



Rusk | Sawyer County Farm Bureaus

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Members Become 'Lobbyists for a Day'

Members of Rusk County and Sawyer County Farm Bureaus, along with nearly 400 farmers and agriculturists from Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 24 in Madison.

Attendees began the day at the Monona Terrace Convention Center where they heard from Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. He signed an executive order that will support rural economic development. He stated, "We want more reasons for our children to stay in our communities."

Members also were briefed about topics in agriculture including implementation of industrial hemp legislation, CAFO transfer from DNR to DATCP and wetland legislation. Following the briefing session at the Monona Terrace, members walked to the Capitol to meet with representatives and to speak about issues important to their



Members met with Representative James Edming and his staff to talk about issues that are important to agriculture in Rusk County and Sawyer County.

farms and Wisconsin agriculture. Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest lobby day for Wisconsin agriculture. Each year, farmers and agriculturists representing all facets of the state's diverse agriculture landscape come to Madison to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.



Attendees to Ag Day at the Capitol got to see Governor Scott Walker sign an executive order that provides markets for family farmers and agribusinesses.



Members from Rusk County and Sawyer County Farm Bureaus who attended Ag Day at the Capitol were: (from left) John Kaufmann, Paul Hetke, Betsy DuSell, and Terry DuSell.

Celebrate National Ag Day on March 20

Help celebrate National Ag Day by joining farmers, volunteers, teachers, FFA and 4-H members, agri-business employees and others by helping promote agriculture.



The theme for National Ag Day 2018 is, 'Agriculture: Food For Life.'

Need ideas? Visit www.agday.org.

Report Wildlife Damage

By Andrew Winiarczyk, Sawyer County Farm Bureau Vice President

Wildlife damage is not something new to Rusk and Sawyer counties. Rusk and Sawyer County Farm Bureaus are working hard to bring this issue to the forefront. Currently, Dale Beissel, Mike Robers, Terry DuSell and myself are working to build and expand a mapping system for wildlife damage in Barron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties. This will be an interactive map with location makers that can be selected, and the damage can be easily seen.

We need your help. Our hope is to be able to create enough data of images, location and cost to shine a light on the issue. If you have any damage that you want included, please send it to Sawyer CountyFarmBureau@gmail.com or contact 715.558.2562 and indicate the location and include images.

The more information that we obtain, the better this system will work for us.



COUNTYnews

RUSK | SAWYER COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Highlights from the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



More than 1,100 Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Farm Bureau members converged on the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-4 for the 98th WFBF

Annual Meeting, 83rd Rural Mutual Insurance Company Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference. More than 500 of the total attendees were YFA members attending the YFA Conference.

Some of the best and brightest YFA members competed in a variety of contests, attendees had the opportunity to learn new things by attending breakout sessions and listening to excellent keynote speakers, members were recognized and awarded for their hard work and member delegates made their voices heard by setting policy that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization during the next year.

Of the 1,100 plus members, more than 100 of those members were from District 9 including members from the Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter at UW-River Falls. Here is a list of more District 9 highlights:

- Representing District 9 in the YFA Discussion Meet were: Laura Benitz, Pierce County; Isaac Christenson, Polk County; and Nathan Kringle, Barron County.
- Barron County Farm Bureau member and District 9 YFA chair, Julie Wadzinski, was elected chair-elect and will serve as the 2019 WFBF YFA Chair.
- Members who signed five or more new members during the last membership year enjoyed being part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club (formerly known as Producer Club), where they received preferred seating for the Farm Bureau extravaganza, a special meal and a thank you gift. Farm Bureau Proud Club members from District 9 were: Kay Gilbertson, Jerica Meyer, Dale Quilling, Dean Bergseng, Peter Kimball, Jim Melin, Terry DuSell and Paul Hetke
- WFBF District 9 Director Jim Holte was re-elected WFBF President.



District 9 was well represented by Young Farmers and Agriculturists at the YFA Conference.



Paul Hetke, Amber DuSell and Terry DuSell served as delegates for Rusk County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Andrew Winiarczyk, Connor Beissel, Missy Beissel and Dale Beissel attended the WFBF Annual Meeting from Sawyer County.



Delegates from Rusk and Sawyer Counties spoke up on resolutions during the business session on Monday of the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Rusk County and Sawyer County Farm Bureau members wracked their brains as they tried their hands at the trivia contest held Saturday night of WFBF Annual Meeting. All proceeds from the trivia contest were donated to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

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District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison 715.505.7676
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 715.514.4477



Like us on Facebook: Rusk County Farm Bureau and Sawyer County Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Agriculturist Program.

Scholarships Available from Rusk County Farm Bureau

The Rusk County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce their intent to award higher education scholarships for graduating high school seniors in the amount of \$250.*



The scholarship is open to graduating seniors living in Rusk County and accepted into an accredited agriculture-related field of study through college, vocation or technical school. Preference will be given to Farm Bureau families, but all applicants will be seriously considered and encouraged to apply.

The agriculture scholarship or scholarships will be based on the student's past school history, community activities, acceptance into an accredited program, recommendations and a fully completed application submitted by the student.

*Any amounts more than the \$250 and number of scholarships will be based on the completed submissions and upcoming fund-raising activities by Rusk County Farm Bureau.

Completed applications must be postmarked by **April 2**.

For questions or to request a scholarship application, please contact Rusk County Farm Bureau board members Ted Alberson at 715.415.4179 or Amber DuSell at 715.418.2138 or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/rusk.

Welcome New Members: Rusk

Craig Benware*, Jennifer Bergmann*, Erik Johnson*, Tarry Roberts and Eugene Widiker*.

*Denotes voting member.

Rooted in Positivity

By Julie Wadzinski, Barron County Farm Bureau member and District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair



District 9 Leaders Julie Wadzinski, Dale Wester, Jim Melin, Marv Prestrud and Dave Kruschke had the opportunity to sit in on Governor Scott Walker's State-of-the-State address while at Ag Day at the Capitol on January 24.

When I signed up for Farm Bureau five years ago, I wanted to compete in Discussion Meet. I had a fondness of speaking contests from my time in FFA and was eager to get involved.

After the district level contest, we were given a critique as a group that consisted of mentioning sponsors and the fact that Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization.

From that day on, my involvement started expanding as my curiosity in this grassroots organization and policy development process led me to local policy development meetings, which branched into my first Ag Day at the Capitol in 2017.

What an experience. Meeting with my legislation to discuss issues that are important to me at the Wisconsin Capitol, sign me up again next year.

This year's Ag Day at the Capitol was the best yet. First off, myself and a room of more than 400 farmers and agriculturists witnessed Governor Scott Walker signing an executive order that expands resources for Wisconsin Farmers to access markets across the country and the world.

After lunch, I sat in the Assembly Chambers of the Capitol and listened to Governor Walker give his State-of-the-State Address. The State-of-the-State Address experience was inspiring, enlightening and nostalgic for different reasons.

The marble columns and gallery seating in the Assembly Chambers of Capitol gave me a feeling of historic significance imagining what others in these seats might have witnessed. Watching a quorum be called, attendance and seeing the parade of the State Justices and Senators as they found seats to watch the speech

was enlightening. The inspiration can be sourced back to Governor Walker's main message, "We are getting positive things done for the people of Wisconsin."

The State-of-the-State Address carried a lot of hope for me and rural Wisconsin. Agriculture has an \$88 billion impact on Wisconsin and rural Wisconsin sees that, to hear what proposals are coming down the turnpike such as increasing scarcity aid to our rural schools, increasing rural broadband budget dollars, prioritizing local, city and town roads in the transportation budget.

The most exciting proposal to me was the \$50 million Rural Economic Plan. This proposal has scholarship money for young people who want to take over a family farm and additional funding for small farms to assist them to incorporate conservation practices that help to maintain water quality.

An opportunity like this would not have happened if it was not for getting involved with Farm Bureau at the local level. Knowing that our voices are being heard and our efforts are being seen adds clout to the opportunities that Farm Bureau has offered me.

I'd say this State-of-State Address is not only getting positive things done for people of Wisconsin, but it's getting positive things done for the farmers and agriculturalists of Wisconsin.

Join Farm Bureau at the Rusk County Farm, Home, Garden and Sports Show

When: Saturday, March 24
Time: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: Ladysmith High School
Cost: Free

Rusk County Farm Bureau will have a booth at the 2018 Farm Show and members will be available to talk to those in attendance about opportunities in Farm Bureau. They will also be promoting Wisconsin's dairy industry by passing out cheese and milk samples.

In addition to a booth, Rusk County Farm Bureau also will host a silent auction to raise funds to support the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program throughout the year.

Mention you saw this article in the newsletter when you visit our booth to receive a gift.

We look forward to seeing you at the farm show.

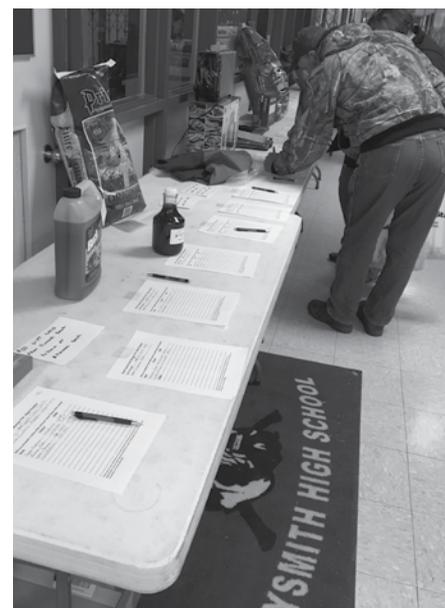
Industrial Hemp Seminar

A Farming Industrial Hemp seminar is being planned for the Rusk County Farm, Home, Garden and Sport Show.

Time and speakers to be announced soon. This seminar will be free.

Planned topics include:

- Information about the hemp legislation.
- DATCP's role in the hemp pilot program, including a review of DATCP's rules, due to be released the beginning of March.
- Background in growing and harvesting hemp.
- This is also a great time to ask questions.



Rusk County Farm Bureau will host a silent auction at the Farm, Home, Garden and Sports Show to help raise funds for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in the county. Come and bid on some great items.

Farm Bureau Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

At the Council of Presidents meeting on January 24, county presidents and vice presidents came together in Madison to network and update their knowledge with training to strengthen their county Farm Bureaus.

Many items were discussed including how to improve the communications between state and local levels, creating and using technology in the proper way and how to correctly use the Farm Bureau name, logos and policies.

During the two-day event, leaders heard from many speakers including Mark O'Connell, executive director of the Wisconsin Counties Association and Steve Boe, Director of Local Affairs with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. In addition, Peter Pelizza, Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Executive Vice President and CEO gave an update on Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



Council of Presidents attendees from District 9 posed for a photo with Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf; (from left) Marv Prestrud, Mary Prestrud, Dale Wester, Jim Melin, Dave Kruschke, Kevin Gilbertson, Kay Gilbertson, Terry DuSell, Betsy DuSell, Andrew Winiarczyk and Jim Holte.

The keynote speaker was Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf, who encouraged attendees to get involved in local government.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same



Greetings fellow Farm Bureau members,

For those of you I have not met, let me introduce myself. I am Laurie Peterson, the new Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager for what we consider to be the northwest district of the state.

My territory consists of 18 counties and I have the pleasure of working with WFBF members and district coordinators in Districts 4, 8 and 9. Although I have met some of you and attended several annual meetings this fall, it was not possible for me to attend each of these meetings because of scheduling conflicts.

The meetings I did attend allowed me to meet with the hard-working members who reside in each district and celebrate their successes. It was evident the impact that this organization has on individuals, communities and schools. I look forward to meeting even more of you in the years to come.

I started in this position on January 1, 2017, and what a year of learning and growth it has been. Prior to becoming the District Manager, I was a Rural Mutual agent for 10 years

and had an office in Medford, where I worked with Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors. I believed then and still believe that there is a great deal of value in the relationship between Rural Mutual and WFBF and I took every opportunity to align myself and my agency to reinforce that strong relationship. Although my position with the company has changed, my approach to the relationship we have with the WFBF remains the same.

With my first year in this position coming to a close, I believe that I have a better understanding of the time required and the responsibilities. I believe as District Manager, it is my responsibility to encourage agents to continue their work helping each county to meet membership goals. I want to see that taken to the next level.

Beyond signing members, if there is an opportunity for myself or an agent to volunteer, please contact them or me. We will do our best to see if we can get you the help and support you need to continue the good work you do. Agents and my contact information is published on the back of the newsletter or you can contact the district coordinator.

Together, we can make great things continue to happen.

Laurie Peterson
Rural Mutual Insurance Company

Ask for One Percent Flavored Milk at Your School

One percent chocolate milk is back. Encourage local schools and their school nutrition directors to serve 1 percent chocolate milk. Reach out to the schools your children (or grandchildren) attend and ask them to change the milk at the beginning of next school year.

If you participate in or attend any local school board meetings, request that the school meal program switch to the better tasting product. Schools need to serve the best tasting product to Wisconsin students.

Currently, schools are required to serve fat-free flavored milk – not always the most appealing product to students. Beginning next school year (2018-2019), students can be offered 1 percent chocolate milk (and other milk flavors) with school meals.

Changing to 1 percent chocolate milk is only an additional 20 calories in the school meal plan with no change in carbs, protein or other essential nutrients. Encourage students to drink more milk at every school meal by offering the best tasting product available.

Wisconsin milk processors are ready with the product and schools are beginning to post milk bids for next fall. This is a great time to remind them of this new opportunity. Pick up the phone or send a personal email to schools that you know. Ask Wisconsin schools to make the switch.

If you have questions or want assistance, please contact the Wisconsin Dairy Council at wdc@wmmb.org.

**Ask for
1% Flavored
Milk at School**
**Contact Your School
Nutrition Director**
Information at:
dpi.wi.gov/school-nutrition



Sawyer County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dale Beissel	715.266.3414
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Director, Ted Mataczynski	715.943.2353
Director, Mike Robers	715.643.2645
Director, Jon Winiarczyk	715.415.2830
Sawyer County Farm Bureau Office	866.355.7347

Welcome New Members: Sawyer

Martha De Long*, Blaine Glodowski, Jeff Johnston and Duane Miller.

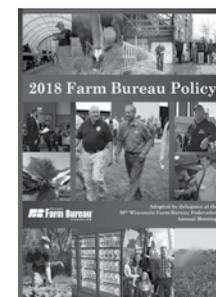
*Denotes voting member.

2018 WFBF Policy Book Available

The 2018 Farm Bureau Policy Book is available online.

You can find it at:
wfbf.com/governmentrelations/policydevelopment.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote on them at county Farm Bureau annual meetings.



What to Do with an Unneeded Manure Pit

By **Tim Seidl**, Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation

Do you have a manure pit that you are no longer using and want to remove so you don't have to worry about the grandkids falling in it when they are outside playing?

Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation (ZAC) can offer financial and technical assistance for farmers and landowners who want to properly fill-in abandoned manure pits.

The purpose of proper manure pit abandonment is to protect ground and surface water, safeguard public health from potential gases, such as hydrogen sulfide and to remove a drowning hazard. Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation will inspect the site, do a closure design, calculate quantities and provide up to 70 percent cost-sharing for the project.

The goal is to protect surface waters from runoff and ground waters from leaching. To accomplish this goal, excess water and solids in the pit must be removed. Then, the contaminated soil on the sides and bottom of the pit have to be removed and spread on cropland.

Once the pit is cleaned, both ends of the underground pipe running from the barn to the pit and the pump are cemented to permanently seal them to prevent any water from getting in. After that is completed, the pit can be filled. The final steps are for the sites to be covered, graded and sloped to prevent water accumulation and then seeded.

If you have a manure pit that you are no longer using and want to discuss options for removal, please contact Tim Seidl, Sawyer County Zoning and Conservation assistant conservationist at 715.634.6463.