

Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124



For information about our farm safety campaign,
contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Taylor & Price County:

Laurie Peterson **Sam Scott**
(715) 748-6688 (715) 748-6464

David Meihak - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

“Take me out to the ball game, Take me out with the crowd!”

Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks ready! The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company are teaming up for a special Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Day at the ballparks of the eight Wisconsin Northwood's League teams.

“This will be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members to take part in a member event and enjoy America's favorite past time,” said Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Throughout the summer, May through August, there will be three Farm Bureau Member Appreciation games at each of the eight Wisconsin teams. This will be a special event for Farm Bureau members with deals on game tickets that will include a team hat, soda and a hot dog.

There also will be special recognition of Farm Bureau during the game as well as advertising in the program book and radio ads so come on out and support your local Northwood's League team!

In 1994, the Northwoods League with affiliates in Kenosha, Wausau and Manitowoc, Wisconsin; Dubuque, Iowa and Rochester, Minnesota was created. This League was made up of “All-Star” teams of college players who competed in a 56-game schedule between June and August. Each affiliate was to promote their games just like a professional team would.

Fans looked forward to giveaways, concessions, fireworks and exciting games. At the end of the first season, approximately 70,000 fans attended Northwoods League games and the Rochester Honkers

had claimed the first League title with a 31-15 overall record. Today the league has expanded to 18 member teams. Those 18 teams drew more than 1.1 million fans with the Northwoods League becoming the first summer-collegiate baseball league to host more than 1 million fans in a single season.

Northern teams include Alexandria Blue Anchors, Eau Claire Express, Rochester Honkers, Thunder Bay Border Cats, Willmar Stingers, Duluth Huskies, Mankato Moondogs, St. Cloud Rox and Waterloo Bucks.



Southern teams include the Battle Creek Bombers, Kalamazoo Growlers, Lakeshore Chinooks, Madison Mallards, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Green Bay Bullfrogs, Kenosha Kingfish, La Crosse Loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters.

The Northwoods League strives to provide the finest environment for the development of collegiate players; maximize the operational effectiveness of its affiliated teams; and enrich the quality of life in

its member communities.

“Nothing beats sitting in your favorite ballpark, watching your favorite team on a hot, sunny day, with a hot dog smothered with all the goods in one hand and an ice cold drink in the other,” said Todd Argall, vice president of customer acquisition and sales with Rural Mutual Insurance. “We are looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark.”

For more information, visit <http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership/>.

Ag in the Classroom Presents New Farm Facts Brochure

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2015 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure.

The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and is now interactive.

Using a free app called, Aurasma, users can make the brochure come to life with additional facts and videos related to Wisconsin agriculture.

To download the app, visit the app store on your tablet or smart phone and find Aurasma. Download the app and make sure to follow WIAITC.

Copies of the brochure are available by visiting wisagclassroom.org and using the resource order form.

Did you know that Wisconsin ranks second in . . .

SECOND	Milk 27.5 billion pounds	
	Milk Cows 1.27 million cows	
	Carrots for Processing 117,000 tons	
	Cucumbers for Pickles 38,000 tons	



COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Bureau Members Advocate for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol

2015 Ag Day at the Capitol was one for the record books!

Close to 500 farmers, agriculturists and Farm Bureau members attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 11 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state convening to learn more about issues in agriculture as well as meeting with their state representatives.

Attendees listened to Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, attorney with Dewitt Ross & Stevens who spoke to the group about high capacity wells and the UW System budget and Bob Welch, The Welch Group, Inc., who spoke about transportation.

In addition, the WFBF Government Relations team including Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed everyone about wolves, implements of husbandry and the proposed budget.

Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to the Capitol to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to our agriculture industry.

Whether or not you attended Ag Day at the Capitol, it is important for all of us to raise our voice on topics that are important to us. Please take time to become familiar with a topic that is affecting you and call your legislators. Inform them how important agriculture is in your county and share your views on topics and how they affect your farm.

Be heard and raise your voice for agriculture!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2** Price President's Message
Dial 811 Before Your Dig
Ag Women's Summit
Retirement in Your Future?
Price County Contacts
- 3** Taylor President's Message
Meet Rob Klussendorf
Taylor County Contacts



Taylor and Marathon County Farm Bureau members met with Senator Petrowski.



Taylor County members with Representative Edming.



Jack Johnson and Dick Wesle discussed critical issues with Representative Edming.



Ryan Klussendorf and Representative Edming discuss agricultural issues.

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

Price County President's Message: Spring is Here!

Spring is here! It looks like we are done with the below zero mornings. My hope is by the time you receive this newsletter, you have seen the first robin.

Looking ahead to spring field work we want to remind everyone to take an extra dose of safety medicine each day. It is easy to get wrapped up in what needs to be done and not be as careful as we should be. I recommend putting a family snapshot in your tractor to remind you of the very important things in life.

Are you aware that Rural Mutual Insurance has new farm safety materials? If not be sure to check them out at www.ruralins.com/farmsafety.

The Price County Farm Bureau summer events are taking shape and we are looking forward to a good summer.

We will again be at United Pride Dairy for the annual fourth grade field trip. This is a great experience to our fourth grade students across the county.

Our 30th annual dairy breakfast will be held at the fairgrounds on Saturday, June 6. We welcome any and all ideas that you have to make this the best breakfast yet! We are also always looking for volunteers for this event.

Mark your calendars for our second summer event. The annual beef-bison cook-out and horse-pull is set for July 11.

George Blomberg
Price County President

Make Sure You Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Want to avoid spending a day in the dark? Or being without heat or air conditioning in your home? What about not being able to connect to the Internet, email or social media?

Preventing these issues may be as simple as calling 811.

Digging can damage the underground utilities that we all rely on every day. By calling 811 a few days prior to your digging project, whether it is a large or small, you can avoid these digging related damages and keep yourself and your family safe.

Your call to 811 will be routed to the local One Call center and the center's customer service representative will take down information about your project such as where you are planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing.

Then One Call center staff will notify the local utility operators to mark their facilities.

Within a few days a local representative will mark the approximate location of



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

the underground lines, pipes and cables so that you can dig safely. The call and the service are FREE!

Farmers are not exempt in making notifications to the One Call center. Projects may include installing drain tile, building terraces, chisel plowing, sub-soiling, deep ripping, building waterways, drilling wells, building holding ponds and installing fence posts.

In fact, some states have laws that require notifying the One Call center whenever the project goes deeper than a specified number of inches. Be sure you know the state law requirements. When digging, make sure to always

carefully hand dig around the marks or flags. Some utility lines may be buried at a shallow depth and even a misplaced shovel can have costly consequences.

For those bigger projects around large pipelines, make sure you have a pipeline representative present while you dig.

Don't forget that erosion, land movement, root structure growth or other factors may affect the amount of dirt surrounding the underground utility. Safe digging is no accident.

Protect yourself, your family and community and make sure to spread the word about 811.



Fifth Annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

For the last five years, hundreds of women from across the state have gathered for a day and half long retreat in the Madison area.

This year was no exception! This annual event is a like a mini vacation for a lot of the farm and agribusiness women that attend from across the state.

It is hard to believe that in this 27-hour conference women were able to attend breakout sessions covering everything from farm succession, home office organization, how to dress for any occasion, along with how to turn trash into treasure and so much more.

During the evening festivities the women were able to enjoy the sights and sounds of Piano Fondue on Friday evening.



Karyn Eckert, Lisa Kohn and Susan Brugger attended the summit.

Is Retirement in Your Future?

Do you have questions about the future of your farm and the estate you leave behind?

Please join us for a Farm Succession and Estate Planning seminar on **Tuesday, April 14 at 11 a.m.** at the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

The two presenters are Rick Bollenbeck, an attorney who specializes in estate planning and Jared Nelson, our senior regional financial consultant from Farm Bureau Life Insurance.

Attendees will discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face.

The presentations will explore how to be fair to children in passing the business to heirs, while also providing a fair inheritance to non-active children, how to surmount common estate-tax traps; making sure attendees and their spouses are prepared for retirement and the potential need for long-term care; and how to assemble and work with a team of professional advisors.

A complementary lunch will follow the seminar.

Please save the date and join us!

Date: **Tuesday, April 14**
Place: **Community Center, Taylor County Fairgrounds**
Time: **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

About our presenters:

Rick Bollenbeck is a graduate of the UW-Madison, the Seattle University School of Law and Boston University. Rick practices in estate planning, criminal law and litigation. He is an attorney with the firm of Bollenbeck Fyfe, S.C. in Appleton.

Jared Nelson is a graduate of Carroll College. He has 16 years of experience in the financial services industry and focuses on helping farms transition assets from one generation to the next. He grew up on a dairy farm in Melrose and now lives in Mt. Horeb with his wife and three daughters.

Please RSVP to Sam Scott at 715.748.6464, sscott@ruralins.com.

SAVE the DATE

Taylor County President's Message: Are You Interview Ready?

We are constantly told to "tell our story." The customers want to know the story about where their food come from.

Now they don't need to know when the calf was born, what it ate or how much milk it produced, they are looking for the story about the farm and really they are looking for the story about YOU.

When you get the chance to tell your story you need to make sure that you are selling yourself to the person. It's almost like a job interview, but instead of getting a job you get a person who trusts you and will purchase a product that you recommend.

Ryan and I have had chances to tell our story during the past few months. It started with a trip to Disney World.

I had some T-shirts made with a tractor pulling a wagon with Mickey Mouse head in the wagon. The kids' shirts said "Farm Kid," Ryan's said "Farmer," and mine since I was the girl had a Minnie Mouse head and said "Farmers Wife."

Believe me when I say that this was a conversation starter. No matter where we went people would say, "Those are the cutest shirts, where did you get them?" Or "Are you really a farmer?"

We had cast members that told us that we should be at the front of the line because we feed them every day. Mickey and Minnie applauded while we were getting a photo.

We also were blessed to find farm help so that we could attend Ag Day at the Capitol. It is a great opportunity to inform our legislators about how bills affect our opportunity to farm in a safe and sustainable way.

I talked about how wolves being put back on the endangered species list affected our farm. I explained the stress that not only involved the wolves but the public and law enforcement



when our cattle were out.

It took a confirmed wolf kill on our farm to make people listen. Ryan and I explained that we wouldn't want other farmers to go through the many sleepless nights and stress that a pack of wolves caused us, our neighbors and community.

It is those stories that stay with our legislators when they vote for a bill that could affect our lives. If no one shares their experiences they have no emotional attachment to the bill and their vote could go either way. So again I encourage you to call, email or visit with your assembly person and senator to make sure that they know where you stand on the issues of Wisconsin or national agriculture.

Most recently, Ryan and I presented a guest lecture at UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course for beginning dairy and livestock farmers.

We attend every year about the third week of March, traveling six hours to present our story to a class of students who really want to learn the ups and downs of farming.

Meet Taylor County Farm Bureau Board Member Rob Klussendorf



Rob Klussendorf is a county Farm Bureau directors that counties across the state dream of having! He has been involved in Farm Bureau for more than 47 years.

Rob and his wife Chris have a daughter Erica (Roy) Spatz, a son Ryan (Cheri) Klussendorf and five grandchildren.

Rob started as a dairy farmer in Waukesha County where he milked 185 cows and farmed 640 acres with his parents. In 1997, the farm was sold to developers and Rob worked as a landscaper. This kept his hands dirty working with the land.

During the last two years, Rob has been working for area farmers in the Medford area and helping Ryan and Cheri on their farm outside of Medford.

Like many members, Rob became a Farm Bureau member because of the insurance and it took a few years before Rob became an active member. He believed that by being a partner on the farm was the best use of his time.

Rob saw the value in Farm Bureau along with Wisconsin Agribusiness Council and Dairy Council of Wisconsin. He believed that by paying his dues that he was doing his part to make sure

his voice was heard. One day he received a call from a young farmer who said he was attending a district young farmer meeting. At the meeting, Rob met Don Armitage who was the district field staff for WFBF. Don's presentation was about what Farm Bureau is and how farmers need to tell their story.

Rob was asked by the Wisconsin Agribusiness Council if they would host Ag Day. State Senator Bob Kasten who was running for the 9th congressional seat was a special guest.

Rob recalls talking to TV reporters and it was obvious that they did not know about farming. Rob's father-in-law was giving coworkers a tour when one asked, "How much chocolate milk does that cow produce?" They were looking at a six-month-old Red and White Holstein calf.

Rob realized that he needed to tell his story. He started going to local grade schools to talk with students about farming from this the Waukesha County Farm Bureau introduced "Farmers in the Classroom." Farmers were available to talk to fourth graders. In 1991, the county won the AFBF Ideal Award for Farmers in the Classroom.

Rob believes that some of the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member are the following.

- As farmers and agriculturist you need to get away from the day to day work.
- The networking and friends that are made through Farm

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

We explain how we started farming, what mistakes we made and how we overcame our challenges. We encourage them to start a business plan, to have goals in their personal and business life, start thinking about retirement and to make sure they have a disaster plan.

We are humbled to be asked every year. If we were able to help one student to become a farmer, it was worth it in our mind.

I want to encourage you to go into your next story-telling opportunity like a job interview.

First be dressed to impress, no one likes a farmer covered in manure; sell yourself, be confident, truthful and help the person to trust the American farmer.

During the next few months, I hope to see you all. Maybe you will see me in my proud to farm shirt or my work clothes, but be sure to know that I am ag proud no matter what I wear and that I'm ready for the interview.

Bureau are life changing.

- Farm Bureau is looking out for members at the Capitol but they need help, too!

Rob is involved in many organizations and activities. He served on Farm Bureau committees including the Education and Legislative Committee and chaired the county dairy promotion committee and Wisconsin Agribusiness Council education committee.

He also served on the Wisconsin Legislative Study Committee of Preservation of Farm Land, Mukwonago School Board, a village trustee and as a member of the planning committee for North Prairie.

When asked why he believes that it's important to be involved Rob said, "Looking back I was lucky that I was surrounded by people who were involved in the community. It took a push at first but during the years it became a way of life. I believe that you shouldn't complain about it if you are not willing to speak up or do something about it."

While a member of Farm Bureau, Rob was researching the history of Waukesha County Farm Bureau and found that his grandfather's signature was the first signature on the county charter in 1919. Many believe that Waukesha County was the first county in state so this would make our family the first in state.

"I believe that Farm Bureau is in my blood," said Rob.