




Iowa 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!



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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

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, #WIAg-Proud 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 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 university's agricultural research farm. Or, bring the farm to the classroom. This provides an 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.

Livia Doyle Named Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher

Livia Doyle, a fourth-grade teacher at Mineral Point Elementary School, was named the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Teacher Award from the Ag in the Classroom program.

"Livia is everything you could ask for in a teacher and educator," said Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "She lives and breathes agriculture and incorporates it in her classroom and everyday life."

Livia earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from UW-Platteville with a minor in early child-

hood, inclusion (special education) and Spanish. She also earned her master's degree in elementary education from UW-Platteville. She has taught in the Mineral Point School District since 2010.

"Livia has used agricultural resources, grants and opportunities to enhance her classroom, school garden project and students' lives in so many ways," Arneson added. "Last year her class made history as they successfully lobbied the Wisconsin legislature to make cheese the official Wisconsin dairy product."



Livia will be Wisconsin's nominee for the National Excellence in Teaching Agriculture Award and will receive \$500 to attend the 2018 National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Portland, Maine.

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Winter Meeting

In January, District 3 members met in Madison for the Promotion and Education Committee Winter Meeting.

Members who attended enjoyed a morning of idea sharing and making plans for the year ahead.

The meeting was followed by lunch at the Thirsty Goat and volunteering at the Second Harvest Foodbank.

The staff at the food bank were impressed with the work ethic of these farm girls and how quickly they finished their assigned tasks of sorting pizzas and packaging potatoes.

If you want to get more involved with the District 3 Promotion and Education Committee, please contact committee chair Katie Roth at katies_ladies@yahoo.com or 608.482.3200.





COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



2017 WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



The 98th Annual WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 1-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. 1: More than 60 YFA members from District 3 were in attendance for the 2017 WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference that is held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting every year. Members networked, attended breakout sessions and learned more about Farm Bureau, while enjoying the amenities of the Kalahari Resorts. 2: Justin and Livia Doyle competed for the Excellence in Agriculture Award and were recognized for being top finalists. 3: Iowa County Farm Bureau members Kayla Anderson, Don Ley, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan and Adam Heisner served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF’s legislative agenda for 2018. 4, 5: Iowa County was well represented in the Farm Bureau Proud Club. Membership workers who signed five or more new members were recognized during a banquet on Saturday night. Iowa County’s Krista Dolan, Justin Doyle, Adam Heisner, Don Ley, Eric McCarville and Jackie McCarville were among the members recognized.

Ag Day at the Capitol – A Voice for Farmers

Ag Day at the Capitol was held on January 24 in Madison. The event is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

Iowa County Farm Bureau members Kayla Anderson, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Don Ley and Krista Ley attended. They along with 400 other attendees gathered at the Monona Terrace and Community Convention Center for a meal and issues briefing before walking to the Capitol to discuss agriculture issues with legislators Senator Howard Marklein (R- Spring Green) and Representative Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville).

Topics for discussion included implementation of hemp legislation,

CAFO transfer from the DNR to DATCP, high capacity well permitting process, wetland legislation, NR 151 targeted performance standards and other pertinent ag issues. Governor Scott Walker also attended. Following his address announcing new rural and agriculture initiatives, he signed an executive order to provide markets for family farmers and agribusinesses.

“Ag Day at the Capitol is an opportunity for farmers to build a relationship with their elected officials and talk about how decisions made in the Capitol affect Wisconsin agriculture,” said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau President. “It is imperative that we, as farmers, take time to talk with our legislators and visiting them at the Capitol allows us to do that in a powerful way.”



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President's Message



Our agricultural community is finding it difficult to keep a positive outlook. Stressed mar-

kets, tight credit and uncertain trade negotiations are wearing heavy on our minds.

However, there is some real progress we can use to renew our spirit to help us with making decisions for our next season. There are several projects that are in negotiations that can impact agriculture positively or negatively.

Our Farm Bureau has been successful in making sure that our interests are carefully protected to safeguard our future. A new local affairs position was created to navigate issues that have direct impact on our community.

If you believe that you have an issue that may need to be addressed with more support from agriculture, please contact a board member to access this resource. It is up to us to stay vocal for the good of our community. We are here to serve the community, and do so proudly. Keeping communication fluid is the keystone to that success. We are looking forward to talking and discovering ways to invest and protect the way of life we all cherish so much.

Adam Heisner
Iowa County Farm Bureau President



In January, Iowa County Farm Bureau president Adam Heisner attended the 2018 Council of Presidents Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Adam met with other county leaders from around the state to network, make plans for the year and discuss official WFBF business.

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

Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

Iowa County Farm Bureau had great representation at the YFA Conference in December with 24 members in attendance.

Justin and Livia Doyle made the county proud competing for the Excellence in Agriculture Award and were named top finalists.

Each year, the YFA Conference provides members with opportunities to network, learn, participate in contests and enjoy evening entertainment. As always, I encourage more YFA members to consider attending the YFA Conference in the future.

I'm finalizing our book donation to Upland Hills Health. For the third year in a row, we are using the funds raised at the Iowa County annual meeting silent auction to purchase farm-related books for families of newborn babies.

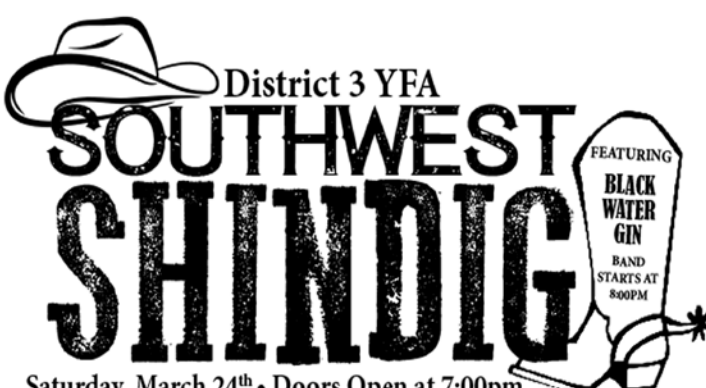
Plans also are being made for our yearly social activities. In February, we hosted the District 3 YFA Bowling

Night at Tower Junction.

Make sure to mark your calendars for the Southwest Shindig at the Grant County Fairgrounds on **March 24** and the annual Madison Mallards baseball game outing on **June 15**. Watch your email and Facebook for event details. We hope to see some new faces at our events this year.

Jackie McCarville
Iowa County YFA Committee Chair





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!

Register Now!
IGNITE Conference
April 5-6, 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 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

Scholarships Available

Iowa County Farm Bureau will award up to \$500 in scholarships this year to deserving high school seniors.

The applicant or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be an Iowa County Farm Bureau member. Applications and supporting materials must be postmarked by **May 1**.

To request an official application, please contact District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle at mdoyle@wfbf.com or 608.574.9884.



Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Update

Attention fourth and fifth grade students. The Ag in the Classroom program is once again presenting an essay contest for students in fourth and fifth grades in public schools, private schools or home school programs.

The essay contest topic is, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' All essays must contain 100 to 300 words and may be handwritten in ink or computer generated. The deadline for essay submissions is **Monday, April 2**.

Essays may be dropped off at the county Farm Bureau office or sent to: Iowa County Farm Bureau, Attn.: Krista Dolan, 5398 County Road ZZ, Dodgeville, WI 53533.

One county essay winner will be selected and the essay will advance to the district level. The student of the winning essay also will receive an ice-cream party for the students in the classroom, as well as some other agriculture related goodies.

The 2018 Book of the Year, which coincides with the essay topic, is, "John Deere, That's Who!" written by Tracy Nelson Maurer. Iowa County Farm Bureau has donated a copy to elementary schools and public libraries in the county.

The book and essay topic will allow students to learn about how John Deere improved and invented the steel plow and forever changed agriculture across the U.S.

National Ag Day is **Tuesday, March 20**. Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau as we celebrate all aspects of agriculture that day and throughout the week.

Participate in on the fun by volunteering to read books about agriculture to students in a classroom,

nursing home residents, children in daycares or at your local library.

Share agriculture facts on your favorite social media sites using the hashtags #WIReadsAg2018, #WIAgProud or #AgDay2018.

Host a classroom field trip to a local farm or agribusiness. Or, bring the farm and ag industry to the classroom. This experience provides a great opportunity for children to learn about different career choices and opportunities in agriculture.

In honor of National Ag Day and the essay contest, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is holding a drawing and coloring contest centered around the theme, 'What will farm machines look like in the future?'

This contest is open to children ages 12 and younger. Only one entry per person may be submitted. Pick up your drawing entry page at your local library or contact me for more information.

All entries must be submitted by **March 27** and can be scanned and emailed to aitc@wfbf.com or mailed to: Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, P.O. Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705.

As always, please contact me for further information regarding the upcoming essay contest or drawing and coloring contest.

Furthermore, reach out to me if you are in need of any agricultural literacy resources for an upcoming event or program. I am happy to help in any way!

Livia Doyle
Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator
livia.doyle@mp.k12.wi.us
608.574.9253



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Director, Matt Limmex	608.588.7216
Director, John Meyers	608.924.4746
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WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Katie Roth	608.482.3200
WFBF YFA Chair, Tammy Wiedenbeck	608.723.2382
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

Iowa County Promotion and Education Update

Another year has come and gone and we are starting anew with fun-filled promotion and education events. Prior to the Super Bowl, a group of members got together to provide customers at the Dodgeville Piggly Wiggly with some scrumptious appetizer ideas for weekend parties. The recipes were from well-known food bloggers who promote and advocate for agriculture. This event provided a great opportunity to talk to consumers about food products and the important role agriculture plays in everyday lives.

In January, Iowa County Farm Bureau joined other District 3 members for the Promotion and Education Committee Winter Meeting. The day kicked off with a productive planning meeting, followed by lunch and an afternoon at Second Harvest Foodbank in Madison packaging food for people in need. It was a very fun and rewarding experience.

Looking forward, be sure to mark your calendars for the 33rd Annual Farmers Appreciation Day on **July 15**. As always, we hope to see many of you there. To keep updated on event details, visit www.farmersappreciationday.com.

Please contact me if you have ideas or want to get involved with the Promotion and Education Committee.

Kayla Anderson
Iowa County Ag Promotions Chair

