



Dunn 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!



Rural Mutual Agents in Dunn Co:

Geof Liddle (715) 235-0616 Jeff White (715) 235-5656
Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (608) 347-0383

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Dunn County, Pierce County and St. Croix County Farm Bureau

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC



The picnic also includes admission for the Heritage Museum where you will experience the history of Dunn County through its collection of artifacts and exhibit areas.

RSVP BY JUNE 22

(appreciated but not required). For more information, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com.

Alicia Gaszak

You're invited

Farm Bureau's 3rd Annual
Member Appreciation Picnic

*Hosted by the Dunn County,
Pierce County and St. Croix County
Farm Bureaus*

WHEN:	WHERE:
Thursday, June 28	Russel J. Rassbach Heritage Museum
• Social hour: 5:30 p.m.	1820 Wakanda Street
• Dinner: 6:30 p.m.	Menomonie, Wisconsin 54751

WHAT TO BRING: Please bring a dish to pass. The meat and fixings, condiments, milk, lemonade, water and utensils will be provided. We hope to see you there!

NEW THIS YEAR: In addition to the three counties that have teamed up in the past, all county Farm Bureaus in District 9 are invited to attend.

Farm Bureau Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

Farm Bureau County leaders from around Wisconsin gathered in Madison January 23-24 for the annual Council of Presidents. During the two-day event, leaders updated their knowledge with training and heard from many speakers including Mark O'Connell, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Counties Association and Steve Boe, WFBF Director of Local Affairs. In addition, Peter Pelizza, Rural Mutual Insurance Company's Executive Vice President and CEO gave an update on Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

The keynote speaker was Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf who encouraged attendees to get involved in their local government by saying, "If you've never thought about running before, if you have the opportunity I encourage you to do so."



Council of Presidents attendees from District 9 posed for a photo (from left) Secretary of Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf, Marv Prestrud, Mary Prestrud, Dale Wester, Jim Melin, Dave Kruschke, Kevin Gilbertson, Kay Gilbertson, Terry DuSell, Betsy DuSell, Andrew Winiarczyk and President Jim Holte.



COUNTYnews

DUNN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Dunn County Farm Bureau Members Become 'Lobbyists for a Day'

Members of Dunn County Farm Bureau, and nearly 400 farmers and agriculturists from Wisconsin attended Ag Day at the Capitol on January 24. Attendees began the day at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center where they listened to Governor Scott Walker who spoke about the importance of agriculture to Wisconsin's economy. He signed an executive order that will support rural economic development and stated, "We want more reasons for our children to stay in our communities."

Members also were briefed about hot topics in agriculture including implementation of industrial hemp legislation, CAFO transfer from

DNR to DATCP and wetland legislation.

Following the briefing session, members walked to the Capitol to meet with representatives and speak about issues important to their farms and Wisconsin agriculture.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest lobby day for Wisconsin agriculture. Each year, farmers and agriculturists representing all facets of the state's diverse agriculture landscape come to Madison to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.



Dunn County Farm Bureau was well represented at Ag Day at the Capitol: (from left) WFBF President Jim Holte, Doug Clark, Carl Casper, Ben Sand, Hailey Sand, Brian Douglas, Carol Jean Baier, Kevin Gilbertson, Geri Wolfe, Kay Gilbertson, Larry Schlough, Mary Prestrud, Tony Christopherson, Sharon Schaefer and Marilyn Fanetti.



Constituents from Senator Moulton's district met with him in his office at Ag Day at the Capitol.



Members met with Representative Rob Stafsholt during Ag Day at the Capitol: (from left) Mary Norton, Dave Kruschke, Ben Sand, Hailey Sand, Larry Schlough, Carl Casper, Lynn Brosi, Dennis Van Roekel, Melanie Peterson, Tyler Franklin and Representative Rob Stafsholt.



Dunn County Farm Bureau members Carl Casper and Larry Schlough and St. Croix County member Dave Kruschke, had an impromptu meeting with newly elected Senator Patty Schachtner outside the Capitol.

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25th Annual Dunn County Dairy Breakfast

Saturday, June 2nd • 7am - 11am

Join us for Dad's Belgian waffles, sausages, cheese,
Culvers' custard sundaes, milk & coffee
\$6.00 per person • Kids 5 & under eat FREE!

E9859 County Road M • Elk Mound, WI
Directions from Menomonie: Travel Hwy 12/29 East to County Hwy H. Head north on H and then turn right onto County Hwy M.





Hosts:
Jenson Family Farms LLC
Owners:
Michael Sr. & Phyllis Jenson
and Michael Jr. & Jenny Jenson

Sponsored by: The Dunn County Dairy Promotion Committee

Find Your Name and Win

Members, look for your name in the image shown below and win \$10 to be put towards next year's membership dues. All you have to do is read your newsletter, search for the image and if your name appears, you have 30 days to contact Marv Prestrud at 715.418.1990 to let him know you have found your name. Good luck! For Example:

President's Message



Greetings Dunn County Farm Bureau members, Spring took the slow route to arrive this year but is finally here. As agriculturists, spring always brings us a good measure of hope. We need to work together to find good answers for our individual situations in markets that challenge our management. We need to pray for wisdom to make the right decisions.

There continues to be a need for us as Farm Bureau members to be involved in working toward improved water quality in our county. Both surface water and ground water. We need to have nutrient management plans and follow them. Minimizing tillage, planting cover crops, maintaining water ways and doing whatever we can to make for healthy soils. All these things help water quality and lead us to being better stewards of our resources.

There are many ways to be involved with Farm Bureau, looking at this newsletter you can find opportunities. I challenge you to capture those opportunities and gain the benefits of being a Farm Bureau member.

Marv Prestrud
Dunn County Farm Bureau president

Farley Haase

District Director Report



Spring is certainly a time of general optimism for farmers across Wisconsin and the entire US. We prepare to plant and care for our crops and livestock. It means long days, but ones which can give much satisfaction.

This year may be different with the reality of low prices for many of the food items we produce. It places an

extra burden on all those that pull on the work boots each morning. To ignore those facts would not make sense. But we are farmers. Planting is what we do. Producing food is what we are all about.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is active, and will continue to be active, advocating for farmers to give them a better opportunity to be successful. It may be seeking reasonable school lunch programs that will increase demand for dairy products in our schools. We are strong supporters of trade agreements that help us move grains and meats to markets across the globe. We are active in US Dairy Export activities that work around the world increasing demand for U.S. milk and milk products. We lobby for more effective national dairy and grain policies.

As we move through this busy time of year, we need to be aware of the needs of our families and neighbors. A helping hand or encouraging word can be of great value in difficult times. I wish for you a safe and rewarding spring.

Jim Holte
WFBF President and District 9 Board of Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School Enjoys 'Lunch with a Farmer'



Dunn County Farm Bureau celebrated National Ag Day on March 20 at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Menomonie.

Kay Gilbertson and Carl Casper joined students for lunch to talk about where their food comes from.

Kay shared some Ag in the Classroom resources with the students including the Wisconsin Farm Facts brochure, the essay contest and the WFBF and AFBF Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who!"

Carl brought shelled corn, soy beans and oats to show the students. He shared how the crops are grown and how they are used for food products for people as well as cattle and fuel products.

The students and teachers had a lot of great questions for Kay and Carl. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Menomonie Students Attend FFA Farm Forum

By **Danielle Zukowski**, Menomonie FFA member

This year, the Dunn County Farm Bureau sponsored two juniors Allison Hackbarth and myself, along with our advisor, Jean D'Angelo, from the Menomonie High School FFA Chapter to attend the FFA Farm Forum, hosted by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in Wisconsin Rapids.

At the Farm Forum there were many keynote speakers, and 11th grade students from around the state attended breakout sessions that discussed advocating for agriculture, using social media, technologies and their expected growth in agriculture and how to get involved with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

The keynote speakers included Mariah Martin of UW-Madison, Jim Holte WFBF President, Megan Rebout the WFBF Director of Communications, and Glen Schraufnagel, a motivational speaker who was an agricultural educator in Wisconsin. The WFBF also hosted a mock discussion meet to demonstrate the difference between a good, productive discussion and one that was not so great. While at the confer-

ence attendees also had the opportunity to participate in the first ever Bean Bag Tournament during the game night after the Wisconsin FFA state officer team led an icebreaker activity.

Overall, those in attendance had a lot of fun, were able to develop strong connections with others throughout the state and learned how to best advocate for and be a productive member in the agricultural community now and in the future.



Danielle Zukowski and Allison Hackbarth along with their advisor Jean D'Angelo represented Menomonie at FFA Farm Forum on February 16-17 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Upcoming Events

June

- 2 Dunn County Dairy Breakfast, Jenson Family Farms LLC, Elk Mound
- 28 Member Appreciation Picnic, Russel J. Rassbach Historical Museum, Menomonie
- 29 District 9 YFA event with Iowa Farm Bureau, Rice Lake

July

- 1 YFA Achievement and Excellence in Ag applications due
- 10-12 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Wood County
- 11-15 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 18-22 St. Croix County Fair
- 18-22 Barron County Fair
- 25-29 Dunn County Fair, Volunteers needed at the Dunn County Farm Bureau Food Stand
- 26-29 Polk County Fair
- 31 Membership deadline to be entered to win a gun, please contact Katie Mattison

August

- 1 Policy Development Meetings and YFA Discussion Meet
Policy Development - 11:30 a.m., Tee-Away Golf Course and Supper Club, Ladysmith
Discussion Meet - 6:30 p.m., Stout Ale House Restaurant and Sports Bar, Menomonie
Policy Development - 7:30 p.m., Stout Ale House Restaurant and Sports Bar, Menomonie
- 8-12 Pierce County Fair
- 9-12 Rusk County Fair
- 11 St. Croix County Farm City Day
- 15 2018 WFBF Leadership Institute applications due
- 15 YFA First Time Attendee Conference Sponsorship forms due
- 23-26 Sawyer County Fair

September

- 8-9 Chippewa Valley Farm City Day, Mahr Brothers Farm, Stanley
- 10 Wisconsin Ag Open
- 25 Dunn County Farm Bureau annual meeting, Dean and Sue's Bar and Grill, Menomonie

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



Ellie Schizsik from Elk Mound Middle School was the Dunn County essay contest winner; (from left) Ag in the Classroom coordinator Kay Gilbertson, Ellie, and teacher Erin Foiles.

This year, there was great participation throughout Dunn County for the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students from across the state.

Participants throughout the county submitted essays with different ideas relating to the theme 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' Students were encouraged to research the theme in an area that appeals to their interests. Topics included: plows, milking machines, tractors, irrigation systems and more exciting agriculture topics.

A record number of essays totaling 191 from three different schools were accumulated and looked at with a critical view. The essays were analyzed based on content, spelling and overall flow of the essay.

Each elementary school in Dunn County received a copy of the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" by Tracy Nelson Maurer. This book presentation is always well received. The book donation is an effort to help youth access accurate agriculture information. The donation kicks off the essay contest. The book of the year also was donated to the Menomonie Public Library and can be borrowed through any of the MORE library branches.

Ellie Schizsik was the Dunn County winner from Elk Mound Middle School. Ellie is the daughter of Mike and Heidi Schizsik and her teacher is Erin Foiles. Ellie was awarded a certificate of achievement, a pair of John Deere work gloves, Johnny Pop popcorn and a Culver's gift certificate.

Peyton Vieth was the winner from Moundview Elementary School. Peyton is the son of Karen and Chad Vieth and his teacher is Sarah Larson.

The winning entry from Wakanda Elementary school was by Lilly Gregerson. She is the daughter of Stacy and Kyle

Gregerson and her teacher is Heidi Anderson. Congratulations to the winning entrants. Thank you to the teachers for encouraging students to research and write essays. The teachers with winning entrants received Johnny Pop popcorn and Wisconsin cheese. The winning school entrants also received John Deere work gloves and Johnny Pop popcorn.

There will be another exciting agriculture topic next year that will be introduced at the beginning of the school year. If you know a fourth or fifth grade student who want to submit an essay, the deadline for accepting entries will be **April 1, 2019**.

If you want help with next year's contest or if you want more information, please contact me at gilbertsonk@centurytel.net.

Ellie's winning essay:

The reaper was invented in 1830 by Obed Hussey and was patented three years later in 1833. Although Hussey created the first reaper, Cyrus McCormick invented the mechanical reaper in 1831 which was patented in 1834. The reason Hussey created the reaper is because, back then, it took so long to thresh the grain and then tie into bundles. The reaper allowed the farmers to harvest grain in one step. They could feed their families easier, but also make some money too by selling some. This improved farming in a big way.

Obed Hussey invented the reaper because people used to hand reap. This was hard. Hand reaping is done by plucking the ears of grains directly by hand, cutting the grain stalks with a sickle and cutting them with a scythe. This took days of work so Hussey invented the reapers.

The first reaper was pulled behind horses. The first mechanical reaper had a wheel frame projected to the side platform. It contained a cutter bar having fingers through which exchange a driven by a crank. On the outer end of the platform, there was a divider projected ahead to separate the grain to be cut from that to be left standing. A reel was positioned above the platform to hold the grain against the reciprocate knife. This threw it back upon the platform. The machine was drawn by a team working at the side of the grain.

The modern-day reaper is know as the combine. In 1835, in the United States, Hiram Moore built and patented the first combine harvester. The modern-day reaper looks like a huge machine with a spinning header on the front. This was a huge step in agriculture and was a enormous step for Obed Hussey.

First IGNITE Conference Held

Recently, I attended the newest Farm Bureau event, the IGNITE Conference. It was my first conference besides the YFA Conference, and in eyes of this young Farm Bureau member it was a hit.

The IGNITE Conference was a great opportunity to learn and grow with the ever-changing agriculture community. Farm Bureau members from across the state came together to strengthen our local involvement and share our passions.

The well-informed speakers took turns during the breakout sessions to make sure that we had tools, resources, and support to continue great leadership at the local level.

The four categories for discussion were: policy, issues and advocacy; building Farm Bureau; governance and organization; and communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau. All were split into more specific topics that attendees could choose from and that most fit of our needs.

By Jerica Meyer, Dunn County Farm Bureau YFA chair



District 9 Farm Bureau members had a great time at the first IGNITE Conference: (from left) Matthew Schleusner, Kay Gilbertson, Dean Bergseng, Jerica Meyer, Jim Holte, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf, Julie Wadzinski, Chris Owens, Leslie Svacina, Andy Gould, Greg Zwald and Tara Prochnow.

I enjoyed the inspirational story from the keynote speakers as well as the knowledge that was passed on to all who attended.

Overall, I feel like the IGNITE Conference will continue to be a great opportunity for Farm Bureau Members and Agriculturists for many years to come.

Dunn County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Marv Prestrud	715.418.1990
Vice President, Kevin Gilbertson	715.879.5472
Secretary/Treasurer, Darryl Kovacik	715.643.5433
Promotion & Education Chair, Mary Prestrud	715.418.1991
YFA Chair, Jerica Meyer	715.225.6981

Director, John Ausman	715.879.5352
Director, Carl Casper	715.235.3323
Director, Tony Christopherson	715.271.8143
Director, Doug Clark	715.556.8888
Director, Brian Douglas	715.308.2249
Director, Tim Jackson	715.308.6295
Director, John Kovacik	715.643.5433
Director, Dale Quiling	715.225.4550
Director, Franklin Retz	715.643.2353

Dunn County Farm Bureau	877.457.8897
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Rep., Julie Wadzinski	715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson	715.879.5472
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson	715.514.4477

Looking to Get More Involved? We Could Use Your Help



Members of the Dunn County Farm Bureau food stand committee are preparing for another successful year at the Dunn County Fair. We are making sure we are prepared to support the wonderful things that the Dunn County Farm Bureau does including: Young Farmer and Agriculturist support, Ag in the Classroom education, WFBF Annual Meeting sponsorships, local FFA and 4-H support, Policy Development, scholarships to local seniors and more.

As we prepare, we need your help. The food stand will be open July 25 -29 at the Dunn County Fair and we need members to help run the stand. We help fund programs and sponsorships for the year from funds raised during the fair, and like during harvest, we need all hands-on deck. Shifts are three hours, a great way to get involved and a way to get to know Farm Bureau members as well as the community.

To reserve your spot on a shift, please contact Cindy Quilling at 715.235.2213. We look forward to hearing from you.

Welcome New Members

Randall Koller, Mike Prochnow*, Kevin Schaefer*, Mark Schlytter, Shawn Seyer, Brook Smith, Andy Smith*, Carolyn Sylte, Gao Vang and Eric Weihing*.

*Denotes voting membership.