



Washington County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

National Ag Day 2018

Did you know that Washington County farmers will visit nearly 20 county fourth grade classes in March for our Promotion and Education Farmer in the Classroom Program?

During National Ag Week students will be in awe about agriculture while hearing from farmers who visit their classrooms before coming out to visit Sunset Farms (Wolf Family), Ross Bishop and Charlie Jones or Bob Falk during an Ag Day Farm Tour on **April 17, 19 or 20**.



What Is Ag Day?

It's a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and countless others across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture.

When Is Ag Day?

Ag Day will be celebrated on **March 20**. National Ag Day is during National Ag Week, **March 18-24**.

What Is Ag Day All About?

Ag Day is about recognizing - and celebrating - the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.

Key Award Winners



Washington County Farm Bureau is a proud supporter of the 4-H Key Award. Those presented the award at the 4-H banquet included: **Max Stowers, Rebekah Stege and Autumn Morrow**.

District 1 YFA Spring Fling

Kick up your boots and plan to attend the 11th annual District 1 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Spring Fling. Enjoy catching up with old friends and meeting new friends, while listening to live music.

Date: Saturday, March 24

Time: Doors open at 7:30 p.m.,

band plays from 8 p.m. to midnight

Band: FM Rodeo

Location: The Columbian, West Bend

Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door

To get your advanced tickets, contact Washington County YFA chair Jesse Weber at 262.224.5560.

Washington County - 75 Years

In October, Washington County will be celebrating 75 years. If anyone has photos of memorabilia for the 75th anniversary book, please contact Mark Pamperin at 262.492.1403.

At the county annual meeting the books will be available to all attendees. Books were created when we celebrated the 25th anniversary and 50th anniversary. The books will include history from the last 25 years, listing of events and the people who made Washington County Farm Bureau great.

Did you know that the Washington County Farm Bureau was started on October 13, 1943, and the first president was William H. Gruhle? We hope you can be a part of our story.

Scholarship Applications Due in April

- Five \$750 scholarships will be available to students who will be in higher or continued education.
- Awarded to students of families who have a Washington County Farm Bureau membership.
- Applicants 22 years of age or older must have their own membership.
- May be used at any accredited technical school or university.
- Priority given to those in agriculture or an agricultural related field.
- Applications will be available online by **Monday, February 26** (wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/washington).

Applications due to the scholarship committee by Friday, April 20.



COUNTYnews

WASHINGTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Bill Hinckley Awarded Friend of Agriculture



Bill Hinckley was presented with the Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award at the Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting in October. Bill has been a long-time sup-

porter of agriculture and served in leadership roles in several organizations.

As a Farm Bureau member, Bill has served on the board of directors, co-chair of the food stand and has actively worked as a shift leader at the fair. In addition, he also helps with the maintenance of the Washington County Farm Bureau service center and is the go-to guy for many things.

Bill has served as president of the Washington County Dairy Promotion committee for four years. He has also been the co-chair for the annual Dairy Breakfast for several years.

He has a deep passion for old tractors and restoring them, so it should come to no surprise that he is a lifetime member of the Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion Tractor Club. He has also served in various leadership roles within this organization. One of the projects of the club is to raffle off a tractor each year. Bill has restored three of the past nine tractors for the raffle. In addition, Bill and his friend, Rick, organize plowing days in October with around 10 tractors plowing land for the event.

Another organization that Bill has been active with is Thrivent, formally known as AAL, where he served as chapter president and enjoyed organizing the annual fish fry

to generate funds for numerous non-profit projects.

Bill is a devoted, caring and great family man. He is husband to Karen and dad to three children: Lisa, Lynda and Mike. He has five grandchildren: Megan, Brandon, Dylan, Kayden and Gavin.

Bill is retired and passionately involved in various organizations and loves restoring tractors. He may say it's his last project, but we all know that you can't take the farm out of a farm boy. He is a person who cannot stay idle and is a role model and mentor to many.

Congratulations to Bill Hinckley for receiving the Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award. Thank you for making a difference in agriculture.

County Membership Incentives By Mike Strupp, membership chair

It is the time of the year to start thinking about new members to join Farm Bureau.

Our goal this year is to achieve 30 new voting members by **March 30** in order to receive \$1,000 for our county.

Our county incentives this year will be for every member you sign, you will receive

\$20. Our focus is to sign up voting members to reach our goal as soon as possible.

If you sign up five or more voting members, you and a guest are entitled to a one-night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting. If you sign 10 or more members, you and a guest are entitled to a two-night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

These incentives run from **October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.**

All Farm Bureau members are entitled to these incentives. If you have any questions or need membership materials, call Mike Strupp at 262.305.0418.

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AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, along with sponsors, host Ag Day at the Capitol.

It's important to raise your voice on issues that affect the agriculture community; mark your calendars and plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on **Wednesday, January 24**, at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland and we want to tell our legislators how important agriculture is in Wisconsin and Washington County. Farmers are working to do more with less; we have new record production levels and yields per acre in our fields.

Registration begins at 11 a.m., opening program at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and legislative briefings. From 3 to 4 p.m., Washington and Ozaukee County will meet

in room 328 NW at the Capitol. When speaking with your legislators, share your personal stories and thank them for their support of agriculture.

If you are interested in attending, RSVP by **January 18** to Patti Roden at 262.689.1838 (call or text) or proden@wfbf.com, please make sure to include your name and county in your message.

YFA Conference Rooted in Family By Jesse Weber, YFA chair

It has been my first year as your Washington County YFA chair. The year started off with me know virtually nothing about being a county chair for the Farm Bureau. It was very fun to listen and learn from other YFA members and Farm Bureau members. If you remember I started off the year with a fish fry/farm tour out by Stone House Dairy located just north of Hartford. They had just finished putting up the first ever robotic milking facility and it turned out to be a good event with roughly 30 or so in attendance.

Washington County YFA also partook in a go-carting night with Ozaukee County and also had a strong attendance and the annual Spring Fling, which came back to the Columbian this year.

Another great event as per the usual was the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-3. It featured delicious dinners on Friday and Saturday night along with a Saturday and Sunday morning brunch. The highlight of the weekend is hard to pin point.

There were many great speakers like Michele Payn, who is working with farmers and how our products are viewed in today's society. A great motivational speaker was Chris Koch who taught us that we can do anything we put our minds to no matter what.

Friday night we had the casino night for the first time, which allowed the YFA members to socialize and get to know one and another while playing casino games and not losing money. Throughout the rest of the weekend we got the opportunity to attend various activities.

Whether it be Discussion Meets, the silent auction or the trade show, there was plenty to do and see. Another new thing



YFA Conference attendees from Washington County included: back row (from left) Emily Faber, Mark Schaefer, Jesse Weber, Peter Muth; front row (from left) Jake Gehring, Molly Gehring and Beth Weber.

this year was the option to attend 20-minute Learning Labs about various topics or sit in on 45-minute sessions that got more in depth with real world issues surrounding the farming community.

In the couple years I have been going to the YFA Conference, it has never disappointed and I always leave knowing more than when I showed up.

Please stay tuned to the upcoming newsletters and our social media pages for more information on YFA events in Washington County.

Hope you all had a good harvest and a happy holiday season.

Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



Washington County delegates at the resolutions session included: (from left) Allen Dornacker, Ross Bishop, Ken Falk, George Muth and Peter Muth.

The 98th WFBF Annual Meeting was held on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. This year's theme was 'Farm Bureau Rooted in Family.'

Attending from our county were Peter Muth, Ken Falk, Allen Dornacker, George and Kathy Muth, Mike and Marian Strupp, Ross and Marcy Bishop, Dan and Katie Duthie and Stephanie Egner.

The YFA Conference attendees were also at the Kalahari Resorts. There were a total of 1,192 attendees at the conference with 515 YFA representatives.

After the Saturday banquet, Scott Novotny, a comedian who delivers a clean, non-offensive show entertained us with his antics. Following the comedian, Ken Falk, Peter Muth and

Mike and Marian Strupp participated in the trivia contest.

Sunday morning following the brunch, we listened to a motivational speaker Chris Koch. Chris was born without arms and legs, and does not use prosthetics. Chris' philosophy is, "If I Can" – "Every day may not be great, but there is something great in every day." Chris does not let his limitations stand in the way of achieving his goals and dreams and one of his passions is driving the combine on his parents' farm.

After a Packers win, there were four workshops – Estate and Business Succession Planning, Hemp Markets & Farming, Changing Landscape of the Dairy Industry and Guiding Farm Families through Challenging Times.

Following the awards banquet, The Memories performed songs from the 1950s and 1960s.

Monday morning, the business session was held. Dale Beaty, WFBF Chief Administrative Officer stated they have had one-third of the staff,



Washington County members gathered for the trivia contest.

at the Madison office, transition. Accomplishments were that WFBF helped farmers find processors when Grassland decided to no longer take their milk. WFBF had 10 consecutive years of membership growth. Dale also mentioned the IGNITE Conference that will be held in April with a theme of 'How to Strengthen County Farm Bureaus.'

Peter Pelizza, CEO of Rural Mutual Insurance, has been with the company for 15 years and mentioned the loss from the three hurricanes totaled over \$125 billion. Statewide, the losses in the past year from tornadoes and other weather events were over \$28 billion.

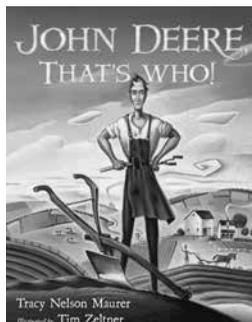
Policy holders should take time every year to review their coverage. This year farm policy holders will receive dividends.

Resolutions processing was held Monday morning. One of the big concerns is milk price and where it is headed. There were resolutions brought forward to boost prices, but did not gain enough votes to pass. The consensus of the annual meeting is that we have challenging times ahead. It is always enjoyable to hear from members on what they do for activities and issues they are dealing with in different parts of the state.



Washington County members pictured: back row (from left) Marian Strupp, George Muth, Stephanie Egner, Ross Bishop; front row (from left) Ken Falk, Mike Strupp, Allen Dornacker, Dan Duthie and Peter Muth.

Inventions That Have Made Agriculture Great



The 2018 Ag in the Classroom book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner, provides students with inspiration for this year's essay contest.

Using the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!," this year's essay topic is 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students will write about inventions that have made agriculture advance in technology, efficiency and productivity.

The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs are also encouraged to participate.

The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length.

The essays must be postmarked by **April 2** and sent to the Washington County Farm Bureau essay contest coordinator, Mariann Gundrum.

Mariann Gundrum
2181 Paradise Drive
West Bend, WI 53095

For more information, please visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at wisagclassroom.org.

Happy writing to the fourth and fifth grade students in Washington County.

New Board Members Elected in October



Randy Thull is a next generation dairy producer from Kewaskum. He graduated from UW-River Falls in 1999 and earned his bachelor's degree in animal science with an emphasis in dairy. Passionate about agriculture, he worked at feed mills and other dairy farms until returning to his family's farm in 2001.

He now farms with his father, milking 400 cows with robotics and a milking

parlor. Interested in promoting agriculture to the community, he welcomes schools and the public to come visit the farm, he also has talked at numerous schools about agriculture. As a husband and dad to four kids, he enjoys going polka dancing, playing music and traveling. Thankful for the gifts he has received from God, he strives to produce the most nutritious product a family farm can produce.

Carl Wolf resides in Allenton with his wife Krista. He lives and works alongside his friends, brothers, cousins, uncles and father on a multi-generation family farm. Recently, the farm surpassed its 150th year. They strive to be as efficient as possible while maintaining the high-quality standards everybody expects. They host many tours of the farm throughout each year, from county-wide Breakfast on the Farm to international guests. They also open the farm, with partners at the Slinger FFA, to show the school district's fourth grade students, all the people they work with and the variety of jobs available. They enjoy sharing their passion of what they do and how they do it.



Caring for Calves

By Nancy Dornacker



I talked to Miss Smith's first grade class at St. Peter Catholic School in Slinger on November 1, about how we care for calves on our farm. This presentation was given as part of their 'community helpers' unit.

As the kids came into their classroom after lunch they were thrilled with the items I brought along. These included hay, straw, calf starter grain, bottles, ear tags, old bottles from antibiotics, IV lactated ringers, syringes, tube feeder and a calf coat. They had a hard time settling in before we started. It was question after question about what these items were and what they were used for.

I presented on their smart board what we do when calves are born, how we feed them, how we provide them with a good environment in their pen/hutch and how we care for them when they get sick.

We discussed the differences between babies and calves. Even though they are animals there are many similarities like starting out on milk, wanting to be warm when its cold, needing clean bedding and getting antibiotics and pain relief when they get sick.

Everyone loved touching and examining the items. They had a lot of questions and it was a great experience.



Farmer Groups Lead the Way in Cedar Creek and Oconomowoc River Watersheds

The 'Cedar Creek Farmers -Improving Land for Cleaner Waters' (CCF) group has met eight times during the last 12 months. During these meetings CCF has established general goals and developed their name/mission statement. Al Schmidt (hay, cash grain), Town of Jackson, has been selected as chair of the group and Stephanie Egner, Washington County Land Conservation, will serve as secretary. Members also include: Brian Peters (dairy, specialty crops) and Lee Kissinger (cow/calf, cash grain) who reside in the Town of Polk, while Ross Bishop (beef cattle, cash grain) and Stan Miller (cash grain) call the Town of Jackson home. The Village of Richfield's Terry Kohl (cow/calf, cash grain), along with previously mentioned farmers, embody knowledge, experience and drive as leaders of conservation stewardship.

Their goals are to:

1. Provide education and outreach to area producers about soil health, soil improvement practices and water quality conservation opportunities.
2. Recruit producers to apply for and install low-cost conservation practices as part of the locally led, grant funded* CCF cost sharing.
3. Improve the image of agriculture by showcasing local conservation practices to the non-farming community.

'Farmers for Lake Country' is a farmer-led group founded by the Clean Water Association to assist with farmer education and engagement in conservation cost-share programs available to help preserve and protect our lakes and streams throughout the Oconomowoc River Watershed. The group has a strong

Leadership Council comprised of progressive, conservation-minded farmers who recognize that agriculture has a key role in water quality. Dennis Stuetgen, cash grain operator in the Town of Erin, represents our Washington County farmers. Other members include: Don Gallo, Bill Ingersoll, John Koepke, Richard Morris and John Simon.

Their initiatives include:

1. Ag Resource Day: An annual education event for area farmers to learn and discuss topics such as farm succession planning, conservation practices and cost-share opportunities.
2. Farm Tours: Provide a way to allow urban residents to get a hands-on look at conservation practices in place to reduce nutrient runoff to the lakes and streams.
3. Fall Field Demonstration Day: Provides a real-time education for farmers on the pros and cons of planting cover crops, minimal or no-till practices and more.

If you run farmland in either of these two watersheds, please contact any of the producers listed above for more information.

**Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants are awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The grants will go to projects that focus on ways to prevent and reduce runoff from farm fields and that work to increase farm participation in these voluntary efforts. Each application must come from a group of at least five farmers in the same watershed, collaborating with conservation agencies, institutions or nonprofit organizations.*

Washington County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Peter Muth	262.689.2536
Vice President, Scott Schreffler	262.224.9781
Secretary, Travis Kruger	920.251.9155
Treasurer, Dave Lettow	262.385.0474
YFA Chair, Jesse Weber	262.224.5560
Promotion & Education Chair, Stephanie Egner	262.707.4906
Director, Randy Thull	262.483.8204
Director, Carl Wolf	262.483.0358
Director, Mark Schaefer	414.640.7606
Director, Mike Strupp	262.305.0418
Director, Helmut Wagner	262.673.2809
Washington County Farm Bureau	877.483.3556
District 1 Coordinator, Patti Roden	866.355.7341
WFBF Board Director, Dave Daniels	262.878.5035
District 1 Promotion and Education, George Mroch	262.661.4436
District 1 YFA, Charlie Oberhaus	262.337.2448
RMIC District Manager, Ken Bosman	414.416.7595

Local Farmer Believes You're Never Too Young To Learn

In October, the second graders from Holy Apostles School in New Berlin completed their 'Spend, Save, Share' social studies unit with a visit to The Stout Farm in Germantown. Thanks for hosting us! Farmer Jim showed them around the farm, gave them a hay ride, taught them how to feed the cows and even cooked them all a delicious lunch! The kids worked very hard doing chores at home so they could share part of their earnings with Farmer Jim! Such a great day!

