



Shawano County Farm Bureau

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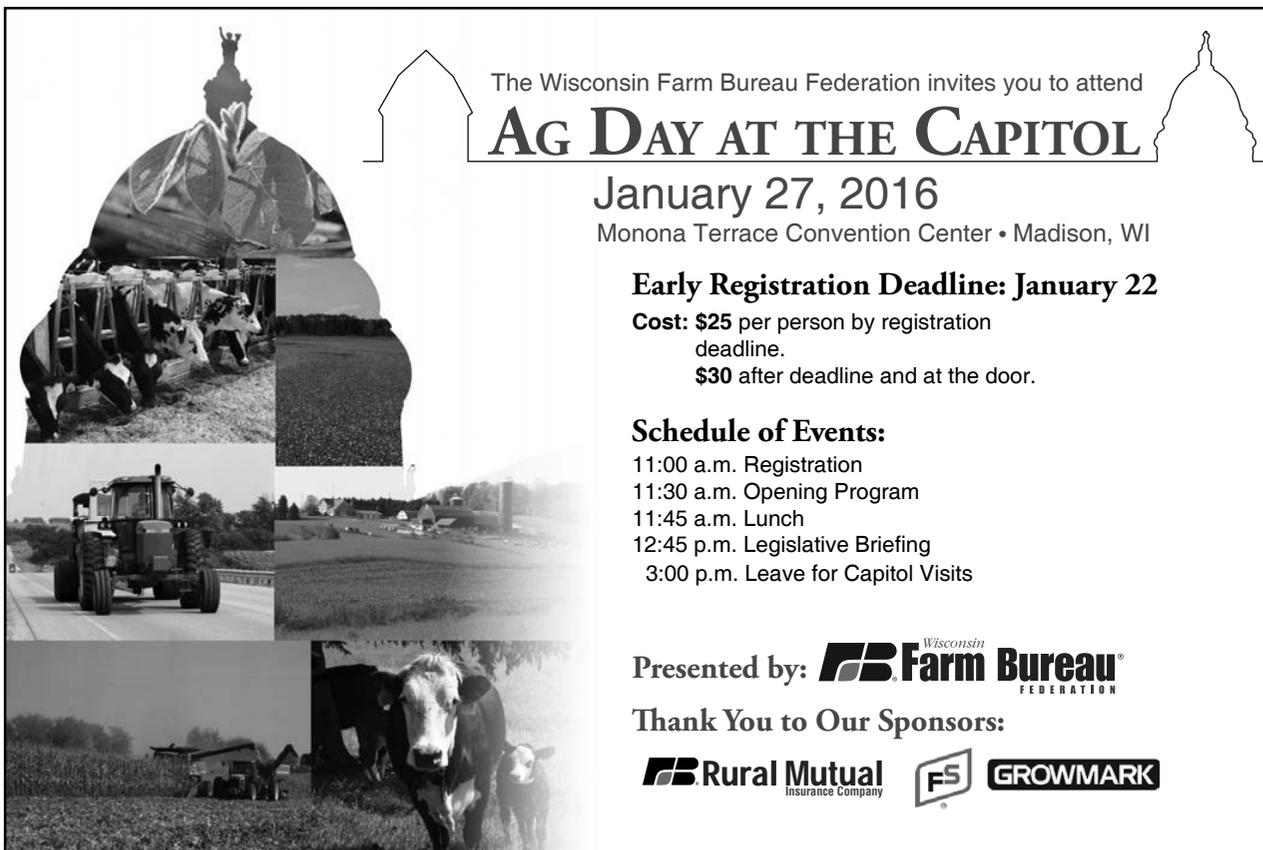



For information about crop hail insurance, contact your local Rural Mutual agent.

Rural Mutual Agents in Shawano County:

Ben Albrecht (715) 803-4030	Chandas Thompson (715) 803-4030
Troy Senzig (715) 851-4272	Tom Gustafson, District Manager (920) 420-1106

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

January 27, 2016
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: January 22

Cost: \$25 per person by registration deadline.
\$30 after deadline and at the door.

Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Shawano County Farm Bureau will have a group attending the Ag Day at the Capitol. The Shawano County Farm Bureau will pay your registration to attend. Please contact Deb Mielke at mielke@frontiernet.net or 715.754.2694 for more information and possible carpooling arrangements.

Shawano County Earns Outstanding YFA Program Award

By Ashley Schugel

The Shawano County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program was recognized as one of the top county Farm Bureau YFA programs in Wisconsin during the 96th Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells this December. Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA was among four counties to be recognized as one of the top county Farm Bureau YFA programs in the state based on their overall program of work and accomplishments for the period of September 2014 to August 2015.

Successful county YFA programs have contestants in the YFA Discussion Meet, Excellence in Ag Award, and the Achievement Award. They also have large attendance at county, district and state YFA events as well as other WFBF functions (i.e. Ag Day at the Capitol) and have an active YFA Committee that is responsible for providing leadership development opportunities, and for carrying out a program of activities that involves the maximum number of YFA members in their county.

New Ice Cream Stand Manager Needed



After many years of distinguished service managing the Shawano County Farm Bureau's Ice Cream Stand at the fair, Mary Olson has decided to step down.

If you or someone you know is interested or would like more information, please contact any of the board members.



COUNTYnews

SHAWANO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Christa Hoffman Wins WFBF Discussion Meet By Ashley Schugel

Congratulations to Christa Hoffman, a Shawano County Farm Bureau and YFA member, as she was selected winner of the 2015 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet at the WFBF Annual Meeting held in Wisconsin Dells on December 6.



WFBF President Jim Holte presented Christa Hoffman with a Stihl chain saw and a number of other prizes for being the 2015 WFBF YFA Discussion Meet winner.

The Discussion Meet consists of a discussion panel where Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18-35 are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions to reach a

solution on current agricultural issues. Christa was awarded a chainsaw from Midwest Stihl and a free financial plan provided by Rural Mutual Insurance.

Christa represented Wisconsin and competed in the national Discussion Meet at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 97th Annual Convention in January in Orlando, FL. When asked prior to the convention what she is most looking forward to, Christa said, "I'm most looking forward to meeting other young farmers and ranchers from across the U.S. and seeing their perspectives of agriculture." Hoffman also qualifies for the YFA trip to Washington, D.C., in 2016, will be a guest of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation at next year's WFBF YFA Conference and will be a special guest at the annual meeting of GROWMARK, Inc., in Chicago in August 2016.

Congratulations Christa on a job well done!

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Recap

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation held its 96th Annual Meeting December 5-7 in Wisconsin Dells. Shawano County's delegates were Scott Breित्रick, Kristi Fiedler, Mary Olson, Angie Schultz and Kelly Zahn. Angie also attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference which started one day earlier.



The Schultz kids got to do a little harmonizing with the Peterson Farm Brothers of YouTube parody fame.

Saturday, the Peterson Farm Brothers, known for their YouTube music parodies, were a big hit with their keynote address and break-out sessions.

Sunday morning the keynote speaker was Dr. Lowell Catlett speaking of comparisons between 1970 and the present, and the many opportunities presenting themselves that agricultural producers could take advantage of. In the afternoon there were various workshops including one on transition planning and a showing of the movie Farmland. The awards banquet was held Sunday evening where the Leopold Conservation Award was presented to Meuer Farm.

Monday morning the business meeting of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance was held. Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that

will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2016. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process. Recognizing the need to increase funds to provide adequate roads and bridges in rural Wisconsin, delegates voted to consider a combination of gasoline taxes, vehicles registration fees, farm truck registration fees and environmental fees, as well as the establishment of local sales taxes, tolling and new vehicle taxes. Delegates support the continuation of the state fuel tax exemption for agricultural purposes.

Other resolutions were passed supporting the use and regulations of drones and supporting Wisconsin DATCP procedures for testing and licensing pesticide applicators. Opposing towns and counties are imposing stricter requirements for nutrient management than state standards.

Delegates approved a bylaw change to replace the state Women's Committee with a Promotion and Education Committee. Rosalie Geiger was elected the chair of this committee. Jim Holte of Dunn County was reelected President of WFBF. Richard Gorder of Mineral Point was reelected Vice President.



Shawano County Farm Bureau delegate Angie Schultz made a point before the delegate body during the resolutions session at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

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District 7 Board Report



Happy New Year! Hope the weather has improved by the time you are reading this.

I hope you had the opportunity to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting. I think it was one of the best we have ever had.

If you were unable to attend, Mike Austin, who has covered ag news and events in TV and radio for more than 30 years

in our broadcasting area received the 'Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture Award.' He gave an interesting and humorous acceptance speech.

Senator Ron Johnson also attended our Annual Meeting. He gave a very interesting speech. He spoke of finding common ground and a need to work across party lines.

There are several important events coming up. The Council of Presidents is January 26 and 27. It is an important opportunity to express your viewpoints and concerns. The next important event is Ag Day at the Capitol. We need good attendance

to keep our legislators informed of the ag issues and our concerns. The Wisconsin Ag Woman's Summit will be coming next. Ladies, try to attend this informative and fun event.

Following our strategic plan, the WFBF Board of Directors is working with other organizations to form alliances where we have common ground and concerns. We have found that we have many similarities in our discussions. When organizations work together, we have a much greater impact.

Wayne Staidl

District 7 State Board Representative

Shawano Women's Committee By Angie Schultz

Ronald McDonald House

Donation: We had a van full of items that were greatly needed and appreciated by families going through a hard time at Milwaukee Hospital and are staying at the Ronald McDonald House there. The committee felt like Shawano County can do so much more and decided to ask for collections again in late summer. We will continue collecting items into the New Year. If you can help out families, see the list below and contact Angie Schultz at 715.526.1953 to make a donation or if you have any questions.



Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee members collected a minivan full of goods in September for the Milwaukee Ronald McDonald House which served several Shawano County residents.

'Welcome Bags' - Each bag includes:

- reusable bag (like those you see and use at the grocery store)
- travel size soap, shampoo and conditioner
- tooth paste, tooth brushes and dental floss
- a NEW stuffed animal
- a deck of cards

Items that the whole house is in need of are:

- canned goods
- non-perishable food items
- paper products (facial tissue, toilet paper, paper towels)
- trash bags
- aluminum foil, plastic wrap and sandwich bags
- laundry detergent and fabric softener
- cleaning products (sponges, dishwashing liquid, dishwasher detergent)
- bath and bedroom items (towels, shower curtains, sheets and pillow cases)
- entertainment products (games, puzzles, movies, books, art supplies)

December Food Pantry

Donation: Our committee had a Christmas party in conjunction with our December meeting. Instead of doing a gift exchange we collected donations for the local food pantry.



Shawano County women's committee members collected items for the local food pantry instead of having a gift exchange at their December meeting/Christmas party.

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

We would like to invite all women to join us in our monthly meetings and any activities that we are conducting throughout the year. Our next meeting is February 2 at the Farm Bureau/Rural Mutual Insurance office. Stay safe and good health to you, your family and friends in the New Year.

Shawano County YFA Celebrates the Season By Ashley Schugel

Shawano County YFA members enjoyed some fun and fellowship at their annual Christmas party held at Luigi's Restaurant in Shawano on December 18.



Fifteen members came out to celebrate a successful year of YFA events and several members came dressed in their most festive attire for the ugly sweater contest that was held and prizes were awarded to the 'ugliest' dressed. Brad and Christa Hoffman took home the highest honors of 'ugliest Christmas sweater' and both won a pair of Chamber Bucks and soda sampler packs from Twigs.



Brad and Christa Hoffman (left) took first and second place respectively in the ugliest sweater contest.

Policy Development Committee Report By Jon Bauer

Late last winter our District 7 Director Wayne Staidl asked me if I would serve on the state Policy Development Committee. Being a past delegate and doing our county resolutions, I somewhat knew the process, so I agreed.

In the spring, the committee consisting of about a dozen farmers from across the state, met in Madison to discuss background issues. In November, after the county meetings were complete and all the resolutions were compiled, we met for a day and a half to discuss more than 500 resolutions. A lot were on the same issues but had different wordings. I was impressed how the committee members went through them thoughtfully to come up with resolutions that were relevant.

This is a two-year term so I look forward to doing it again next year. WFBF Vice President, Dick Gorder, chairs the committee and, along with the WFBF staff, does a great job of informing us of issues and compiling the input we give him.



The WFBF Policy Development Committee addressed the resolutions before the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Save the Date: 2016 Shawano Brunch on the Farm

The 2016 Brunch on the Farm will be held **Sunday, June 26**, at the Kevin and Shawn Bonnin Farm in Bonduel. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

If you'd be interested in helping at the event contact any of the board members.

Humor Corner By Wes Raddatz

Joke #1
What one word includes 26 letters in it?



Alphabet.

Joke #2:
Why is an empty coin purse always the same?

Because there's no change in it.

Joke #3:
Farmer's son: "Dad, I'm having trouble with the tractor. I think there's water in the fuel!"

Farmer: "Ok, let's go check it out. Where is it?"

Farmer's son: "In the pond."



Promotion and Education Committee Report By Katelin Haglund



Happy New Year! As we start 2016, we have a new committee at the state level. At the Annual Meeting in December the delegate body approved a change to the bylaws to change the state Women's Committee to the Promotion and Education Committee. In January, the members of the Promotion and Education Committee will meet and discuss the new structure for the committee. We as a committee are looking forward to this opportunity.

The change of the committee occurred after a task force was created in late 2014 after concerns about the Women's Committee's future were expressed at strategic listening sessions heard throughout the state in 2014. The task force recommended the change to the board and the board accepted the change in spring 2015.

The new Promotion and Education Committee will be open to women and men. While Wisconsin loses the opportunity to have a representative run for the AFBF Women's Committee, we are hoping to have a representative on the recently formed AFBF Promotion and Education Committee.

This bylaw change was only at the state level, counties are not required to follow the state committee structure. All the members of the new Promotion and Education Committee are very excited for the next year as we get to shape this new committee. If you have any questions about the change please contact me at katelinhaglund@gmail.com.

Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit

It's time to get registered for the Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit, March 4-5, in Madison. The Summit offers outstanding opportunities for networking with more than 330 women attending in 2015. This year's agenda offers a keynote panel on women in ag, 13 different breakout sessions and a Casino night.

Early bird registration is open until February 3, with final registration due February 26. Please visit wiagwomenssummit.com to view the agenda and for the link to the online registration. One day registrations also are available.

If you would like to carpool with others from the district or have any questions, please contact Katelin Haglund at 715.210.5384 or katelinhaglund@gmail.com.

2015 Shawano County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held October 15 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 and Gordon Wesener.

Delegates elected to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting were: Kristi Fiedler, Deb Mielke, Peter Schmidt, Angie Schultz, and Kellie Zahn. Alternates elected were: Don Pahlow, Mary Olson and Richard Pahlow.

Forty-year members recognized were: Dave Henselin, Richard Klemens, Kenneth Kohn and Kenneth Mueller. Fifty-year members recognized were: Bob Engel and Robert Malueg.

The resolutions session was conducted by vice president Adam Kuczer. The resolutions that passed were:

1. Replace the last sentence with: We support raising registration fees to increase revenue for town road maintenance.



Deb Mielke kept the meeting moving and on track.



Deb Mielke presented (L to R) 40-year anniversary member, Dave Henselin, and 50-year anniversary members, Bob and Bonnie Engel, and Robert Malueg with certificates of appreciation.

2. We support third party audits assuring responsible practices for animal husbandry and food handling.
3. We encourage collaboration between point source industry and municipalities with agriculture.
4. Definition of milk: FDA should enforce a rule stating that the word milk should not be used for secretions from plants.
5. WFBF bylaws should change the name of the WFBF Women's Committee to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.



Representative Gary Tauchen addressed the group with a legislative update.



Mason Jauquet talked about the National 4-H Dairy Management competition. Shawano County Farm Bureau sponsored the team's trip.

UW-Extension agent Jamie Patton presented a video of the 2015 Brunch on the Farm.

Shawano County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Debbie Mielke 715.754.2694
 Vice President, Adam Kuczer 920.609.0718
 Secretary/Treasurer, Donald Pahlow 715.823.4048
 Women's Chair, Angie Schultz 715.851.9827
 YFA Chair, Ashley Schugel 320.510.1312

Director, Sheri Beilke 715.881.1984
 Director, Scott Breitrack 715.851.4710
 Director, Neil Christianson 715.758.2346
 Director, David Henselin 715.853.7494
 Director, Robert Krause 715.853.6969
 Director, Donald Radloff 715.853.6086
 Director, Peter Schmidt 715.853.5150
 Director, Gordon Wesener 715.851.2249

Shawano County Farm Bureau 877.583.4438
 WFBF Board Director, Wayne Staidl 715.582.3671
 District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz 866.355.7346
 RMIC District Manager, Tom Gustafson 920.4201106

District 7 YFA Report By Brian Preder



Hello District 7 YFA members! I'm Brian Preder from Waupaca County and will be representing District 7 on the State YFA Committee. Being raised in the dairy industry I share the same passion for agriculture as all of you. As a YFA member I can't be more excited and inspired to see young industry leaders' passion for agriculture.

Your passion was easily seen in December at the annual YFA Conference held at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. We had an outstanding attendance of more than 500 YFA members! This year members heard the Peterson Farm Brothers' story about their ag advocacy through YouTube music video parodies. We also had plenty of time for some photos with them. Members also had the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through the YFA contests; Achievement Award, Excellence in Ag and Discussion Meet.

Congratulations to Christa Hoffman from Shawano County on winning the Discussion Meet. She represented Wisconsin Farm Bureau at the national Discussion Meet during the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in sunny Orlando, FL in January. GOOD JOB Christa!

Be sure to watch for upcoming District YFA events. If there are any specific events you would like to see happen contact me with your ideas. Also if you are looking for resources in assisting with any of your county YFA events feel free to contact me.

Finally, I would like to thank Kristi and Brian Fiedler for their commitment and dedication representing District 7 on the state YFA Committee these past three years.

I can't wait to see where being Farm Bureau Proud leads!

