



## Taylor County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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Dave Meihak - District Manager

### Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Meet MJ Zenner - Taylor County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Chair



Melvin Zenner, commonly known as MJ, and his wife, Brittany, live in the Medford area. MJ is a dairy nutritionist with the Medford Cooperative. He became involved in Farm Bureau like most members do – by a friend simply asking him. After being involved for a short time he realized it was a great way to meet others passionate about agriculture.

MJ is also an active member in the Westside Trailwinders Snowmobile Club, the Taylor County Dairy Breakfast Committee and the Little Hills youth hunt. MJ was also selected to compete in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) YFA Discussion Meet at the 2014 YFA Conference!

MJ feels it is important to be involved in the industry that is in charge of feeding the world. It is a dynamic and growing industry that he's proud to be a part of.

## Discounts on Polaris Off-Road Vehicles

Farm Bureau members will receive a manufacturer's incentive discount of \$200-\$300 depending on the vehicle acquired. Members should negotiate their best deal with their preferred Polaris dealer and then add the manufacturer's incentive discount to the bottom line. There is no limit to the number of incentive discounts that a Farm Bureau member may use so long as it's no more than one per unit acquired and the acquisition(s) is/are made for their personal and/or business use.

The incentive discount(s) is/are shown on invoice as a subtraction from the best-negotiated price of the acquired unit(s).

- Full size utility & sport vehicles (UTV) - \$300 per unit
- Full size all-terrain vehicles (ATV) - \$200 per unit
- GEM electric vehicles - \$300 per unit

To find out more visit [wfbf.com/member-benefits](http://wfbf.com/member-benefits).

## District 8 Women's Committee Update

It has been an amazing year for District 8 Farm Bureau members! Whether you were a volunteer for the Helping Hands benefit or assisted with the Ronald McDonald House project District 8 Farm Bureau members made a difference for many through volunteer efforts. This continues with the collection of pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. The WFBF Women's Committee is asking members to continue to collect pop tabs as this makes an immeasurable difference for the families that utilize their facilities.

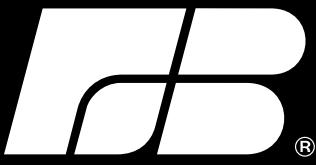


The WFBF Women's Committee would like to invite you to attend the **Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit in Madison, March 13-14**. It is a premier event for ladies to attend. Please contact me if you are interested in attending as we have done some carpooling in the past from District 8.

I wish your county Farm Bureau success as you plan for the coming year's activities.

**Susan Brugger**  
District 8 Women's Committee Representative

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# COUNTYnews

# TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

# Taylor County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap -Up



Did you know that once a year Taylor County Farm Bureau hosts an annual meeting for its members? This year was no exception. More than 30 members gathered in October to celebrate all of the county's accomplishments. Members also sat down

with a local Taylor County Deputy and learned about the new Implements of Husbandry law that went into effect last spring.

This once-a-year gathering is also a time for members to elect new directors to the board and vote on policy critical to our grassroots organization.



# **Do You Want to Build a Snowman?**

A post from Cheri Klussendorf's blog, *Farming with My Three Sons*

If you have been reading my blogs you know I have boys, there is only one girl in the family and that is me. These boys are 100 percent farm-raised boys; they love the animals, the tractors and even the work that the farm brings. I would have never thought that one movie would change our lives as much as Frozen has. On long car trips to visit the family what do we watch? Disney's Frozen. Max (6 years old) loves Frozen and spends his time on the iPad watching kids singing the songs or playing Frozen. We have been filled with the "Let it Go" school shopping trip, Max found an opportunity to have it. I thought he would grow out of it, but what the heck it's just a snowman shirt.

For those of you who have never seen the movie, Olaf is a snowman that the princess makes to play with. He has some pretty good jokes in the movie and even Ryan and I like Olaf. There are some cute songs in the movie and lately there have been some awesome parodies of the "Let it Go" song and even a great farm parody to the song "Do you want to build a snowman?" called "Do you want to ride in my tractor?" I would suggest watching that one. YouTube has been Max's first click on the iPad for weeks. It isn't uncommon to hear him break out in song every once and



a while. If it isn't a Frozen song it is usually International Harvester by Craig Morgan or Cruise by Florida Georgia Line (but only if it is not the Nelly remix).

We were really starting to think the Frozen craze was coming to an end but October 4 changed everything. It was a typical Saturday morning, except I finally didn't have to work and could have slept until 9 a.m. except a little boy jumped in my bed and broke into song...

“DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN? DO YOU WANT TO COME OUT AND PLAY?”  
Me: “Max please, it is the first weekend in a long time I could sleep in, just come rest with me.”  
Max: “But it snowed outside and I want to build an Olaf!”

Well, we built our very first Olaf of the winter, good thing he only lasted a day. But, I bet there are lots of Olafs in our future.

What to read more about Cheri's adventures of being a mother of three boys growing up on a farm - check out [wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs](http://wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs).

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

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## From the Desk of Don Radtke



Greetings from the state office and your Board of Directors! I wanted to share some of the great things Farm Bureau has been working on.

This year has been an interesting year with the passing and implementation of the Implements of Husbandry (IOH) legislation, and hopefully you were able to attend one of the informational meetings Farm Bureau hosted along with the county UW-Extension offices. We encourage farmers to learn if their county and/or townships are requiring permits with regards to IOH. If you have comments or questions feel free to contact me.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau also worked on a strategic plan where we asked our members and affiliated companies (Rural

Mutual Insurance and FS GROWMARK) via listening session around the state what they were thinking and where they envisioned Farm Bureau to be in the future. The core ideas that were brought forward from the listening sessions include:

- Building relationships/alliances with other ag or ag-related organizations that have the same interests that Farm Bureau has and how we can work together on issues.
- Improve teamwork and working together to better develop shared expectations of the board role.
- The board also recognized the need to use technology to be able to connect with members. They also agreed on the importance of 'modeling the way' if we are going to be asking members to improve their technology skills.
- Strengthening the WFB Foundation through new fundraising opportunities to continue funding programs such as the

Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Women's Program and Ag in the Classroom. Fundraising efforts will be increasing as we move forward.

- Revision of the Farm Bureau Mission Statement to contain some reference to member benefits or services to members.
- Staying on the road to financial stability.

I encourage everyone to attend their respective county Farm Bureau annual meeting next year, as this is where the WFBF policies are created...at the grassroots. As always, please contact me at 715.573.7208 with any questions or concerns you may have regarding Farm Bureau.

**Don Radtke**  
WFBF District 8 Board Director

## WFBF Seeks Photos for Rural Route

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work on some of the most beautiful pieces of land. In *Rural Route* WFBF would like to highlight those sights and special moments with your families and friends.

Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to [lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com).

(Due to the high volume of photos received, we are unable to include every photo.)



Want to receive the required reading for the ag community each week in your inbox?

Email [lsiekmann@wfbf.com](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com) to sign up for Ag Newswire TODAY!

## Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board Update

Did you know that the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the dairy farm families of Wisconsin offer special opportunities for Wisconsin schools? The Wisconsin Dairy Council (WDC), the school nutrition education division of the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, works with Wisconsin's K-12 schools to offer free dairy and agriculture resources for Wisconsin classrooms.

The WDC has a wide variety of programs designed for kindergarten through high school that help students understand how dairy helps grow their bodies and drives Wisconsin's economy.

Each lesson is presented by WDC staff and features interactive presentations, a dairy snack and great support materials for teachers and students. Plus each lesson meets several of the Wisconsin Academic Standards for a variety of subjects including social studies, health, nutrition, science and agriculture, food and natural resources. All presentations are free to Wisconsin schools. For more information visit [wisconsindairycouncil.com](http://wisconsindairycouncil.com), or contact, Beth Schaefer, Regional Program Manager for the Wisconsin Dairy Council, at [bschaefer@wmmrb.org](mailto:bschaefer@wmmrb.org).



## Do YOU Follow a Farmer?

### Blogs to follow:

- Carrie Mess; [dairycarrie.com](http://dairycarrie.com)
- Ryan Goodman; [agricultureproud.com](http://agricultureproud.com)
- CommonGround; [findourcommonground.com](http://findourcommonground.com)
- Wanda Patsche; [mnfarmliving.com](http://mnfarmliving.com)
- Katie Olthoff; [onthebanksofsquawcreek.com](http://onthebanksofsquawcreek.com)
- Brian and Kelly; [daddystractor.com](http://daddystractor.com)
- Emily Webel; [webelfamilyfarm.blogspot.com](http://webelfamilyfarm.blogspot.com)

### List of ag blogs:

- Wisconsin Farm Bureau blog; [wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs](http://wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs)
- American Farm Bureau Blogs; [fblog.fb.org](http://fblog.fb.org)
- via Janice Person- [janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmblogs](http://janiceperson.com/blogs-i-read/total-list-farmblogs)
- via Michele Payn-Knoper- [causematters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/](http://causematters.com/ag-resources/advocate-blogs/midwestern-regionadvocate-blogs/)



### Follow on Facebook:

- Rosy-Lane Holsteins LLC; [facebook.com/pages/Rosy-Lane-Holsteins-LLC/109173589103106](http://facebook.com/pages/Rosy-Lane-Holsteins-LLC/109173589103106)
- Rob-n-Cin Farms; [facebook.com/RobNCinFarms](http://facebook.com/RobNCinFarms)
- Heartwood Farm; [facebook.com/HeartwoodFarm.info](http://facebook.com/HeartwoodFarm.info)
- Protect the Harvest; [facebook.com/ProtectTheHarvest](http://facebook.com/ProtectTheHarvest)
- I Am Ag Proud; [facebook.com/AgricultureProud](http://facebook.com/AgricultureProud)
- Keeping it Real: Through the Lens of a Farm Girl; [facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl](http://facebook.com/lens.of.a.farm.girl)
- Humane Watch; [facebook.com/HumaneWatch](http://facebook.com/HumaneWatch)
- Douglas Behnke Farms; [facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950](http://facebook.com/pages/Douglas-Behnke-Farms/169202193122950)
- Grenawalt Farms Red Angus; [facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?fref=ts](http://facebook.com/pages/Grenawalt-Farms-Red-Angus/180846485329844?fref=ts)
- Smith Farms; [www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef](http://www.facebook.com/smithfarmsbeef)



### Twitter:

- #AgChat; [@agchat](https://twitter.com/agchat)
- #FoodD; [@USFRA](https://twitter.com/USFRA)
- Carrie Mess; [@DairyCarrie](https://twitter.com/DairyCarrie)
- Michele Payn-Knoper; [@mpaynknoper](https://twitter.com/mpaynknoper)
- Tim Zweben; [@zweberfarms](https://twitter.com/zweberfarms)
- Laura Daniels; [@cowsrmylife](https://twitter.com/cowsrmylife)
- Annaliese Wegner; [@modfarmchick](https://twitter.com/modfarmchick)
- Leah James; [@PineValleyDairy](https://twitter.com/PineValleyDairy)
- Lauren Arbogast; [@PaintTheTownAG](https://twitter.com/PaintTheTownAG)
- HumaneWatch; [@Humane\\_Watch](https://twitter.com/Humane_Watch)
- Scholze Family Farms; [@theo\\_farms](https://twitter.com/theo_farms)
- Will Gilmer; [@gilmerdairy](https://twitter.com/gilmerdairy)



## Save the Date – Ag Day at the Capitol

The 2015 Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 11** at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Below is a tentative schedule:

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

Individual registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 after March 5. For more information contact Ashleigh Calaway at [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com).

## 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 (NEW)
  - 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](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District 8 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program Update



District 8 YFA had a busy year. Many members were a part of the Helping Hands from the Heartland benefit. This brought together members from the counties for a wonderful cause. We had a nice turnout for the ice fishing gathering, even though no one caught any fish. In May, we joined past Alices in Dairyland for a tour of Grassland and Munson Bridge Winery. We hosted a picnic following Farm Technology Days and had a tour of

our farm. The District 8 YFA Discussion Meet had five very qualified contestants. We wish Melissa Ploeckelman - Marathon County, Ryan Prahl - Marathon County and MJ Zenner - Taylor County, good luck at the state competition. We thank those who attended the events throughout the year and are excited for 2015.

**Melissa and John Eron**  
District 8 YFA Committee Representatives

## Herrick's Dairy Farm Wins Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award®

Sand County Foundation and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation are proud to announce Herricks Dairy Farm is the recipient of Wisconsin's Leopold Conservation Award®. The award honors Wisconsin landowner achievement in voluntary stewardship and management of natural resources.

The announcement was made during the November 19 meeting of the Wisconsin Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Board in Madison. An independent judging panel made the selection September 17.

Jack and Pat Herricks, along with their children and their families, operate a 600-cow dairy farm in Cashton in the rolling hills of Monroe County.

The Herricks have practiced no till farming since 1992 before many farmers had considered it.

Jack Herricks' decades-long commitment to conservation practices includes soil erosion control measures, reduction of runoff into area waterways, forestry management, enhancement of wildlife habitat and careful manure management.

"This is a great award," said Jack Herricks. "It recognizes the lifetime of efforts that we've practiced on our farm. But for me personally, it offers another venue to spread my conservation ethic to more people. And I really look forward to doing that."

"The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is proud to recognize Jack and Pat Herricks as this year's recipients," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President. "Their life-long conservation efforts inspire others and benefit our natural resources."

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires other landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners



are recognized as conservation leaders. In his influential 1949 book, *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

The 2014 Leopold Conservation Award will be presented December 7 at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. The award recipient will be presented with a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold and \$10,000.

The Leopold Conservation Award in Wisconsin is made possible through the generous support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Badgerland Financial, Alliant Energy Foundation, American Transmission Company, DuPont Pioneer, Farm Credit, The Mosaic Company and The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation.

Visit [www.leopoldconservationaward.org](http://www.leopoldconservationaward.org).

## Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Cheri Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Vice President, Mike Brugger	715.965.7763
Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Klussendorf	715.785.5092
Women's Chair, Susan Brugger	715.965.7763
YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner	715.965.7840
Director, Karyn Eckert	715.748.4816
Director, Jack Johnson	715.785.7777
Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, Timothy Wesley	715.678.2716
Director, Matthew Winnie	715.427.0227
Taylor County Farm Bureau	866.583.7597
WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke	715.573.7208
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.344.6220

## Taylor County Women's Program Recognized at WFBF Annual Meeting

The Taylor County Farm Bureau Women's program participated in the Taylor County Fair "Cans For A Cause" event last summer with Laurie Peterson of Rural Mutual Insurance. This event raised awareness of the need for local donations of canned goods to Taylor County with giving a unique display to fair goers. The Women's Committee submitted this project for the County of Excellence Award at the state Farm Bureau and were selected to be showcased at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December in Wisconsin Dells! Thank you to all who were involved and to Laurie Peterson for partnering on this great event!

The Taylor County Women's program has been notified of being in the Top 5 Women's Programs for 2014. The top program will be announced at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December in Wisconsin Dells! Taylor County will be represented by Susan Brugger in being recognized for the yearly efforts of the committee. Thank you to all of the women who make our committee possible and successful!

## You Can Help Fund the Foundation

What does the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation do?

It supports agricultural education programs and develops agricultural leaders. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Foundation – we couldn't do it without members like you!

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Women's Program for Education and Leadership
- Farm Bureau Leadership Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

The Foundation also funds 4-H and FFA activities, scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin, Wisconsin Agribusiness Council, Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center and the Wisconsin Agriculture Education and Workforce Development Council.

Did you know that you can donate in memory or in honor of a loved one or just make a charitable donation? If you are interested in learning more about how you can help this awesome program please contact Wendy Kannel at 608.828.5719 or visit [wfbfoundation.com](http://wfbfoundation.com).