



# Sheboygan County Farm Bureau

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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Farm Bureau members met with legislators to discuss agricultural issues. Representing Sheboygan County Farm Bureau at Ag Day at the Capitol were: Mark and Debra Ramel, Ryan Ernst, Katie Ulezelski and Sarah Peterson.

Ag Day at the Capitol was held on January 24 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. This event is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about issues affecting Wisconsin agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Governor Scott Walker signed an executive order at Ag Day at the Capitol that will support rural economic development.

“We want more reasons for our children to stay in our communities,” Governor Walker.

Topics for discussion included implementation of hemp legislation, CAFO transfer from DNR to DATCP, high capacity well permitting process, wetland legislation and NR 151 targeted performance standards.

“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.”

### District YFA Members Enjoy Green Bay Gamblers Game and Pizza

The District 6 YFA Green Bay Gamblers outing took place on February 24. About 75 YFA members had a blast at the game and enjoyed pizza after at the D2 Stadium District Sports Pub.

The Green Bay Gamblers took on the Madison Capitols and won the game, 4 to 1. The game was complete with a Teddy Bear Toss after the first goal. More than 7,000 teddy bears and stuffed animals hit the ice.

Are you interested in other YFA events? To find out what is scheduled next in Sheboygan County, please contact Sheboygan County YFA co-chairs Ryan Ernst at 920.207.4324 or Nick Entringer at 920.980.1664.





# COUNTYnews

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

250 delegates at the 98<sup>th</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization. Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2018. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on various dairy policy items. They supported milk processors giving farms 60 days notice before any changes to premium structure or required fees and giving 90 days notice before termination of service. They also supported Wisconsin's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to define clear and concise rules and regulations for automated milking installations and programs that emphasize manufacturing and marketing strategies.

Delegates supported a \$0.05 per gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance.

Regarding nutrient management, they supported increased nitrogen levels for nutrient management planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better use these nutrients and efforts to assist agriculture to understand its role regarding nutrient management for surface water and groundwater. They supported the need to continue the reasonable scientifically-based best management practices for the protection of groundwater resources in high risk areas such as Karst areas.

Delegates supported increased trade deals that benefit Wisconsin and U.S. Agriculture.

Regarding marketing initiatives, delegates opposed using misleading food labels for a marketing campaign. They supported changing fat percentage labelling on bottled milk from '2% Fat' to '98% Fat Free,' '1% Fat to 99% Fat Free,' etc., and use of the non-GMO label only on products that have a GMO alternative.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to support:

- Legislation that allows wineries and craft brewers to have equivalent operating hours as taverns and restaurants.
- Allowing tasting rooms to sample wines and ciders made by other producers.
- Managed grazing as an approved method of stream bank management and managed wetland areas.
- In a time of disaster or emergency, any fees, permits or hold times should be waived to aid people with bridges and creek crossings.
- Allowing stream bank damage following a storm to be returned to pre-storm locations.
- Controlling predatory wildlife populations.
- A tax incentive for selling and renting land to beginning/young farmers.
- Mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver's education classes.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Fair regional pricing within the Price Loss Coverage and Agriculture Risk Coverage program.
- Over the road truckers should be exempt from e-logging requirements when transporting livestock or perishable agricultural products.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual convention in January.



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau donated Packer and Badger wall art to the WFB Foundation silent auction. The Sheboygan County YFAs donated a framed picture.



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(from left) Julie and Mark Schleicher, Jeannie and Fritz Johanning, Marcia and Don Fenner, Lloyd and Carol DeRuyter, Mark and Debra Ramel, Ken and Lydia Turba and Duane Raeder.



District 6 YFAs played Agricultural Pictionary at the District meeting on Friday night.

## President's Message



This is my first report as Sheboygan County Farm Bureau President.

I am sure many of you know me but for those who don't, I have been on the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau board for many years and vice president for the last few years.

I farm with my son near Cedar Grove. We were in the dairy business for many years but now have a

cow and calf and feeder operation.

Since the last newsletter, we participated in Ag Day at the Capital. I encourage more of you to attend this event next year.

Governor Scott Walker was the featured speaker. From WFBF staff we heard about important issues of the day and then went to the Capitol to be lobbyist for a day. We met with our local legislators to

inform them of issues important to agriculture.

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau is working on this year's membership drive so if you know of people involve in agriculture that are not members let your county board member know or go out and sign them up.

**Lloyd DeRuyter**  
Sheboygan County Farm Bureau president

## Welcome John and Megan Lyons, District 6 YFA Chairs



John and Megan have been married for nine years, and they help manage and attend to the day-to-day operations of John's family farm.

John is a fourth-generation farmer who is in the process of transitioning into an ownership role on his family's Century Farm, which specializes in raising calves for beef, cash cropping and providing custom harvesting services for neighboring farms.

His background in farming includes conventional dairy, organic grass-fed dairy, cheese making and other value-added farm products.

In his free time, he enjoys transforming things like milk into yogurt and cheese, and barley into malt and beer; and determining ways to integrate his information technology knowledge into the farm.

While Megan grew up in the country surrounded by corn fields, she only has been living on farms for the past nine years.

Outside of farming, Megan just completed her Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is working to address the mental health needs of those in northeast Wisconsin.

Her passions in farming include caring for the animals; coming up with innovative ways to streamline and balance the interconnected workings of the various aspects of the farm; and managing the homestead garden.

## Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Membership Incentives

*Don't miss your chance to get your membership rewards.*

District 6 Farm Bureau membership volunteers will have the opportunity to win some great prizes during the 2017-2018 membership year.

### A Night Out on Farm Bureau

For each new or past due voting member you sign up before **April 1**, your name will be placed into a county drawing. A form must be completed and given to District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm to receive credit for the past due members.

At county Farm Bureau meetings after the deadline, we will draw for:

- A \$50 gift card to the restaurant of your choice.

### A Day Off the Farm

For each new or past due voting member you sign up before **September 28**, your name will be placed into a district drawing. A form must be completed and given to the District 6 Coordinator Beck Salm to receive credit for the past due members.

At the first Farm Bureau meeting after the deadline, we will draw for:

- A \$300 cash prize.



## Brickstead Dairy Named 2017 Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award® Recipient



WFBF President Jim Holte along with representatives from the Sand County Foundation presented Dan Brick from Brickstead Dairy with the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award.

Sand County Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association were proud to announce Brickstead Dairy as the recipient of Wisconsin's Leopold Conservation Award®.

The award honors Wisconsin landowner achievement in voluntary stewardship and management of natural resources. The award was presented on December 3 at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. The Brick family was presented with a crystal depicting Aldo Leopold and \$10,000.

Established in 1848, Brickstead Dairy has been a family affair for five generations. Since partnering with his father in the

1990s, Dan Brick has expanded the dairy to include 900 cows. While the size of the dairy has changed, conservation remains at the heart of this family business and the pulse that keeps the farm running.

During the past few years, Dan has committed to 'plant into green.' Instead of conventionally tilling and planting into a brown field, he plants into a living cover crop such as wheat or winter rye. By planting into cover crops, Dan ensures the ground is continuously covered to help the soil and its nutrients stay on the field rather than the local waterways.

Dan has played a significant role in promoting conservation practices in his area. Acknowledging the impact agriculture has had on Green Bay, he is committed to helping promote practices that minimize impacts on the bay. He enjoys sharing his experiences with fellow farmers in the area, as well those who are not familiar with agriculture.

Dan has taken advantage of many media opportunities through his participation on Fox Demo Farms to share lessons he has learned in transitioning to a more conservation-focused farm.

"Many farmers are taking a lead role in promoting conservation practices and their efforts should be praised," said Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President Jim Holte. "Congratulations to Dan for being recognized for his outstanding land stewardship. Brickstead Dairy is a shining example of a farm

doing the right thing for the generations to follow."

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award recognizes extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation. It inspires other landowners through these examples and provides a visible forum where farmers, ranchers and other private landowners are recognized as conservation leaders.

In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage, which he called "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity."

The Leopold Conservation Award in Wisconsin is made possible through the generous support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, Compeer Financial, Wisconsin Soybean Council, American Transmission Company, WE Energies, USDA NRCS and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.



## 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

### Travel

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

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District 6 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Bus Tour Planned, April 20

Join us for a fun day in District 6 on April 6!

Board the bus at 9 a.m. and let us do the driving to three, fun filled agricultural stops throughout the District.



First stop is to **Briess Malt and Ingredient Company**. Briess is North America's leading supplier of specialty malts to American craft beer and artisan distilling, and is the largest producer of malted milk for beverage, confection and ice cream applications.

Briess malt ingredients also are used by food manufacturers throughout North America in a wide-range of baked goods. Briess operates malthouses in Manitowoc, Chilton and Waterloo. At Manitowoc, raw barley grown for Briess in a premium barley growing region of Wyoming is received by rail, cleaned, graded and stored before shipping to one of the three malting operations.

The Manitowoc malthouse is the largest Briess malthouse, producing premium quality base malt and kilned specialty malts. Briess has been family owned since 1876.



Second stop is to **Lake Orchard Farm Retreat** in Sheboygan. An amazing story of sixth-generation farm owners, Mary and Nate operate the farm with Mary's parents, Warren and Joan.

Mary and Nate renovated the former chicken hatchery into a Bed and Breakfast, which opened in 2009. In 2014, they started Lake Orchard Farm Aquaponics, harvesting their first lettuce and fish in late 2015. In 2017, Lake Orchard Farm's event barn opened for weddings on site.

### Lunch will be provided.

Our final stop is **3 Sheeps Brewing Company**, a brewery in Sheboygan that takes a scientific approach to crafting unique yet approachable beers.

They are explorers. They're meticulously well researched. They're balanced. They're trustworthy, but with a penchant for pushing people's boundaries. They brew beers that nobody else is brewing, in ways that nobody else is brewing



them, with ingredients that others are afraid to use.

And here's the kicker: every single beer they brew, no matter how extreme the ingredients or processes may be, is approachable and balanced. Because they believe the best beer you can drink is one you enjoy.

Your ticket includes a tour of the new brewery and an in-depth breakdown of the brewing process, four sample pours (including one straight from one of the wooden barrels), 3 Sheeps glass to take home and your ticket is redeemable for a beer at one of our local participating bars or restaurants.

Seating is limited. To reserve your space, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at [bsalm@wfbf.com](mailto:bsalm@wfbf.com) or 920.253.5303. Seats must be reserved by **April 13**.

## Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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 RMIC District Manager, Ken Bosman 608.828.5440

facebook

Stay up-to-date on all upcoming Sheboygan County Farm Bureau events by 'liking' us on Facebook!

## Students Attend FFA Farm Forum

Nearly 200 high school students 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 that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture 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 FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 46<sup>th</sup> time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.



## Upcoming Events

### March

30 Early bird membership cut-off

### April

1 Ag in the Classroom essays' due to county essay coordinators  
 5-6 IGNITE Conference: Innovate. Grow. Network. Inform. Train. Engage. in Stevens Point  
 20 District 6 YFA and Promotion and Education bus tour

