



Waupaca County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Hosts Spring Fling Planting Day

When: Saturday, May 12

Where: Waupaca High School Agri-Science Department and Green House, E2325 King Road, Waupaca

Time: Registration at 10 a.m., program begins at 10:30 a.m. Lunch is provided following the event. This year's featured project will be garden stepping stones.

Cost: \$5 includes a pot, soil and plants. If you prefer, you are welcome to bring your own pot.

RSVP: Please contact Kari Riley at 715.281.7003 (call or text) with the number of people attending and the number of pots you want or will bring.

Please don't forget that lunch is provided and to bring a friend or two!



There will be an abundance of beautiful plants to choose from during the Waupaca County Farm Bureau Women's Committee's Spring Fling Planting Day.



The Spring Fling Planting Day is educational and a lot of fun.

Wisconsin Ag Open Golf

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

WAUPACA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner

By Kari Riley

The Waupaca County Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner is Olivia Bowers, a fifth grade student from St. Martin Lutheran School in Clintonville.

Olivia's essay:

There have been many inventions that have helped make agriculture great. Some of the ways computers are helpful to agriculture is by giving farmers information that is quick and easy to access. Some farmers use computers in their tractors to help steer them in the fields. Other farmers use computers to keep good records on their income and expenses. Computers have helped agriculture by replacing the many papers that farmers kept on the desks and in the barn and sometimes those papers got lost or destroyed. Computers can help farmers manage almost everything from the field to the cow.

My favorite way that computers are helping make agriculture great is through a collar that the cow wears to track her. Its like a FitBit for cows! The collar sends information to the farmers computer in the office or even his phone to let the farmer know how each cow is doing. The collar sends a notice if the cow needs some help from the farmer. Some of the kinds of information the collar can record is how much the cow is moving around or laying down, how much she is eating or drinking and how much milk she is making every day.

As farms got larger, computers help agriculture be more efficient and organized. I feel computers are one of the great inventions that have revolutionized the way farms work.

Good luck in the state competition Olivia!

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Members Attend WFBF IGNITE Conference

By Kari Riley



YFA Committee Chair Brian Preder was the master of ceremonies during the final general session.

The first IGNITE Conference (Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage) was held on April 5-6 in Stevens Point, which was close to home.

The conference was an action-packed, 24-hours of leadership, learning, training and networking to IGNITE our passion for agriculture and Farm Bureau. Attendees from Waupaca County were Tom and Kari Riley and Brian Preder.

The guest speakers were great. Matt Rush, Damian Mason and Matt Lohr gave humorous messages, laughter is good medicine, on being a part of an agriculture community and keeping the spark fueled to IGNITE ourselves to be leaders and a voice for all agriculture. Keeping faith in the tough times and learning from those past situations to keep us moving forward in agriculture.

We attended workshops on:

Conversations with Ease: Earning consumers trust when you talk with them as a producer is important.

Ag In the Classroom: Getting your foot into the school door was a panel of teachers and Ag in the Classroom coordinators.

Ag-tourism: Hosting, promoting and being positive about ALL styles of agriculture when we open our farms.

Conflict Management: In groups ... conflict ... it happens ... shared how to come to the table and talk and work towards a compromise.

VolunTears to VolunCheers!: Ideas to recruit and retain our valuable resources ... VOLUNTEERS.

Members of the Promotion and Education Committee encouraged us to use the 'Playbook' and a 12-month planning calendar to promote ag each quarter, i.e., something small like bookmarks to libraries or larger events like 'meet your farmer' ag promotion events.

Plan to join IGNITE in 2020 in Madison.



Tom and Kari Riley and Brian Preder participated in the WFBF IGNITE Conference on April 5-6 in Stevens Point. "I enjoyed the workshops and networking with other Farm Bureau members from across the state to gain more ideas," said Kari Riley.



Tom and Kari Riley (from left) participated in a member engagement break out session at the WFBF IGNITE Conference. "It was a relaxing format with lots of choices of workshops to choose from," said Tom Riley.

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President's Report

Farming remains a constant challenge. The sunshine and longer days always give us hope that spring is really here. Although this year is drastically different from last year, it is like springs that we have experienced in the past. They all have the same thing in common. (They all are different.) That is some of what keeps farming so interesting and challenging.

Stay connected. With my contacts in Farm Bureau, I stay informed on issues that affect all of us in agriculture. While on the fire department, I stay involved in my community by helping those in need. Either at a fire, car accident or a rescue, it feels good to help those in need with no expectation of anything in return.

Be an 'Agriculturist.' I think far too often we like to stay in our own little world, doing our thing and hoping others will just leave us alone. But is that what life is really about? I don't think so, at least not in agriculture. People count on us every day for their food, even though most of them don't know where it comes from. Even though we think we are in our own world, someone is watching. We need to keep our lives transparent. By staying involved in our community, people will see us for the good we do and that will also reflect on their opinion of our farming practices.

Ag Day at the Capitol. In January, several of us from Waupaca County attended Ag Day at the Capitol. We were brought up to speed on the issues by Farm Bureau staff and other speakers. Then we went to the Capitol and met with an aide for Senator Luther Olsen, along with Columbia County farmers. When I walked into the office of Representative



(from left) Don Lutz, Wayne and Lori Steingraber and Brian Preder attended Ag Day at the Capitol to talk with local legislators about issues important to agriculture.

Kevin Petersens and even before I introduced myself, they asked me how my wife Lori was doing. This is proof that they do remember you if you stop and talk with them. Then we met with his aide and told him our thoughts on the issues that could possibly be coming up later this year. We also talked with about local issues that affect our lives. You can have the same impact.

Learning experiences. It is never too late to learn new things and make changes. From our farming and business practices to our personal lives, every day can be a learning experience. The WFBF Leadership Institute is a wonderful way to help find a new potential in yourself. Registration begins soon for the 2019 class, so keep an eye on your newsletter for registration deadlines.



Don Lutz shakes hands with Governor Scott Walker on stage at Ag Day at the Capitol. The Governor signed an executive order directing the state departments to amplify efforts to provide markets for family farmers and agribusinesses.

Planning ahead. There are a lot of things going on this year, from the Rural Health Initiative and the Women's and Young Farmers to the Waupaca County Fair food stand. All of these programs have more information in this newsletter. I hope you take the time to call Alissa, the Rural Health Initiative nurse to set up an appointment for a personal health assessment. And an especially wonderful thing about it is it's free. I hope to see a lot of you at the food stand in August.

Until next time, stay healthy, stay safe and may God bless your life.

Wayne Steingraber
Waupaca County Farm Bureau president

District Board Report



Politics are alive and well in Washington, D.C.

Heidi Pettis from the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XI did a great job meeting with legislators. The conversations we had were relevant to the current agriculture commodity prices. We have a lot to get done with the farm bill yet.

This is the time to put our best foot forward and tell our story of agriculture to everyone. We are the voice of the industry and it needs to be heard now more than ever.

This is a new environment now with tariffs from President Trump on steel, NAFTA renegotiation's and China's backlash on U.S. agriculture. We are a general farm organization and it's time for our grassroots membership to bring the commodity groups together to find that unified voice for agriculture.

The District 7 leaders training was great. Thank you to the new and seasoned board members who attended. A special thanks to Wendy Kannel and Wes Raddatz for a job well done.

It has been a busy beginning to 2018 for me with WFBF, I am continuing to stay in touch with the counties from District 7. So please stay in touch with me if you need anything.

Adam Kuczer
WFBF District 7 Board of Director

Students Attend FFA Farm Forum

Dear Waupaca County Farm Bureau,

Hi, I'm Wyatt Hanson, and I'm from the Weyauwega-Fremont FFA Chapter. When one of my advisors came to me and asked me if I wanted to go to Farm Forum, I said, Absolutely! Whenever there is a convention or special event in FFA I always try and attend because it helps me break out of my comfort zones.

While attending the 2018 Farm Forum, I met people at each workshop, and I even got to room with new people as well. One of the most important things that definitely stuck with me, will probably be the PETA Organization, on whether they are displaying true facts or lies, and whether or not the money that people donate actually goes to the animals. I also learned a lot on which colleges are best for me in agricultural fields.

Two of the most important things that I benefited from FFA Farm Forum would be the information and success tools to help me better understand my knowledge in the ag-related world we live in, and the people who were willing to come and talk to us at FFA Farm Forum.

It was a great conference ... and to wrap this up, I thank



(from left) Weyauwega Fremont FFA members Carson Kester and Wyatt Hanson attended Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum. They were sponsored by the Waupaca County Farm Bureau.

you, Waupaca County Farm Bureau, for supporting and letting me and one other from my chapter attend this year's FFA Farm Forum.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Hanson

I want to thank the Waupaca County Farm Bureau for providing me with the wonderful opportunity to attend FFA Farm Forum, which took place in February in Wisconsin Rapids. I learned several beneficial concepts at the conference. I took personal interest in the workshop that covered promoting agriculture through social media. I plan to apply some of these ideas in my life.

My attendance at this conference was made possible by several sponsors who deserve my appreciation. I am extremely grateful to all the sponsors who covered my cost and enabled me to attend FFA Farm Forum.

Sincerely,
Carson Kester
Weyauwega-Fremont FFA



(from left) Waupaca FFA members Eryn Butzin, State FFA Treasurer Elisha Riley and Rose Thielke attended FFA Farm Forum.

Waupaca County Roads Need Attention By Joel Bartel



Roads, roads, roads, what is going on in Waupaca County with our county roads?

As many of you are aware, our county roads are not in good shape, for example County Highways Q and O are nearly un-drivable with any kind of implement or truck, along with other roads in the county that are just as bad or worse.

Recently, the County Board of Supervisors voted to bond \$34 million to build a new county highway shop near Waupaca, without putting any additional funding into the county roads. I don't think anyone was against building a new county highway shop, but spending \$34 million on a shop, when the county roads are falling apart raises many concerns. Along with the huge debt for our county, our taxes are going up because of this \$34 million bonding project.

So what can we do to affect change to get the roads repaired for Waupaca county citizens and our agricultural industry? The answer is relatively simple. We as Farm Bureau members need to communicate in a professional manner with our county supervisors to spend money on our roads and inform them of the dangerous situation on our county roads.

You can find your county supervisor's phone number at www.co.waupaca.wi.us. Please contact them. Another way to express your concerns is to attend a Waupaca County Highway Committee meeting at the courthouse and speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Unfortunately, these meetings are held during the week in the middle of the day, which makes it hard for the working person to attend. We as members need to do our part and communi-

cate in a professional manner to our Waupaca County supervisors to fix the deteriorating roads in our county now.

The Waupaca County Executive Committee has sent a letter to the entire Waupaca County Board of Supervisors.

Dear County Supervisors,

This letter is in regard to a major concern of the Waupaca County Farm Bureau. The Waupaca County Farm Bureau prides itself on promoting and helping the agricultural community throughout our county with various sponsored programs like the young farmers program.

Recently, we have been made aware of a major concern affecting the producers and infrastructure in our county. The concern that has been raised is the dangerous county roads throughout the county like County Highways O and Q, and others.

We at Farm Bureau are not against building a new county shop. But when the county spends \$34 million and raises our taxes without increasing any spending for the repair and maintenance of dangerous roads in our county, we feel it is our duty to inform the Supervisors of the growing concerns by the agricultural community.

We feel that some of these roads are deteriorating so quickly we have concerns that this spring someone could get severely hurt or killed by an agricultural implement, because it is becoming increasingly hard to keep implements, trucks and cars on the road.

We realize maintaining roads are expensive, but the price isn't a concern if we can save one life or prevent one accident by fixing our roads now. So we ask the county supervisors to have an emergency public input meeting on the county roads, and what can be done now. We would greatly appreciate a response on this important and dangerous issue our members are facing this spring throughout the county.

Regards,
Waupaca County Farm Bureau Executive Committee

April Snow Showers By Jake Hoewisch, YFA chair

According to the calendar it is spring, but my thermometer tells me different. This is why we love Wisconsin, right?

On February 8, the Waupaca County and Outagamie County YFAs met at New London Lanes for a fun night of socializing, bowling and eating pizza. We had a great turn out with about 30 people attending the event.



YFA members from Waupaca and Outagamie counties took some time out and enjoyed some bowling.

Looking ahead, the YFA plans to meet up at a Breakfast on the Farm during June Dairy Month. With any kind of luck we will be making dust fly in early May.

On that note, be safe during this busy spring season.



The New London Lanes provided the opportunity for the two county YFA groups to get together and make some new friends.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Wayne Steingraber	920.850.5778
Vice President, Timothy Bowers	715.701.2102
Secretary/Treasurer, Wayne Eisentraut	715.258.8481
Women's Committee Chair, Terri Hamm	715.256.9214
YFA Chair, Jacob Hoewisch	920.667.5389
Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Kari Riley	715.258.2892

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Director, Daniel Hintz	715.754.5550
Director, Don Lutz	715.412.3686
Director, Richard Piechowski	715.258.2757
Director, Brian Preder	920.851.5776
Director, Tom Riley	715.258.2892
Director, Randy Steingraber	920.596.3607

Waupaca County Farm Bureau RMIC District Manager, Chuck McDaniel	888.830.2571 920.572.9122
WFBF Director, Adam Kuczer	920.609.0718
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Katelin Steege	715.210.5384
WFBF YFA Chair, Brian Preder	920.851.5776
District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz	866.355.7346

'Like' Waupaca County Farm Bureau on Facebook.



Save the Date

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be at 8 p.m. on **Tuesday, October 2**, at the Bear Lake Dance Hall in Manawa.



Hope to see you there!

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Nothing depreciates your tractor so fast as a new model in your neighbor's field.

Here is the new simplified tax form:

- Line 1. What was your income last year?
- Line 2. What were your expenses?
- Line 3. Income remaining after expenses.
- Line 4. Send in the amount on line 3.

Even though children are deductible, they can also be very taxing.

Creditors have much better memories than debtors.

