



Price | Taylor County Farm Bureaus

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



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David Meihak, District Manager - (715) 630-4801

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Price and Taylor County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Results

Price County Update
By *George Blomberg*

We are proud to share that we have received more than 108 essays.

Area teachers look forward to this annual event as a way to combine both fun and learning. The committee looks forward to judging essays ranging from plows, cotton gins or tractors to various other inventions. In some essays, you can see what is important to the student's own families.

The teachers have noted that the students are also anxiously awaiting their annual tour to United Pride Dairy.

Taylor County Update

Rob Klussendorf, Taylor County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair, presented area elementary schools and the Medford

library with the agriculture book of the year: "John Deere, That's Who!" written by Tracy Nelson Maurer and illustrated by Tim Zeltner.

Along with a copy of the book, he extended the offer from the Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors to come into the classrooms so students could hear about the director's farms.

Every year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and its 61 county Farm Bureaus offer an essay contest based off the book of the year.

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



Ag Open Golf Outing

Hosted by the WFB Foundation, the 2018 Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 10**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

All proceeds from the golf outing will support the WFB Foundation education and leadership programs such as Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, WFBF Leadership Institute and Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities. Open to the public, the Ag Open is for farmers, agribusiness professionals and others who wish to support youth programs.

Registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, box lunch, appetizers, contests and door prizes. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

For information, please contact Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.





COUNTYnews

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU | TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

District 8 YFA Update By Beth Schafer, District 8 WFBF YFA Committee Chair

Are you between the ages of 18-35? Did you know there is a set of programs, events and opportunities just for you? The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee is for younger members and caters to your unique situation in the agriculture industry.

Each county has a YFA chair. District 8 is proud to have an almost full slate of enthusiastic faces to serve YFA members: Clark County: Max Malm; Lincoln County: Kyle Kudick; Marathon County: Katie Zoromski; Portage County: vacant; Price County: Dan Berg; Taylor County: MJ Zenner; and Wood County: Jason Behrend.

These members are here to help you make the most out of your Farm Bureau membership, so please contact them. They have planned some great social and educational events for your county so visit wfbf.com/programsevents/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program or watch for postcard invites to learn about upcoming YFA opportunities and see the latest events happening in your county and District 8.

You may have heard the old adage, 'You get what you give.' This is true for almost all situations in life; except for Farm Bureau. The opportunities to travel, network and promote the agriculture industry that I have been afforded during my 10 years of Farm Bureau membership has far surpassed what I paid in membership dues. How can you capitalize on your membership? Choose to attend an

upcoming YFA event, volunteer for a committee in your county or attend a county board meeting to learn what your county Farm Bureau is doing with your dues and to serve you. Mark your calendars for these upcoming YFA events and activities:

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m. - District 8 YFA Contest Prep Night

Want to learn more about Farm Bureau contests for YFA members? Bring your laptop and questions to the YFA Contest Prep Night.

We will have past participants and winners share secrets to competing in the Excellence in Agriculture Contest, Achievement in Agriculture Contest and the Discussion Meet.

I look forward to meeting you at one of the upcoming YFA events. For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at caprior.schafer@gmail.com.



The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same Rural Mutual Insurance Company



Greetings Farm Bureau members,

For those of you I have not met, let me introduce myself. I am Laurie Peterson, the 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 had 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 last 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 hard-working members who reside in each district and celebrate with them, their successes. It was evident at these meetings 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 of 2016 and what a couple of years of learning and growth it has been. Prior to becoming the district manager, I was a Rural Mutual Insurance agent for 10 years and had an office in Medford where I worked with the Taylor County Farm Bureau board.

I believed then and still believe that there is a great deal of value in

the relationship between

Rural Mutual Insurance and WFBF. I took every opportunity to align myself and my agency to reinforce that strong relationship between the two organizations.

Although my position with the company has changed, my approach to the relationship we have with the WFBF remains the same.

With my first couple of years in this position coming to a close, I believe I have a better understanding of the time required and the responsibilities. I believe as district manager, it is my responsibility to encourage our agents to continue their work helping each county to meet membership goals, but 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 at a dairy breakfast or work a shift at the food stand at the Price County Fair or Taylor County Fair, please contact them or me. We will do our best to see if we cannot get you the help and support you need to continue the good work you do.

The agents and my contact information is published in each edition of the newsletter or contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway. Together, we can make great things continue to happen.

Laurie Peterson

Rural Mutual Insurance Company, District Manager

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Taylor: Board Contacts

Price County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Sally Denzine	715.339.2092
Vice President and YFA Chair, Dan Berg	715.657.0112
Secretary-Treasurer, George Blomberg	715.767.5579
Family & Education Chair, Karen Kerner	715.550.6156
Director, David Ames	715.767.5388
Director, Kenneth Denzine	715.339.2092
Director, Dave Kivela	715.564.2415
Director, Lance Meier	715.564.2230
Price County Farm Bureau	877.583.5911
WFBF Board Director, Donald Radtke	715.573.7208
WFBF YFA Chair, Beth Schaefer	608.577.6845
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.544.6824

Price County Farm Bureau Dairy Promotion Update

Price County Farm Bureau is excited to share that the changes made last year regarding dairy promotion have made a big impact.

Last year the committee provided dairy products to every community in Price County. The committee has partnered with local food pantries, race committees and school events to ensure that every family across the county has access to great Wisconsin dairy.

Price County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

Price County Farm Bureau is offering Price County high school seniors an opportunity to receive funds to attend college. If you are a high school senior or know one, please contact George Blomberg at homesteadacres@centurytel.net or 715.767.5579 to get an application.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Launches New Website

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the launch of a newly-redesigned website. The updated website was launched in mid-March and can be viewed at www.wfbf.com.

“One goal with the redesign was to provide easy navigation for visitors. We want them to quickly locate the information they need,” said Director of Communications Sarah Marketon.

Highlights of the redesigned website include:

Online membership application: Prospective Farm Bureau members can join online by filling out a form. The website allows you to easily pay by credit card.

Mobile-friendly: According to the Pew Research Center, 77 percent of Americans own a smartphone. WFBF website users will be able to access the website effortlessly from a mobile device.

Member Perspectives: Website visitors can read posts written by Farm Bureau members and other industry experts about topics ranging from food, family to policy development.

Information: Members and prospective members can learn more about member benefits, programs, events and news. The website also features a section dedicated to issues where members can learn more about what the organization is working on.

The website was redesigned by Midwest Digital Marketing.

WFBF Leadership Institute Program



Members of the 2018 WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII.

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.

Why participate?

- To develop and refine your follower and leader skills.
- To learn from experts, exchange ideas and gain confidence.
- To improve your communication and speaking skills.
- To learn how to craft an effective ag message and work with media.
- To develop friendships and find creative solutions to challenges through teamwork.
- To explore domestic and international agricultural issues.
- To join in the political process at the local, state and national levels.
- To create a written leadership plan for your personal development and the improvement of your county Farm Bureau.

Who can participate?

Any voting member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau may submit an application to participate in the program. Each class is limited to 15 participants. Classes are selected based on building a team learning environment.

What are the expectations?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau expects WFBF Leadership Institute graduates to use the leadership skills and abilities they have developed in the program to become actively engaged and involved in their county Farm Bureau. Eventually, they may expand their leadership involvement in Farm Bureau and their community.

Why should you participate?

Rob Klussendorf WFBF Leadership Institute participant shared his reason for participating:



“The institute has something for everyone who desires to learn more about the inner workings of Farm Bureau at the county, state, and national level and Rural Mutual insurance,” said Klussendorf. “One of the best parts of the institute is the age variance as everyone has something to learn whether it is the history of the organization or how to use the latest technology. I encourage anyone who is looking to take their leadership level to the next level to apply!”

Members Attend the IGNITE Conference



Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted a new event called IGNITE on April 5-6 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. IGNITE stands for Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train and Engage.

This new member-engagement conference gave attendees the opportunity to build leadership skills and strengthen county Farm Bureaus.

“The IGNITE conference was designed to be a dynamic, fun-filled training that provided Farm Bureau members with program ideas, resources and new skills that can be immediately implemented on the local level,” said Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Jim Holte.

The conference offered four tracks: policy, issues and advocacy; governance and organization, building Farm Bureau and communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau. Attendees had the option to follow a certain track or divide their time between multiple tracks.



Jack Johnson, John Zuleger, and Rob Klussendorf represented Taylor County Farm Bureau at the 2018 IGNITE Conference

Keynote speakers included New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau's Executive Vice President Matt Rush, Indiana farmer and agricultural speaker Damian Mason, Virginia farmer and motivational speaker Matt Lohr and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Sheila Harsdorf.

Numerous other speakers were on the agenda including representatives from American Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

“We are extremely thankful for Rural Mutual Insurance Company's support of this event,” said Holte. “Because of their co-sponsorship we are able to offer this excellent resource to our members.”

IGNITE is scheduled to take place on a biennial basis.

Policy Development Starts at the Local Level

By Rob Klussendorf, Taylor County Policy Development Chair



Throughout my years of involvement with Wisconsin Farm Bureau I've had a variety of opportunities to meet members across the state and nation. When talking with other members, or even potential members, the topic of why they joined or why they should join is often discussed.

The reason I joined and have been a member for almost 50 years, still holds true today. I joined because of the unspoken security in knowing that there is a team of people working behind the scenes to ensure that every farmer has a voice at our state and national capitals.

I became engaged in Farm Bureau because of our grassroots policy development. The policies that allow our lobbyists to do the amazing work they do starts with conversations held around the state.

Grassroots policy is the heart of every county Farm Bureau. Being a grassroots organization also has some drawbacks. For example, for all of us to make strides one of us must stand up and speak. Policy development is a passionate topic for many.

One that I see could use a few tweaks and improvements to would allow our organization to be even stronger. The more members we can engage in the policy development portion of our organization the better our resolutions will be.

I understand firsthand how crazy fall can be with harvest activities but, I encourage you to be engaged in your county policy development process. As a grassroots organization like Farm Bureau, it is only as strong as the members who stand up and speak up.

Farm Bureau works on our behalf, meaning they work toward the policy that county delegates set at annual meeting. We must all take our place at the table when policy discussions occur on the local level.

I challenge you to attend your county annual meeting. As farmers and agriculturist, Wisconsin Farm Bureau is our voice in the state and national capital when we are busy at home. Other groups are trying to take our voice away. I urge you to step up and participate so our agriculture's voice can be heard loud and clear.

If you have a suggestion or want to be involved in the process, please contact me at rfklussendorf@gmail.com.

Beef Round-Up, Stock Sale and Taylor County Farm Bureau Steak and Egg Breakfast

In conjunction with the Beef Round-Up at the Taylor County Fair Grounds, the stock sale will be held on **Saturday, May 12**. Come and join Taylor County Farm Bureau and the North Central Cattlemen's Association and kick off May Beef

Steak and Egg Breakfast

When: Saturday, May 12, 7:30-10:30 a.m.

Where: Taylor County Fair Grounds, Medford

Cost: \$8 per steak and egg plate
\$5 per egg and toast plate

Thank you for supporting Taylor County Farm Bureau!

Month. The Taylor County Farm Bureau will serve steak and eggs. It is sure to be a great time so bring the kids because they are serving a special egg and toast breakfast for kids.



North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Beef Preview Show

Showmanship, Steer and Open Heifer Shows

Held in conjunction with the 10th annual Beef Round up on **Saturday, May 12**, at the Taylor County Fairgrounds, Intersection of Highway 64 and 13, in Medford.

\$200 Grand Champion Steer and Heifer Awards; \$100 Reserve Grand Champion Steer and Heifer Awards Jackpot Showmanship; additional prizes throughout the day. Pre-registration preferred by **May 7**; \$20 per first animal, \$10 per additional animal, per exhibitor due by May 7. \$30 per first animal, \$10 per additional animal, per exhibitor after May 7; walk-ins allowed. Additional \$5 per exhibitor to enter Jackpot.

For more information, please call 715.748.2101 or visit www.facebook.com/nwcattlemen. Showmanship rules and entry forms are available at <https://taylor.uwex.edu/2017/11/29/advance-notice-for-beef-preview-show-may-12-2018>.

NCWCA, Inc., its administration, members and sponsors will not be responsible for any loss or damage that may occur during the delivery, exhibition, participation or removal of animals attending programs of NCWCA, Inc. Nor shall the association, its management, its members and its sponsors

be responsible for personal injury, loss or theft sustained by a participant. The participant shall indemnify NCWCA, Inc. against all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto.

Mail completed entry forms with fees payable to NCWCA to Ryan Klussendorf, W2072 Highway 64, Medford, WI 54451. All animals will be stalled in a barn. Please bring and remove your own bedding.

Each exhibitor is in charge of cleaning up before leaving the show. Hosted in cooperation with. Gates will be open May 11 from 5 to 9 p.m. Check-in upon arrival Friday afternoon or Saturday by 9:30 a.m. Breakfast and lunch served on the grounds. Weigh-in on Saturday, May 12, 7-9:30 a.m.

Handling/Fitting/Showmanship Clinic: Time to be determined. 10 a.m. Showmanship begins, with Heifer Show following. Steer Show Last Dismissal after the Champion Steer is awarded.

NCWCA members will be serving Ribeye steak sandwiches throughout the afternoon. Members also will have breeding stock on display that will be available through a private treaty sale.

Taylor County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Ryan Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Vice President and Promotion and Education Chair, Rob Klussendorf	715.785.5092
Secretary-Treasurer and YFA Chair, Melvin Zenner	715.748.9280
Director, Jack Johnson, Jr.	715.785.7777
Director, Cheri Klussendorf	715.748.2101
Director, Gary Kohn	715.748.2792
Director, Dick Wesle	715.678.2407
Director, John Zuleger	715.560.8397

Taylor County Farm Bureau 866.583.7597
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson 608.347.0383

Farm Resources Available through UW-Extension

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator

Last month, I attended an educational seminar on how to help farmers during trying times sponsored by UW-Extension. It was a very informative meeting. I was impressed by the number of free resources available through the UW Extension office.

They have tools from creating a dairy budget, beef budgeting (from field to freezer and cow calf operations) and details regarding custom harvesting rates.

For more information, please contact the county extension office or to access a variety of worksheets, visit <https://dunn.uwex.edu/2018/02/21/supporting-farmers-during-challenging-times-workshop>.



Thank You For Your Service



The Taylor County board of directors want to thank Matt Winnie and his family for their years of service to the Taylor County board of directors. Matt recently retired from serving on the Taylor County board of directors.