

# Racine County Farm Bureau

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Linda Schopen- District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Congratulations Producer Club Members!

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Producer Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2014 Producer Club will enjoy an exclusive gathering for members and a spouse or guest at the 2014 WFBF Annual Meeting this December. Producer Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.



A special thank you and congratulations goes to Keith Jacobson and John Scott. Keith Jacobson, Racine County Farm Bureau president, signed seven new members between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. John Scott, Racine County Farm Bureau membership chair, signed nine new members. Thank you for helping grow Racine County Farm Bureau!



John Scott



Keith Jacobson

### Women's Committee Highlights

Our year's activities included:

- Hosting the District 1 Fall Workshop at Rivermoor Golf Club. A demonstration on creating floral arrangements was given.
- Presentation on Heifer, International by Mary Alice Rubach at a breakfast meeting.
- An afternoon spent preparing lunches at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Attending the District 1 Spring meeting at the Civil War Museum, Kenosha.
- June evening meeting at the historic Yorkville 4-H Clover Center; Julie Moyer, hostess and historian.
- Cream Puff eating contests for children (Thursday) and adults (Sunday morning) at the county fair.



All this was possible due to our County Fair Cream Puff Stand profits. THANK YOU, co-chairs Ginny Streuder, Jacquie Streuder and Carol Thelen, and just as importantly, our Farm Bureau women, men and families who kept the stand running during the five-day Fair!

Your president attended a district fall planning meeting in Pewaukee and a multi-district leadership session in Madison. Current officers are Darlene Ehrhart, Secretary and Jacquie Streuder, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

**Marge Demuth**  
Women's Committee Chair

### Racine County Fair Recap

Our Cream Puff Stand at the Racine County Fair had another successful year. The weather cooperated for us most of the time. Our faithful group of workers, both the experienced and the newcomers, all said they had a good time and many told us they are planning on helping us next year! Many thanks.

Our profits from the stand go back into the community. We donate to five local food pantries, sponsor scholarships and essay contests, support the Ronald McDonald House and other community-minded events.

Another highlight from this year's Cream Puff Stand was the cream puff eating contests. With more than 50 entries for the 10 and younger group, it was a big hit. New this year was the 11 and older group. They too had a great time and are looking forward to next year's contest hoping to be the winner.





# COUNTYnews

RACINE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Meet Your New Board Members



**Scott Davel** lives with his wife Kayla and son Carter in Burlington, with a new baby expected in February 2015. Scott was raised in Waukesha showing calves for a local dairy farm. Scott is a 2009 graduate of UW-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science. He paid his way through college working for dairy farmers, student housing and Steve's Pizza Palace. Scott now works for Landmark Services Cooperative as a nutritionist, primarily focusing on dairy farms in southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois.



**Jim Hanson** is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation on Hanson Homestead Farms in Norway Township. He grows 300 acres of corn and soybeans. Jim's wife, Sue, teaches in the Waterford Grade School District. They attend Norway Lutheran Church. Sue is in the bell choir and Jim is on the cemetery board.

## Racine County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Congratulations on another successful Farm Bureau year! The Racine County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 9 at the American Legion Hall in Union Grove, with 90 people in attendance. Everyone enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by the American Legion Post 171.

The winning essay from the Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest was read by Lucas Johnson and scholarship winners were announced.



Lucas Johnson, Essay Contest Winner

ing there will be a raffle for a quilt or a gun.

The new Racine County Agricultural Ambassador, Melanie Uhlenhake, was crowned and read the report of outgoing Agricultural Ambassador Hannah Waldron.



Melanie Uhlenhake, Racine County Agricultural Ambassador

Voting members at the Racine County annual meeting voted on one local policy, the Farm Bureau board of directors and the delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Changes to the board of directors include Jim Hanson as a director and Scott Davel as the new YFA Chair. If you see either of them welcome them to the board. In addition, Elaine Beguhl has retired from the board. Thank you to Elaine for all your time and dedication to the Racine County Farm Bureau board of directors.

The delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting will be Marge Demuth, Keith Jacobson, Julian Popp and John Scott.

Another portion of the evening was to thank all the people who worked in the County Fair Cream Puff stand. The money raised goes towards scholarships and community events.

Thank you all for another successful year, we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Steve Freese, Guest Speaker

Guest speaker, WFBF CAO Steve Freese, spoke about 2015-2020 WFBF Strategic Plan. He also talked about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and the \$5 voluntary contribution that will appear on the member dues to support the Foundation; this will begin in spring 2015. In addition, Steve Freese mentioned

there will be a trivia contest at the WFBF Annual Meeting on Sunday evening. On Saturday evening at the WFBF Annual Meet-

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## President's Message



Hello fellow Farm Bureau members,

Farm Bureau has once again done an outstanding job of representing us farmers during the passing of legislation. I feel this year the passing of IOH (implements of husbandry) could be as important

in the future as use value assessment is. It's good to have laws in place that are very workable, laws that we as farmers had a lot of input in writing, laws that will make our roadways safer for both us as farmers and all motor vehicles. They should also help keep road conditions better over time with weight restrictions. Though far from perfect, these laws should be ones we can all realistically live with. Many non-farmers were

not happy with the damage oversized farm machinery was doing to small town roads, especially when our fuels are road tax exempt. We hope to have some informational meetings this winter to review the details of the IOH law.

Another important issue to follow is the proposed grab of power by the EPA of our waterways under the Clean Water Act. It would greatly expand EPA's authority of land rights on our private lands, giving our already bloated government even more power. AFBF president Bob Stallman has addressed this numerous times and Farm Bureau at all levels is monitoring legislatures. We do not need any more rules and regulations telling us what we can do with our privately-owned land.

Looking at what Farm Bureau members get in return for the cost of a membership, it's hard to see any other investment that gives back more "bang for the buck." It's literally an

investment in your future to have an active voice in proposed legislation. Your involvement is very important, especially when we are battling groups such as PETA and HSUS. They are very well funded and if we don't inform the public of the truth, who will?

I want to wish everyone a safe and successful harvest season. Our crops have gotten some very welcome late summer and early autumn warm weather, so I hope maturity will not be a problem. Even though the Brewer season was a fun ride with a disappointing ending, hopefully our crops, after a challenging growing season, will be a pleasant surprise with a happy ending. Ah, the joys of farming!

**Keith Jacobson**  
Racine County Farm Bureau President

## Farmers Appreciation Dinner!

**You are cordially invited to attend a Farmers Appreciation Dinner!**

*Bertha Mae Wilson, better known as Gramma, grew up on a dairy farm in Texas. Because she did, I grew up hearing stories of ornery horses that would chase rowdy children into the house and up the stairs. Memories of buckets of oats dumped on a sibling's head and a five-year-old girl driving the car 'round and 'round the barn with echoes of "Bert! When I catch you, yer gonna get it!" lit up my childhood with imagination. Even now as a grown woman, I picture those events as if I read them in a colorful children's illustrated book.*

There's something about a farm. From a city-girl's outsider perspective, everything goes right and all is well in a home that is surrounded by land on all sides. I'm sure that's not always accurate, but that's how I imagine it.

In reality, from what I hear, long dry spells, too much rain, rain at the wrong time and unexpected cold spells, heat waves, wind and hail keep you watching the sky. Hard work doesn't stop knocking no matter what the heavens answer. No wonder prayer never really goes out of style. We know that you have some unique stories to tell. We'd love to hear them.

I don't know much about farming, but I know this much - meat isn't raised in small Styrofoam packages wrapped in plastic, and popcorn doesn't come from the movies! Someone sacrifices to make that a part of our comfortable lives. We are thankful. That is why Shepherds Ministries is hosting the first annual Farmers Appreciation Dinner (the first of many).

You should know, we don't just take a bunch of pictures, teach new songs to a choir, bring in musicians, put up decorations, make a bunch of calls, cook a ton of delicious food and buy gifts for just anyone. But we'll do it for Farmers! So bring your spouse or a family member or two, and come enjoy an evening in your honor. We promise you'll be glad you came.

**When:** Friday, January 30

**Where:** Shepherds Ministries, 1805 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Union Grove

**Why:** To be appreciated and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship!

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. until you get tired of being appreciated

**Who we are:** Shepherds Ministries is a not-for-profit organization situated on 92.5 acres of land (57 acres of which is still being farmed). We are a college, a residence and a vocational center all designed to promote appropriate independence for adults with intellectual disabilities. We believe strongly in the value of community.

**How to reserve your spot:** Call, email, write or stop on by. Amy DeBurgh, Director of Volunteers and Guest Services  
262.878.5620 (ext 2304) ~ adeburgh@shepherdsministries.org  
1805 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Union Grove, WI 53182



## Policy Development Approved at Annual Meeting

Racine County Farm Bureau voting members were presented the following policies at the county annual meeting. This policy was voted on and passed at the local level.

1. We support local officials contact landowners that use Slow Moving Vehicles as a reflector on posts or mailboxes instead of a moving vehicle. We support increased education for law enforcement agents, as well as the general public, in regard to slow moving vehicles and the standard Slow Moving Vehicle signs that are required by law. We support stronger enforcement of this law.

### 2014 Farm Bureau Policy



**2014  
Annual  
Meeting  
December 5-8**

**INNOVATE**

**EDUCATE**

**MOTIVATE**

**Kalahari Resort and  
Conference Center,  
Wisconsin Dells**

95<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting  
80<sup>th</sup> Rural Mutual Insurance Company Annual Meeting  
Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference



Please contact Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com) or 262.689.1838 if you are interested in attending the 2014 WFBF Annual Meeting, registrations due October 31.

## There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

- Auto** .....
- General Motors Discount
- Health** .....
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
  - Stroke Detection Plus
- Supplies and Products** .....
- Case IH
  - FS-GROWMARK Patronage
  - Grainger
  - Polaris (NEW)
  - Office Depot

- Communication** .....
- AgriVisor
  - The Country Today
- Insurance** .....
- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
  - Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Travel** .....
- AAA
  - AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
  - Choice Hotels International, Inc.
  - Wyndham Hotel Group

- Financial** .....
- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
  - Farm Bureau Bank
- Protection** .....
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
  - Accidental Death Policy

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

## June Dairy Day Held in Rochester

The Racine County Farm Bureau Women's Committee participated in the June Dairy Days promotion held at the Rochester Library in Rochester, Wisconsin.



The sunny day was beautiful and the turnout of young people was excellent. It is held in conjunction with the Dairy Promotion and 4-H. The event

included many animals for the kids to see and touch, even two large horses. There was also a booth for face painting, hay bale throwing and games. Of course, one of the big attractions was the free ice cream. Information on agriculture and a pencil was given to each attendee.

## Women's Summit Grants

The Women's Committee announced at the county annual meeting that they will **PAY IN FULL** the registration fee for the first 10 Racine County Farm Bureau women attending the March 13-14 Summit in Madison.



The registration fee (meals included) is \$140; however, there is a savings of \$25 for early registration (by February 13). Early registrations would allow us to pay the fee for more than 10 women, and still stay within our budget.

Please email Marge Demuth [6marged@gmail.com](mailto:6marged@gmail.com) or call her at 262.878.2530 to be placed on the list.

\*\*\*\*\*

**This funding is made possible due to your volunteer help at the Racine County Fair Cream Puff Stand.**

## Racine County Agricultural Ambassador

Our new ambassador is Melanie Uhlenhake, 17, from Burlington. Her parents are Ken and Judy Uhlenhake. Melanie is a senior at Burlington High School. She is president of her 4-H club the Burlington Back 40, an FFA member, on the Burlington Demons Trap Team, Feminist club, Forensics Team and All Saints Youth Group.

Melanie works at the Tractor Supply Co. and multiple farms. She is involved with beef and swine project at the fair.

Melanie says, "I love being around animals as well as teaching those who haven't been able to experience agricultural in the same way I have had the opportunity to throughout my life."

## Do YOU Follow a Farmer?

### Blogs to follow:

- **Carrie Mess;** [dairycarrie.com](http://dairycarrie.com)
- **Ryan Goodman;** [agricultureproud.com](http://agricultureproud.com)
- **CommonGround;** [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com)
- **Wanda Patsche;** [mnfarmliving.com](http://mnfarmliving.com)
- **Katie Olthoff;** [onthebanksofsquawcreek.com](http://onthebanksofsquawcreek.com)
- **Brian and Kelly;** [daddytractor.com](http://daddytractor.com)
- **Emily Webel;** [webelfamilyfarm.blogspot.com](http://webelfamilyfarm.blogspot.com)



### List of ag blogs:

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau blog;** [wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs](http://wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs)
- **American Farm Bureau Blogs;** [fblog.fb.org](http://fblog.fb.org)
- **via Janice Person-** [janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmlblogs](http://janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmlblogs)
- **via Michele Payn-Knoper-** [causmatters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/](http://causmatters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/)

### Follow on Facebook:

- **Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC;** [facebook.com/pages/Rosy-Lane-Holsteins-LLC/109173589103106](http://facebook.com/pages/Rosy-Lane-Holsteins-LLC/109173589103106)
- **Rob-n-Cin Farms;** [facebook.com/RobNCinFarms](http://facebook.com/RobNCinFarms)
- **Heartwood Farm;** [facebook.com/HeartwoodFarm.info](http://facebook.com/HeartwoodFarm.info)
- **Protect the Harvest;** [facebook.com/ProtectTheHarvest](http://facebook.com/ProtectTheHarvest)
- **I Am Ag Proud;** [facebook.com/AgricultureProud](http://facebook.com/AgricultureProud)
- **Keeping it Real: Through the Lens of a Farm Girl;** [facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl](http://facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl)
- **Humane Watch;** [facebook.com/HumaneWatch](http://facebook.com/HumaneWatch)
- **Douglas Behnke Farms;** [facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950](http://facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950)
- **Grenawalt Farms Red Angus;** [facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?fref=ts](http://facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?fref=ts)
- **Smith Farms;** [www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef](http://www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef)

## Racine County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Keith Jacobson 414.852.1744  
 Vice President, Brian Schaal 262.492.9909  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Jim Hanson 262.534.7331  
 Women's Chair, Marge Demuth 262.939.7006  
 YFA Chair, Scott Davel 608.445.0810

Director, Steve Henningfield 262.661.9991  
 Director, Jeff Rice 262.210.4973  
 Director, Jeff Schmeckel 262.210.2302  
 Director, John Scott 262.994.4324  
 Director, Jacquie Strueder 414.469.5645

Racine County Farm Bureau 877.432.9489  
 District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden 866.355.7341  
 WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels 262.878.5035  
 RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen 262.522.8620



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## Meet Your Board



Back (L-R) Jim Hanson, John Scott, Jeff Rice, Scott Davel, Steve Henningfield

Front (L-R) Marge Demuth, Keith Jacobson, Brian Schaal  
 Not Pictured: Jeff Schmeckel

## Ag Education Grant Offered

A \$300 Ag Education programming grant has been offered to Racine County libraries by the Racine County Women's Committee. The libraries are located in Burlington, Rochester, Waterford, Union Grove and Racine.

The grants create a win-win situation as it is increasingly difficult to present our agricultural programs in schools due to current curriculum and testing issues. Public library programming is taking a hit due to decreased funding.

Libraries may use the grant money for children, youth, and/or adult programs. They may present a separate program, or incorporate the topic into sessions for groups already meeting at the libraries. In addition to our printed material and internet resources, we have suggested that local farmers, ag-related businessmen and FFA groups are good resources.

The libraries are asked to submit a brief evaluation/suggestion form in order to be considered for a grant next year.

The grant funding is a way that we can both promote our ag education mission and also return our Cream Puff Stand profits to the community.