

Wood County Farm Bureau

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For information about our farm safety campaign,
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Rural Mutual Agents in Wood County:

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Tim Comeau Jennifer Howen
(715) 421-5880 (715) 384-2826
David Meihak - District Manager

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

A Member Benefit the Whole Family Can Enjoy!



Get your peanuts and Cracker Jacks ready! The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company are teaming up for a special Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Day at the ballparks of the eight Wisconsin Northwoods League teams.

“This will be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau members to take part in a member event and enjoy America’s favorite past time,” said Jim Holte, President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

From, May through August, there will be three Farm Bureau Member Appreciation games at each of the eight Wisconsin teams. This will be a special event for Farm Bureau members with deals on game tickets that will include a team hat, soda and a hot dog.

There also will be special recognition of Farm Bureau during the game as well as advertising in the program book and radio ads so support your local Northwoods League team!

The Northwoods League teams in Wisconsin include Eau Claire Express, Lakeshore Chinooks, Madison Mallards, Wisconsin Woodchucks, Green Bay Bullfrogs, Kenosha Kingfish, La Crosse Loggers and the Wisconsin Rapids Rafters.

“Nothing beats sitting in your favorite ballpark, watching your favorite team on a hot, sunny day, with a hot dog smothered with all the goods in one hand and an ice cold drink in the other,” said Todd Argall, Vice President of Customer Acquisition and Service with Rural Mutual Insurance. “We are looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark.”



Tickets can be purchased by ordering from each team’s website or by calling their ticket office. To receive the discounted price use the promotion code ‘farmbureau’. To see the full list of Farm Bureau games visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Welcome to the Dairy Days of Summer

By **Beth Porior Schaefer**, Regional Program Manager, Wisconsin Dairy Council and Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board

It is almost here ... sunshine, fresh cut alfalfa and the 30 dairy filled-days of June Dairy Month.

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is taking the month of June and extending the celebration of our state’s dairy heritage to all summer long.

The Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board is excited to bring the third Annual Dairy Days of Summer back to Wisconsin.

The Dairy Days of Summer website at www.dairydaysofsummer.com is complete with dairy recipes, events and farm breakfasts for the ultimate June Dairy Month experience!

New recipes featuring Wisconsin dairy products include Berry Oat Breakfast Smoothie, Parmesan Herb Veggie Dip, Berry and Cream Muffins, Apple Coleslaw with Lemon Ginger Yogurt Dressing, PB and J Bars, Heirloom Tomato, Basil Caprese Warps...just to name a few. Visit dairydaysofsummer.com for a complete guide to tempting summer dairy flavors.

If June Dairy Breakfast is your favorite way to celebrate, don’t miss out on these June Dairy breakfasts!

Sunday, June 7

Marathon Partnership for Progressive Agriculture June Dairy Breakfast at Marathon Park

Sunday, June 20

Portage County June Dairy Breakfast, Bulgrin Grandview Farms LLC, Milladore

Wisconsin Rapids June Dairy and Berry Breakfast, Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids

Saturday, June 27

Pittsville June Dairy Breakfast, Pittsville Septic, Pittsville

Auburndale June Dairy Breakfast, Auburndale

Sunday, June 28

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, Al and Vicki Beran Farm, Birnamwood

For the most up-to-date information on June Dairy Month events and breakfasts, including directions, cost and attractions, visit www.dairydaysofsummer.com.





COUNTYnews

WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Wood County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capital



Ag Day at the Capitol was held March 11 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. It is the largest gathering of farmers and agriculture industry officials from across the state representing a variety of farm and agriculture-related groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy.

Members also heard from Jordan Lamb, an attorney with Dewitt Ross & Stevens who spoke to the group about high capacity wells and the UW System budget and Bob Welch, The Welch Group, Inc., who spoke about transportation.

In addition, the Farm Bureau government relations team including Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Paul Zimmerman briefed everyone about wolves, Implements of Husbandry and the proposed budget.



Following a briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked up to the Capitol to meet with local representatives and speak about issues important to our agriculture industry.



5th Annual Wisconsin Ag Women's Summit Brings Ladies Together

During the last five years, hundreds of women from around the state have gathered in March for a day and half retreat in the Madison area.

This year was no exception! This annual event is like a mini vacation for a lot of farm and agribusiness women who attend.

It is hard to believe that during this 27-hour

conference women were able to attend breakout sessions covering everything from farm succession, home office organization, how to dress for any occasion, along with how to turn trash into treasure and so much more.

During the evening festivities the women enjoyed the sights and sounds of Piano Fondue.



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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute Program Update By Brad Weber

During the last few years, I have worked to develop my leadership skills by becoming an active member of the Wood County Farm Bureau board of directors and more recently the county YFA chair.

I thought that I was doing a good job with my leadership until this last fall when I was selected as one of 14 members to be a part of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute.

This program is designed to help an individual develop into a

strong, confident dedicated person that has the tools to successfully tackle life's obstacles.

Being in the institute program has helped me much more than I could have ever imagined.

I learned more about my personality type and how to work with other personality types. I developed stronger confidence in presenting information to an audience when in the past it was one of my greatest fears. I also gained confidence to stand

up for issues that I believe strongly in.

During the last few months I also gained a new appreciation for what it takes to be a leader. It is not just about showing up at meetings and talking about the issues. It is being dedicated, passionate and not afraid to address the hard issues.

I know that I have only reached the tip of the iceberg on this journey. I can't wait to see what is around the bend and what this program and Farm Bureau has in store for me!

Meet Wood County Women's Chair: Kaitlin Hartkopf



Kaitlin has been involved with Wood County Farm Bureau for more than a year and became involved with Farm Bureau because she

wanted to be a part of an organization that promotes agriculture.

She grew up on an Elk Farm in Minnesota with her parents Lance and Brenda and

her brother Blaine and sister Kelsey. Kaitlin is a field representative for a local dairy cooperative.

"One of the greatest benefits of being involved in Farm Bureau is the connections you make through the agriculture industry," said Kaitlin, who also believes that it is important to be a part of the agriculture industry because agriculture is the foundation of our lives. From the food we eat to the clothes we wear, to the products we use in our everyday lives, it all comes from agriculture.

Wood County YFA Program Update

The Wood County YFA group has been kicking off 2015 with a variety of events.

In early February, Wood County and Marathon County hosted a joint bowling social at Rose bowl lanes in Marshfield. The counties sponsored prizes for the top male and female bowlers. It was an opportunity to forget about the winter and spend time catching up.

On February 21 YFA members gathered to spend the day tubing and socializing. It was a great afternoon filled with fun and memories.

The YFA committee is planning some fun summer activities including but not limited to a fishing, camping, a movie, an ice cream stand fundraiser and more!

For more information about the Wood County YFA program or how you can get involved, please contact Brad Weber at 715.650.1542.



Ag in the Classroom Presents New Brochure

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is proud to introduce the newly-revised 2015 Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure.

The brochure highlights Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry and is now interactive.

Using a free app called, Aurasma, users can make the brochure come to life with additional facts and videos related to Wisconsin agriculture.

To download the app, visit the app store on your tablet or smart phone and find Aurasma. Download the app and make sure to follow WIAITC.

Copies of the brochure are available by visiting wisagclassroom.org and using the resource order form.



District 8 YFA Update By Mellisa Eron

June 23

District 8 YFA members are invited to attend the 2015 Friends of Millcreek Watershed Conservation Tour. It is co-hosted by Bulgrins Grand View Dairy and Mark and Lisa Totten in Milladore. The tour is a hayride style and will highlight conservation efforts practiced by the landowners. If time permits we also will tour a historic round barn owned by the Bulgrins. Please RSVP to Melissa Eron at 651.380.1710, seating is limited.

July 1

Applications due for the Excellence in Ag and Achievement awards. The Excellence in Ag award is for someone involved in the agriculture industry but doesn't not have the majority of its income from production farming. The Achievement award is for someone in production agriculture. For more information, please contact your county YFA chair.

August 14

WFBF Institute Class X applications due. This is a great leadership opportunity and is open to all ages, not just YFA members.

Rural Sponsorship due. Consider nominating someone who will be attending the YFA Conference for the first time. Rural Insurance will cover their registration and hotel costs.

August 25-27

Farm Technology Days in Dane County.

August 29

District 8 Discussion Meet. This year it will be held at the Abbyland Travel Center in Curtis. We will have the buffet that consists of chicken, ribs, scalloped potatoes, soup, salad and dessert for \$10.75. Before the discussion meet we will tour Munson Bridge Winery at 10 a.m. This was a dairy farm before a winery and the tour will cover the converting process. The cost of the tour and tasting is \$5 per person. Plan to make a day of it by attending the Loyal Corn Festival Breakfast in the Park. The breakfast is sponsored by the Clark County Farm Bureau with proceeds benefiting their scholarship fund. The breakfast is from 7 a.m. to noon.



Day at a glance

- 7-10 a.m.** Breakfast in the Park, Loyal
- 10 a.m.** Tour and tasting at Munson Bridge Winery, W6462 Bridge Road, Withee
- 12 noon** Travel to Abbyland Travel Center, 219 Plaza Drive, Curtis
- 12:30 p.m.** Lunch and Discussion Meet

You don't have to compete to attend or if you can't attend the whole day, you are welcome to attend part of it. Please RSVP by **August 24** to Melissa if attending any of the events and if you are participating in the Discussion Meet.

Please share your contact information or email address with Melissa Eron at mklein211@hotmail.com. We will send reminder emails and create Facebook events to promote the events.

Dial 8-1-1 Before You Dig

Want to avoid spending a day in the dark? Or being without heat or air conditioning in your home? What about not being able to connect to the Internet, email or social media?

Preventing these issues may be as simple as dialing 8-1-1.

Digging can damage the underground utilities that we all rely on every day. By dialing 8-1-1 a few days prior to your digging project, whether it is a large or small, you can avoid these digging related damages and keep yourself and your family safe.



Farmers and ranchers are not exempt in making notifications to the One Call center. Projects may include installing drain tile, building terraces, chisel plowing, sub-soiling, deep ripping, building waterways, drilling wells or installing fence posts.

Don't forget that erosion, land movement, root structure growth or other factors may affect the amount of dirt surrounding the underground utility. Safe digging is no accident.

Protect yourself, your family and community and make sure to spread the word about 811.

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
 - 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.

Wood County Ag in the Classroom Essay Winners are all the Buzz...

This year the Wood County Ag in the Classroom committee took a different approach to finding contestants for this annual spring time event. The group personally mailed books and information about the contest to every fourth grade classroom in Wood County.



Sophia won a Kindle Fire.



Phoebe won a \$20 Culver's Gift Card.

The results from this approach, the committee received more than 58 essays from students in Wood County. At the April board meeting the Wood County Board of Directors selected the first and second place winners. Both students are from Madison Elementary in Marshfield. The students were asked to write a 100-300 word essay on "Why are bees important to Wisconsin agriculture?"



Heather Peters, a Madison Elementary fourth grade teacher won a tote filled with AITC books, curriculum and agricultural games.

On April 21, Brad Weber, Wood County YFA chair and board director presented the winning students and their class with a prize. This year's student prizes were graciously donated by our Wood County Rural Mutual Insurance agents Tim Comeau and Joe Grant from the Wisconsin Rapids office and Jennifer Howen and Brad Kreklau from the Marshfield office.



Heather Peters and Kristin Ule's fourth grade classrooms won a classroom party complete with ice cream and honey!

Sophia's first place winning essay

Pollination Process and its Importance to Wisconsin Agriculture

Did you know that bees are one of the most important insects to humans on Earth? It is said that humans would only live about 4 days without bees.

Did you know that without pollination we wouldn't have many of our favorite foods? Without pollination we wouldn't have asparagus, broccoli, cucumbers, cantaloupes, or pumpkins. We also wouldn't have watermelons, blueberries, apples, cherries, or cranberries. Those are only a few plants we wouldn't have without pollination.

Did you know that bees have pockets and stiff hairs on their legs to collect more pollen? The bees go from flower to flower collecting nectar as pollen sticks to their legs. Pollination happens when pollination happens when pollen from the male part of the flower joins with the female part of the flower. When this happens, the plants nut, seed, or fruit is formed.

Did you know that bees helped produce \$15 billion in agriculture crops by pollinating in 2014? That's only in the U.S.! It is about one-third of everything we eat. We rely on bees for a lot of food.

Now you know that bees are very important for pollinating agriculture crops. Bees are one of the most important insects to humans.

Phoebe's second place winning essay

Bees Mean Business!

You probably think bees are a stinging pain but the truth is they play a big role in our food source!

Bees pollinate about 52 percent of what we eat and what grocery stores sell. If we didn't have bees we also wouldn't have apples, carrots, lemons, squash, cucumber, broccoli and many more fruits and vegetables. One of every three bites of plants is pollinated by honeybees.

Not only do bees pollinate food but they also make sweet honey. Honey can make you healthier and can only be made by bees. Bees are important to Wisconsin since it is our state insect and pollinates most of our crops. Bees are a big part in Wisconsin's agriculture.

Now bees are decreasing because of colony collapse disorder. This will make a big change to everybody if bees are extinct. We probably would all die if they are gone. You could even say that bees mean business!

Wood County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Charles Fox 715.569.4781
 Vice President, Josh Calaway 715.781.1220
 Vice President, Dale Denk 715.652.2143
 Secretary/Treasurer, Loren Scheuneman 715.569.4455
 Women's Chair, Kaitlin Hartkopf 763.268.9722
 YFA Chair, Brad Weber 715.676.2476

Director, Jason Behrend 715.451.2291
 Director, Clarence Boerboom 715.305.4934
 Director, Cindy Hardy 715.305.3836
 Director, Dustin Huser 715.213.7693
 Director, Raphael Maciejewski 715.435.3745
 Director, Leslie Ertl 715.305.2386

Wood County Farm Bureau 877.583.6897
 District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway 866.355.7348
 WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke 715.539.2892
 RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak 715.344.6220

Meet Wood County YFA Chair: Brad Weber



Brad Weber is a third generation Farm Bureau member who has been actively involved for the last four years.

He became involved with Farm Bureau to help spread the word about the importance of agriculture in the world. One of the greatest benefits of being a member is all of the friends and

people who you meet through the various events that end up being lifelong friends.

Brad is a full-time farm hand for a local dairy farmer and also is a member of the Marshfield FFA Alumni and the Golden Glow 4-H Alumni.

He believes that it is important to be involved in the agriculture industry because it is one of the most influential industries in the world. It is an industry rich in family history, building character, passion and dedication.

During the past year, Brad was able to be a part of many experiences like meeting with his representatives in Madison and Washington, D.C., along with being elected as the county YFA chair and being selected as one of 15 members across the state to participate in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute program.

Wood County Farm Bureau to Host Second Annual Summer Picnic

Mark your calendars for July 19.

As many of you know last year's picnic focused on giving you our valued members a chance to meet with your elected officials to share how their vote affects your livelihood.

SAVE the DATE

This year's summer picnic focus is going to be on farm safety and how every one of us plays a key role in safety.

We ask that members with the last name starting with A-M bring a dessert and last names starting with N-Z bring a side dish. Wood County Farm Bureau will provide the main dish, beverages and activities.