



Richland County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Collegiate Corner



 **UW-Platteville
Farm Bureau**
Collegiate Chapter



The UW-Platteville chapter has had a busy and exciting fall semester. The students participated in the annual UW-Platteville homecoming parade, enjoyed an outing to Vesperman Farms and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet. The officer team did an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau at the collegiate level. There are many more activities and events planned for the spring semester.



**Summit
2017**

Save the Date!
March 10-11, 2017
Madison Marriott West, Middleton


WISCONSIN
**Ag Women's
SUMMIT**

 #WAWS17
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COUNTYnews

RICHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Richland County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap



The Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on October 12 at the White House Country Kitchen in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.



Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions.

Richland County voting members passed two resolutions, including the following:

State

1. The Wisconsin DNR has acquired a considerable amount of land and is continuing to acquire additional property much of which is designated for wildlife habitat. We feel that DNR management should be required to do a study that assures that there is adequate food source on state owned land and not expect the adjoining farmland to be adversely impacted. The present system of hunting tags and compensation is woefully inadequate.

2. We support the current fence law that has served our state for the

development of the agriculture industry. It is a fair system and for those neighbors who both agree an exemption already exists to suspend the fence construction. Good fences make for good neighbors.

These were forwarded to the Policy Development Committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Richland County Farm Bureau annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.

District 3 Farm Bureau in Action



The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was on August 23 in Lancaster. There were six contestants including: front row (L-R) Amber Berning, Lafayette County; Kayla Anderson, Iowa County; and Becky Hasburgh, Iowa County; back row (L-R) Josh Bailie, Grant County; Dan Frank, Grant County; and Andrew DaSanto, Grant County. Josh, Becky and Andrew will compete in the Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.



In June, 35 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members traveled to Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In. The trip puts farmers and agriculturists in the room with congressional representatives. Derek Orth of Grant County, Becky Hasburgh of Iowa County and Alex Bringe of Vernon County represented District 3. The group met with representatives and did some lobbying at the Capitol, visited many of the historical sites and met individuals from around the state who are actively involved in agriculture.



Each year, Richland County joins Crawford and Vernon counties for the District 3 Northern Tri-County Meeting. During the meeting, members listen to WFBF staff and are briefed on legislative issues impacting the agricultural industry.



In July, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted District 3 YFA members for an evening of fun on the farm. Members and their families enjoyed a picnic dinner, hayride, outdoor games and a tour of Majestic View Dairy.

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President's Message



Another year is almost in the history book and it has been an interesting one, and one of unexpected change.

From the crops and weather (early on it was a bit dicey and a little worrisome, but as the saying goes all's well that ends well), to one of the largest fields of Presidential candidates in recent years, on to a flood shortened Richland County Fair and a surprise in the Presidential election.

Regarding the elections, this is the first time in many years that we had all three branches in the state and federal govern-

ment in the same party. So much for divided governance! We have been complaining that little has been accomplished in recent years so now we have the chance to see change; however, this puts a big burden on all of us in agriculture to make sure our voices are heard.

The fact that so little of the campaign rhetoric was about agriculture gives us the opportunity to put forth ideas that will enhance the importance of what we do and remove some of the most burdensome unneeded regulation. Please get involved. This is our chance.

Now for a look at what has happened during this year at Richland County Farm Bureau. We were involved in Ag Day at the Capitol, Ag in the Classroom, Richland County

Dairy Breakfast, Richland Center High School Rodeo Finals, Wisconsin Agricultural Outlook Forum, Richland County Fair and Auction and the District 3 Tri-County Meeting and Richland County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

We're excited to welcome Rufus Haucke to the Richland County Farm Bureau board of directors. We know he is a great addition and will bring new ideas and experiences.

We are always looking for interested members to get involved and fill vacancies on the board. If you are interested, please contact me. Happy holidays!

Dick Hauser
Richland County Farm Bureau President

District Director Update



Another season is coming to a close, the crop season as well as the election season. The county annual meetings signal the hectic fall harvest is around the corner and the race to get everything harvested before the weather challenges us more than usual.

This also is the time of the year when we begin to reflect and evaluate the past year's successes

and where we could stand a little improvement. Did we pick the right seed varieties and fertilizer recommendations? Did our conservation plan meet expectations given the record rainfall events many of us endured? Your Farm Bureau reflects and evaluates the past year successes and challenges, too.

Farm Bureau membership continues to grow despite the changing farm landscape. More than ever, farmers realize the importance of their membership in a professional organization. Our challenge will always be to understand we are a general-purpose organization with diverse interests and viewpoints.

Last December, Farm Bureau delegates voted to create the Promotion and Education Committee to further our outreach and communication to those whose lives are directly, as well as indirectly, affected by agriculture. Our challenge – while everyone eats, there seems to be a growing number of people who think there is only one way of thinking about our food supply.

Organic versus conventional, big versus small, GMO versus non-GMO are conversations we have had, but we need to understand it serves no purpose. We are blessed to live in a world where we have choices and respect other's choices.

There will be a plethora of issues awaiting the new President and Congress and the state legislature in the new year. Issues that continue to need attention include: waters of the U.S., trade, immigration, transportation infrastructure, broadband infrastructure and more.

Your Farm Bureau will be presenting our positions of interest.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director



Buster the Bull Calf is One of a Kind

By Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County Farm Bureau Member



When I was no older than three or four years old, I can remember the first time that my brother brought a red and white spotted calf up to the farmhouse. The excitement sparkled in my eyes as my love for cattle took off that very day.

About 20 years later, our local veterinarian ended up diagnosing one of our Angus cows with cancer. We were fortunate, however, to save the bull calf that she had carried full term. From day one, we were the first living beings that the calf saw and we took on the role of raising him.

My nephews and niece who wanted to help with feeding a new pet, decided to name the calf Buster. For those of you who have been in the industry for a while, know that beef bottle calves are pretty tame, but not to the point where they think they are one of us. Well, Buster does.

Buster started following us like a puppy dog, bouncing around whenever we came outside to play with him or to do chores. I took him out of his pen to be the highlight of my Farm Bureau and Christmas card photo shoots.

When put with other cattle, Buster didn't bond well and preferred to be by us when given the chance. I thought to myself, "This is the calmest calf I have ever see on our farm.

How would anyone look at this calf and not fall in love with him?"

With the Grant County Fair coming up, I decided to ask if it would be possible to give rides on Buster to kids. After many weeks of my question going unanswered, I got the exciting news in August that Buster could go to the fair. My goal was to not only educate fair goers about the beef industry, but to also spark the interest of youth in livestock and agriculture, just as my brother had done for me many years ago.

Although I was slightly nervous about putting a saddle on a 600-pound calf and leading him around, he ended up being a hit at the Grant County Farm Bureau Ag Tent. There were children gathering around before we were set-up at the booth. Many photos were taken and smiles were shared. Many said, "I've never even ridden a horse before, let alone calf."

I hope that the memories that the kids made with Buster will be something that they remember for years to come. He was definitely a special gift to our farm and next year, we hope he will return to the Grant County Fair. Be sure to keep your calendars marked to come and visit.

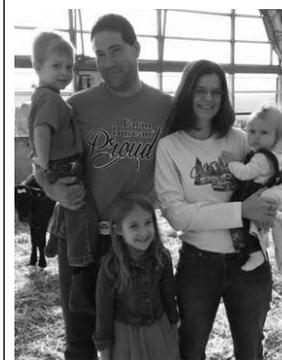


District 3 Members Named Finalists



Alex Bringe is a member of Vernon County Farm Bureau. Alex is a beef and grain farmer from Viroqua. He earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-Platteville. Alex continued his education at Western Technical College in its farm business management program.

His interest in agriculture and politics led him to Farm Bureau. He is the Vernon County YFA chair and serves as pork chop fundraiser coordinator. He attended the YFA leadership trip to Washington, D.C., and the WFBF Annual Meeting as a county delegate. He is a graduate of the WFBF Institute.



Chad and Katrina Gleason are fourth generation farmers, north of Shullsburg in Lafayette County. They have three children Cassidy, Gage and Kinsey. The Gleasons specialize in dairy beef, and raise bottle fed calves to finished steers. The family raises about 400 calves per year from local dairy farmers. The family grows and harvests their own feed on 80 acres of owned and 60 acres of rented land.

Chad is a former director for the Lafayette County Farm Bureau. He enjoys farm-related activities and spending time with others who share a passion for agriculture. Katrina home schools their children and manages the books for the farm. She enjoys cooking, working with the family's horses and spending time with family and friends.

Haucke Named Outstanding Young Farmer



Richland County Farm Bureau's newest board member Rufus Haucke was named the 2016 Richland County Outstanding Young Farmer.

Rufus owns Keewaydin Farms near Viola. He is a graduate of Kickapoo High School and is well known for the vegetables he is growing and marketing through CSAs, restaurants and markets.

He grows 10 to 15 acres of vegetables on the farm that he grew up on.

Congratulations to Rufus and best of luck competing at the state level.



Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

Join us for Ag Day at the Capitol on **March 8, 2017**, which is open to all Farm Bureau members at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Schedule of events:

11 a.m. - Registration
11:30 a.m. - Opening program
11:45 a.m. - Lunch
12:45 p.m. - Legislative briefings
3 p.m. - Leave for the Capitol visits

Early registration deadline is **March 1, 2017**, \$25 per person; \$30 after deadline and at the door. Don't miss the opportunity to speak with your local legislators about issues affecting you and your farm.



Richland County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Hauser	608.585.4808
Vice President, Rufus Haucke	608.627.1701
Secretary, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367
Treasurer, Byron Hillberry	608.537.2352
Women's Chair, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367

Richland County Farm Bureau	888.830.2576
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	866.355.7343
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder	608.987.3424
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

District YFA Update



So long, farewell. Definitely a bittersweet moment as we write our last newsletter article. Maybe we will have more free time or time to spend with the family. But, sadly, as we wrap up our tenure as the District 3 Young

Farmer and Agriculturist representatives and YFA Chair, we are thinking about the opportunities that we had and the many things we are going to miss. County annual meetings, 5th Tuesday Potlucks and Discussion Meets are a few things that we enjoyed.

We watched the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau grow and flourish as its own organization within the ag community. We've helped members apply for awards and fill out applications for the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Awards.

During our role, we attended conferences and conventions throughout the U.S., which was truly an amazing experience when it was below zero at home and we walked on green grass in Florida. We have always felt welcomed in every District 3 county and appreciated meeting everyone and learning about each county's traditions.

Our district is in good hands as we pass the baton to Tammy Wiedenbeck. She has new goals, dreams and ideas to share. We will miss you and can't wait to see you again.

Derek and Charisse Orth
District 3 YFA Representatives

2017 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Richland County Farm Bureau has money available to sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 17-18, 2017**, at Hotel Meed in Wisconsin Rapids.

The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore topics and learn outside their comfort zone.

If you or an FFA student you know want to attend, please contact president Dick Hauser by **January 5, 2017**.



District Promotion and Education Update

By **Nicole Adrian**, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



In August, the Promotions and Education Committee officially kicked off the 'Playbook.' The 'Playbook' is a resource found at wbf.com that is full of helpful information for members when planning county and district events, programs and activities.

Program areas featured in the 'Playbook' include: Ag in the Classroom, consumer outreach, education and ag promotion, fundraising, member development and policy and development implementation.

If you want to add a play, you can download the form from the website and submit it to Deb Raemisch. The next update will be on **December 15**. Please contact me with questions regarding the 'Playbook.'

The 2015-2016 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is *Time for Cranberries* by Wisconsin author Lisl Detlefsen. To go with

the theme of the book, the essay topic is 'Tell us about cranberry production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons.' The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home schools, including 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau families and other organizations. Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. More information regarding the contest can be found by visiting the Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit will be held in Madison on **March 10-11, 2017**. Workshops and activities are planned for both days. For more information, visit www.wiagwomensummit.com.

Thank you for your help and support during my six years on the Women's Committee and Promotion and Education Committee. I enjoyed visiting each county during annual meetings and the fall workshops. I look forward to seeing you at the WFBF Annual Meeting on **December 3-5** in Wisconsin Dells.

Wiedenbeck and Roth Appointed to WFBF Committees

Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County was appointed to the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee and Katie Roth of Lafayette County was appointed to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee by the Board of Directors. Their terms start at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 2-5 in Wisconsin Dells. Tammy and Katie will represent District 3 on each of the committees.



Tammy Wiedenbeck is a field representative for Equity Livestock Sales Cooperative. She assists farmers in southwest Wisconsin and northeast Iowa with livestock marketing. Tammy owns 20 shorthorn and angus beef cows. She is a member of the Grant County Farm Bureau, secretary of the Grant County Cattleman's Association, board member

of the Lancaster FFA Alumni and lifetime member of UW-Platteville alumni.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from across the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and

involved in Farm Bureau. They carry out a variety of statewide initiatives, such as conferences, contests and award programs.



Katie Roth grew up in Darlington on her family's 330-cow dairy farm. Married in early 2016, Katie works on her husband's farm Banner Ridge Farms, LLC, as the herds person in addition to serving as a program technician for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Grant County. Katie served a variety of roles in her county Farm Bureau including Young Farmer

and Agriculturist chair, secretary and Ag in the Classroom co-Chair. She graduated from Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and the American Farm Bureau Women's Communications Boot Camp.

The Promotion and Education Committee, which replaced the Women's Committee in 2015, is a group of nine leaders who represent the nine Farm Bureau districts. Committee members develop, implement and promote projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.