



# Jefferson County Farm Bureau

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Linda Schopen, District Manager - (920) 723-5108

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Announced

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is promoting the 2017-2018 Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students. The essay is titled 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students will be able to learn about technology and science that is used in agriculture and share their findings in their essays.

The contest is sponsored by We Energies, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year 2,818 students from nine districts participated in the state's essay contest.

Contest information, lesson plans, resources and sample activities are located on the Agriculture in the Classroom website at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 800.261.3276 or aitc@wfbf.com.

Participating Jefferson County schools' fourth and fifth grader students need to submit essays by **Monday, April 1**, to Patti Hurtgen at 600 W. Blackhawk Drive, #4, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 or to jeffersoncountyagessays@gmail.com.

Jefferson county fourth and fifth grade teachers whose entire class participates in the essay contest will receive a \$30 gift certificate to Nasco. The gift cards are provided by the Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom committee.

Essays can be submitted at any time, with a final deadline day of **April 1**. With cold weather this winter, students can spend their time indoors learning about tractors, machinery and technology.

There were 188 essays submitted in Jefferson County in 2017. Fourth-grader Isabel Kuchta, a student at Paul's Lutheran School in Fort Atkinson, was the county and district winner.

### Contest Rules

- The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public schools, private schools and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.
- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be 100- to 300-words in length (using common MS Word 'word count' methods for counting words, numbers and abbreviations).
- Essays will be judged on content (25 pts), grammar and spelling (15 pts) and neatness (10 pts).
- Essays need to include: student's name, grade level, parents' names, teacher's name, school name and address, school phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.

### Contest Prizes

- Each Jefferson County classroom that enters essays into the contest will receive the Farm Bureau Book of the Year – "John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer.
- The Jefferson County winner will receive an ice cream party for their classroom, a \$30 cash prize and four tickets to the 2018 Watertown Agribusiness Dairy Breakfast. Cash prizes of \$20 and \$10 will be awarded to second and third place, respectively.
- Nine district winners will be chosen. District and state winners will be announced in May.
- Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation in April for their class, homeroom or home school group.
- The state winner will receive a special award.



**April 5-6, 2018 | Stevens Point**

The IGNITE Conference is a statewide 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/presenters.

The purpose of the conference is to strengthen county leaders and Farm Bureaus by providing them with program ideas, resources and new skills to carry out the mission of their county Farm Bureau.

There will be 20 plus workshop topics addressing four training areas: governance and organization, building Farm Bureau, communication for agriculture and Farm Bureau and Policy, issues and advocacy.



# COUNTYnews

JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Rooted in Family By Lindsay Knoebel

The 2017 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference was held on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in the Wisconsin Dells. Over 500 YFA members attended the three-day conference.

Friday night the conference kicked off with dinner and some welcome speeches by the state YFA committee members. Derek Husmoen, the chair of the state YFA committee, gave his retiring address and thanked the group for making his year one to remember.

After dinner, the group divided into districts and had district meetings. Members from District 1 discovered whether or not they had engineering skills when they were challenged to make bridges out of plain printer paper. Many succeeded in the bridge building activity, a few did not and realized they should stick to farming.

The Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Jahnke, sponsored the Friday night entertainment. New this year, the entertainment was a casino night. Members got to test their luck at different casino games using fake gambling money. Many people enjoyed gambling without risking their own money.



YFA members gathered for dinner. Those pictured include: Lindsay Knoebel, Jena Morris, Will Morris, Jeff Graff, Tim Medenwaldt, Jake Heiman, Dennille Wilke and Eric Baneck.



YFA members participated in the trivia contest. The winning team was also from Jefferson County!

She encouraged farmers to speak openly to consumers about our farming practices, no matter which side of the farming spectrum a farm is on.

Saturday afternoon was time for more rounds of the Discussion Meet, as well as the other competitions. The Achievement Award and the Excellence in Ag contest had their final rounds of competition on Saturday afternoon.

Jefferson County had two items in the popular Silent Auction that took place. Funds raised from the silent auction items went towards the Farm Bureau Foundation. A gift basket from Jelli's Market and a toy tractor from Mid-State Equipment were the county's items.

A highlight of the weekend for many was the annual trivia contest. This year Jefferson County had two teams participate and one of our teams was the winner of the contest.

The YFA portion of the weekend concluded with brunch and keynote speaker Chris Koch.

Thank you to everyone who made the YFA Conference a success again this year, including our sponsors Rural Mutual Insurance, Blain's Farm and Fleet, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Farm Bureau Bank, The Farm Report, BMO Harris Bank, Insight FS, Waukesha County Farm Bureau and GROWMARK, Inc. A fun time was had by all Jefferson County attendees.



Jefferson County Young Farmers who attended the district meeting included: back row (from left) Tim Medenwaldt, Jeff Graff, Jena Morris, Dennille Wilke, Justin Horack, Eric Baneck; front row (from left) Jake Heiman, Lindsay Knoebel, Will Morris, Bryce Krull and Ann Horack.

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## \$500 Scholarships Available

\$500 scholarship applications are available from your guidance office or from the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureau/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureau/jefferson).

Students must be in good standing and can be attending a two- or four-year college, including short course. The deadline to apply is **April 1**.

## Last Call for Plat Books

Jefferson County Farm Bureau still has 2016 Plat Books available. Please contact Tony Schadt at 414.573.5382 or [schadtak@gmail.com](mailto:schadtak@gmail.com).

**Cost:** Farm Bureau members - \$15,  
non-members - \$30.



## Trivia Team Champions at WFBF Annual Meeting By Will Morris

The 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference was held this year on December 1-4 at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. While the YFA program started December 1, the WFBF Annual Meeting started December 2.

This year's annual meeting theme was Farm Bureau, Rooted in Family. This theme was very fitting for the conference, as it feels like we are all one big family brought together by common interests and goals. The meeting began with the opening of the trade show where sponsors, vendors and other ag companies showcased their products and ideas, along with providing great conversation and valuable ideas; not to mention some freebies for attendees.

Along with the trade show, the silent auction also opened, where Farm Bureau members bid against one another on donated items with all the proceeds going to the Farm Bureau Foundation.

Saturday evening's entertainment was Scott Novotny, a family friendly comedian who had the whole Farm Bureau family laughing to his funny songs and hilarious antics. After we all had our fill of laughs, the Farm Bureau Foundation



**Jefferson County was well represented at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Those in attendance included: Will and Jena Morris, Eugene and Mary Mess, Steve and Dawn Jones, Tony and Karen Schadt, Roger and Laura Zimmerman and Dan and Jean Poulson.**

held their annual trivia contest, where this year our very own Jeffersonians team from Jefferson County brought home the win! Congratulations! Along with trivia there was also a cornhole tournament, and networking and relaxing during a reception held in the trade show and silent auction area.

Sunday morning started with a devotional and motivational speaker Chris Koch, who was born with no arms or legs, but came to share his message of, 'If I can.'

Chris reminded us that no matter what challenges life gives you, your outlook and attitude are the only things that can

limit you from achieving your goals. He had an amazing sense of humor, and with many videos of his life adventures, it really gave us an amazing perspective of what we can accomplish.

Sunday was also filled with many great meetings and workshops where you could sit in on policy development or learn about such things as growing hemp in Wisconsin. Sunday evening brought the close of the trade show and silent auction, along with musi-

cal entertainment of The Memories, who played great music spanning decades and genres.

Monday, the final day of the conference, was all about business. We heard reports from Rural Mutual Insurance and the Farm Bureau Foundation and heard about how great these organizations are doing, as well as how well they are doing for us. The day wrapped up with Resolutions and the business meeting, where delegates voted on policy for Farm Bureau.

This year's convention from start to finish was a fantastic experience. The opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones is always exciting. Not to mention the great entertainment, and lots of valuable learning opportunities, I can truly say it was a lot of fun! When I look back and think of all the great times we had, and all the great people in one place together in the name of agriculture, it's easy to see how we are Rooted in Family.



**The Jeffersonians won the trivia contest at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Pictured (from left) Chris Jones, Steve Jones, Dawn Jones, Jeff Graff, Eugene Mess and Mary Mess. Congratulations!**



**The delegates who represented Jefferson County at the resolutions session on Monday morning included: (from left) John Morris, Will Morris, Eugene Mess, Mary Mess, Steve Jones, Randy Mitchell and Roger Zimmerman.**

## Members Donate Canned Goods and Gather at Holiday Party

Anyone who helps in the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Cream Puff Stand at the county fair is invited to the holiday party.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau appreciates the countless hours volunteers put in and we want to recognize the volunteers.

Volunteers who attend the holiday party are also asked to bring food pantry donations. This year donations were collected for the Johnson Creek Food Pantry.

Want to be invited to next year's party? To get your name on the list, volunteer in the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Cream Puff Stand at the Jefferson County Fair.

It's never too early to start planning. Save the dates for the 166<sup>th</sup> Jefferson County Fair, **July 11-15.**

The shift times to volunteer are 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.

Money raised at the cream puff stand is used towards scholarships and Ag in the Classroom.

Watch future newsletters to find out how to sign-up to serve cream puffs at the fair.



**Donations that were brought to the holiday party and donated to the Johnson Creek Food Pantry.**



**Cream puff stand volunteers were thanked for their time in helping during the fair.**

## Membership Dues Increasing October 1

Effective **October 1, 2018**, the annual dues for Jefferson County Farm Bureau are increasing by \$5 to \$55. The additional \$5 will go to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, as they are increasing the dues at that time.

When you join Farm Bureau, you not only become a member of Jefferson County Farm Bureau, but also Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau.

*Currently your cost to be a Farm Bureau member is \$50. That is broken down as follows:*

- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation = \$36.** This includes state activities, conducting programs and staffing. Consumer and youth education, issue advocacy, leadership development and member publications are services that are furnished with state dues.
- **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program = \$3.** Jefferson County is a part of this program in which the district coordinator acts as the county secretary. There are three portions to the program that include administrative, financials and the newsletter.
- **American Farm Bureau Federation = \$4.** A portion of your dues are forwarded to support at the national level. These funds support agriculture's voice in our nation's capital as well as the many programs that AFBF has in place to educate consumers, share the message of agriculture and provide online resources to members.
- **Accidental Death Policy = \$1.** The accidental death insurance policy is a benefit of membership that covers you as a member, your spouse and eligible children. Coverage begins at \$500 and increases in value for the member and spouse with each consecutive year of membership up to \$3,500.
- **Jefferson County Farm Bureau = \$6.** This funds local events and activities including county meetings, scholarships, Ag in the Classroom and many more to promote Farm Bureau and agriculture in Jefferson County.

Anyone whose membership dues are due, will receive an invoice in mid-August reflecting this increase.

**Thank you for being a member of Jefferson County Farm Bureau!**

# AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, along with sponsors, host Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important to raise your voice on issues that affect the agriculture community; mark your calendars and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on **Wednesday, January 24**, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland and we want to tell our legislators how important agriculture is in Wisconsin and Jefferson County. Farmers are working to do more with less; we have new record production levels and yields per acre in our fields.

Registration begins at 11 a.m., opening program at 11:30 p.m. followed by lunch and legislative briefings. From 3 to 4 p.m., Jefferson and Walworth County will meet in room 225 NW at the Capitol. When speaking with your legislators, share your personal stories and thank them for their support of agriculture.

Be proud to be a part of the agriculture industry and sign-up to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol.

RSVP by **January 18** to Patti Roden at 262.689.1838 (call or text) or email [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com). Please include your name and county in your message.

## Jefferson County Focuses on Membership

The membership year is **October 1-September 30**, and each year the county has new goals to achieve to maintain current membership numbers.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation provides membership volunteers and county Farm Bureau's with incentives to achieve their goals.

County Farm Bureau volunteers will receive \$20 for every new voting or associate member they sign between **October 1, 2017, and September 28, 2018**. Qualifying new members must (a) have no previous Farm Bureau membership, or (b) be more than 25 months past their due date.

County Farm Bureau will receive \$1,000 cash award if the county Farm Bureau reaches its new voting goal by the **March 30, 2018**, month-end cut-off.

Farm Bureau volunteers qualify as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing five or more new Farm Bureau members during the membership year. Members of the 2018 Farm Bureau Proud Club and their spouse/guest will receive exclusive recognition at the December 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting. Farm Bureau Proud Club members also receive a commemorative pin and a special gift in recognition of their efforts.

## Carry Farm Bureau Down the Field

**First Down** – Volunteer membership workers that sign up at least one new member by **January 31** will receive Farm Bureau microwave popcorn

**Two-point Conversion** - Volunteer membership workers that sign up two or more new members by **February 28** will have the opportunity to autograph their district's commemorative Farm Bureau Proud Football which will be prominently displayed at county and statewide meetings and awarded by drawing to one of those who signed it at the end of the membership year.



**Field Goal** - Volunteer membership workers that sign up three or more new members by **March 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Knit Cap.

**Touchdown** - Volunteer membership workers that sign up seven or more new members by **July 31** will receive a Farm Bureau Proud Fleece to be presented at their county annual meeting.

For membership applications or more information contact District 1 Coordinator Patti Roden at [proden@wfbf.com](mailto:proden@wfbf.com) or 262.689.1838.

## Faith, Family, Farming, Farm Bureau

By Patti Roden, District 1 Coordinator

Agriculture has been challenged with low milk prices, low grain and commodity prices, high land rent prices and the never-ending battle with the weather, every time the weatherman predicts rain it seems we get more than we bargain for. When you are caught in a bind with the struggles in agriculture, what do you lean on? I have found I lean on the 4 Fs.

**Faith** – Praying for rain or praying the rain stops, it's a battle we face in agriculture. It seems that we can never be perfectly happy on the weather, either it's too wet or too dry, or there aren't enough heat days for the corn to grow. Dolly Parton says, "the way I see it, if you want the rainbow you gotta put up with the rain!" The next time it's raining, take some time to think about agriculture and the challenges you are facing, and enjoy the beauty that is being shown to us in the rainbow that follows. We won't be given more than we can handle, so take every rainstorm and challenge as it comes.

**Family** – In agriculture it seems that we lean on family a lot, to me family is a broad term. Yes, my immediate family is always there if needed, but I think of you as part of my Farm Bureau family. In the agriculture industry, we are one big family. There is no one who understands the daily struggles of agriculture better than those who are living it. This year's WFBF Annual Meeting theme is 'Rooted in Family'. I hope you, as part of my Farm Bureau family, are able to attend this year's WFBF Annual Meeting to connect with other farmers who are facing the same struggles.

**Farming** – Caring for animals and fieldwork is necessary to farming, and the farm is the reason we are all a part of Farm Bureau. As farmers, we care for not only our families, but for the world. We are proud to be part of such a great industry. Montgomery Gentry said it best in their song Something to Be Proud Of, they say "you don't need to make a million, just be thankful to be workin'". If you're doing what you're able and

## Jefferson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Randy Mitchell	414.899.4822
Vice President, Tony Schadt	920.261.8478
Secretary-Treasurer, Melissa Gross	920.988.7583
Promotion and Education Chair, Suzanne Marx	262.582.3020
YFA Chair, Lindsay Knoebel	920.988.1428
Director, Sue Andersen	920.699.3840
Director, Dave Jones	920.650.2621
Director, Steve Jones	262.495.8646
Director, Steve Knoebel	920.988.4866
Director, Eugene Mess	920.265.9871
Director, John Morris	920.253.8346
Director, Howard Poulson	262.613.8041
Director, Scott Schultz	920.988.2864
Director, Roger Zimmerman	920.390.0657

Jefferson County Farm Bureau	877.432.9480
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
WFBF Promotion and Education, George Mroch	262.661.4436
WFBF YFA, Charlie Oberhaus	262.337.2448
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
RMIC District Manager, Linda Schopen	920.723.5108



Like us on Facebook

For more details on upcoming YFA events 'Like' Jefferson County Farm Bureau and YFA on Facebook, and visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/jefferson).

## District 1 YFA Spring Fling



Kick up your boots and plan to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> annual District 1 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Spring Fling! Enjoy catching up with friends and meeting new friends, while listening to live music.

**Date:** Saturday, March 24

**Time:** Doors open at 7:30 p.m., band plays from 8 p.m. to midnight

**Band:** FM Rodeo

**Location:** The Columbian, West Bend

**Tickets:** \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

To get your advanced tickets, contact Jefferson County YFA chair Lindsay Knoebel at 920.988.1428.



putting food there on the table, and providing for the family that you love, that's something to be proud of." We are proud to be part of a diverse industry that feeds the world.

**Farm Bureau** – As an organization we are here to help you get through the challenges. We are a grassroots organization that's committed to serving you, our members. It's so important that you bring forth issues that you are having in agriculture so we can help. As a grassroots organization, the policies listed in our WFBF Policy Book came from you, the members. If you have an issue and need help, don't hesitate to reach out to myself or your local Farm Bureau, we are here to help you through the struggles in agriculture.

"Even though there are days I wish I could change some things that happened in the past, there's a reason the rear-view mirror is so small and the windshield is so big, where you're headed is much more important than what you've left behind."