



Monroe County Farm Bureau

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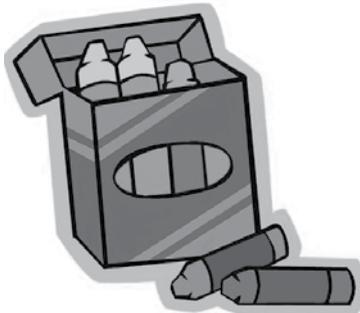
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Monroe County Farm Bureau

Coloring Contest

Age Groups:

- 3 & 4 *A prize is given*
- 5 & 6 *to a winner in*
- 7 & 8 *each age group.*

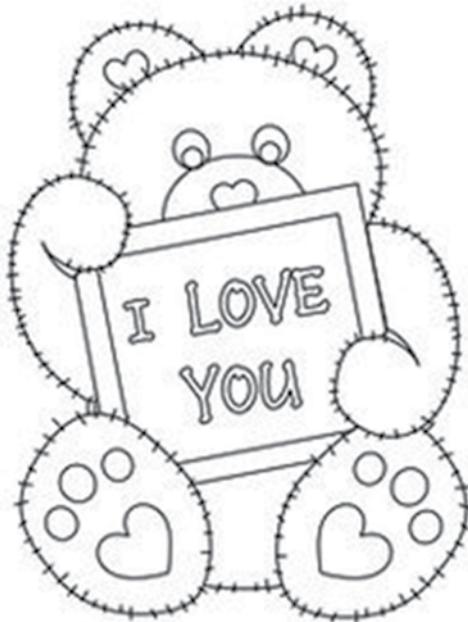


Mail entries by November 10 to:

Peggy Wright
605 W. Wisconsin Street
Sparta, WI 54656

Coloring Contest

Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____



Monroe County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applicants Wanted

To be eligible you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a family member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau.
2. Must be going to school in agriculture, it may be either to farm and industry short course, a technical school or college.
3. Must have the application in by **March 15**.
4. Must be a graduating high school senior.



There will be two \$250 scholarships presented and the funds will be awarded to the winners upon proof of first semester attendance.

For more information or to get an application, please contact Peggy Wright at 608.269.3173, 800.236.3173 or 608.343.8763.

WFBF Seeks Rural Route Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. In Rural Route, WFBF wants to highlight those sights.



Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to lsiekmann@wfbf.com.



COUNTYnews

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Inside the State of the State Address By Dawn Powell, Monroe County Vice President

Recently, while attending Farm Bureau's annual Ag Day at the Capitol, I attended the State-of-the-State address by Governor Scott Walker. It was coincidence that these two events fell on the same day, giving me this chance to see first-hand what happens at the Capitol on this day.

I must say, that my first impressions were not great. With this speech comes a lot of pomp and circumstance. There are exuberant introductions, special seating for distinguished guests, security galore and 26 (yes, I counted) standing ovations during Governor Walker's address.

I am a pretty simple person. I do not appreciate this production as others would; however, in the weeks that have passed, I have reflected a great deal on this event, and have come to appreciate many aspects from that day.

I most appreciate the simple reminder that our state representatives are real people, who come from our neck-of-the-woods. They are serving us, and want to hear from us.

It reminded me of the importance of our great organization from this standpoint: Once Farm Bureau has established our own policy, there are very few steps between that moment, and the decisions made by our governmental leaders. Our voices are of utmost importance. Whether democrat or republican, our representatives need and want to know what issues affect our lives. They so appreciate our input. It is of great importance that the policies that we set, are truly representative of our desires, that they are well thought through, and best for our industry as a whole.

Through this process and past trips to the Capitol, I also have come to see the esteemed and valued relationships that Farm Bureau has established with the governmental leaders who cast their votes yea or nay.

In my eyes, Farm Bureau is one of the most coveted, go-to sources of information in the agricultural industry. Respect is key. When

our representatives feel respected, it opens the door to them asking important questions about our operations and businesses.

On a sad note, during the state-of-the-state address, a representative's wife, who was seated next to me, pointed out that the isle very much determined how an individual reacted to the statements within the speech.

Those on the right side of the isle would not clap at all. They would remain seated during the standing ovations. It made me think of slanderous campaign ads that we hear way too much of, accusing individuals of voting in a way that creates difficulties in someone's life. The stories and votes are twisted to meet their needs. Frustration fills me when I hear these ads. I always think, "That would not, or should not be tolerated in our schools. Why are we allowing that example on public radios, from adults whose job it is to be a profession representative to all of us?"

I so appreciate Farm Bureau's efforts to work with both sides, keeping a focus on the issues that affect me daily.

Lastly, I believe that it is important to recognize our role on this team. As Farm Bureau members, we have an obligation, opportunity and privilege of functioning within the organization. Our active role will help our teammates who work for the state office, to more effectively communicate with the representatives, who also are on our team.

Less complaining about the hardships we endure, and a more thankful spirit shown to those around us who are truly there to help and serve, will have a positive impact on our communities. Let it start within your family. Thank your town patrolman for a job well done. Be understanding and grateful for those who serve on the town and county boards. And make a simple phone call to thank your representative for supporting our policy. Look for the positive around you and thank someone.

Don't forget that you too have responsibility as part of the team.



District 4 Presidents and Vice Presidents met Sheila Harsdorf while attending the Council of Presidents seminar in Madison.



Monroe County Farm Bureau members attending Ag Day at the Capitol had the opportunity to meet with various legislators addressing agriculture issues, including Nancy Vandermeer (pictured).

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President's Message



Ag Day at the Capitol is a unique opportunity where legislators expect and welcome ag producers and Farm Bureau members to engage in conversation with them in their office at the Capitol. The 2018 version of Ag Day was held on January 24. Ten members of Monroe County Farm Bureau participated, which was probably the most ever.

After lunch at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, we listened to presentations by Governor Scott Walker and Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorff. WFBF staff briefed us on current legislative issues. These issues included: the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium, wolf management, repurposing historic barn structures,

sparsity aid for rural schools, agricultural producer security program, CAFO transfer from DNR to DATCP, hemp, high capacity wells and nonfederal wetland legislation.

This year the schedule was appropriately designed so that we had two hours to meet with Senator Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse), Representatives Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) and Lee Nerison (R-Westby). Besides the above mentioned issues, attendees discussed issues that were more personal to them. They included bees, IOH, electronic log books, licensing, harvest rules for milk haulers and farm profitability concerns. Thank you to those who participated and I hope to have even more take advantage of this opportunity next year.

Jack Herricks
President Monroe County Farm Bureau



Pat and Jack Herricks spoke with Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorff while attending Ag Day at the Capitol.

A Message From the District 4 Director: We're Going All the Way



I have never been prouder to be a part of Farm Bureau than after going to this year's AFBF Annual Convention and seeing the impact our state has.

Wisconsin is quite small with more than 40,000 members when you compare us to Tennessee's 600,000 plus members. Imagine our three delegates up against theirs during the policy development process.

Before I dive into AFBF, I want to start from the beginning with a local resolution going all the way to the top and building national consensus.

A resolution that was brought forth by a Buffalo County Farm Bureau member was adopted by the membership of Buffalo County Farm Bureau during the county annual meeting in 2016. The resolution: We support industrial hemp production.

This was not the first time it was proposed, but confusion between industrial hemp and its very close cousin, marijuana, prevented the adoption of the resolution in 2015. After gathering more information and presenting at the District 4 Policy Development meeting, several other counties in District 4 also considered forwarding a resolution in favor of industrial hemp production in Wisconsin and the USA.

The following resolution was adopted: We support the production, processing, commercialization and utilization of industrial hemp and that it be regulated by the USDA rather than the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Great, we have a resolution; does it stop there? Absolutely not! Following the 2016 WFBF Annual Meeting, the task of promoting our policies went to our outstanding Governmental Relations team including: Paul Zimmerman, Karen Gefvert, Rob Richard and Steve Boe.

Rob Richard became the lead person studying and promoting industrial hemp legislation. Our resolutions process is closely followed by many of our legislators and after our approval of industrial hemp, Representative Jesse Kramer (R-Kewaskum) approached Rob Richard with his bill supporting industrial hemp and, we were off to the races. Following a process of educating people on the differences between industrial hemp and marijuana, the once huge industrial hemp processing capacity

that existed not only in the USA but with Wisconsin being one of the largest producers and the current \$600 million of hemp products being imported in the USA. We were in a position to have a hearing on the bill, so close.

With a lot of support and advocacy from Farm Bureau members, especially in Monroe County, we moved the bill forward and guaranteed its success. The members came through!

Countless phone calls and contacts were made from our members especially in Monroe County, county agents expressed interest in researching new opportunities that industrial hemp could provide for farmers, as well as our governmental relations team making contacts at high levels.

The Industrial Hemp Bill got a hearing without opposition expressed by anyone. The bill passed the Assembly and the Senate without opposition and was signed into law as ACT 100 by Governor Scott Walker on November 30, 2017. That's right, Google it: Wisconsin ACT 100, 2017.

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has 90 days from November 30, to set up the rules by which farmers can grow industrial hemp. We will have seeds in the ground in 2018!

Back to AFBF Annual Convention, where I started. While Wisconsin may have a small number of delegates, we accomplished much by our ability to build partnerships with other states.

The Wisconsin delegation organized and held two meetings on industrial hemp and dairy policy with other interested states. On the issue of industrial hemp, Congressman James Comer (R-Kentucky) discussed the strong interest in industrial hemp legislation from a bi-partisan perspective and what was needed for national legislation to happen.

Rob Richard secured the written support of 27 state Farm Bureau presidents. AFBF delegates passed a resolution in support of industrial hemp and now we will complete the process



(from left) District 4 Director Joe Bragger, District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr., Kentucky Congressman James Comer, WFBF President Jim Holte and District 7 Director Adam Kuczer met during AFBF Annual Convention and discussed the future of industrial hemp.

of pursuing legislation at a federal level so that we can move this process to home base.

I am very pleased to announce that in our District, Congressman Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin), signed onto the bill Congressman Comer authored. Five of Wisconsin's eight congressional delegates have signed onto Congressman Comer's bill, tied with Colorado for most co-sponsors from any state.

For more information about industrial hemp, please visit www.hemptrade.ca/eguide.

Whether it is industrial hemp, dairy policy or several others including the allowing of milk to be labeled by its fat free content (99% fat free versus 1% fat), Wisconsin Farm Bureau has worked to build strong credibility with other states. Even if we are relatively small in relation to other state Farm Bureaus, we carry a lot of weight for our members.

So, remember to share your issues or ideas ... we really can make things happen. As always, enough is too much.

Joe Bragger
WFBF District 4 Board of Director
715.530.0466, braggfam@triwest.net



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

Supplies and Products

- John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards Program (NEW)
- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

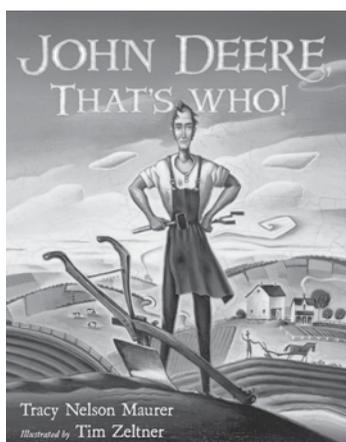
Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year "John Deere, That's Who!"

This year's Ag in the Classroom book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, provides students with inspiration for this year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Using the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" this year's essay topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students will write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity.

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 also are encouraged to participate. The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length.

The essays must be postmarked by **April 1**. The essays will be judged and the first-place county winner will



compete in the district contest; the winner at the district level will compete at the state level and awarded with a classroom presentation.

For more information, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at information.wisagclassroom.org.

In the book "John Deere, That's Who!" the Deere family decided to move to Moline, Illinois, so the company was closer to the Mississippi River for better waterpower and easier deliveries. The 'prairie fields of grain' became known as America's breadbasket. John was a young blacksmith originally from Vermont where his forge burned to

the ground and he rebuilt it before moving to Illinois. A forge is the workplace of a blacksmith. It also means fireplace, or hearth, where the blacksmith heats the metal.

Happy writing to the fourth and fifth grade students.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation® presents:



2018 Conference

April 5-6

Holiday Inn Conference Center, Stevens Point

What:

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.

Purpose:

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.

20 Plus Workshop Topics Addressing 4 Training Workshop Tracks:

1. Governance and Organization (running a successful county Farm Bureau)
2. Building Farm Bureau (programs and membership)
3. Communicating for Agriculture and Farm Bureau
4. Policy, Issues and Advocacy

Monroe County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jack Herricks	608.654.7740
Vice President, Dawn Powell	608.823.7380
Secretary & Treasurer, Miranda Leis	608.654.5524
Promotion & Education Chair Kathy Schmitz	608.269.7031
YFA Chair, James Herricks	608.386.8936
Director, Al Ferries	608.823.7400
Director, Karen Leis	608.269.7052
Director, Scott Schmitz	608.269.2058
Director, Jim Van Wychen	608.378.4813
Director, J.M. Wells	608.366.1011
Monroe County Farm Bureau	888.377.0296
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 Promotion and Education Chair Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	715.514.4477

Meet: Rosli Bragger, District YFA Chair



Hello! My name is Rosli Bragger. I am 23-years-old and have been a Farm Bureau member for three years.

During this time, I have completed in discussion meet twice. I have helped make milkshakes with the Buffalo County Farm Bureau for as long as I can remember.

Currently, I am a nursing student in Eau Claire where I also work at the Mayo Clinic. While I am very busy with school, I do come home and help on my family's farm in Buffalo County on the weekends.

This past summer, my sister and I showed dairy cattle through the Wisconsin Holstein Association. I am very excited for the next three years and look forward to being more involved with agriculture through Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the District 4 YFA Chair.

Plan to Participate in the Wisconsin Ag Open

Hosted by the WFB Foundation, the 2018 Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 10**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

All proceeds from the golf outing will support the WFB Foundation education and leadership programs such as Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, WFBF Leadership Institute and Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.

Registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, box lunch, appetizers, contests and door prizes. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

For information, contact Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.

