



Rusk | Sawyer County Farm Bureaus

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Laurie Peterson - District Manager
(715) 514-4477

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Enjoy the 'Dairy Days of Summer' at the Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast

When: Saturday, June 24, from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

Where: Sawyer County Fairgrounds in Hayward
On Highway B, two miles east of Highway 27 in Hayward

Cost: \$6 for adults; \$4 ages 4-12
Younger than 3 years old, free

Come and enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes, with the option of blueberries or chocolate chips; sausage; cheese; ice cream; strawberries and whipped cream; milk; cranberry juice or coffee. You are guaranteed to not leave hungry.

There will be something for the whole family including live entertainment, farm animals, kids' activities and farm equipment.



This event is co-sponsored by Sawyer County Farm Bureau with funds supplied by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. A portion of the proceeds from the event go to support the Sawyer County 4-H.

For more information or if you want to volunteer, please contact Sherrie Mataczynski at 715.563.2886. Thank you to the dairy farmers of Wisconsin and our many area business sponsors.

**Keep up with this event on Facebook:
Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast.**



Come to the 2017 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared and served up by our wonderful volunteers.

Plan to Attend the Policy Development Meeting

When: Thursday, August 3

Where: 11:30 a.m. - Tee Away Golf Course, 1401 E. 11th Street N., Ladysmith

or

7:30 p.m. - Stout Ale House Banquet Center, 1501 N. Broadway Street, #1500, Menomonie

Your Voice Matters

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm

families and individuals who support agriculture. That means that we need to hear what is important to you. Please plan to attend one of these important meetings and let your voice be heard. The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet will precede the policy Development meeting at the Stout Ale House starting at 6:30 p.m.

For directions, questions or to RSVP, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.

Be Safe Out There

Summer is almost here, migrating birds came back to nesting sites, flowers are blooming and farmers are in the fields.

Thoughts of the smell of fresh cut hay are dancing through their minds as they look forward to the long days spent in the tractor doing the work they love.

There are some concerns as well. Will the crops get in the ground on time? Will there be enough rain at the right time to get the yields from the crops needed to feed the livestock and pay the bills? Another major concern farmers have is getting to and from the fields with their equipment. Farmers understand the dangers they present as they move large

equipment on public roads traveling at a fraction of the speed of the rest of traffic.

Unfortunately, there are near misses and some accidents do occur. Farmers do their best to make sure they have warning lights and slow moving vehicle signs to alert other drivers of their presence but they urge the other drivers to practice caution and pay attention to what is around them.

Farmers want to get home safely to their families just as much as everyone else and they want you to be safe to. Just think, following a tractor at 15 miles per hour for five miles takes less time than waiting for the average train in town. Please be patient, be cautious and be safe.



COUNTYnews

RUSK | SAWYER COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Farm Bureau Members Advocate for Agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol

Members of Rusk and Sawyer County Farm Bureaus, along with nearly 400 other farmers and members from various farm groups throughout Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 8.

Attendees started at the Monona Terrace Convention Center where they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. He stated, "Farming isn't just a business, it's a way of life."

Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, attorney with Dewitt Ross and Stevens, who spoke to the group on groundwater legislation; Bill McCoshen, Capitol Consultants, who spoke on transportation funding; and Bob Welsch, The Welch Group, Inc., who spoke on potential changes to the agrichemical management fund and the agricultural chemical cleanup program.

In addition, WFBF Governmental Relations staff Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed the group about hot topics in agriculture including proposed budget items, rural broadband and new farmer student loan assistance program.

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

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest lobby day for Wisconsin agriculture. Each year, farmers and agriculturists representing all facets of the state's diverse agriculture landscape come to Madison to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., were major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation included the Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.



Attendees to Ag Day at the Capitol had the opportunity to visit with their legislators to discuss current Ag policies and issues affecting agriculture in Wisconsin.



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Calling all Young Farmer and Agriculturist Members!

Join us for a FREE CONCERT FEATURING BLACKHAWK!

When: Saturday, June 10; gates open at 5 p.m.

Where: Cinder City Days, Cinder City Park, 1904 Spooner Avenue, Altoona.

Who: District 9 YFA members receive FREE general admission tickets to the Blackhawk concert. Each additional ticket is \$11.

Details: Join District 9 YFA members for fun, great company and of course Blackhawk. We will meet at the gates at 4:30 p.m. to distribute tickets.

This event is FREE to the first 25 YFA members who RSVP by **June 5** to District 9 YFA Chair Julie Wadzinski at 715.432.8740 (call or text) or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 (call or text).

District 9 YFA Discussion Meet Set

Date: Thursday, August 3, 6:30 p.m., light hors d'oeuvres will be served. The YFA Discussion Meet will be followed by dinner and the District 9 Policy Development Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Stout Ale House Banquet Center, 1501 N. Broadway Street, #1500, Menomonie

Question to be discussed: Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

For more information, please contact Julie Wadzinski at 715.432.8740 or julie.wadzinski@gmail.com.

Rusk County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Terry DuSell 715.828.1617
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Betsy DuSell 715.415.0124
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Director, Bruce Nelson 715.532.3819
Director, Aaron Nicholson 715.314.0414

WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski 715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair
Kay Gilbertson 715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 715.505.7676
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 715.514.4477



Like us on Facebook: Rusk County Farm Bureau and Sawyer County Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Agriculturist Program.

Rusk County Farm Bureau at Annual Farm Show



Betsy DuSell helped at the Rusk County Farm Bureau booth and talked about Farm Bureau.

Rusk County Farm Bureau participated in the 35th annual Rusk County Farm, Home, Garden and Sports show on March 18 at the Ladysmith High School.

Farm Bureau members talked about opportunities in Farm Bureau and promoted Wisconsin's dairy industry by passing out cheese and milk samples.



Rusk County Farm Bureau hosted a silent auction to raise funds for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program.

In addition to a booth, Rusk County Farm Bureau also hosted a silent auction to raise funds to support the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program.

The event was sponsored by AgStar Financial Services and featured activities and displays for all ages.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by. We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Welcome New Members: Rusk

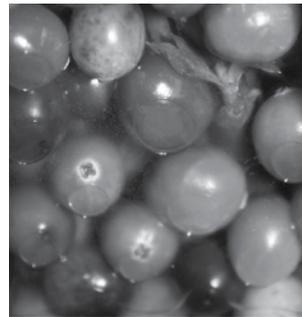
Prorok Septic Services LLC*, Fresh To You Farm*, Ted Albersen*, Bryce Burdick*, Neil Estes*, Andrew Hetke*, Kevin Hulbert*, Jonathan Lechleitner*, Kevin Loomis*, Lucas Ludwigson*, Troy Lybert*, Brian Michielson*, Jared Prokop*, Mary Jo Schindler*, Tyler Van Doorn* and Kevin Wiemer*.

*Denotes voting member.

Ladysmith Student Named Rusk County Essay Contest Winner

Heather Nelson, a fourth-grade student from Ladysmith, is the Rusk County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. Heather is the daughter of Lana Nelson and Lyle Nelson. Mrs. Baker is her fourth-grade teacher at Ladysmith Elementary School.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Tell us about cranberry production during one of the four seasons in Wisconsin.'



Heather's winning essay:

Cranberries

Cranberries are found in many regions like Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, Canada, Chile and of course Wisconsin. In 2004, cranberries became our state fruit, thanks to the Native Americans. The cranberry got its name by the early settlers, because of the flower that looked like a Sandhill Crane. We are also known as America's Cranberry Land. Did you know that 250 grower's produce cranberries throughout central and northern Wisconsin? We grow approximately 60 percent of the nation's supply of cranberries.

In the fall, it is time for harvesting. You will need transportation, people to help, machinery and packaging. A hand rake was once the method for picking cranberries from the bogs. Now we have mechanical harvesters, boats, corrals and pumps to help with this process. Did you know cranberries didn't grow in the water? They actually grow on vines in sandy fields called bogs or marshes. Did you know some marshes have vines more than 100 years old? Now that's old! It takes three to five years for a new marsh to produce a crop.

In Wisconsin, cranberry marshes are flooded with water to help with harvest. The tiny cranberries contain four chambers. When the marshes are flooded, the berries float to the surface. This allows them to be picked by the

harvesting equipment. Every year cranberry farmers harvest their berries from late September through October. In 2014, more than five million barrels of cranberries were harvested. Each barrel weighed approximately 100 pounds. Wow!

Cranberries are very healthy. They contain Vitamin C. It's important to have this in your food, because it helps protect your cells from becoming hurt or damaged. Vitamin C also protects your immune system from getting sick. Did you know a serving of cranberries provides 22 percent of your daily Vitamin C? One serving of the dried fruit provides 12 percent of fiber that your body needs daily. Fiber helps your body to digest other foods. It also provides other health benefits.

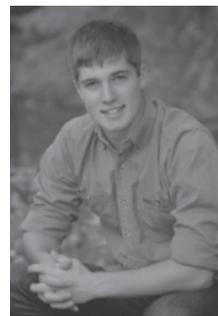
Cranberries are not just for eating. More than 1,000 different food and drink items have cranberries as an ingredient in them. Did you know 440 cranberries are in one pound? It takes 4,400 cranberries to make a gallon of juice. 95 percent of all cranberries are made into sauce, juice and dried. Only 5 percent are sold as fresh berries. 20 percent of all cranberries are eaten during holidays.

I hope my report makes you go buy Wisconsin's delicious state fruit.

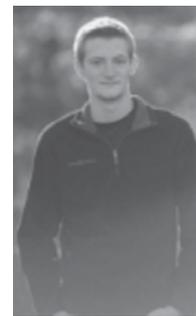
Rusk County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

Rusk County Farm Bureau is proud to announce that we have awarded three Rusk County students with scholarships in the amount of \$250. The applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, com-

munity and school activities and a recommendation from teachers. This year's Rusk County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients are:



Bryant Zuck is a senior at Ladysmith High School and the son of James Zuck and Kathleen Lezotte-Zuck. He plans to attend UW-River Falls for agriculture business. He wants to focus on either agronomy or equipment mechanics. Bryant is involved in many things including: student council, Health Occupational Students of America, DECA Business Club, 4-H and Rusk County Junior Fair.



Casey Kroening is a senior at Bruce High School and the son of Rick and Lynnette Kroening. He plans to attend the UW-Stevens Point to major in wildlife ecology and management. He wants to become a wildlife biologist. Some of Casey's activities include: National Honor Society, basketball, FFA, baseball and golf.

Congratulations to this year's recipients. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

Albersen's Awarded 2017 Farm Family of the Year

A notable farm family is one that has a passion and a love for the life they have chosen. The Albersens show that feeling.

Ted began farming in 1980 as a senior in high school with a loan for six heifers from his father. He had an opportunity to go to college and play football but the passion for farming was stronger.

Ted and Pam got married in 1982 and Ted started working for the Flambeau School District to help the farm through the hard years of the 80s while raising five kids. In 1987, Ted broke his leg and the doctors told him he probably couldn't keep milking cows. The passion for farming kept him going.

He went to college and is now the dean of students, athletic director and transportation director at Flambeau High School. But, the farm is still his passion.

His son Eric graduated from the WITC ag program and came

back to the farm in 2014, where his passion is. Eric plans to carry on his father's passion for farming into the future.

Ted thinks of himself as a farmer, no matter what else he's doing. He's instilled that passion in his son to continue on the farming legacy, and that's what makes a Farm Family of the Year.

Rusk County Farm Bureau salutes the Albersen's for their commitment to their community, family and farming.



The 2017 Farm Family of the Year was presented by Rusk County Farm Bureau board member Betsy DuSell to the Albersen family during the Greater Ladysmith Community Awards banquet.

Winter Student Named Sawyer County Essay Contest Winner.



Summer Block, a fourth-grade student from Winter, is the Sawyer County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest.

Summer's winning essay:

My Trip to the Cranberry Marsh

I once went to the cranberry marsh in Meadowbrook. It was a really fun experience. We learned about how they harvest and process cranberries in the fall. They use tools like berry pumps, berry blowers, berry brush and more. The cranberry farmers showed us all of their cranberries in the bog and in a big truck.

All of the different seasons have different jobs with cranberries. For instance, in the summer the crane shaped flower gets pollinated by bees. In the fall, they work on harvesting and processing. In the winter, they cover the cranberries with water to form a layer of protective ice. In spring,

She is the daughter of Brady Block. Donna Knuckey is her fourth-grade teacher at Winter Elementary School.

they clean the ditches that carries water to the bogs and drain the winter water.

The cranberry marsh farmers had food like chocolate milk, cranberry jam, candy, cranberry juice and lots more. You can make lots of things with cranberries.

When we went to the cranberry marsh they were harvesting and processing so there were lots of tools like bull dozers, plows, vine spreaders, wee wiper and more. Some people have family traditions where they all grow cranberries together. When I went to the cranberry marsh I learned a lot, I hope we get to go again some year.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau president Dale Beissel presented Summer Block with a cash prize and certificate from Sawyer County Farm Bureau for submitting the winning essay.

Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal for Farmers

By Charmaine Johnson, Rusk County Recycling Coordinator

Since 1990, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has provided grants and technical assistance for collecting farm chemical wastes and unwanted pesticides. Formerly known as the Agricultural Clean Sweep, this program has safely collected nearly three million pounds of chemical and pesticide wastes from active and abandoned farms.

Farmers and rural property owners will be able to take unwanted farm chemicals and pesticides to the annual Cleansweep program. Abandoned farms may also use this program.

Date: Saturday, June 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Rusk County Highway Shop

Farm chemical disposal under Wisconsin Clean Sweep must be pre-registered by calling 715.635.2197. Ag producers may dispose of waste chemicals of up to 200 pounds for free. Waste chemicals exceeding 200 pounds will be taken for a fee.

There will also be additional collections for electronics, appliances, pharmaceuticals, sharps and tires. This is a great opportunity for farmers to get rid of large quantities of tires. Keep in mind that our pharmaceutical collection also includes veterinary medications and sharps from animals.

For more information, please contact the Rusk County Recycling Department at 715.532.2167 or visit www.ruskcounty.org/departments/recycling/cleansweep-tire-recycling.

Upcoming Events

June

- 10 District 9 YFA Blackhawk Concert
- 10 Rusk County Dairy Breakfast, Rusk County Fairgrounds
- 24 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast, Sawyer County Fairgrounds

July

- 10 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 11-13 Farm Technology Days, Kewaunee County
- 12-16 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 19-23 St. Croix County Fair and Barron County Fair
- 26-30 Dunn County Fair
- 27-30 Polk County Fair

August

- 3 Policy Development, 11:30 a.m., Ladysmith, The Tee Away YFA Discussion Meet, 6:30 p.m., Menomonie, Stout Ale House
- Policy Development, 7:30 p.m., Menomonie, Stout Ale House

10-13 Pierce County Fair and Rusk County Fair

15 2017 WFBF Leadership Institute applications due

15 YFA Conference Sponsorship forms due

17-20 Sawyer County Fair

September

11 Wisconsin Ag Open

8-9 Chippewa Valley Farm City Day, Bears Grass Dairy, Eau Claire County

Meet the Newest Rusk County Member



Samantha Jo DuSell was born on March 5, at 8:25 p.m. to Rusk County Farm Bureau vice president Amber DuSell and husband Evan. She was 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and 20 inches long.

Congratulations to Amber and Evan and welcome to the Farm Bureau family Samantha Jo.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dale Beissel	715.266.3414
Vice President, Mike Robers	715.943.2645
Secretary-Treasurer, Sherrie Mataczynski	715.943.2353
Director, Marty Ewert	715.558.3524
Director, Ted Mataczynski	715.943.2353
Director, Andrew Winiarczyk	715.558.2562
Director, Jon Winiarczyk	715.415.2830

FFA Farm Forum: Attendees Perspective

By Serenity Hetke



On February 17-18, I was sponsored by the Rusk County Farm Bureau to attend the Wisconsin FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids. I have been to several FFA conferences and conventions in my five years in the Bruce FFA, but I can say without a doubt that the 2017 FFA Farm Forum was my favorite.

Throughout the event, I attended three general sessions along with six workshops. During these nine sessions, an emphasis was placed on the necessity to advocate for agriculture. In several workshops, we were taught about safe practices when posting about our animals and farms on social media. We also learned how to react when animal rights activist groups post negative information about agriculture on social media.

The main take-away from the weekend was to advocate in an appropriate way because we live in a world where social media dominates human interactions that needs to be taken into account with agriculture.

As I sat with my new friends during the closing session, I couldn't help but notice the lack of representation from the northwestern part of the state. This made me sad because I had such a great time and it's unfortunate that there are so few students nearby that I could share that with. I hope that there will be more kids from northwestern Wisconsin that want to attend. It is definitely a worth-while experience.

YFA MEMBERS

We Want You! APPLY BY JULY 10

The **Excellence in Agriculture Award** judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise for the past three years.

The **Achievement Award** judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on farm production for the past three years.

Get your application at: bit.ly/WIYFAContests.

Welcome New Members: Sawyer



Shawn Bonnin* and Jeremy Hill*.

* Denotes voting member.