



Shawano County Farm Bureau

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contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

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Chuck Reitz III - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL
 March 11, 2015
 Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Schedule of Events:	Early Registration Deadline: March 5
11:00 a.m. Registration	Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
11:30 a.m. Opening Program	\$30 after deadline and at the door.
11:45 a.m. Lunch	
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing	
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits	

Presented by: 

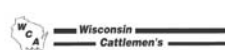
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Adam Kuczer walked to the Capitol for meetings with legislators at last year's Ag Day at the Capitol.



COUNTYnews

SHAWANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Shawano County Farm Bureau 2014 Annual Meeting Recap

The Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held October 16, at The Woodland Restaurant in Gresham.

Directors elected to one-year terms were Sheri Beilke, Scott Breitrack, Neil Christianson, Dave Henselin, Bob Krause, Adam Kuczer, Deb Mielke, Don Pahlow, Don Radloff, Peter Schmidt, Chris Voelz and Gordon Wesener.

Retiring directors Paul Schmidt and Darryll Olson were recognized for their service to the organization.



WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Freese addressed the group.



Deb Mielke presented retiring board member Paul Schmidt with a certificate of appreciation.



Deb Mielke recognized retiring board member Darryll Olson for more than 40 of service.

Delegates elected to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting were Deb Mielke, Kristi Fiedler, Adam Kuczer, Don Pahlow and Kellie Zahn; alternates were Darryll Olson and Richard Pahlow.

Forty-year members recognized but unable to attend were Roy Habek, James Radtke, John

Koeller, Melvin Krueger and Eugene Asenbrener. Fifty-year members recognized but unable to attend were Ruben Geise, Marcus Griep and Julius Wnuk

The resolutions session was conducted by Vice President Adam Kuczer. The resolutions that passed were:

1. State School Aids should give an incentive for frugal budgeting.
2. Streamline state permitting and government related processes for farmers in an Ag Enterprise Area as an additional incentive for farmers to sign up for the Ag Enterprise Area program of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative.
3. Change page 19 line 18 of WFBF policy to read: We support increasing truck weight limits from 80,000 to 97,000 pounds on state and federal highways.
4. We support a safety education inspection program to help farmers become knowledgeable about OSHA safety regulation compliance.

WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights

The 95th WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference was held December 5-8 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

Special congratulations and thanks go to Jay and Angie Schultz, who participated in the YFA Achievement Award contest and Dave Henselin for making the WFBF membership Producer Club this year.



Above: SCFB team members deliberated questions during the Fun'd the Foundation Trivia Contest fund raising event.

Top Right: Angie Schultz (right foreground) met other YFA members at the YFA Conference District 7 meeting ice breaker.

Bottom Right: Dave Henselin (center) and his wife Karen attended this year's Producer Club Luncheon with District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz.



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5 for Farming's Future

Five dollars cannot buy much anymore.

That is, unless we're talking about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation; then \$5 can make a huge impact.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation provides the funding for the Ag in the Classroom program, collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at three Wisconsin universities, Farm Bureau's leadership Institute, as well as the Women's and Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs.

Keeping these programs financially viable is critical to growing future farm leaders and educating consumers about agricul-

ture. To help fund the Foundation, in 2015 you will notice a \$5 voluntary contribution line-item for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation on your Farm Bureau dues renewal statement or Rural Mutual Insurance bill. We hope you'll view this as an investment in farming's future and choose to make a contribution.

Why is this necessary?

Aside from contributions from generous supporters, the Foundation has traditionally relied on two annual fundraisers: the Wisconsin Ag Open golf outing and a silent auction at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. Programs like Ag in the Classroom and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program were moved under the Foundation's umbrella a few years ago. While this has provided a tremendous cost savings to our bottom line, it also means that additional funds are needed to keep these programs sustainable.

We in the agricultural community have always seen the importance of growing our future.

Moving forward, we want young students to know that farmers grow their food. We want college students from all backgrounds to see agriculture's opportunities. We need to help grow the next crop of agricultural leaders and help Farm Bureau members find their voice. The Foundation and this \$5 contribution is our vehicle to make these things happen.

In closing, we are asking you to:

GIVE to a way of life you love.
ENRICH the education of young people through agricultural education.
PLEDGE to get young people started in agriculture.
COMMIT to tomorrow's leaders.
INVEST in the future of farming.

District 7 Women's Fall Summit Review

Seven area women attended the District 7 Women's Fall Summit hosted by the Shawano County Farm Bureau Women's Committee at the CRI Resource Center in Shawano.

Jay Moynihan, Shawano County UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent, addressed homelessness and hunger versus ag production and world-wide distribution in the future.

After lunch, Tim Ewing, Director of the Navarino Nature Center and Wildlife Area, talked about the center and the area's past development and highlighted the present programs for school age students and adults.



Jay Moynihan, Shawano County UW-Extension Community Resource Development Agent, addressed the topic of homelessness and hunger versus agriculture production and distribution in the future.



Tim Ewing, director of the Navarino Nature Center and Wildlife Area, talked about the center's past development and present programs.



(L to R) Renee Schmidt and her grandson, Mary Olson, Ruth Pahlow, Karen Hintz, Elaine Schwann, Joy Christianson, and Bonnie Engel (not in photo) attended the District 7 Women's Fall Summit held in Shawano County.

Women's Committee Report

It's time to wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to 2015.

The Women's Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Rural Insurance office. After the meeting we have a potluck lunch. Anyone interested in helping with any of our projects can contact me at jashakyacres@frontiernet.net or 715.526.1953. My goal is to expand the committee's membership and community outreach. If you are unable to make our meeting time but are interested in participating, please contact me and we will work something out.

Angie Schultz, Women's Committee Chair



At their annual Christmas party, the SCFB women collected items to donate to the local food pantry.

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 Wednesday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will have three presenters including Rick Bollenbeck, an attorney who specializes in estate planning; Jared Nelson, senior regional financial consultant from Farm Bureau Life Insurance; and Jamie Patton, Shawano County agriculture agent.

Attendees will discuss viable solutions to business and estate succession issues many Wisconsin farm families face. The presentation 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 for all who attend.

Please save the date and join us then!

Date: Wednesday, March 18
Place: TBA
Time: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with lunch at 12 noon

Hosted by Chuck Reitz III, Ben Albrecht and Chandace Thompson, Shawano County Farm Bureau

About our presenters:

Rick Bollenbeck is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1979), the Seattle University School of Law (1983) and Boston University (Masters of Law and Taxation; 1985). Rick practices in the areas of estate planning, criminal law and litigation. He is an attorney with the firm of Bollenbeck Fyfe, S.C. in Appleton.

Jared Nelson is a 1998 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.

Jamie Patton is a graduate of Iowa State University (1997, 1999) and Oklahoma State University (2003). Prior to joining UW-Extension, Jamie was an associate professor at Northwest Missouri State University with teaching responsibilities in leadership development, precision agriculture and soil science. In her role as Shawano County agriculture agent, she has focused on assisting local farmers with financial, production and environmental sustainability.

Please **RSVP by March 10** to Betsy Leemon at bleemon@ruralins.com, 920.921.6402.

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
- 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.

Shawano County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, Neil Christianson 715.758.2346
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 Director, Robert Krause 715.853.6969
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 RMIC District Manager, Chuck Reitz III 920.921.6402

What is Farm Bureau?



Farm Bureau is NOT an “end” in itself. Farm Bureau IS the “means” by which you may be able to achieve the “end” that you have in mind.

Farm Bureau is the vehicle that can empower you through its resources to achieve the ideas that you

wouldn't be able to or would find it much harder to accomplish on your own.

Farm Bureau's “Voice of Agriculture” slogan really means YOUR voice amplified by more than 24,000 other farmer and agriculturist member's voices statewide and by more than 5.5 million members nationwide.

There is an old ag policy saying, “Put 10 farmers in a room together and they'll never agree on anything.” There may be some truth in that, but Farm Bureau provides the means through which farmers and agriculturists can find the common ground that they need (no pun intended) to be able to make things better for their farms and agri-businesses in the nation, this state, this county and their local area.

The keynote speaker during the WFBF Annual Meeting was Chad Hymas, who at 27 years of age was injured when a large square bale of hay fell on him breaking his neck. His address was entitled, “Who needs legs, when you have wings.” Many of you reading this have the use of your arms and legs, and by becoming actively involved in Farm Bureau you also can have “wings.”

New people, new ideas and new challenges are welcome in Farm Bureau. Farm Bureau's published vision statement is to “lead a growing and dynamic agriculture.” As a member of Farm Bureau, you can help us do that!

Wes Raddatz

WFBF District 7 Coordinator

Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz

In the winter the dog wears his coat.
 In the summer he wears his coat and pants.

Opportunity knocks but once.
 Temptation leans on your door bell incessantly until you answer.

Two blondes were going to Disneyland. They were driving on the Interstate when they saw a sign that

said DISNEYLAND LEFT. They started crying and went home.

A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. During her turn she rolled the dice and landed on science and nature. Her question was, “If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?” She thought for a time and then asked, “Is it on or off?”



District 7 YFA Report

2014 was another great year for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program! Once again we had nearly 500 attendees at the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells. District 7 had 37 members attend so our goal for

2015 is to get 50 attendees. New this year was a corn hole (bean bag toss) tournament and for entertainment, the Mantz Brothers Band performed. Both were a big hit. If you know someone who is involved in the agriculture industry and is interested in Farm Bureau, encourage them to become members. Remember that if they want to attend the YFA Conference and if they have not attended before, they can apply for a Rural Mutual Insurance sponsorship for the event. This year it will be held December 4-6 at the Kalahari Resort, Wisconsin Dells.



Tickets are on sale for the YFA Gambler Hockey Game in Green Bay on Saturday, February 28 at 7:05 p.m. Cost is \$15 per ticket. It is the Green Bay Gambler's Dairy Night so please wear your Farm Bureau or dairy shirts to help promote dairy. **Please RSVP to kfiedler@crinet.com or text 920.737.7640 by**

February 14; make checks payable to Wisconsin Farm Bureau and send to the state office.

After the hockey game, we will be going to Gallagher's Pizza, 2655 W. Mason Street, Green Bay. Food and beverages are at your cost.

Have a wonderful 2015!

Brian and Kristi Fiedler

District 7 YFA Representatives

Brunch on the Farm 2015 By Deb Mielke

Mark your calendars for this year's Shawano County Brunch on the Farm sponsored by Shawano County Farm Bureau.

This year we will be in Birnamwood on the western side of Shawano County at the Al and Vicky Beran dairy farm.

The Brunch will be on Sunday, June 28. The Farm Bureau Dairy Committee will have a meeting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, February 3, at the Rural Insurance Office in Shawano to start planning for this event. Anyone is welcome to join us. Bring along your new ideas. We have another beautiful farm to work with this year. Hopefully thinking about the brunch will warm us up during this cold winter weather.

District 7 Board Report

My best wishes to you for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

It's a new year and with it comes a new set of challenges. Mother Nature hasn't been very kind this past year. 2014 provided many small windows of time to empty the pits, spread the fertilizer and plant the crops in between rain showers. With a cool wet fall, harvesting was very challenging. Hopefully, 2015 will be a better year for everyone.

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 11. It's important that farmers whether dairy, corn, beans, cranberries, beef, poultry and all others involved in agriculture, let our views be known to our assemblymen and senators. This one day carries a lot of weight throughout the year. I hope to see you there.

The Wisconsin Ag Woman's Summit is another important event that will be held March 13-14 at the Madison Marriott West. Scott Zimmer of Bridgeworks Communications will provide insight about how to communicate across generational barriers and Wisconsin dairy farmer and professional speaker, Laura Daniels will share how common items on the farm can help you get the most out of challenging days in her address, “Using Baler Twine and Barn Lime to Live a Life with Purpose.”

Hope to see you at your county board meetings.

Wayne Staidl

WFBF District 7 Director