

# Washington County Farm Bureau

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**Dan Push** (262) 338-0656  
**Bill Dorrance** (262) 297-0444  
**Bill Kriese - District Manager**

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### YFA Updates By Peter Muth, District 1 YFA Representative

I hope everyone had a great time this year at the YFA Conference. We had 475 members present! Mark Mayer won the Achievement Award and went on to compete in San Diego, CA for the national contest. In the Discussion Meet, Waukesha County member Amanda Carlson advanced to the semifinals. Everyone representing District 1 did an outstanding job. If you see them be sure to congratulate them.



YFA members Matt and Kaylyn Dwyer shared time at the Kalahari with family.

We have a busy year ahead of us with a lot of activities planned in the district. The first event will be an Admirals game on January 23 with the Brett Eldridge concert to follow. On February 7, we will be going tubing at Sunburst Ski Hill in West Bend and lastly we have our annual Brewer Game outing on April 26. Be sure to check your email and watch our Facebook page to get all the details!



### 4-H Key Awards Given

The prestigious Key Award, one of the highest honors a 4-H member can receive, honors a select group of 4-H participants annually. The youth receiving this award are ones who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in the functions of their club and their community.

Key Award recipients are high school students with at least three years of experience in 4-H and one year as a youth leader. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsor the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award program. They have sponsored these awards for more than 25 years, helping 4-H honor some of Wisconsin's finest youth.



Key Award winners posed with representatives from the Washington County Farm Bureau. (L to R): Les Gundrum, Mariann Gundrum, Moriah Hensler, Dayle Duffek, Morgan Smeaton and Tiffany Miller. (Not pictured: Khia Kurtenbach)

### You're Invited!

#### What YOU Need to Know about loH

How do the new implements of husbandry laws affect me? What do I need to change on my farm to be in compliance with the new laws? Get all these questions and more answered at this informative session where you will learn what action your county and township has taken, and what your next steps are.

**When:** Monday, January 26 at 1 p.m.

**Location:** Room 1113 A&B at the Public Agency Center  
(333 E. Washington St, West Bend)

#### Questions?

Contact District 1 Coordinator  
Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com) or  
262.689.1838.



# COUNTYnews

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## WFBF Annual Meeting Draws Nearly 1,200

Again this year we had a large representation at the 95<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. There were a total of 475 young farmers and 700 Annual Meeting attendees. Washington County had a total of 36 people take part.

Our five Producer Club members were Mike Strupp, Greg Goeller, Ross Bishop, Scott Schreffler and Peter Muth. The Producer Club members (and guests) attended the luncheon on Saturday afternoon to be recognized for their hard work.

Both Saturday and Sunday afternoon, Farm Bureau members attended workshops. Interesting topics included: 'The Threat to the Agricultural Sector' (conducted by a FBI investigator), 'Hot Topics in Ag', 'Don't Let Meetings Drive You Crazy', 'Farming with Technology' and 'Writing Your Stories' (presented by Jerry Apps).

Saturday evening's entertainment was Roger Radley, the "Funniest Former Farmer". It was an entertaining show that kept everyone laughing.

Sunday morning's keynote speaker was Chad

Hymas, a motivational speaker, whose topic was "Who Needs Legs When You Have Wings." Chad was a 27-year-old elk farmer when his neck was broken after a 2,000 pound bale fell on him leaving him a quadriplegic. He emphasized that "it is not about I" – "it is about going and helping someone without being asked." Chad mentioned that this was his 3,379<sup>th</sup> conference since his paralysis. This was an excellent story of how he copes with his paralysis, does not feel sorry for himself and how Chad and his family continue to keep his elk farm thriving.

Monday morning, WFBF CAO Steve Freese pointed out items accomplished in 2014:

1. Strategic Plan/Future of Farm Bureau
2. Women's Committee Restructuring
3. Implements of Husbandry
4. New Five Year Farm Bill

At the business resolutions session, Washington County delegates George Muth, Ken Falk, Bill Hinckley, Les Gundrum and Paul Held voted on the state and federal resolutions.

Also announced was more than \$70,000 was raised for the WFB Foundation. Some fundraisers held were the Ag Open Golf Outing, YFA 50/50 raffle and trivia contest.



Washington County delegates Ken Falk, George Muth, Les Gundrum, Paul Held and Bill Hinckley.



Producer Club members Scott Schreffler, Greg Goeller, Mike Strupp, Ross Bishop and WFBF District 1 Director Dave Daniels.



Producer Club member Peter Muth sat with District 1 Coordinator Patti Roden and member Melissa Schaefer.



Allen Dornacker and Greg Goeller met up at the trade show.



Auction item donated by Washington County Farm Bureau.



Ross Bishop conversed with fellow attendees.



Washington County attendees enjoyed the banquet dinner.



Bill Hinckley eyed up an auction item.



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## "Friend of Agriculture" Awarded to Barb Falk

Barb Falk was presented with Washington County's Friend of Agriculture award during our 2014 county annual meeting. Barb grew up on a farm near Mequon, was an active member of her local 4-H club for many years, and eventually went to college and became a nurse.

Along the way, she met and married her husband, Alfred Falk. In 1965, they purchased their family farm near Newburg, and within a few years, began milking cows. They also became parents of three boys; Bob, Ken and Steve.



During the boys' childhood years, Barb served as the general leader of the Myraneers 4-H club, organizing monthly meetings, judging window displays and record books, and handling many other fair activities. She also served on the Farm Bureau Women's Committee and Fair Food Stand Committee at the Slinger Fairgrounds for many years, while her boys showed dairy cattle.

In her spare time, Barb loves cooking and baking for her family, and eventually turned that passion into a money-making hobby of cake decorating for weddings, anniversaries, open houses and much more.

During the years, the farm and family grew. With Barb's interest in dairy promotion, the family decided to host the Breakfast on the Farm in 1995. Since then, the farm has been

sold to their oldest son Bob and his wife Jane, who continue to grow the family farm.

Barb continues to serve her farming community. She is the secretary of the dairy promotion committee, cake decorating leader for the Myraneers 4-H club, Washington County Fair superintendent for foods and nutrition, on the Farm Service Agency Committee, and helps at the Farm Bureau food stand. She also serves as an election supervisor for the Town of Trenton, chair of the St. John Lutheran Church funeral committee and most importantly, she is a yummy cookie baker, fun game player and super-supportive grandma to her grandchildren and great-grandchild.

Congratulations Barb Falk on receiving this year's Friend of Agriculture award!

## 2014-2015 Membership Incentives

It is that time of the year again to think about finding new members. Our goal is to maintain our membership numbers and sign 30 new voting members by September 30, 2015. WFBF is offering an early bird special. If we reach our goal by April 30, 2015 we will receive \$1,000.

The state is offering \$20 per member signed from October 1, 2014 thru September 30, 2015. Our county is also offering an incentive for every member signed; the volunteer will receive \$20 per member. If you sign five or more new voting members, you and a guest will receive a complimentary one night stay at the 2015 WFBF Annual Meeting and will be invited to the Producer Club Luncheon. If you sign up 10 or more new voting members, you and a guest will receive a complimentary two night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Any Farm Bureau member is entitled to these incentives. Please note that the WFBF Annual Meeting incentives will expire April 30, 2015. Anyone who knows someone interested in being a member can call Mike Strupp at 262.305.0418.

## 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus Strengthens Youth Leadership

Did you know that Washington County Farm Bureau donates \$500 each year in support of the Citizenship Washington Focus Trip? 4-H members in tenth through twelfth grade had the opportunity to interview and be selected as delegates for the summer 2014 weeklong experience held at the National 4-H Center near Washington, D.C. Dayle Duffek and Moriah Hensler represented Washington County, experiencing the city and learning about America's heritage while seeing sites, visiting the branches of government and reflecting their responsibilities as a citizen.



Dayle Duffek beside Eleanor Roosevelt.



Left: Moriah Hensler at the World War II Memorial with friends.

## Farmers Making a Difference

Today's elementary students are tomorrow's voters and policy-makers. By providing youth with a clear understanding of how their food and fiber is produced and the important role of agriculture in their lives, we can ensure that they will support wise policies affecting America's farmers, our natural resources and our food supply.

Planning continues for Farmer in the Classroom and Ag Day Farm Tours set for March and April. Twelve schools (nearly 650 fourth graders) are already excited to put their "farmer hats" on and dive into the world of agriculture; however, this cannot be done without the hard work and efforts of Washington County farmers. Mark your calendars for mid-February when we'll come together to finalize details for this spring. Contact Ross Bishop at 414.531.8531 and get involved today!

## Soybean Science Kit Available

The Soybean Science Kit remains available to teachers in the county as a resource during science and agricultural units. The kit includes a teacher's guide to the many activities utilizing different forms of soybeans. Students can make their own crayons, candles and lip gloss; observe oil and water emulsions; float their own putt-putt boats and germinate and grow their own soybeans. This is a great resource with a wide range of activities for grades four through nine. For information or to reserve the kit for use, contact Melanie Gierach at gierachsfarm@mac.com.

## Save the Date! YFA Spring Fling

**Date: Saturday, April 11**

Time: Band starts at 8 p.m.

New Location: Circle B

(6261 Hwy. 60, Cedarburg)

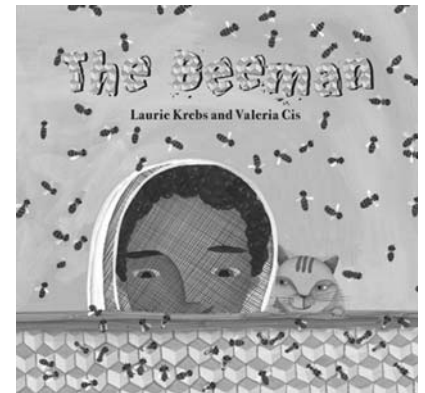
Tickets: \$10 at the door

\$8 in advance

Band: The Mantz Brothers

## Get Those Pencils Sharpened!

Each year Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students in all public, private and home schools. The 2014-2015 topic is "Why Are Bees Important To Wisconsin Agriculture?" The Women's Committee donated the book of the year, *The Beeman*, to all schools and libraries last fall allowing teachers to educate about bees, beekeepers and the pollination process. County contest entries are due by April 1. Contact Mariann Gundrum, Essay Contest Coordinator, at lmacres@charter.net for more information.



This year's contest will be sponsored by Washington County Farm Bureau, Frontier-Servco FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Dear Farm Bureau members,

I just want to express my appreciation to the Washington County Farm Bureau for your kind donation of the books "A Farm of Many Colors" and "The Beeman". We certainly are grateful not only for the books but also the various resources that accompanied them and the opportunities afforded our students here at MacArthur through your organization.

"A Farm of Many Colors" is not only being shared with our kindergarten students, but is being used as a valuable learning tool by our English Language Learners. The fourth grade teachers are excited to share their past field trip experiences with the farmers with their students pointing out and discussing the farms they actually visited.

We truly value your organization and its continued support of our school. The books will be enjoyed for years to come by our students. Please convey to the Farm Bureau membership the sincere gratitude of the staff and students of MacArthur School for these wonderful contributions.

Sincerely,  
Steven Williams, Principal  
MacArthur Elementary - Germantown

## County Implements of Husbandry Update

### Washington County Transportation Committee Report – October 21, 2014

Wisconsin Act 377 was signed into law on April 23, 2014. This law updates the definition of Implements of Husbandry (IoH), creates a definition for an agricultural commercial motor vehicle (Ag CMV), provides an additional weight allowance from a maximum single axle weight of 20,000 to 23,000 pounds and increases the maximum gross vehicle weight from 80,000 to 92,000 pounds. Other components of the law address length and width limits, safety concerns including lighting and marking, and clarifies rules of the road. Wisconsin Act 377 classified ag equipment into 3 categories:

**Category A:** Farm tractor

**Category B:** Self propelled combine, forage harvester or fertilizer (not manure application)

**Category C:** Farm wagon, farm trailer, manure trailer or trailer adopted to be towed by an IoH.

### Washington County Transportation Committee – October 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is going to “Opt In”, thus requiring agricultural equipment to follow the new weight limits on all State Highways. This requires Category B agricultural equipment that exceeds 23K on a single axle to obtain a no-fee permit from the WisDOT. Commissioner Wondra recommended that Washington County “Abide by Act 377”. A motion was made by Mr. Naab and was seconded by Mr. Ewert to “Abide by Act 377” which will allow Category B agricultural equipment to exceed the 23K axel limit without being issued a no-fee permit from Washington County. Motion carried.

|   | Option           | Action   | Communication   | Permit                              | Results  |
|---|------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| E | Opt In           | Pass ordinance requiring Category B and all IoH/Ag CMVs to follow 23K/92K/weight limitations table                           | Must pass and post/publish ordinance or resolution. Also posted on DOT website. | Must respond to permit applications | IoH and Ag CMVs must apply for permit to exceed 23K/92K/weight table   |
| R | Abide by Act 377 | No special action taken - 23K/92K/weight limitations table governs IoH and Ag CMVs-except Category B (no axle limit/92K GVW) | No publishing required  | Must respond to permit applications | IoH and Ag CMVs must apply for permit to exceed 23K/92K/weight table; Category B must apply for permit to exceed 92K GVW |

(Four additional Act 377-Local Government options were given; only those mentioned are listed above.)

#### Farmers Take Note!

Ozaukee County plans to “Abide by Act 377”. Dodge and Fond du Lac Counties both chose to “Opt In” and require a

no-fee permit to exceed the axel limit on Category B equipment. For more information visit: [www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/ag/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/ag/index.htm).

## Farmers’ Market Booth Shares Ag

On Saturday, August 23, Nancy Dornacker of the Women’s Committee hosted a booth at the West Bend Farmers’ Market. The booth provided promotional material on fruits and vegetables, canning, recipes and the ChooseMyPlate concept of fruit/grains/vegetables/protein/dairy on your plate. Farm facts brochures were also handed out.

Again this year we gave out free samples. The sample this year was “Jazz Apples” – a good snacking treat that has a tangy-sweet taste. There were about 70 samples taken. We also connected with teachers and parents by handing out information on our Ag in the Classroom program.

## A Conversation with Will Allen and Michael Pollan

The Women’s Committee attended “A Conversation with Will Allen and Michael Pollan” on November 7 in Milwaukee. Will Allen, founder of Growing Power in Milwaukee, and Michael Pollan, an award winning author on food, spoke to the group regarding the food movement, social justice and politics pertaining to the food we eat and grow, and what the future holds.

It was a great experience to hear this information with a broader scope than we see and do in our immediate area. A good event to make a person think about agriculture and its future.



Will and Michael educated the crowd.

## Scholarship Apps Due in April

- Five \$750 scholarships will be available to students who will be in higher or continued education.
- Awarded to students of families who have a Washington County Farm Bureau membership.
- May be used at any accredited technical school or university.
- Priority given to those in agriculture or an agricultural-related field.
- Applications will be available on the web ([wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/washington](http://wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/washington)) by Monday, March 2.
- **Applications due to the Scholarship Committee by Friday, April 24.**



## Washington County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 Director, Mark Schaefer 414.640.7606  
 Director, Scott Schreffler 262.224.9781  
 Director, Helmut Wagner 262.673.2809

Washington County Farm Bureau 877.483.3556  
 District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden 866.355.7341  
 WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels 262.878.5035  
 RMC District Manager, Bill Kriese 920.893.1811

## Washington County Annual Meeting

The 71<sup>st</sup> Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held October 7 at the Columbian and was attended by nearly 200 members. All resolutions presented at the meeting were passed. Elections were held for board members and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Students read their winning essays. (L to R) Henry Danaher – St. Frances Cabrini, second place; Matthew Rhodes – Erin Elementary, third place; Ethan Ruhnke – St. Frances Cabrini, first place.

Board members who were reelected are Judy Kasten, Ken Falk and Helmut Wagner. Stephanie Egner was elected as Women’s Chair and Peter Muth as Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair.

After the conclusion of the meeting a reorganizational meeting was held with the following executive board members elected; George Muth (president), Ken Falk (vice President), Bill Hinckley (secretary) and David Lettow (treasurer).



Board members (Front L to R): Stephanie Egner, George Muth, Ken Falk, Bill Hinckley, Dave Lettow, (Back L to R): Judy Kasten, Mark Schaefer, Helmut Wagner, Peter Muth, Matt Dwyer and Scott Schreffler.