



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOYALTY!



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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Meet: Kyle Nilsestuen, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau's Newest Director



Kyle Nilsestuen, pictured with fiancée Leni Greydanus, is a fourth generation farmer from Arcadia.

Hello! My name is Kyle Nilsestuen. I was raised on a fourth generation, 120-head dairy farm between Arcadia and Centerville. I always knew I wanted to be connected to agriculture, but I wasn't always sure I wanted to farm. At first, I was drawn to be a large animal veterinarian but soon realized after starting at UW-River Falls with a dairy science major that I had more of a passion for production agriculture.

I soon became strictly an agronomist and moved a couple times across the Midwest for different career moves.

In 2015, my brother and I, with help from our dad, purchased the family farm from the partnership my dad and uncle owned. We raise corn and beans and I own a growing Angus cow/calf herd and seed dealership. I also manage three broiler barns raising antibiotic-free birds as well as help with agronomy on a neighboring farm.

My fiancée, Leni Greydanus, and I are planning our wedding on the farm for this summer and are looking forward to starting the sixth generation.

I believe that working to encourage the next generation of farmers is very important and that's why I am happy to be serving on the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board. I look forward to meeting many new people and helping to spread the word about agriculture and rural life.

I earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science and a minor in agronomy from the UW-River Falls. I took a position with a local co-op as a dairy nutritionist/agronomist and moved into my grandparent's house on our family's original homestead.

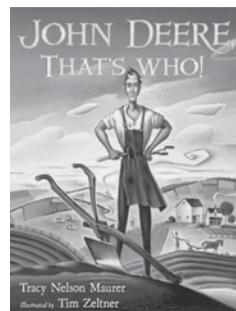
Wanted: Applicants for Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

The Ag in the Classroom's essay topic is, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' All fourth and fifth grader students are encouraged to submit an essay. Essays must be handwritten in ink or computer generated; between 100- and 300-words; essays are judged on content, grammar/spelling and neatness. Include the student's name, grade level, parents' names, teacher's name and email address, school name and address, phone number, address and county

on the back of the essay. Please send to Crystal Johnson, N44866 County Road E, Osseo, WI 54758. It must be postmarked by **April 2**.

For information, please contact Crystal at 406.480.0729 or bottomfarms@gmail.com.

The county essay contest winner will be presented with a trophy, a classroom party and the winner's teacher will get a special gift.



Trempealeau County Launches 'Friends With a Farmer' Program

The Trempealeau County Farm Bureau has created a fun, new opportunity for the elementary students and teachers in our county.

'Friends with a Farmer' is a private Facebook group that teachers in the county are invited to join. Our purpose is to educate students and teachers about local agriculture, build relationships with teacher's and reach students who are eligible for the annual fourth and fifth grade essay contest. So far, our Farm Bureau members have shared short videos showing what seasonal things are happening on farms.

Do you know someone who wants to be in the group? Search Facebook for 'Friends with a Farmer' and click 'Request' to join. An admin will follow up and give you access to the fun and facts.

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@wbf.com.



COUNTYnews

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Trempealeau County Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

By Derek Husmoen



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau members gave a great effort in the Fun'd the Foundation trivia contest on Saturday evening.

Members of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau attended the WFBF Annual meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-4. This year's theme was 'Farm Bureau: Rooted in Family.'

The YFA Conference kicked off Friday with a welcome dinner, district meetings and entertainment, which featured a casino night. I delivered my retiring speech as the State YFA Chair, wrapping up my three-year term on the State YFA Committee.

On Saturday morning, the YFA brunch featured keynote speaker Michele Payn, president and owner of Cause Matter Corp. Michele is known for being a passionate advocate for global agriculture. Her address was focused around connecting people and conversations to the science of food and farming. Saturday also featured the quarter-final and semi-final rounds of the Discussion Meet, as well as Excellence in Ag presentations and Achievement Award interviews. Emily Herness from Trempealeau County Farm Bureau did a great job in both rounds of the Discussion Meet. In addition to Emily, Rosli Bragger (Buffalo County) and Jody Wilhelm (Eau Claire County) did an excellent job representing District 4 in the State Discussion Meet contest.

Other Saturday activities included the trade show and silent auction, 45-minute YFA workshops and 20-minute learning labs, which were new this year, and the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet, which featured live entertainment from comedian Scott Novotny.

The banquet brought together the more than 1,200 Farm Bureau members in attendance for the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Following the banquet was a trivia contest and cornhole tournament.

Sunday morning started with the Collegiate and YFA Discussion Meet finals. Afterwards, the brunch featured motivational speaker Chris Koch, who was born without arms and legs. He shared his

story and message of 'If I Can ...' Chris farms and lives a life full of adventure with no limitations. His takeaway was that if he can do the things in life he's done with the cards he's been dealt, what's stopping anyone else from doing the same?

Sunday afternoon featured the trade show and silent auction along with workshop sessions. Sunday evening was the awards banquet and program, where Shane Goplin graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Other District 4 WFBF Leadership Institute graduates included Cassie Olson (Jackson County) and Jack Herricks (Monroe County). In addition, Steve Kling (Jackson County) was presented the 'Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau' award, the highest award Wisconsin Farm Bureau bestows upon its members.

Monday morning, following breakfast, was the resolutions and business meeting, which is arguably the most important session of the weekend.

Shane Goplin, Todd Quarne, Jamie Goplin, Crystal Johnson and Brian Maliszewski represented Trempealeau County Farm Bureau as delegates. Amber Radatz also represented District 4 on the Policy Development Committee. The delegates discussed policy resolutions that were submitted from each county's annual meeting. Resolutions from Trempealeau County Farm Bureau as well as other counties throughout the district and state were voted on and passed at the state level, thus becoming Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy.

Those from Trempealeau County who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference had a great time. It's always a nice way to wrap up the year and look back at our accomplishments.

As we move forward into 2018, let's continue with those activities that keep us, 'rooted in family.'



Seventeen YFA members from District 4 attended the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-3.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 President's Report

District Director Report

3 We've Got the Drive

Cover Crops and Conservation

Meet: Rosli Bragger

Scholarship Offered

Board Contacts

President's Report



It seems as we just finished one of the more challenging crop years that we have had in awhile, but just around the corner is crop year 2018. While 2017 was a challenge in the field, it also proved to be very positive for Trempealeau County Farm Bureau..

Achieving our goal of making a generous donation included giving \$10,000 to

the Trempealeau County Fair. Investing in our future is something that is important to the county Farm Bureau board.

Every year, I am more impressed by the talent of the kids throughout the county. I never tire of the enthusiasm they have for the projects they have chosen or how they work so well with others.

The other thing I think of when I think about our youth is their dependence on technology. As a parent, I will admit, watching kids almost glued to their electronic devices can be frustrating. How many times have we said, or heard someone else say, "When I was a kid ..."

Having said that, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau has become more dependent on technology during the past couple of years. We are now paperless. We no longer have to shuffle through papers at meetings to find agendas, financials, members, etc. We not only have these items on our phones

or tablets during the meeting, but we have the convenience of looking up anything we want to know about our county Farm Bureau any time we have access to our devices. It is like having a file cabinet with us at all times. This no doubt has made us much more efficient in keeping everything organized and easy to find whatever we need.

None of us know what 2018 will bring. I am excited to see what our county Farm Bureau can and will accomplish this year. As we prepare for the upcoming cropping season. The most important thing we have to remember is to be safe. Making it home safely every night to see my family is the biggest accomplishment I could ask for.

Shane Goplin

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau President

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



We've Got the 'Drive' – Technology in Board Meetings

Technology, an old term that is relatively new to the Trempealeau County board of directors. Paper is used very little anywhere one goes. Proudly, Trempealeau County is one of the first to adapt to this change.

Why, one might ask? Efficiency and simplicity is the name of the game in today's digital world. As a board we have embraced Google Drive, which is one of many resources to obtain data for everyone to access at anytime. This allows for the board to retain documents, events, publications, agendas, etc.

An example of how we are using this technology would be if a board member or Farm Bureau staff member is working on financials, agendas or documents. It can then be posted on the electronic drive for everyone, who has access to it, to view

at any time. This eliminates the guess work from what was previously done and simplifies sharing information if one can't make a meeting. The best part of this technology is there isn't a need to find a home for the paper documents. Not only does this save the board money and time, but it allows board members to be more efficient and effective.

It seems everyone has a device whether it be a smart phone, iPad or tablet. If a board member doesn't, they will be supplied with a tablet.

You can be proud that the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board is on the cutting edge of this new era.

Brian Maliszewski
Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Vice President

Cover Crops and Conservation for the New Year

Third Annual Farmer Forum Draws Producers from Across the State

By Amber Radatz, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Director and UW-Discovery Farms Co-Director



More than 80 farmers and advisors joined the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network for the Winter Farmer Forum on January 18.

On January 18, more than 80 farmers and advisors joined the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network for the third annual Winter Farmer Forum. The theme was, 'Cover Crops and Conservation for the New Year.' Farmers from the Elk Creek and Middle Trempealeau River Watershed hosted the event with the help of nine local sponsors.

The Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network is one of 17 groups that received a grant through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants Program to work with conservation agencies and organizations to address soil and water issues tailored to local conditions for 2018. The group has been in operation since 2016, and this is the third annual grant awarded to the group.

"I joined the Elk Creek Farmer Network to learn from other farmers in the area. It's all about collaboration and learning from each other," explained Brian Maliszewski, chair of the network. "Today we are glad to again host a local event showcasing the innovation our local farmers are putting to work with conservation and cover crops."

This year, the event was held at the Arcadia Country Club in Arcadia. Area farmers and agronomists led a panel discussion on methods for establishing cover crops, including their experiences with practices that have been successful and some that have been failures.

One of the three featured speakers was Barry Bubolz from USDA-NRCS in eastern Wisconsin. He talked about the farmers he works with in the Lower Fox Demonstration Farms Network. The farmers are advancing their conservation efforts through using cover crops, low disturbance manure incorporation, strip till or no till and grazing. Especially of interest was his experience with different equipment modifications and varieties of cover crops.

The second featured speaker was Andy Bensed of AB Farms in Barron County. Andy is a winner of the National Conservation Legacy Award from the American Soybean Association. He gave the group perspective on how his practices have changed and evolved over the years as the best available knowledge has changed.

Andy encouraged farmers to move farming systems forward through keeping your own records through the years and visually inspecting how practices are holding up through different seasons.

The third featured speaker was Emil Giese of Giese Farms in Jackson County. Emil and his son James have gone through a couple seasons of relay cropping soybeans and winter wheat. He shared things that have worked, and some that haven't, including the equipment, seed varieties and herbicide programs that are key to making this system work.

Emil was candid about how interesting it has been and that they will continue to tweak this system because of the soil and rotation benefits they've already seen.

Again this year the forum was made possible because of partners including Trempealeau County UW-Extension, Trempealeau County Land Conservation Department, Western Technical College, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau and UW Discovery Farms.

For the first time, sponsors chipped in to cover the financial obligation for lunch, morning break items and speaker fees. These businesses support local cover crop and conservation efforts and are a wonderful resource for area farmers.

Thank you to:

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau
Allied Cooperative
Tractor Central Arcadia
Value Implement
Compeer Financial
Trempealeau County UW-Extension
Nelson Seed Service: Kellen Nelson
Midwest BioAg: Joe Danzinger, Bob Schmidtknecht and Bob DeJong
Channel Seed-Broc Kensmoe and Kris Lien

For more information about this event or the Buffalo-Trempealeau Farmer Network, please contact Brian Maliszewski at bmali_ent@hotmail.com or 715.530.1107 or Joe Bragger at braggfam@trivest.net or 715.530.0466.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------|
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| YFA Chair, Mandy Speerstra | 715.533.2360 |
| Ag Promotions Chair, Crystal Johnson | 406.480.0729 |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
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| Director, Kyle Nilsestuen | 608.799.1688 |
| Director, Bruce Prudlick | 715.695.3446 |
| Director, Annaliese Wegner | 608.386.7820 |

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|--|--------------|
| Trempealeau County Farm Bureau | 888.830.2573 |
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| District 4 Promotion and Education Chair | |
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| District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson | 866.355.7344 |
| RMIC District Managers, | |
| David Meihak | 715.544.6824 |
| Laurie Peterson | 608.347.0383 |

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.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau is offering a \$500 scholarship to high school seniors and first-year college and technical college students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are Trempealeau County Farm Bureau members in good standing.



The winner and their family will be invited to the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting in August at Riverside Park in Blair for a special presentation of the award certificate and have an opportunity to speak to the group. Applications are due **April 1**.

For more information or to request an application, please contact Crystal Johnson at bottomfarms@gmail.com or 406.480.0729.