

Walworth County Farm Bureau

119 South Broad Street
Elkhorn, Wisconsin 53121

262-723-2613

NEW EMAIL WCFB@tds.net

NEWS

June 2017

From the President

“What a spring!” Tough time getting the crops in. And at this point making first crop hay might also be a challenge.

But the weather doesn't stop the calendar from moving ahead and Dairy Breakfast is just around the corner. June 17, with breakfast and activities at the fairgrounds. Our Farm tour will be at the Sterken Farm near Delavan. They milk both cows and goats and I think will be a wonderful tour this year.

I would like to thank Lester, Doc and Wayne Sterken and their families for hosting this year's farm tour.

Of course we will need lots of help as we do every year, so if you can give an hour or two we love to have you come out and help. We set up on Friday, June 16 around 10:00 in the morning with lunch served at 1:00. T-shirts and a free breakfast ticket is provided for all our volunteers.

Thank you to all the volunteers who come out every year and help. To the 4-H kids and their parents and the FFA members. We couldn't do it without you.

Our Vice-President Bill Holtz had a little accident on Saturday May 20 and now has a broken leg. He will be taking some time off from all the things he does for the Elkhorn Food Pantry and Farm Bureau to heal. Everyone at Farm Bureau wishes him a speedy recovery. No dancing for Bill for a while!

Please enjoy your summer and I hope to see you at the Annual Meeting in September.

President
Terry Papcke

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 15

District One Meeting – Walworth County

June 16

10:00 Set up for Dairy Breakfast
at the WC Fair Grounds

June 17

Dairy Breakfast Serving 6:00 – 10:30

June 22 - 28

Annual Brewer Game



July 6

District 1 Policy Development Meeting

July 9

Snapper Game



July 10

YFA Contest Applications for
Excellence in Ag and Achievement Award
due to WFBF

August 15

Young Farmer Discussion Meet

August 30 – September 4

Walworth County Fair

September 9-10

Family Farm Weekend - Milwaukee Zoo

September 20

Walworth County Farm Bureau
Annual Dinner

DISTRICT ONE MEETING

FOR WALWORTH COUNTY

Thursday June 15

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Mukwonago Village Hall
Community Board Room
440 River Quest Court
Mukwonago, WI 53149

Brandi Richter
brandi.richter@wi.usda.gov

WISCONSIN STATE FAIR

Farm Bureau has signed up to help at the WI State Fair House of Moo on Saturday, August 12.

Two shifts: 8am-2pm and 2pm-8pm.
Volunteers receive a fair admission ticket, House of Moo t-shirt, free sandwich coupon for the Real Wisconsin Cheese Grill and water.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Patti Roden at proden@wfbf.com.

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU MEMO

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service is hosting its 2017 Local Working Group meetings. The meetings will be used to gather input and help set priorities for U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation programs under the 2014 Farm Bill. There are eighteen public meetings scheduled across Wisconsin from June 14 to June 28.

Farm Bureau members are highly encouraged to attend these meetings. This is an opportunity to share your priorities with NRCS about how 2014 Farm Bill program dollars are allocated for conservation programs you utilized on your farms.

According to the NRCS website, one of the main programs discussed at the meetings will be the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a federal conservation program that helps farmers promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to help landowners with needed conservation practices for water quality, soil health, wildlife and other natural resources. The program was re-authorized through 2019 in the federal Farm Bill, which was passed in February 2014.

To find your local meeting, see the attached document, organized by WFBF Farm Bureau District. For more information, contact your local NRCS office or search "2017 Local Working Group Meeting Schedule" at nrcs.usda.gov



District Director Report:

When the calendar turned from 2016-2017 there was a sigh of relief that this year is over and the next year will be better.

After the last month, when dozens of dairy farmers got the notice, I began to wonder. It was a short time frame, 30 days, to find a home for hundreds of gallons of milk to be processed.

Dairy Farmers take care of their cows and know how to keep them healthy and well fed so they can produce milk. They rely on someone else to process that milk and deliver it to consumers in various forms of products.

There needed to be a short-term fix so this milk can find a home and be processed. Your organization stepped up to the plate and had those discussions. DATCP, members of the Farm Bureau Board and your Government Relations team, along with other producer groups, discussed the situation to find a short-term solution. They laid out solutions; some were useful to see if processors would take these farm families in and pick up their milk.

Come May 1, we saw and heard Director of Governmental Relations Karen Gefvert report that almost 100% of those farm families were taken in and had a place for their milk. That was the short-term solution.

Now we have to look at the long-term solutions. Do farmers have long term contracts with processors they ship their milk to for stability? Will bankers look at or insist that these contracts be in place before monies are borrowed? Will processors require dairy farmers to sign long-term contracts so they have milk available to them? Many more questions and many not answered.

These are not the only long-term solutions that need to be focused on. Immigration is a hot topic, will there be a federal solution or a state-by-state solution? Are there enough markets for beef farmers to ship their cattle to? Trade and the consequences of trade not being fair enough? These are the challenges that your organization is addressing and providing input.

We have a District 1 Policy Development meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 6. This is where we want your input and knowledge on these subjects and others. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you there.

Happy growing season to all,

Dave Daniels
District 1 Director



District 1 Policy Development Meeting

Thursday, July 6

6:15pm Social

6:30pm Buffet dinner

7:00pm-9:00pm Policy Development Meeting

The Machine Shed

(N14 W24145 Tower Place, Pewaukee, WI 53072)

If you want more information about the policy development meeting contact Patti Roden at proden@wfbf.com.

District 1 Discussion Meet:

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Tuesday, August 15

Farm Tour at 6:30pm,

discussion meet at 7:30pm, cookout to follow

Cozy Nook Farm

(S11 W30780 Summit Ave, Waukesha)

TOPIC: Formation of family farm corporations is common practice. How can Farm Bureau work to ensure that the public's positive perception of the family farm is not lost?

Contact Charlie Oberhaus (262-337-2448) or Patti Roden (proden@wfbf.com or 262-689-1838) if you are interested in participating or attending this fun event.

2017 Essay Contest

"Cranberry Production in Wisconsin during one of the four seasons"

WINNERS

First Place:

Mattison Stanek - Williams Bay Elementary

Second Place:

Emilee Colson - Darien Elementary School

Third Place:

Diego Serna - Darien Elementary School

District 1 Winner:

Isabel Kuchta - St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Atkinson

Wisconsin Winner:

Max Hetze - THINK Academy, Rudolph

DAIRY BREAKFAST | JUNE 17, 2017

Sterken Farms.... A Way of Life

Our story began almost 80 years ago, when our parents, Johanna and Henry Sterken got married in 1938 and decided farming was going to be their "way of life."

Our parents' families had both endured many hardships, losing everything in the depression. In 1925 our dad's family moved to South Dakota to homestead a piece of land. They survived there for a few years before the dust bowl hit drying up and blowing away the crops in 1934. They returned to southeastern Wisconsin where Henry eventually met and married Johanna and with only \$200 in his pocket they started farming, first on shares and then renting a few different places in the Darien area.

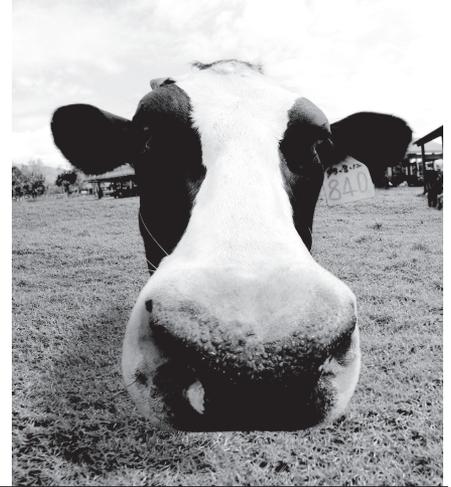
In 1942 they bought their first farm. Through the years they added more farms and also raised a family of seven children, Art, Ron, Wayne, Lois, Leon "Doc", Lester and Juanita. We became mom and dad's "work force" all working on the family farms at different times.

In 1974, Sterken Farms was incorporated, with mom, dad, Wayne, Doc, and Lester as the main shareholders.

We milked cows on three of the farms and worked about 1900 acres with one set of machinery. We farmed this way until dad passed away in December of 1997. Soon after, we did a feasibility study and decided to bring all of our milk cows onto one site and began construction of a 550 cow milking parlor and free stall barns, which opened in May 1999. We also feed out all of our holstein steers.

Most of our crops go to feeding our animals, with about 800 acres of corn, 400 acres of hay and 100 acres of wheat.

In 2016, Lester and Helen decided to build a goat parlor and free stall barn on the same site, where they milk 400 goats.



SNAPPERS GAME

The Walworth County
Young Farmer Committee
invites you to a Snappers Game

Sunday, July 9, 2017

2:00 pm game
with gates opening at 1:00

Tickets:

\$15.00 –per person
Farm Bureau Members
with 3 beers included.

\$23.95 per person
Non-Farm Bureau Members
Picnic Lunch 1:00-2:30

All the hamburger, hot dogs, brats,
potato salad, pasta salad, watermelon
and cantaloupe, chips, peanuts and
canned Pepsi products you can
eat/drink

Option to throw out the First Pitch!
10% discount on all Snappers
merchandise purchased that day.

**Please reserve your tickets
by July 1, 2017**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

RIB FEST
July 14-16

Walworth County Farm Bureau will be
running three beverage stands at the
RIB FEST Serving 11:00- 11:00 on
Friday and Saturday 11:00 – 7:00 on
Sunday.

WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR
August 30 - September 4

Ice Cream Tent.
All 6 days.
Our biggest fundraiser of the year.
Supports scholarship, FFA and
4-H activities, as well as
Agi-in-the classroom.

TO VOLUNTEER:

Please call or email Kathy Papcke
at the WCFB Office.
(262) 723-2613
wcfb@tds.net

2017 FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

\$500
Walworth County
Scholarship to
Makalyn Peterson
Big Foot High School

\$500
Duane Leseberg
Scholarship to
Amelia Hayden
Big Foot High School

\$1000
Byron Palmer
Scholarship to
Charles Dowty
Gateway

