



Grant County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOYALTY!



Rural Mutual Agents in Grant Co:

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Randy Palmer, *District Manager* - (608) 515-3123

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Grant County Ag in the Classroom Update



Grant County fourth and fifth grade students are invited to participate in Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

This year's topic is, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that can be used to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

Grant County Farm Bureau has several resources available to assist in the learning and exploration of this year's topic. The 2018 Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who" by author Tracy Nelson Maurer, is the perfect way to educate students about how John Deere improved and invented a plow and help students get started on the essay topic.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau contacts, lessons and activities, and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Grant County contest entries are due by **April 2**. Essays should be mailed to:

Grant County Farm Bureau
c/o Nicole Adrian 1131
Walnut Dell Road
Platteville, WI 53818



Meet Grant County Farm Bureau Director Josh Bailie



Occupation: My wife and I are the owners and operators of a dairy, beef and crop farm in partnership with my parents.

Agricultural background: I grew up on my family's farm and worked for five years in agriculture and residential construction after high school. I've been involved with agriculture my entire life.

Brief description of your farm:

We milk around 90 Holstein cows and have 100 beef cattle, which is a mix of Herefords, Black Angus and Red Angus. They start calving in early March. We crop around

150 acres of alfalfa, 120 acres of corn and 90 acres of soybeans.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? Feeding the beef cows. It's relaxing and enjoyable.

I am Farm Bureau proud because ... I see all the good that Farm Bureau does for the agriculture industry. From being a voice for farmers at the Capitol to sponsoring local events.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? The more members we have, the stronger we are. And that means more great people to get to know and work with.

Favorite YFA event/activity? Night on the Farm

Red or green tractors? GREEN

Favorite ice cream flavor: Vanilla

Celebrate National Ag Day

Join Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation to celebrate National Ag Day on **March 20**, or during that week.

- Share agriculture facts from the Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page. When posting on social media, use the hashtags #WIReadsAg2018, #WIAgProud and #AgDay2018.
- Have students in the county participate in an Ag Day Contest. This information can be found on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website.
- Organize a pizza party on a farm, in a classroom or at a library. Explain how ingredients from kids' favorite foods come from farms and ranches and how each is processed and delivered to the grocery store or restaurant.
- Host a classroom field trip to a farm or ranch or to a uni-

versity's agricultural research farm. Or, bring the farm to the classroom. This provides a great opportunity for children to learn about career opportunities in agriculture.

- Distribute information about agriculture or other information through local stores. Ask your grocer to feature the Ag Day logo or other positive messages about agriculture on grocery bags or signs used during National Ag Week. You might also set up a farm-to-your-table display in your local grocery store.

Share your photos from National Ag Day with us. Photos can be emailed to aitc@wfbf.com.





COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



2017 WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



The WFBF Annual Meeting was held December 1-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. 1. More than 60 YFA members from District 3 attended the YFA Conference, which is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members networked, attended breakout sessions and learned more about Farm Bureau opportunities, while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts. 2. Grant County Farm Bureau members, Christina Winch, Peter Winch, Richard Johnson, Allen Johnson, Josh Bailie, Larry Jerrett, Derek Orth and Jackie Bevan served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's legislative agenda for 2018. 3, 4 and 5. Grant County was well represented during the YFA Conference in the Discussion Meet. Andrew Dal Santo, TJ Roth and Josh Bailie competed against other Farm Bureau members from across the state, discussing current issues affecting the agricultural industry.

Farm Bureau in Action



1. Grant County Farm Bureau president Peter Winch and vice president Allen Johnson attended the 2018 Council of Presidents in January at the Sheraton Madison Hotel. They met county leaders from around the state to network and discuss WFBF business. 2,3. Grant County Farm Bureau members were among the 400 who attended Ag Day at the Capitol. Attendees were briefed on legislative issues concerning agriculture before heading to the Capitol to speak with legislators. Grant County members met with Senator Howard Marklein and staff of Representative Travis Tranel to discuss the implementation of industrial hemp legislation, CAFO transfer from the DNR to DATCP, high capacity well permitting, wetland legislation, targeted performance standards of NR 151 and other pertinent ag issues. 4. Grant County Farm Bureau member Nicole Adrian attended the Ag in the Classroom fall meeting. All who attended learned about the program, contests, resources and activities available to teach about agriculture. If you want to learn more about the Ag in the Classroom program, please contact Nicole at 608.778.7064. 5,6. In January, District 3 members met in Madison for the Winter Promotion and Education meeting. Attendees enjoyed idea sharing and making plans for the year, followed by lunch at the Thirsty Goat and volunteering at the Second Harvest Foodbank. 7. Becca Hilby, a Grant County Farm Bureau member and calf manager and co-herd manager at Weigel Dairy, hosted WFBF's Takeover Tuesday. You can see her story and others by following wifarmbureau on Instagram and Snapchat. She also answered the question, How do cows stay warm during the cold winter months? on WFBF's Facebook 'Ask A Farmer Friday.' To stay up to date on Farm Bureau news and stories, be sure to 'Like' the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation page on Facebook.

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President's Message



Another winter is almost over and I'm ready for the green spring ahead.

We had another good attendance at Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. Several of the Grant County Farm Bureau board members attended the event.

We listened to Governor Scott Walker, who seems to be a big supporter of agriculture in the state.

The night before at Council of Presidents, Grant County vice president Allen Johnson and I got to hear from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Shelia Harsdorf. She seems very knowledgeable about agriculture in the state, also.

At Ag Day at the Capitol, we were briefed on some issues

affecting the agriculture industry. Then we walked to the Capitol and met with Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and staff from Representative Travis Tranel's (R-Cuba City) office. Our time with our elected official was a bit short due to the State-of-the-State Address being scheduled for that afternoon, but we got our points made.

One point made by Senator Marklein that sticks with me, is that he understands agriculture and wants to hear more from farmers and agriculturists about how we feel. Every day he receives multiple letters from the 'other side.' So as farmers, we need to take some time and send notes or even emails about how proposed laws and changes may affect us.

Since the first of the year the board has been following some meetings that may affect how we farm and put more regulations on agriculture. With the help of WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe, we have attended and listened to multiple meetings about proposed changes.

The meetings are dealing with farming in southwest Wisconsin, generally from the opposing side. We don't want to

say that we are all in favor or against large farms. We want to make sure that everyone is regulated properly without excessive strain on farmers. We need to pay attention to what is going on in the county and state.

Membership is one of those hard topics sometimes. The Farm Bureau is a very strong organization, and it's the members that make it that way. The more members we get, the stronger voice we have in agriculture. Many people in government seek our policies to see what we stand for. All the policies that we have as an organization have been voted on and started from the county level. It is truly a grassroots organization. I encourage everyone to ask a friend or neighbor to join Farm Bureau.

If you have questions or know someone that is interested in joining and wants more information, please contact me or another board member.

Have a safe spring!

Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director Report



The bitter cold and long winter days will eventually give way to a new spring.

Those of us involved in agriculture

look forward to the new season with hope and promise. We also know with every new season there will be periods of uncertainty, anxiety and angst.

There is considerable news coverage in the media outlets talking of the challenges that await us this year. Profit margins are expected to be tight on all of the commodities and dairy is drawing particular attention. It is expected that dairy profitability may be the lowest since 2009, challenging even the most efficient.

I have no advice or words of wisdom. Each of us will do what we have to do to make it work. Working with our financial advisors and creditors, our suppliers, we will build our strategy for surviving this financially stressful environment. We can only hope this down cycle will moderate before we're forced to make draconian decisions.

While we're focused on our farms, we must not forget about some of the issues and elections that we all need to be cognizant of.

First we must not take lightly the pending Wisconsin Supreme Court race. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Volunteers for Agriculture will be interviewing and

endorsing a candidate. Please take notice of this endorsement as the makeup of the Supreme Court has a direct impact on agriculture. We continue to stay vigilant and engaged as an interpretation of the Use Value Assessment Law is being challenged in front of the Court. Who sits on the Court could affect the future of the Use Value Law and other agriculture sensitive issues.

There is an all-important Governor's race this fall, too. I feel it's pretty safe to say WFBF will be endorsing Governor Scott Walker. Governor Walker has been a steadfast supporter of agriculture in this state and recognizes the enormous economic impact agriculture has. A healthy agriculture economy equates to a healthy state economy. And while our Governor can't change or improve the price of our commodities, the Administration, working with the legislature, can impact the taxes and environmental issues that can impact our livelihoods.

Finally, I have announced my retirement from the Board of Directors. This will be my final year of a three-year term ending with the annual meeting in December. It will be 21 years I've had the privilege to represent District 3 on the Farm Bureau and Rural Board.

I hope to share some thoughts and memories with you over the coming months. I welcome the next generation of leaders representing our organization and agriculture.

Thank you.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Board Director

District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Agriculturists finished a great year with the 2017 YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Many members enjoyed the casino night, trivia contest, bean bag tournament and comedian.

My favorite breakout learning session was being able to hear and speak with a lawyer on farm transition planning.

Even though I have attended the conference for many years, I'm still surprised by how many new people I met and the memories that were made.

Many members comment that it's their favorite Farm Bureau event, so if you ever have an interest in attending or have suggestions for next year's conference, please contact me.

We have a lot of fun events scheduled for 2018. We're planning to host the Southwest Shindig,

which will include live music and a barn dance for the counties in District 3 to attend. It will be held on **Friday, March 24** at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster. We hope to see many of you there.

I recently returned from the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference in Reno, Nevada. It was another great chance to meet people from across the country and broaden my horizons.

Sessions covered market volatility, strategies to keep your farm in the family, career success, risk management, managing relationships, social media, advocacy and more. I highly recommend that members take the opportunity to attend one of the national conferences that Farm Bureau offers.

It's going to be a great year and I encourage members to get more involved with Farm Bureau. I can tell you one thing, you won't regret a minute of it.

Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 YFA Representative
608.732.7431
wiede51@hotmail.com

IGNITE Conference | April 5-6, 2018 | Stevens Point

The IGNITE Conference is a state-wide information training and fun-filled member engagement meeting for county Farm Bureau leaders conducted by WFBF staff with assistance from AFBF staff and various outside speakers and presenters.

At the conference, you will learn about innovative county Farm Bureau programs, grow your knowledge of agriculture issues, network with other Farm Bureau leaders, become informed on roles and responsibilities within Farm Bureau, be trained to share your agriculture and Farm Bureau story and discover how you can engage all members to become active at the county level.

To learn more about the conference or to register, click on the 'Program & Events' tab on the WFBF website.

All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend the 2018 Wisconsin Farm Bureau IGNITE Conference, April 5-6, in Stevens Point.



AFBF YF&R Committee Update



Hopefully, we are wrapping up this inconsistent winter and are moving closer to green grass, turning dirt and early-bird membership bonuses. We just finished our first year on the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee. We traveled to Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Indianapolis, Nashville and most recently, Reno for the AFBF YF&R Leadership Conference. What a year it has been.

One common discussion this year has centered around getting more young people involved. Many of the members that have been in Farm Bureau the longest, started the earliest. How can we get more young people involved? What are you doing to find young agricultural leaders and show them the opportunities Farm Bureau has to offer? What can we do on a national level to get more people engaged and have an impact on members right here in southwest Wisconsin? Please contact us if you have ideas. Wisconsin is already doing great things with the three Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters and the FFA Farm Forum, but we are always looking for ways to innovate.

We also want to remind you about the Achievement Award and Excellence in Ag Award. The applications are due in July. So, if you started your application today and answered one of the questions each week, you'd have the application finished before the due date. There are hundreds of dollars in prizes including a brand-new truck awarded to the national winner. Check out the application on the WFBF website.

On a personal note, Zeeva welcomed a baby sister, Jaylee Riva, in October. It's very different at home with two kids instead of one. We're looking forward to a fun-filled and busy summer. Be on the lookout for events to add to your calendar throughout District 3, especially the district Discussion Meet in August

Derek and Charisse Orth
AFBF YF&R Committee Representatives



District 3 Promotion and Education Update

Hello! Thank you to those who traveled to Madison in January to the District 3 Winter Promotion and Education Meeting and Volunteer Activity. The day kicked off with a productive planning meeting, followed by a great lunch and volunteering at Second Harvest Foodbank, where we sorted frozen pizzas and potatoes.

Don't forget about this year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The topic is, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' It correlates nicely with the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" a story about John Deere, who invented and improved the plow. Please encourage fourth and fifth grade students to apply.

Essay Contest Deadlines

April 2: Essays due to county Farm Bureau essay coordinators.

April 15: County winner submissions due along with a report on the number of essays received. District winners will be announced mid-May.

Spring will be busy as usual with a variety of ways to promote agriculture. Upcoming events include:

National Ag Day

Reading Event: Celebrate National Ag Day on **March 20**, by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, college students, agri-business employees and others by reading books about agriculture to students, home school families, nursing home residents, day cares and others. Resources can be found

at www.wisagclassroom.org/teachers-information/essay-contest.

This year, students can participate in a coloring contest by drawing and then coloring the image based on, "What will farm machines look like in the future?" The contest is open to children ages 12 and younger and will be judged in three categories: ages 6 and younger, ages 7-9 and ages 10-12. All materials must be postmarked by **March 27**. Visit the website for details.

Teacher Training Updates

The summer bus tour will be on **July 24-25** in the Trempealeau and Buffalo County area. Venues and the schedule are being finalized. Summer classroom trainings also are being planned. This year there will be several dates.

National Ag in the Classroom Conference Scholarship

This is the second year of offering volunteer scholarships to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. Applications are due **May 1** and are funded by the Jeanette Poulson Fund. Up to three \$500 scholarships will be awarded to worthy candidates.

If you have any questions or want to get more involved with the Promotion and Education Committee, please contact me at 608.482.3200 or katies_ladies@yahoo.com.

Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Grant County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Peter Winch	608.822.7806
Vice President, Allen Johnson	608.348.7144
Secretary/Treasurer, Jaclyn Bevan	608.732.4251
Women's Chair, Charisse Orth	608.778.9049
YFA Co-Chair, Paige Hampton	608.778.8052
YFA Co-Chair, Jackie Seelow	608.632.1714

Director, Matt Adrian	608.348.2391
Director, Josh Bailie	608.778.4498
Director, Jennifer Digman	608.744.3357
Director, Jason Heberlein	608.533.3233
Director, Larry Jerrett	608.723.2395
Director, Richard Johnson	608.348.7144
Director, Derek Orth	608.778.9049
Director, Andrew Puetz	608.778.6886
Director, Katie Roth	608.482.3200

Grant County Farm Bureau	888.644.8368
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder	608.987.3424
WFBF Promotion and Education, Katie Roth	608.482.3200
WFBF YFA Committee, Tammy Wiedenbeck	608.723.2382
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	608.515.3123
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	866.355.7343

Grant County Farm Bureau Scholarships Available

The Grant County Farm Bureau will award up to \$500 in scholarships this year. Applications must be postmarked by **April 25**. If you have any questions or want an application, please contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806.



General Requirements

1. Open to any area high school senior, residing in Grant County. Preference will be given to students pursuing a postsecondary education in an agricultural field.
2. The applicant or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a Grant County Farm Bureau member.
3. To apply, please include your name, parents' names, address, high school name, post-secondary institution you will be attending, area of agriculture you plan to pursue, and the following:
 - A copy of your high school transcript.
 - A listing of extra/intra-curricular activities, accomplishments, awards and leadership activities.
 - Listing of community leadership activities (4-H, church, etc.).
 - A letter telling about yourself, what your career goals are and how your education will help you achieve them. Plus, any information the selection committee should take into consideration when reviewing your application.
 - Three letters of recommendation. One from a high school principal or guidance counselor and two from other non-relative adults or community leaders.

Winners will be notified in May.

Send application and all required materials to:
Grant County Farm Bureau
c/o Peter Winch
12742 Brown School Road
Fennimore, WI 53809

District 3 YFA
SOUTHWEST SHINDIG

Saturday, March 24th • Doors Open at 7:00pm

Join District 3 Farm Bureau for the
2ND ANNUAL SOUTHWEST SHINDIG
at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster, WI

*The night will feature live music by Black Water Gin from 8pm - 12am.
Admission: \$10. | Food and drinks available for purchase. | Snacks provided.*

The event is open to the general public. Invite your friends, throw on your boots, and get ready for a fun night of dancing, socializing & great music!