and nieces worked hard to prepare the summer pasture for the sheep just as they do every spring. This yearly routine has become a tradition for them and one that they truly look forward to. The sheep are kept close to the house until they all have given birth and the babies are ready to be weaned. Usually the ewes are ready for pasture by the end of April. This year was no different even with all the rain.

My husband and father-in-law loaded the ewes into the trailer and hauled them to pasture for the summer. For the ewes, this is the best time of year as they get to frolic through waist high grass and enjoy the wonderful sunshine. They were on pasture for less than a week when tragedy hit. With a heavy heart, my father-in-law told us two ewes were killed by a wolf. The wolf came on to our land, jumped over the fence and took their lives without hesitation.

As a family, we went out to investigate further. The sight of the ewes laying there with their throats ripped out will stay with me forever along with the devastating look on the faces of my father-in-law and husband. Thankfully, from my involvement with Farm Bureau I knew there was a protocol that needed to be followed but, that didn't make the process any easier. I hope no one reading this will need it but in case you do, here is the information on how to report a wolf kill: <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/ER/ER0103.pdf>.

When something tragic happens I typically shut off all emotion until the situation is dealt with. That evening was no different ... that was until I heard my father-in-law explaining everything to the Department of Natural Resources on the phone. Hearing the sheer emotion in his voice on the phone was one thing, then knowing

he would have to tell his granddaughter (my niece), since one of the ewes was hers, was almost too much to bare. Just writing those words takes me back to that moment and I find myself struggling to keep the tears at bay ... more than a week later.

Everyone has their own views and opinions on wolves in Wisconsin. I have heard stories before about farmers dealing with wolves and the emotion that is hidden behind them. Last year, Taylor County Farm Bureau president Ryan Klussendorf testified at the Great Lakes Wolf Summit and shared his story about how wolves have impacted his family's quality of life (sleeping with the window open year round, only allowing their kids to play by the buildings and overall loss of sleep). A few weeks ago, Jack Johnson, another ? County Farm Bureau board member lost a calf to a wolf. These losses are not only financially devastating, but emotionally. We have felt that emotional impact on our family.

That night changed many procedures for us. The ewes are no longer on summer pasture but back up by the house. The cattle are still on winter grounds (close to our bedroom window so we can hear if anything strange is happening) and haven't been moved to pasture yet. There have been numerous conversations discussing how we will move forward. We consider ourselves lucky that it was only two ewes killed and not more. I'm thankful for the DNR warden who we worked with. He said he has been working for almost 30 years and has pretty much seen it all in that time. He appreciated my father-in-law's level headedness and even temperament even though his heart was broken over the loss of the animals.

My husband and in-laws keep their thoughts and emotions to themselves. I am more inclined to share mine. I have never been one to keep my mouth shut and to their dismay I am sure I never will be. In today's agriculture world, we can't afford to keep our mouths shut because when we do, that allows other people to make decisions and tell our story for us.

The emotional toll that wolf kills have on a farm family is rarely talked about and I am trying to change that. Imagine your family having to live on edge because you never know when a wolf might strike. That's now the reality for our family and many others in northern Wisconsin. These ewes are so much more than livestock and a paycheck, they are our hope for the next generation of farmers in our family, they are the glue that has held a family together, created lasting memories, and lots of laughter along the way. When we buried those ewes, I said a prayer and fought the tears from falling and that's a moment I will never forget.

If you have been through a similar situation you need to share it. Unless you speak up we can't do anything to prevent this from happening again. Reach out to your County Farm Bureau, get involved in their policy development committee, attend your county Farm Bureau annual meeting, but mostly contact your lawmakers and tell them how wolves are impacting your farm and family. They need to hear us loud and clear.

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RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

## Price County Farm Bureau Scholarship and Horse Pull-Beef Cookout Update

By George Blomberg

Price County Farm Bureau is honored to award six, \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors who are pursuing a career in a agriculture related field. This year's winners are:

**Wyatt Lebal**, Flambeau High School  
**Nicholas Wiitala**, Prentice High School  
**Josh Carlsen**, Phillips High School  
**Hannah Eibergen**, Phillips High School

One of the ways we fund the scholarships is to sponsor, along with Komarek Well Drilling Company, a beef cookout and a state sanctioned horse pull. Last year we had 18 teams participating and we served more than 300 people a great cookout meal.

Thanks to many area business people who also helped fund this event. This is our 14<sup>th</sup> year and this event is held at the Pioneer Park in Ogema.

Because the production agriculture programs along with the FFA chapters, have been removed from our three school districts, we are working to make agriculture information available. From dairy, meat production, forestry, gardening and other agriculture areas, these play a large part in our economy.

## Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set

Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about the industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoard's Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment. The tour will start early on Tuesday in Johnson Creek and will end Wednesday afternoon.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are welcome.



For the schedule and registration, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org) and click the teacher tab.

## 2017 Price County Ag in the Classroom Update By George Blomberg



Price County Farm Bureau is a proud sponsor of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest through the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. One of the efforts of the Price County Farm Bureau is to promote

agriculture in our county schools.

Each year, every fourth-grade class in Price County submits essays for the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. We are very proud to announce that this year was no exception.

Each year, the committee gathers to judge 100 or more essays. We offer \$20 to the school winners and a Kindle

Reader to the county winner. Teachers use the contest to study the topic and then to give the students a lesson on writing. Each year, we wrap up the contest with a field trip to United Pride Dairy. There the students and teachers can see the workings of a dairy farm. We wrap up the day with a dairy treat and award the prizes for the essay contest. Teachers and students tell us, this is the best field trip of the year.

This yearly tradition is one that we have come to love as much as the students and teachers. This unique field trip allows us to address the most common misconception that chocolate milk comes from brown cows.

To keep Price County Farm Bureau able to do our part, we always look for and are thankful for new members to make this possible. If you are interested in getting involved please contact one of your county directors.

## Attention Price County Dairy Farmers

To keep everyone up-to date on what is going on, the committee decided to send out a follow-up letter.

Late last month, a group of people gathered to discuss dairy promotion options in Price County. The group presented and discussed ways they can support the consumption and promotion of dairy products in Price County.

The committee decided that instead of hosting one event, the Price County June Dairy Breakfast, they will partner with events throughout the county. The committee did discuss that in the future they are still open to having a dairy breakfast providing someone is willing to chair event. The group will still be looking for help with events.

Community events the committee wants to partner with:

- Phillips
  - Triathlon
  - Fourth of July Parade
  - County Fair
- Catawaba
  - Lumberman's Day

- Ogema
  - Horse Pull
- Kennan
  - Fourth of July and Jump River Historical Society
- Price County food pantries



We also are hoping to partner with county 4-H groups to help them host their own dairy promotion efforts within their communities.

If you are interested in volunteering or have ideas, please contact either of the following county Farm Bureau board of directors and share what you want to see done with the funds.

**Sally Denzine**, Price County Farm Bureau president, past dairy breakfast chair; 715.339.2092, [sallydenzine@gmail.com](mailto:sallydenzine@gmail.com)

**George Blomberg**, Price County Farm Bureau secretary/treasurer; 715.767.5579, [homesteadacres@centurytel.net](mailto:homesteadacres@centurytel.net)

## Be a part of the 2018 Institute Class



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## Taylor County Promotion and Education Committee Update By Rob Klussendorf



The Taylor County Promotion and Education Committee is a strong advocate of agriculture.

The educational part of the committee has been hard at work delivering and donating the book

of the year "Time for Cranberries" to elementary schools in Taylor County. We also have worked to make sure there is a copy at the public libraries.

We have been working diligently to set up and host Farmer meet and greets with the fourth grade classes in Taylor County. These speaking engagements have offered us a great opportunity to educate the youth about dairy, beef and mink

farming. If you are interested in being a farmer in the classroom, please let me know.

The promotion part of the committee is partnering again with Taylor County Fair and the FFA with the agventure tent at the fair. With this past May kicking off Beef Month, we collaborated with the North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association to host our second year of serving a steak and egg breakfast and beef trivia on the radio.

We are actively looking for volunteers who will help set up a county-wide 'Ask a Farmer' event. This event is designed to open the line of communication with our consumer. If you are interested in a one-time helping with an event or joining the committee on planning an event, please contact Rob Klussendorf at [rklussendorf@gmail.com](mailto:rklussendorf@gmail.com) or 715.785.5092.

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ryan Klussendorf	715.965.7997
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Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, Matthew Winnie	715.427.0227
Director, John Zuleger	715.560.8397
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, Laurie Peterson	715.514.4477

## 2017 Annual Beef Round-Up, Stock Sale and Taylor County Farm Bureau Steak and Egg Breakfast

The Taylor County Board of directors would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate May beef month with them and the North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Associa-

tion. This year's breakfast was a success. We couldn't have asked for better weather.



Grill master and YFA chair MJ Zenner seasoned the steaks for the breakfast.



Griddle master Dick Wesle and county board vice president diligently fried dozens of eggs for the breakfast.



Cheri and Owen Klussendorf provided service with a smile at the county's second annual steak and egg breakfast in conjunction with the North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association.

## Ag in the Classroom Summer Training

Come and enjoy a day of learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels. Classroom teachers, home school parents, 4-H and extension staff and volunteers and others involved in agricultural literacy are welcome to participate. To register by **June 20**, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org). Cost is \$20 and includes lunch, refreshments and materials.



The tour includes visits to these locations: The **West Madison Agricultural Research Station** is a 535-acre diverse station with strong plant breeding and horticultural aspect as well as agronomic crops to feed the livestock on campus.

What gets studied at the **O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility** touches the lives, or rather the feet, of virtually everyone in the state. Wisconsin has an estimated 300,000 acres of turfgrass, covering yards, parks, roadsides, golf courses, athletic fields and sod farms. The O.J. Noer facility was developed by the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association in partnership with the UW Foundation and Agricultural Research Stations in the early 1990s, opening in 1992.

For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com) or 608.828.5644.

## 'Picture This' in Photos Needed

Do you have a great photo that you have taken around your farm or somewhere in the county? We want to see them!



Please email your best photos (high resolution jpgs) to [lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com).

Your photo could be featured in the next edition of the Milwaukee County Farm Bureau newsletter...or maybe even the *Rural Route!*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture provides jobs for 4,307 Taylor County residents; accounts for \$972 million in economic activity; and contributes \$288 million to the county's total income.