



## Waushara County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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For information on farm insurance, contact your  
local Rural Mutual agent.

### Rural Mutual Agents in Waushara County:

**Jon Berger** (920) 787-4664

Chuck Reitz III - District Manager

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Member Profile: Q and A with Kyle Thom

Q: What is your educational background?

A: I graduated from Wautoma High School in 2009 and from UW-Platteville in 2013 with an agribusiness degree, emphasis in agricultural engineering technology (AET).

Q: How would you describe your family's farm?

A: We farm about 900 acres, milk 60 cows and raise 50 feeder steers a year. We also do some cash cropping. I farm full-time with my father, Dan Thom and grandfather, Lyle Thom. My siblings Mackenzie and Collan are also involved part-time in the farm.

Q: What are your responsibilities on the farm?

A: My main role is working with my father doing all of the daily livestock chores, such as cleaning manure, milking and feeding. I disced all of our planting ground this year. I also cut and raked 95% of the hay.

Q: What are some of your other hobbies?

A: I enjoy hunting, swimming, fishing and traveling.

Q: When did you get involved in the Farm Bureau?

A: I officially became a Waushara County Farm Bureau member last summer when I started to get more involved in the Farm Bureau fair food stand committee. Before that I always volunteered to help with setup up and take down for many years.

Q: Why did you decide to join Farm Bureau?

A: I decided to join Farm Bureau because of what it does for farmers. The organization has a phenomenal reputation.

Q: How would like to become more involved in the Farm Bureau?

A: In the future I would like to be more involved by being on the county Farm Bureau board. Farm Bureau has always had such a positive impact in my life. I cannot think of a reason to not be a part of this organization.





**WAUSHARA  
COUNTY  
AUGUST 14-17**

**“The Biggest Little  
County Fair in  
Wisconsin!”**

**Four days of fun-filled entertainment for the whole family!**

Find out more at [www.wausharacofair.com](http://www.wausharacofair.com). The Waushara County Farm Bureau will once again be conducting a food stand at the county fair. The committee is always looking for more volunteers. This is the county's largest fundraiser of the year. Money raised helps fund the Ag in the Classroom program, 4-H and youth donations, Women's Committee and YFA (Young Farmer and Agriculturist) programs.

**If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Bonnie Jarvis at 920.787.2675.**



JUNE 2014

# COUNTYnews

WAUSHARA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Waushara County Farm Bureau Hosts Several Ag in the Classroom Presentations

Waushara County Ag in the Classroom (AITC) volunteers Bernadette Krentz, Kevin Krentz and CJ Young conducted an AITC PowerPoint presentation for fourth graders at Wild Rose Elementary, Pleasant View School, All Saints School and St. John's. The presenters spoke to more than 30 students at each location. The presentation included discussion on the diversity of agriculture in the county and state. They talked about the impact of natural resources in food production, the technology used in agriculture today and how that helps lower our carbon footprint.



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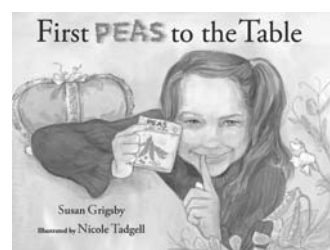
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## Waushara County Conducts Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



Brianna Abler from Redgranite was named the Waushara County Farm Bureau's 2014 Ag in the Classroom essay winner. Brianna's essay was selected from more than 60 essays submitted to the Waushara County Farm Bureau.

The 2013-14 essay contest was open to all fourth and fifth grade students. This year's topic was: "Wisconsin gardens provide many food choices for us." The 2014 Book of the Year is "First Peas to the Table" by Susan Grigsby. The book and essay topic allows us to educate students about where food comes from, learn about Thomas Jefferson and his gardening research, understand how plants grow and make healthy food choices. The Ag in the Classroom essay contest is sponsored by the Frontier Servco FS, We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.



Waushara County Farm Bureau: 866.666.8013

wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/waushara

## District Director Report



through the Farm Bureau Institute class has been challenged and has become a stronger leader and communicator. It is also extremely important for all farmers to communicate with our representatives this year.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. with the Farm Bureau Institute class. Two things continue to impress me. One is the respect that Wisconsin Farm Bureau gets from our representatives and the other is the leadership Farm Bureau continues to grow. We continue to grow leaders not only for our organization but for our communities. Everyone who has gone

Recently, the EPA made a ruling redefining "waters of the U.S." under the Clean Water Act. This ruling has grossly overreached the regulator authority of the EPA to many ditches and farmland. Although the EPA has offered an exemption for agriculture, I believe the EPA doesn't have the authority to offer such an exemption. If we accept this authority at this point, we also would have to except it if the EPA removed the exemption. Please contact your representative and senators to tell them how such an overreach would affect you on your farm. Representative Petri recently announced his retirement. I want to express my gratitude to him for his years of service to his district and to this country. I encourage everyone to have discussions with the candidates and vet how they will protect our rights as land owners.

I also want to personally thank everyone who has been involved in the strategic planning process. It is an important part of developing and prioritizing the future of our organization. A major part of the future and a way to also save Farm Bureau money is by using more electronic communications. In order to do this we must have your email addresses. I want to encourage everyone we do not have emails for to email District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at rhibicki@wfbf.com with your info. In today's world timely information is key. Getting the information to you in the shortest amount of time is my goal as your district director.

God Bless and have a safe cropping season,

**Kevin Krentz**

WFBF District 5 Board Director

## Extension Update - Farm Technology Days 2014

By **Ken Williams**, Waushara County UW-Extension Agricultural Agent

Held in a different Wisconsin county each year since 1954, Farm Technology Days is a non-profit, educational event intended to showcase the cutting-edge of agriculture products and practices. Hosted by family farms, the event appeals to large scale agriculture and hobby farmers alike. This three day event traditionally draws 40,000 to 80,000 attendees.

Portage County host farms are Blue Top Farms, a 1,200 acre grain and vegetable farm and Feltz Family Farms, a 550-cow dairy located east of Plover's Crossroad Commons, south of Highway HH. Additional land, being used for field demonstrations, is being made possible through neighboring potato and vegetable growers; Myron Soik and Sons, Inc. and Greg Kizewski and Sons, Inc.

To further showcase potato farming in Central Wisconsin, the commemorative toy collectible for 2014 is a one-of-a-kind, limited edition 2000 Lenco Self Propelled Airhead Potato Harvester. Only 1,000 of the toys (1:42 scale, die-cast metal) will be produced. These potato harvesters will be sold exclusively through the 2014 Portage County Farm Technology Days organization. It is sure to be a collector's keepsake. Check out the Portage County Farm Tech Online Store at [www.portagecountyfarmtech.com/online\\_store](http://www.portagecountyfarmtech.com/online_store) to order online or for a printable order form. This is a must have especially if you have any connections to the potato industry at all. Also available is a commemorative 16-month barn calendar featuring beautiful pictures of more than 50 rural Wisconsin barns.

It takes 1,000 to 1,500 volunteers to host an event like this. Volunteer opportunities include tractor drivers, equipment operators, setup and take down, parking assistants, admissions, information booth assistants, help in the youth and family living exhibits and the list goes on. If you have the time, we can use your talents.



**2000 Lenco Self Propelled  
Airhead Potato Harvester  
1:42 Collectible Diecast Order Form**



Only 1,000 being produced

Detailed features

Commemorative package  
with Lenco literature

Sold exclusively through the  
2014 Portage County Farm  
Technology Days

Model dimensions:  
11.25" x 6.25" x 3.875"

Models will be available for pickup at the 2014 Portage County show or shipped to your address after the event. A receipt and/or email confirmation must be presented at the show to receive your model. Due to limited production quantities, payment is due at time of order.

[portagecountyfarmtech.com](http://portagecountyfarmtech.com)



*Tonkin Replicas*

## Ag Day at the Capitol Brings Farmers to the Capitol

Nearly 400 members of various farm and commodity groups attended Ag Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 29 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in downtown Madison. It was there they heard from Governor Scott Walker about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin. Members also heard from WFBF Government Relations staff Paul Zimmerman and Karen Gefvert who briefed everyone about issues including implements of husbandry, animal welfare, raw milk and more. Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to the Capitol and met with local representatives about topics important to Wisconsin agriculture.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROW-MARK Inc. were major sponsors of the event.

Cosponsors of the event with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation were: National Farmers Organization, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association, Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture and Wisconsin Veal Growers Association.



Waushara County members who attended Ag Day at the Capitol were (L to R) Glenn Arveson, Dave Gneiser (Green Lake County), Kent Peterson, Kevin Krentz, Jim Bleskey, Paul Jarvis, Jim Jarvis and Bonnie Jarvis with Rep. Kevin Peterson.

## WFBF Women's Committee Collect Pop Tabs for Ronald McDonald House

In 2013 the WFBF Women's Committee and volunteers from their districts came together to help in a one day project at the Ronald McDonald Houses in Madison, Milwaukee and Marshfield. The committee and volunteers cooked and served meals, provided games and crafts for the children and donated food, books, toys, clothing and monetary donations. This year the committee will once again conduct this project in all three houses in addition to a Pop Tab Challenge.



What is a pop tab? Pop tabs are the little aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, some pet food, canned fruits, vegetables and more.

How do pop tabs help the Ronald McDonald House? Once the pop tabs are collected and turned into a Ronald McDonald House, they are taken to be recycled in exchange for dollars, which support the children and families staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses.

The pop tab challenge is a statewide project which began in January and will run through November with the final collection of tabs from each district being dropped at the WFBF Annual Meeting trade show at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells this December 6-8. The women's booth at the trade show will have nine tubs labeled District 1-9. Attendees are asked to drop their collection in their district's tub.

For more local or district information on collecting tabs and possible prizes, contact Michelle Bula the District 5 Women's Committee representative at 608.547.2451. The real winner of this challenge will be the Ronald McDonald Houses of Wisconsin.

# Waushara County Farm Bureau Sponsors Reserve Champion Heifer Award

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Central Wisconsin Spring Fling Jackpot Steer and Heifer show was held on May 10 at the Waushara County Fairgrounds in Wautoma. More than 160 animals were entered in the show. The Waushara County Farm Bureau was named a Purple Ribbon Sponsor for contributing \$500 toward the event.



The Waushara County Farm Bureau sponsored \$150 for the reserve champion heifer. Pictured (L to R) Kent Peterson – Waushara County Farm Bureau, Doug Fish – Beef Show Judge, Glenn Arveson – Waushara County Farm Bureau and Reserve Champion Heifer Winner Preston Wimmler.

# Waushara County YFA Members Travel to Washington, D.C.

Waushara County YFA members Cory and Clare Biely recently attended the YFA Washington, D.C. trip with more than 30 other YFA members from Wisconsin. From June 2-6, a delegation of Wisconsin YFA members was in D.C. and toured the American Farm Bureau Federation's headquarters, were briefed on agricultural topics and met with legislators to discuss how these topics effect their farms.



Recently, nine YFA members from District 5 attended the YFA Washington, D.C. trip. Pictured (L to R): Amanda and Josh Knoch, Michelle and Nathan Bula, Tim Clark, Travis and Janet Clark and Waushara County members Cory and Clare Biely.

# Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar

August 14-17	Waushara County Fair
August 21	District 5 Discussion Meet - Berlin
October 8	Waushara County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting - Silvercryst Supper Club

# District 5 Discussion Meet

The District 5 Discussion Meet will be held **Thursday, August 21 at the City Inn Bar and Grill in Berlin at 7:30 p.m.** Please contact District 5 YFA Representative Tim Clark at [tclark@dairylandseed.com](mailto:tclark@dairylandseed.com) or 262.305.8733 for more information.

## Discussion Meet Questions

1. How would the condition of government-managed public lands change if they were managed privately? What are the pros and cons of government ownership of land versus private ownership?
2. Should farmers and ranchers be held liable for possible food-borne illnesses when the food item of concern can be traced back to their farms or ranches? Why or why not?
3. The farm bill crop insurance provisions offer a safety net for crop loss due to natural disaster and/or price risk. Should a safety net for livestock producers be developed, and what provisions might it include?
4. How can young farmers and ranchers work to encourage membership growth and member engagement for the county, state and national Farm Bureau organizations?
5. How should our nation's policies balance concerns about food insecurity against concerns about the safety or environmental impact of modern agricultural technologies? What role should farmers have in discussing and debating these issues in our society and with our lawmakers?

Question #4 will be used for the district Discussion Meet.

# County Annual Meeting

The Waushara County annual meeting will be **October 8** at the Silvercryst Supper Club on Highway 21 in Wautoma. *Watch your mail for more details!*



# Waushara County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Paul Jarvis	920.229.0637
Vice President, James Jarvis	920.787.2675
Secretary/Treasurer, Kent Peterson	920.744.7102
Women's Chair, Bernadette Krentz	920.361.1934
YFA Chair, Cory Biely	920.987.5657
Director, Glenn Arveson	920.407.0207
Director, Josh Blader	920.290.1731
Director, Jim Bleskey	920.787.2582
Director, Chuck Brewer	920.987.5941
Director, Bill Deppe	920.361.1433
Director, Jonathan Deppe	920.361.1433
Director, Marvin Heller	715.228.3901
Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
Director, Ryan Nowak	920.295.2728
Director, John Piechowski	920.566.2855
Director, Mark Pomplun	920.987.5997
Director, Robert Walejko	920.293.8213
Director, Grant Wandrey	920.540.2888
Director, Forest Wilcox	920.787.3682
Waushara County Farm Bureau	866.666.8013
WFBF Board Director, Kevin Krentz	920.361.7380
District 5 Coordinator, Becky Hibicki	866.355.2029
RMIC District Manager, Chuck Reitz III	920.921.6402

# WANTED: College Student to Blog

Want to be a blogger for the largest general ag organization in Wisconsin? Here is your chance!

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is looking for a college student to blog for [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com)! Can you write? Do you have a passion for agriculture? Do you have something to say? Then this opportunity might be for you!

## Qualifications:

- 1) Must be a collegiate Farm Bureau member at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls.
- 2) Must be a good writer.
- 3) Must be able to provide at least one blog post every three weeks.

If interested send your name, email and school to [clangan@wfbf.com](mailto:clangan@wfbf.com) along with a blog post sample of 400 words or less by **July 11**.

To see a list of our current bloggers visit [wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs](http://wfbf.com/newspublications/blogs). If you have any questions email [clangan@wfbf.com](mailto:clangan@wfbf.com). This is an excellent resume builder but is not a paid opportunity.

# New Members

David Brownlow  
Brian Harvey  
William Hendrick  
Leroy Kettlewell  
Olivia Koszarek  
Tom Leach  
Tim Magdanz  
Christopher Rader  
Pat Reilly  
Robert Ringbauer  
Josh Saykally  
Chayne Thomm  
Cory Wagner

Welcome  
to **Farm  
Bureau**