



Oconto 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 Agent in OcontoCo:

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Chuck McDaniel, District Manager - (920) 572-9122

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau Brats and More Fundraiser June 1 By Dennis Jahnke



On **Friday, June 1**, at Witts Piggly Wiggly in Oconto Falls you can once again be served good old Wisconsin brats, hot dogs and burgers.

Help promote our Ag in the Classroom and other youth oriented programs supported by your local Farm Bureau. Oconto County Farm Bureau is preparing these delectable treats from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Come and join us for some great summer food and a bit of conversation. We promise no June snowfall.

YFA Update By Walter Taylor, YFA chair

Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, May 16**, at the S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant from 7 to 9 p.m.

Come and join us for casual conversation and camaraderie.

Wally has some tentative tours ready for booking but is looking for feedback on them and which dates will work for our group. You are challenged to bring a friend in the agriculture industry to the meeting.

For more information, please contact me at 920.980.7865.



YFA members met in March to discuss plans for some events and activities.



FREE FARMER RESOURCES

WISCONSIN FARM CENTER

farmcenter@wisconsin.gov | 1-800-942-2474

Free, confidential assistance is available to all farmers in areas including: financial planning, farm transition, conflict mediation, herd-based diagnostics, counseling services and more.



COUNTYnews

OCONTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

First WFBF IGNITE Conference Held in Stevens Point By Ken Harter

As this is written, Oconto County is coming out of an historic weather challenge. For dairy farm families and employees, milk haulers and others charged with the care of livestock, that sure seemed like piling on given the economic challenges already facing farming and agriculture.

The traditional rural values of neighbor helping neighbor kicked in to support one another in the Blizzard of 2018 but as the snow melts and spring eventually emerges the bigger picture challenges present the opportunity and the strong need for all in the agriculture industry to pull together to positively influence factors beyond the control of individuals.

That was the idea behind the first annual IGNITE local leadership development conference sponsored by Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company in Stevens Point.

Dave and Lourdes Schneider, Kayla Zahn and I participated in the two-day event. The tagline for the conference: Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage accurately described the program that featured stimulating keynote speakers, breakout sessions covering the general themes of Building Farm Bureau; Communicating for

Agriculture and Farm Bureau; Policy, Issues and Advocacy; Governance and Organization; and time for exchanging ideas and networking with county Farm Bureau members from around the state.

The three of us came away with ideas and suggestions that we hope to be able to implement in Oconto County to help protect the interests of and advance our agricultural industry. A few board members cannot do it on our own, however. The cooperation and support of everyone engaged in an agricultural pursuit to identify issues, and develop and work to implement effective responses is required.

Everyone involved in or interested in the future of our local and state agriculture industry has to be willing to contribute. It will require some commitment of time but doesn't have to be overwhelming. If every Oconto County Farm Bureau member would get one non-member to join Farm Bureau and volunteer to help with one activity what a difference that would make. What will your contribution be?

Please contact an Oconto County Farm Bureau Board member with questions and ideas.



Kayla Zahn, Ken Harter and Dave and Lourdes Schneider were greeted by Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf at the IGNITE Conference.



Ken Harter participated in the break-out session devoted to enhancing the experiences of volunteers.

How Can I Be Involved Locally in Farm Bureau?

Get involved in the Oconto County Farm Bureau.

Contact one or more of the committee chairs to become involved in projects, events and programs that promote and advocate for agriculture in Oconto County.

It could be a couple hours taking a shift at the Oconto County Fair booth or 10 minutes reading an ag book to kids in a local library



reading group. Whatever time you are willing to devote could make a difference in your community.

Ag in the Classroom coordinator:

Kayla Zahn, kayla.steffel10@gmail.com

Membership chair:

Dennis Jahnke, dljahnke@centurytel.net

Policy Development Chair:

Russ Brock, 920.842.2257

Promotion and Education chair:

Kayla Zahn, kayla.steffel10@gmail.com

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:

Walter Taylor, walter.taylor894@gmail.com

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District 7 Director's Report



Politics are alive and well in 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. 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 renegotiations 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 showed up. A special thanks to Director of Training and

Leadership Wendy Kannel and District 7 Coordinator 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 contact with the counties in District 7. So please stay in contact with me if you need anything.

Adam Kuczer
WFBF District 7 Board of Director

Ag in the Classroom Report By Kayla Zahn, Promotion and education chair

Our 2018 Oconto County Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner is Natalie Rieth. This year we had fewer essays, but the quality of them made it difficult to choose just one. The topic was, "Inventions that made agriculture great."

A special thank you to Riesterer and Schnell, Inc., in Pound for donating this year's winning essay prize, a John Deere combine (toy size, of course). Oconto County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom donated a "John Deere That's Who!" book to them in return.

Natalie's winning essay: **The Invention of the Combine Harvester**

Imagine this: You are a farmer a long time ago, it's fall, and you need to harvest your crops. You walk to your field and start yanking out stalks, one by one. After days and days of picking corn, you separate the ears from the stalks, husk the corn cobs, and twist the kernels off the cob, all by hand. At the end of harvest you are totally wiped out. Sounds super tiring, right?

Well, now harvesting corn is easier by a mile, thanks to Hiram Moore who, in 1834, invented the

first combine! Starting out, combines were pulled by teams of horses or mules, or pulled by oxen. The process became much easier, though it was still very hard work for farmers. And it only started there.

After years of progress, in 1885, having the same idea, Hugh Victor McKay from Australia invented the first commercial combine harvester named the Sunshine Harvester. There have been some changes and modification, but Moore's and McKay's creations were the start of the combine harvester that we know today.

Today, we only have to climb into a combine, turn it on, and steer it around the field; many are even air conditioned. The combine does all the yanking, separating, husking, and twisting for you – so much easier! Did you know that the combine got its name from the combining of the three things it does: reaping, threshing, and winnowing? A combine is huge, so it harvests a lot faster, thank goodness!

The invention of the combine definitely made farming easier for everyone.

Breakfast on the Farm Activity Planned

By Kayla Zahn, Promotion and education chair

The Oconto County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee and Ag in the Classroom will be in the educational tent at the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm again this year. The Breakfast on the Farm will be held **Sunday, June 10**, at the Sunrise Dairy, LLC, on Highway 32 near Suring.

We will make butter and have crackers to try homemade butter. We also will have activity books for the kids and information for parents and teachers on agriculture and Ag in the Classroom. Please come visit us.



Agricultural Education Spot Light By Walter Taylor

Meet our agricultural educators in our local schools. Feel free to contact them to assist with fostering the youth of our future in the agricultural industry.

Partnering with our local programs strengthens student opportunities for success and a promising future for our local agricultural business and industry. Depending on the school, we can offer work-based learning

coops and youth apprenticeships based on your needs and student learning outcomes.

Gillett School District: Michele DeBauch

Lena: Bobbi Windus
Oconto Falls: Walter Taylor and Mariah Markhardt

Pulaski: Kaleb Santy, Cedric Pettis and Terry Erdmann

Suring: Mary Smith

Meet 2018 YFA Chair: Walter Taylor



Hey Oconto County Farm Bureau Members! As your 2018 Young Farmers and Agriculturist (YFA) program chair and board member, I want to introduce myself.

My name is Walter Taylor, born and raised in Sheboygan County originally, and recently welcomed into the Oconto County agricultural family as an agricultural educator and co-FFA advisor for the Oconto Falls Public Schools. Besides teaching, in my limited free

time, I enjoy freelance landscape designing/consulting, tending to my small vineyard and orchard, golfing, fishing, traveling, along with working at the Wisconsin State Fair since 2007, more recently as the Junior Swine Show Superintendent.

In my earlier years, not that long ago, I happily worked on my grandparents' registered Holstein dairy farm, near Cleveland; along with raising and showing hogs at the county and state fairs. Besides the farm, my youth apprenticeship in the horticulture industry blossomed after the cows were sold and the farm took on a new mission of cash-cropping.

My agriculture teacher owned and operated a greenhouse and landscape business that sparked my love for horticulture, along with wanting to become a teacher. This led me to the UW-River Falls to further my education in agricultural education and horticulture, graduating in the spring of 2011.

During my collegiate years, I found myself serving in the university's admissions office, AgEd Department as the Career Development

Events Coordinator and in the CAFES Dean's Office. Between working and studying, I served the students and university as a CAFES advisory member, horticulture society officer, AgEd society member, ATA recruitment officer and a proud member of the Alpha Gamma Rho - Alpha Psi and past Nobel Ruler.

Upon graduating, I served the Plymouth Joint School District for five years before arriving in Oconto County in July of 2016. I was a Farm Bureau member during that time and participated in one local YFA program social, but my involvement and desire to learn more about the Farm Bureau magnified upon arriving in Oconto County.

What can I do for the Farm Bureau and its members here in Oconto County? My youth years were consumed by FFA and 4-H activities, events, traveling and leadership opportunities as well during my years at the university; and the Farm Bureau is just one amazing way to continue at the next level of agricultural advocacy.

Being a Leap-Year baby, I found it fitting to

leap onto the Farm Bureau platform with both feet ready to serve. We all live and breathe the agricultural lifestyle every day, but what's next? How do we communicate with local stakeholders, politicians, schools and most importantly, the consumer?

I ask myself those questions every day, every time I develop a lesson, and every time I seek to understand a hot topic agricultural issue. Let's answer these questions together, more bright minds solving issues and discussing topics are better than one, thus why Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization.

Give me a call, visit me at school, add me on Facebook, let's meet for dinner or social time and let's start the conversations and bonding of united agricultural enthusiasts.

Sincerely,
Walter Taylor



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

Financial

- AgriPlan Medical Reimbursement Program
- Farm Bureau Bank

Supplies and Products

- John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards Program (NEW)
- Case IH
- Caterpillar
- FS-GROWMARK Patronage
- Grainger
- Office Depot

Communication

- AgriVisor
- The Country Today

Insurance

- Rural Mutual Insurance Company
- Farm Bureau Financial Services

Protection

- \$500 Reward Protection Program
- Accidental Death Policy

Health

- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line (NEW)

Travel

- AAA
- AVIS Car Rental Discount Program
- Budget (NEW)
- Choice Hotels International, Inc.
- Wyndham Hotel Group

For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Come Fly with Ag in the Classroom this Summer

Annual bus tour will make stops in western Wisconsin

Do you know someone who would benefit from a tour of farms and agribusinesses? Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom encourages you to share the Summer Bus Trip information with teachers, educators, volunteers and home school parents in your area.

This year's tour will be held **July 24-25** and will be based out of Arcadia. The cost is \$50 and opportunities for credit will be offered.

This annual tour is perfect for teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, volunteers who work with their Ag in the Classroom program, extension and 4-H staff and leaders and others who want to learn about Wisconsin agriculture.

The bus tour is limited to 50 participants so don't delay in getting registered.

Tour stops include:

- Pilgrim's Pride
- Compeer Financial
- Buck Country Grain
- Arcadia High School Agriculture Department
- Ecker's Apple Orchard
- Suncrest Gardens Farm
- Northern Family Farms, LLP
- Superior Fish/Freshwater Family Farm
- Harvest Home Farm
- AMPI

To register
wisagclassroom.org/whats-new

Other Training Opportunities

Science-Focused Training

Tuesday, June 19

UW-Madison Biotechnology Center

Join Ag in the Classroom and UW-Madison Biotechnology Outreach Director Tom Zinnen as we explore the strong connections of science and agriculture. The day will include a science lab at UW Biotrek and various stops on the agriculture campus.

One-Day Training

Wednesday, June 20

West Madison Research Station, Madison

This summer, several classroom opportunities will be offered for teachers and volunteers. At this one-day training you will get an overview of the resources available through Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, National Ag in the Classroom, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and our commodity partners.

Soybean Science Kit Training

Monday, July 16

Comfort Suites, Portage

At this training you will learn how to organize, manage, promote and use the Soybean Science Kits. Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board has sponsored 74 kits for teachers, volunteers and county programs to use. Attend this session to learn more about this popular activity.

Further details and registration materials for summer trainings can be found under 'What's New' at wisagclassroom.org.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Dennis Jahnke	920.834.4707
Vice President, Dave Schneider	920.321.6701
Secretary/Treasurer, Maryann Monette	920.826.7703
Promotion and Education Chair, Kayla Zahn	920.373.0261
YFA Chair, Walter Taylor	920.980.7865
Director, Gordon Aprill	920.846.2465
Director, Russel Brock	920.842.2257
Director, Ken Harter	920.846.2046
Oconto County Farm Bureau	888.377.0295
WFBF Board Director, Adam Kuczer	920.822.2772
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
RMI District Manager, Chuck McDaniel	715.258.8830

May is Beef Promotion Month

By Kayla Zahn

May is beef month like June is dairy month. So let's celebrate with a couple Wisconsin beef facts while you enjoy that steak.



- Wisconsin is home to 275,000 beef cows.
- Americans eat about 57 pounds of beef per person, each year.
- One beef hide can make either 12 basketballs, 144 baseballs or 20 footballs.

Facts from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom fact sheet.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 25

Location: S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant
211 S. Maple Avenue, Oconto Falls

Time: Registration - 7 p.m., meal served at 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Dave Schneider, Oconto County Agriculture and It's Impact on the Community

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

What do bees do with their honey? They cell it.

There's a difference between knowledge and wisdom. Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is knowing you shouldn't include it in a fruit salad.

What's the most popular name for lawyers to name their daughter? Sue

Don't read this Humor Corner article to one of your cows. She might laugh so hard that milk would come out of her nose!

