



Richland County Farm Bureau

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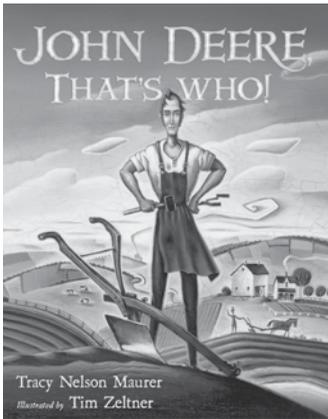
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Richland County Ag in the Classroom Update



All Richland 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.

Richland 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.

Richland County contest entries are due by **April 2**.

Essays should be mailed to:
Richland County Farm Bureau
c/o Germaine Hying
23870 Sorge Lane
Muscodia, WI 53573



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.

Richland County Farm Bureau member, Dick Hauser, attended. He along with 400 other attendees gathered at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center for a meal and issues briefing before heading to the Capitol to discuss agriculture issues with legislators.

Topics for discussion included implementation of industrial 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 Walker was also in attendance. 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."





COUNTYnews

RICHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



2017 WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



More than 60 YFA members from District 3 attended the 2017 YFA Conference that is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members networked, attended breakout sessions and learned more about Farm Bureau, while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts.



The WFBF Annual Meeting was held on December 1-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Richland County Farm Bureau members Dick Hauser, Jim Hying and Bill Hying served as delegates and participated in the policy adoption process that will guide WFBF's legislative agenda for 2018.

Farm Bureau in Action



In January, Richland County Farm Bureau President Dick Hauser attended the 2018 Council of Presidents Meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Dick met with county leaders from around the state to network, plan for the year ahead and discuss official WFBF business.



The Richland County Farm Bureau board of directors hosted the annual Valentine's Day party on February 14 at the White House in Richland Center. Board members enjoyed a fun night of great food and even better company.



In January, District 3 members met in Madison for the Winter Promotion and Education Meeting. Members 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 the assigned tasks of sorting pizzas and packaging potatoes.



District 3 Farm Bureau member Andrew Dal Santo was selected to be a member of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII. The first session was held January 18-20 in Madison. The class members dug into their strengths, discussed emotional intelligence and polished public speaking skills. Craig Culver, co-founder of Culver's, spoke to the class.



Kaitlyn Riley, a Crawford County Farm Bureau member and dairy farmer, assisted Wisconsin Farm Bureau on its social media platforms. She hosted WFBF's Takeover Tuesday on Instagram and Snapchat, and answered the question, 'Are there antibiotics in milk?' on WFBF's Facebook 'Ask A Farmer Friday'. To stay update on Farm Bureau news, be sure to 'Like' the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation page on Facebook and add wifarmbureau on Instagram and Snapchat.



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President's Message



What should Richland County Farm Bureau do? We have more than 400 total members and close to 300 voting in Richland County.

In past newsletters, I have laid out what the board of directors has done and participated in to represent our membership.

There comes a time when an organization should pause and say, "Are we

on the right track, are there other things that we should be doing?"

A recent meeting that was held in Boscobel was well attended and the premise of it dealt with what the future of agriculture should look like in southwest Wisconsin.

Are we as the people closest to Wisconsin agriculture going to be a part of the conversation or are we going to let others with their own special agendas decide our future? Should Richland County Farm Bureau initiate a meeting to get the conversation going here? Or should we just wait to see what

will happen? Also, this is an election year, should we get more involved in our local and state elections? What about local conservation programs?

Your Board wants to hear from you. What can you do? Write to: Richland County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705 or contact me at 608.585.4808.

Thank you in advance for your input.

Dick Hauser
Richland 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 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

Celebrate National Ag Day, March 20

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 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Facebook and Twitter page. When posting on social media, use the hashtags #WIReadsAg2018, #WIAgProud or #AgDay2018.
- Have students in your 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 the local library. Explain how ingredients from kids' favorite food 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 local farm or to a university'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 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! Photos can be emailed to aitc@wfbf.com.



IGNITE Conference

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

Richland County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Hauser	608.585.4808
Vice President/YFA Chair, Bekka Martin	608.642.0185
Secretary, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367
Treasurer, Byron Hillberry	608.537.2352
Promotion and Education Chair, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367
Director, Rufus Haucke	608.627.1701
Richland County Farm Bureau	888.830.2576
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder	608.987.3424
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Katie Roth	608.482.3200
WFBF YFA Chair, Tammy Wiedenbeck	608.723.2382
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	866.355.7343
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

Richland County Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



Nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 16-17.

"This event is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

"Young ag leaders who attend this event participate in professional development activities and are able to network with their peers and Farm Bureau staff."

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Mariah Martin, UW-Madison Collegiate Farm Bureau member along with Glen Schraufnagel, Wisconsin Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10 Consultant.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors the FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 46th year the Farm Bureau family of affiliates has sponsored the event for Wisconsin youth.

Each year Richland County Farm Bureau will sponsor the registration fee for two students from Richland County to attend FFA Farm Forum. FFA advisors and students interested in attending the event are encouraged to keep this mind for next year.



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!