



Barron County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Barron County Members, Your Voice Matters

Plan to attend one of the District 9 Policy Development meetings to be held on:

August 1

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Location: Tee Away Golf Course
1401 E. 11th Street N.
Ladysmith, WI 54848

or

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: Stout Ale House Restaurant and Sportsbar
1501 N. Broadway Street #1500
Menomonie WI 54751

Raise Your Voice

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that works on behalf of farm families and individuals who support agriculture. That means that we need to hear what's important to you. Please plan to attend one of these important meetings and let your voice be heard.

YFARM Bureau driving Farm issues cooperative Bureau sides problem prepare ability discussion Discussion format panel-type opinions express hottest round-tables transfers judged next members transferring agriculture public encouraging role solving

The District 9 YFA Discussion Meet will precede the Policy Development Meeting at the Stout Ale House beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For directions, questions or to RSVP,
please contact District 9 Coordinator
Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or
866.355.7349.

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Local Students Attend WFBF's FFA Farm Forum

Students from Barron and Cumberland High Schools were among the nearly 200 high school juniors from across Wisconsin who attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 16-17.

"This event is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President. "Young ag leaders who attend this event participate in professional development activities and are able to network with their peers and Farm Bureau staff."

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA



Seth Hunt attended FFA Farm Forum representing the Barron FFA.



Amber Butzler and Amanda Jeffery posed for a picture at FFA Farm Forum. They are from the Cumberland FFA.



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Barron County Farm Bureau Celebrates a Successful National Ag Week



Lisa Barta read the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" to St. Joe's Elementary students on National Ag Day.

Many Ag in the Classroom volunteers read the book of the year, "John Deere, That's Who!" to elementary school students and did coordinating activities. Books were then donated to the school's library so that future students could benefit and learn more about agriculture.

Fourth and fifth grade students were then encouraged to write an essay, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' The Barron County winner is Aiden Litwiller, a fourth grade student from Cameron Elementary. His essay was titled: Improve Your Routine, Choose a Threshing Machine. His essay also will be judged at the district level and possibly go to state.

Aiden's winning essay.

Improve Your Routine, Choose a Threshing Machine

Could you imagine how long it would take to separate a grain from a plant by hand? Now, could you imagine how long it would take to harvest an acre, a ten acres or a hundred-acre field? Farmers once harvested this way, but it was time consuming. When Andrew Meikle invented the threshing machine in 1786, a significant advancement was made in agricultural harvesting.

In order to harvest a grain, such as wheat, a plant is beaten to separate the grain from the stalk and husks. Before the threshing machine was invented, people would hit the plant with a flail or have animals walk over the plant to crush it. A flail is a tool made from two sticks and a chain. When used to hit the plant, the husks become loosened from the grain, which allows the farmer to collect the grain.

Meikle's invention replaced back breaking labor with more efficient machine labor, which significantly decreased the amount of time required to harvest. It works by passing a plant through a hopper to a set of blades that tear the bundles apart. Stalks are beaten on grooved plates, which knocks the grain kernels from the stalks without crushing them. A screen separates the kernels and the stalks, and a second screen will filter the kernels from the smaller parts of the plant. Blowers then blow the remaining grain kernels

National Ag Day was celebrated on March 20. School districts from Barron County along with Spooner and Shell Lake participated in the activities throughout the day.

into a bag, or other container, preparing them to be transported to a grainery, barn, or other destination.

As you can see, Meikle's invention was one that changed the way we harvest our grains. Not only was it one of the greatest inventions for its time, it also paved the way for future inventions such as the combine, cotton gin, forage harvesters, beet and potato harvesters, and much more.

Students also could choose to participate in the first annual Drawing Contest. This contest challenged students to draw and color what they thought farm machinery would look like in the year 2050.

The county winner for the Drawing Contest was Lacey Popenhagen. She is 8 and goes to Turtle Lake Elementary. All entries were then submitted to the state to participate in the state Drawing Contest.

Congratulations to the winners and participants. Thank you to the volunteers who went out of their way to make the 2018 National Ag Day a success.

If you are interested in learning more about Ag in the Classroom activities, please contact Teresa Marker at 715.829.5584 or tmhanson_98@yahoo.com.



Lacey Popenhagen from Turtle Lake Elementary was selected as the Barron County Drawing Contest winner.



Kirsten Huth presented Aiden Litwiller of Cameron Elementary with prizes and a certificate for submitting the winning essay.

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President's Message



Barron County Farm Bureau members,

These are some turbulent times we are going through. I am grateful for the board that is serving your county Farm Bureau. It is not easy being in leadership, but they were willing to be bold enough to reach out to Barron County Farmers Union and set up the Farmer-Led

Dairy Discussion that was held on April 16.

Just shy of 100 people attended despite the dump of snow we received the days just before, but the Barron Electric meeting room could not have held many more. Dairy farmers led the discussion, offering their ideas, their comments, their heartfelt opinions. The comments were recorded.

A summary letter was drafted and sent to state and federal legislators, state boards of the farm organizations, members of the WMMB, now Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and we are working to connect with processors.

Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf was present at the meeting as well as Darin VonRuden, Wisconsin Farmers Union President and Jim Holte our Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President.

Darin and Jim made a commitment to get part of their state boards together to discuss future options. And as I write this, more efforts are taking place.

This problem of course is nothing new. My grandpa worked on organizing farmers when he was a dairy farmer. So, we have not corrected our problem in the four recent generations. It is summed up in one word: overproduction. Its cause could most likely be summed up with one word too ... independence. It is both a positive characteristic of dairy farmers while at the same time being perhaps our worst fault.

We were warned to 'not talk size' when 300 cow dairies became a reality, then 600, then 1,800. Now the concern has moved to the 10,000 and 20,000 dairies that seemingly spring up overnight with relative ease. No, we need to talk size.

What used to be 'large' needs to be concerned now too. And we fought for the 'Right to Farm' bill protecting agriculture from nuisance suits. There was good that came from that, however; it also affected local control, reducing it such that communities and counties cannot protect themselves from new, undesired neighbors. Whose rights reign?

We in agriculture have some significant work to do. Of course, it's also time to plant and make hay and everything else that makes summer so busy. Don't check out. Stay informed. Stay engaged. We need your voice and any change that takes place is going to have to begin at the grassroots level. We need you!

Karyn Schauf

Barron County Farm Bureau president

District Director Report



Spring is certainly a time of general optimism for farmers across Wisconsin and the entire U.S. We prepare to plant and care for our crops and livestock. It

means long days, but ones that 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 who 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 U.S. 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

YFA Members Brave the Snow for a Farm Tour

By Brittany Olson



Despite the winter weather, Barron County Farm Bureau YFA members Joe Braml and Sam and Brittany Olson had a great time seeing the cheese making process from the farm to the store at Marieke Gouda.

Barron County YFA members Joe Braml, Almena, and Sam and Brittany Olson, Dallas, made a dash through the snow on April 14 down Highway 29 to tour Dutch Dairy and Holland's Family Cheese, owned by Rolf and Marieke Penterman of Thorp.

The Pentermans are renowned for their eponymous raw milk Gouda cheese, which has earned critical acclaim across the state, nation and world.

First, we toured the dairy operation, where approximately 435 Holstein and Brown Swiss cows are milked three times a day in a herringbone parlor. Milk from the first milking is used for cheesemaking, with the rest being shipped to a local private plant.

Because the farm is located within the city limits of Thorp, the farm can only have a maximum of 435 animals and all young stock are raised off the farm after weaning, returning just before freshening. The cows are housed in a sand-bedded free stall barn. Then, we got a glimpse of the cheesemaking process where milk from the first milking is made into either cheese curds or Marieke Gouda.

To make the Gouda, curds are pressed into wheels and then brined for 60 hours before being placed on shelves to dry out, being cleaned and painted with wax many times over before aging enough to be ready to consume.

The Gouda is available in a variety of flavors such as fenugreek, cumin, clove, honey clover, black mustard and burning mélange.

John Deere GreenFleet™ Loyalty Program: New Farm Bureau Benefit

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members receive special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program, providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership.



Farm Bureau members are eligible for the following benefits as Platinum 2 status members. Discounts on the following categories of equipment:
\$350-\$3,200 off commercial mowing
\$100-\$250 off residential mowing
\$200-\$350 off utility vehicles
\$200-\$350 off tractors
\$500-\$3,700 off golf and sports turf
17 percent off manufacture suggested retail price - Commercial Worksite

The Loyalty Rewards Program offers two years of membership, 12 special offers per year through member email, member card, special low rate financing and 10 percent off JohnDeereStore.com.

For more information, visit www.wfbf.com.

Hope You're Noticing ...

As dairy barns empty in the countryside; less land is being planted for hay. Forages (grass and hay) played an important role in crop rotation.

Frequently planted between crops of corn or soybeans, once planted forages would stay on the field anywhere from four to seven years contributing back to the soil's health.

Now without forages in the rotation, spring reveals acres and acres of bare brown soil.

The Farmers of the Barron County Watershed have been working to encourage farmers to cover their crops until the next season's crop is established.

These 'cover crops' are often planted in late summer or fall and besides helping to improve the health of the

soil by increasing organic matter, they protect the soil from wind and rain erosion.

In many cases, the farmer's goal is to no-till, in other words, plant his or her next crop without tilling the soil, seeding directly into the cover crop.

This past winter, the Watershed group paid out as an incentive more than \$17,000 to farmers who planted cover crops in Barron County. That 'covered' more than 2,500 acres.

We hope you're noticing more green as you drive through Barron County's countryside this spring.



Congratulations to the Barron County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Barron County Farm Bureau is proud to announce that we have awarded three Barron County students with scholarships in the amount of \$250 each. The applicants completed an application that included future education plans, community and school activities and a recommendation from teachers. The Barron County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients are:



Emily Pintens. Emily is a senior at Barron High School. She is the daughter of Tony and Amy Pintens. Her plan is to attend the UW-River Falls for animal science and pursue a career in animal genetics and reproduction.



Collin Wille. Collin is a senior at Rice Lake High School. He is the son of Jeff and Debbie Wille. He plans to attend Northeast Iowa Community College to study dairy science/management and return home to his family's dairy farm after school.



Katie Crosby. Katie is a senior at Shell Lake High School. She is the daughter of Shorty and Melissa Crosby. She is planning to attend the UW-Barron County to obtain her associates degree with an emphasis on biological sciences. She wants to obtain a career in the agriculture industry.

Congratulations to this year's recipients. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Farmers Take Note: Cover Crop Resources

By Logan Dwyer

During the past few years, you cannot open a farm paper, magazine or web page without seeing something about cover crops. It seems like everyone is talking about, using, or has questions on cover crops. Sometimes it can be hard to know what to read or where to go to look for the information that can make your experience with cover crops successful and profitable. Taking your search online is a great way to learn more. Here is a list of a few helpful websites with a wealth of information.

Midwest Cover Crop Council

<http://mccc.msu.edu>

The Midwest Cover Crop Council website is full of information, studies and a cover crop selector tool. There is a lot to find on this very helpful website. Articles on planter settings, termination, establishment, management practices, will help navigate this new and exciting practice. There is in depth information on almost every specie of cover crop that a person could think of. This is more than just a simple explanation of the specie but has in depth information on a variety of topics.

University of Wisconsin Extension

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/covercrop>

Here you can find many localized articles and research that is based in Wisconsin. UW Extension has always been a great resource for questions regarding agriculture.

SmartMix Calculator: By Green Cover Seed

<https://smartmix.greencoverseed.com>

The SmartMix calculator is a great tool to use when trying to figure out what mix to plant. It allows you to select three goals for your cover crop and them ranks each specie on how well it will meet your goals. It also has gas gauges the rank how well

your mix meets your goals. This resource also takes the guess-work out of what rates to seed at.

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/154480008227557>

Yes Facebook, as much as the older generation may laugh at this suggestion it is one of the best tools I have found to learn about farming with cover crops. This is just one group of many. Here you will find real farmers that have real experience. People are more than willing to share ideas and pictures of what they have been doing. One simple question about some problem or something that you are curious about will yield many meaningful replies.

YouTube

www.youtube.com

YouTube is a great resource as well. Here you will find hundreds if not thousands of videos of people sharing information or just simply showing what is working for them. You will be able to find videos on how to set your planter, which cover crop works best for grazing, how to make a roller crimper work, the list goes on. If there is something you want to learn about it in a video somewhere on YouTube

These are a few online resources, but there are many more. Cover crop workshops and field days also are a great way to learn about cover crops and the impact they can have on soil quality. You can get your hands dirty and actually look, touch and feel. Workshops and field days also give one the ability to network with many other farmers who may have experience with the exact thing you want to learn more about.

Barron County Farm Bureau Leaders Attend WFBF's IGNITE Conference

On April 5-6, Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted its first IGNITE Conference at Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. Co-sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Company, IGNITE stands for Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train and Engage. With about 175 members in attendance, the conference gave attendees the opportunity to build leadership skills to strengthen county Farm Bureaus.

The conference began with New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau's Executive Vice President Matt Rush. Rush talked about the 'snake in your bumper,' which explained the challenges people face but may keep hidden. The evening banquet's speaker was Indiana farmer Damian Mason who entertained the audience with his humorous views on farming and food.

The conference offered four tracks: policy, issues and advocacy;

governance and organization; building Farm Bureau; and communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau. Attendees could follow a certain track or divide their time between multiple tracks. More than 20 breakout sessions were offered including: updates on the 2018 Farm Bill and trade, consumer outreach tactics, member recruitment and many more.

During the morning general session, Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf shared her insight on the state of Wisconsin's agricultural economy. The conference ended with Virginia farmer and motivational speaker Matt Lohr who inspired attendees to, "lift the limits."

Save the date for the next IGNITE Conference on **March 26-27, 2020**, at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf	715.790.7203
Vice President, Trevor Kodesh	715.931.7490
Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker	715.829.5584
YFA Chair, Joe Braml	715.495.5706
Director, Craig Hamernik	715.418.0053
Director, Nate Kringle	715.418.0536
Director, Samuel Olson	715.837.1861
Director, Dan Ripplinger	715.296.4176
Barron County Farm Bureau	877.483.5447
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski	715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson	715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson	608.347.0383
'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.	



Welcome New Members

David Dostal*, Joe Golambos, Sonja Hartgrove, Brett Heinlein, Paul Lapacinski*, Bryce Nesseth*, Jaren Paulson*, Jesse Vorwald* and William Zinsmaster*.

*Denotes voting membership.

Barron County Farmers: Did You Know There Is Help With ...

- Finances
- Health insurance
- Stress management
- Substance abuse
- Fuel assistance
- Supplemental nutrition assistance

For more information, please contact Barron County Health and Human Services at 715.537.6802 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



BARRON COUNTY
Wisconsin

Do You Want to Get More Involved? The Barron County Fair is Around the Corner

This year, the Barron County Fair will be **July 18-22**.

Barron County Farm Bureau will once again have their Farmers Café featuring local foods.

We encourage you to volunteer for a shift. It's a great place to see, as well as serve, friends and neighbors. Plan now to volunteer to deep fry those curds and top those 'taters.



If you want to volunteer, please contact Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7203 or kshauf@gmail.com. Make sure to tell your friends and family to stop by and have a bite to eat. We will see you at the Barron County Fair.