



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

FFA Farm Forum Held in Wisconsin Rapids



Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 17-18.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau takes pride in hosting this special event with the FFA to help develop our next generation of agriculture leaders," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Mark Holley, Sunrise 7 Meteorologist and Chris and Amy Blakeney, owners of Amazing Grace Family Farm.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 45th year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.



High school juniors from Plymouth High School attend Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids. (L-R) Brad Mauk, Cassandra Marthaler and Maddie Radtke.

District YFA Green Bay Gamblers Game and Pizza Outing

This year's YFA Gamblers outing took place on February 18.

About 120 YFA members had a blast at the game and enjoyed pizza after at the Green Bay Distillery. The Green Bay Gamblers became the Green Bay Cheese complete with a cheese eating contest between periods.

Are you interested in more YFA events? Contact Nick Entringer or Ryan Ernst, Sheboygan County YFA co-chairs to find out what is coming next in Sheboygan County.





COUNTYnews

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



The Sheboygan County Board of Directors donation a beautiful Last Supper wood carving to the WFBF Foundation Silent Auction.

Recognizing the importance of natural resources and the environment, delegates opposed any type of blanket regulation that would encompass the entire state because of the variations in karst types throughout Wisconsin. Regulations should be specific to the unique areas affected.

Delegates displayed frustration with the current federal Dairy Margin Protection Program. After considerable in-depth discussion, they concluded the need for an improved program leading up to the 2018 Farm Bill.

Delegates supported an increase in the overall appropriation for the broadband grant program. They supported improving and upgrading the strength and reliability of coverage to enable efficient use of technology in farming practices in rural areas.

In regards to livestock and animal welfare, delegates supported farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for their farm.

Delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization on December 5.

Recognizing the importance

They also supported more education for consumers on the merits of common animal husbandry practices. In addition, delegates supported the use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to:

- Support the state's livestock premise registration program.
- Support the state's fence law.
- Support a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed.
- Support the inclusion of wild parsnip on the state's noxious weed list.
- Support funding for the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count limit to 400,000 cells per milliliter.
- The use of scientifically proven technologies for agricultural production practices.
- Farmers in consultation with their veterinarians deciding and administering husbandry practices that are appropriate for the farm.
- Requiring Congressional approval of any new federal regulation before final implementation.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual conference in January.

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Members of the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau board of directors attended the WFBF Annual Meeting including: (L-R) Fritz and Jeannie Johannning, John and Linda Fischer, Marcia and Don Fenner, Mark and Deb Ramel, Lloyd DeRuyter and Lydia and Ken Turba.



There was a great turnout from Sheboygan County for the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells, held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting

Rural Mutual Insurance Announces New Farm Dividend Program

Rural Mutual Insurance Company, premier insurance provider for Wisconsin families, businesses and farms, announces a new dividend program that enables the company to use its financial success to reward farm policyholders for their loyalty to Rural Mutual and commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

The Rural Mutual Farm Dividend Program is the first of its kind in the area and will return up to 5 percent of farm policyholders' annual earned premium.

Starting in 2017, Rural Mutual farm policyholders may qualify for the Dividend Program if their farm policy has been in force with Rural Mutual for more than one year and is in effect at the end of the year for which the dividend is declared.

Dividend calculations will be based on the financial results of Rural Mutual Insurance Company and its farm product during a three-year period.

If dividends are earned, a check will be mailed or delivered by your Rural Mutual agent shortly after the farm policy renews in the subsequent calendar year. Dividends are not guaranteed

and are authorized solely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

To learn more about Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Farm Dividend Program, contact your local Rural Mutual agent or visit www.ruralins.com/farm-dividend.



District 6 YFA Plans Bus Tour



Join us for our second bus tour around the fantastic agricultural stops in District 6.

Join District 6 Farm Bureau members as we board the bus for three spectacular agricultural tours on **Friday, April 21**, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The bus will leave from the park and ride on Highway 151 in Manitowoc.

First stop: Natural Beauty Greenhouse in Denmark. Natural Beauty is a socially and environmentally conscious greenhouse, leading the way to a greener and more colorful world. They grow a range of plants, including young plants for other greenhouses and finished plants for retailers, locally and across the country. Natural Beauty produces more than 100 million finished and young plants for customers throughout the U.S.

Farm Bureau Involvement 101

By **Becky Salm**, District 6 Coordinator

Another winter season is almost complete, the sun is rising a little earlier each day and stays a little longer each night. I love spring and all that it means, another chance, the anticipation of all that another year of farming will bring.

Another year to make a difference in agriculture. Another year to donate back to local agriculture youth organizations, clock in volunteer hours and advocate for agriculture. I see how important it is that I support organizations that share my beliefs and will stand up for what is important when I can't.

Farm Bureau is one of those organizations. What other organization works tirelessly for all aspects of agriculture not only the county level but also state and national? My question to you is why did you become a member? Did you become a member because it was a family tradition? Did you join because someone asked? Did you join because you wanted your voice heard at our Capitols?

Your county Farm Bureau is continuing to grow and flourish under the guidance of the board. They can't continue to do this on their own. The board wants your help. Are you interested

Second stop: Pagel's Ponderosa in Kewaunee. Under the care of 100 employees, they milk 5,000 cows in two barns and 8,300 acres are cropped annually. They put up 100,000 tons of feed for silage. Pagel's bed with Bio Solids from their Methane Digester. Other comforts include foot wash, shower areas just before milking and a special birthing area. Lunch will be provided.

Third stop: VonStiehl Winery in Algoma. The Schmilg brothers who grew up in von Stiehl Winery, now own and operate it. The older brother, Aric, uses the most modern equipment known to winemaking as he artfully crafts fine wines. The younger brother Brad, likes romance and history and manages the business. The Civil War-era building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, features a tasting room, a 10,000-square foot production facility, three Civil war era underground limestone tunnels and a spacious outdoor terrace with Lake Michigan views. Von Stiehl's 30 plus grape and fruit wine recipes use top quality ingredients from local fruit (Door County cherries), as well as West Coast-grown grapes (Alexander Valley Cabernet Sauvignon). Tasting will conclude our tour.

Space is limited so reserve your space today by contacting or texting District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 920.253.5303 or bsalm@wfbf.com.

in policy and development, the key part of this grassroots organization? What about helping elementary students learn about agriculture? Check out the Ag in the Classroom program. Are you a looking to get off of the farm or out of the office to spend time with others promoting agriculture? Then check out the county's Promotion and Education program. Maybe you are 18 to 35 years old and looking to meet other farmers and agriculturists? Then join the county's YFA program. Maybe your passion is meeting with elected officials and telling your story?

All of this and more is possible by getting involved with Sheboygan County Farm Bureau. Not sure who to connect with to get involved check out the board directory in this newsletter or go to wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus.

No matter what your reason, be assured that Farm Bureau is working for you while you are busy working the fields, tending to your herds or spending moments with your family. From my family to yours, thank you. Thank you for being a member, for supporting agriculture and being part of the one percent that feeds the other 99 percent. May this next year be one will filled with a bountiful harvest for you and yours.

District Membership Incentives

Do you know a friend who might be interested in joining Farm Bureau? Feel good about helping your organization grow and get a chance to win some great prizes, too.



Sign up a voting member before **April 1** and receive a chance to win a \$75 Fleet Farm gift card, a \$50 gas card or one of five, \$10 Culver's gift cards. (One new entry for every new member signed between now and March 31).

Also, for each voting member you sign up before **May 1**, you will receive an entry for the grand prize of \$300 towards Green Bay Packer tickets.

Drawings will be held at the first county board meeting in the district after each deadline.

Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour Set



Teachers and volunteers are encouraged to spend **July 18-19** on the Ag in the Classroom summer bus tour.

This year, the tour will be in Jefferson County visiting agri-businesses, museums, farms and other venues. The bus tour allows participants to learn more about Wisconsin agriculture, career opportunities and educational lessons and resources about that industry.

Some of the venues include Jones Dairy Farm, Hoards Historical Museum, McKay Nursery, Berres Brothers, Jelli's Market and Mid-State Equipment. The tour will start early on Tuesday morning in Johnson Creek and will end late on Wednesday afternoon.

Teachers of all grade levels and subjects, home school parents, extension staff, non-traditional educators and volunteers are all welcome.

For the schedule and registration visit www.wisagclassroom.

There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Auto

- General Motors Discount

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Supplies and Products

- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program

Protection

- Farm Bureau Bank
- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Members of Sheboygan County Farm Bureau attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 8. They joined more than 500 members from around the state who were first updated on legislative issues facing agriculture currently.

Issues ranged from high capacity well legislation, agricultural provisions in the budget for cost-sharing nonpoint source abatement projects and other land and water conservation activities performed by counties and producer-led watershed grants.

Transportation was another hot topic, talking to legislators about increased rural road funding. No tax or fee increases were offered to increase transportation fund revenues. The Governor is proposing \$500 million in bonding resulting in debt service payments approaching 25 percent on the transportation fund.

Industrial hemp also came into conversation. LRB-1117 and LRB-2273 (authored by Rep. Jesse Kremer and Sen. Patrick Testin) were introduced on March 10.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized states to set up pilot and research programs for growing, harvesting and marketing industrial hemp. Thirty-one states currently have some sort of authorized program. As a former leading producer, Wisconsin has a deep and rich history with hemp. Formerly we had about 10 processing plants in the state. The last one in the entire country, near Waupun, closed in 1958. The industrial hemp bill will once again allow the legal planting, harvesting and marketing of hemp via a DATCP licensing program.

The next Ag Day at the Capitol will be in January of 2018. If you haven't had a chance to attend, please consider making it a point to join us in 2018 to have your voices heard.



Lloyd DeRuyter and a group of Farm Bureau members met with Senator Devin LeMahieu and Representative Tyler Vorpagel.



Mark and Deb Ramel attended Ag Day at the Capitol.

Upcoming Events

April

- 1 Ag in the Classroom essay's due
- 1 Ag in the Classroom matching grant forms due
- 21 YFA Ag Bus Tour

May

- 5 5x5 Membership Rally deadline

July

- 1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 18-19 Ag in the Classroom Summer Bus Tour

Thank You

The Sheboygan County YFA committee wants to thank those members who ordered pizzas during the winter fundraiser. In collaboration with Fond du Lac County YFA, more than 1,500 pizzas were made.

Don't forget to watch your newsletters for next year's order form.



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Mark Ramel	920.994.2022
Vice President, Lloyd De Ruyter	920.668.6207
Secretary/Treasurer, Ken Turba	920.894.3858
Women's Chair, Marcia Fenner	920.467.6750
YFA Chair, Nick Entringer	920.980.1664
YFA Chair, Ryan Ernst	920.207.4324
Director, Donald Fenner	920.467.6750
Director, Travis Fintelmann	920.565.4784
Director, John Fischer	920.893.5117
Director, Fritz Johanning	920.467.4559
Director, Adam Mc Cabe	920.889.8535
Director, Joel Mentink	920.528.8258
Director, Duane Raeder	920.526.3409
Director, Mark Schleicher	920.467.0426

WFBF Board Director, Adam Kuczer	920.609.0718
District 6 Coordinator, Becky Salm	866.355.7345
RMIC District Manager, John Quirk	608.957.5509

facebook

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming Sheboygan County Farm Bureau events by 'liking' us on Facebook!

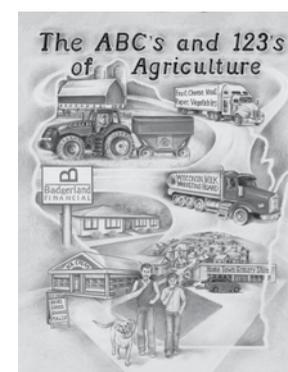
Attention Teachers

Calling all teachers. Ag in the Classroom has FREE resources available that you may find beneficial in your classrooms.

- Pre K-K students: "ABC's and 123's of Agriculture."
- Fourth grade students: "This Business Called Agriculture."
- Middle-high school students: "An Agricultural Career for You."

You can order any of these resources, and more, at wisagclassroom.org.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has a lot of free online and printed resources available, we hope you will be able to use them in your classroom.



For more information, please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.7644.

