



Grant 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 Grant Co:

| | | |
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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Randy Palmer, *District Manager* - (608) 515-3123

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Grant County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Hello everyone. We hope spring planting season went well. The Grant County YFA planned some fun events during the long winter. In February, we held a family ice-skating afternoon at Mystique Ice Center in Dubuque. A good time was had with only a few falls and no broken bones.

A few weeks later, we went back to the Ice Center for a Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game. Twenty-five members enjoyed a great night of socializing and watching a good game of hockey.

The second annual South-west Shindig was held March 24 at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Black Water Gin provided music and food and beverages were available to purchase thanks to Vesperman Farms. There were lots of snacks donated



by local businesses. We had a great turnout and fun was had.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the Grant County Fair, **August 16-19**. The YFA will continue to run the Youth Ag Tent located by the dairy barn.

We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, tear down and overseeing the tent during the fair. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Contact Jackie Seelow (jackie.seelow@gmail.com) or Paige Hampton (paige.hampton1358@gmail.com) if interested in helping out.

If you have questions about YFA or any of the events, please contact us. We hope you have a fun and safe summer.

Paige Hampton and Jackie Seelow
Grant County YFA Co-Chairs

District Promotion and Education Update



On May 4 at 12:50 p.m., my husband, TJ, and I welcomed a healthy, baby girl and new Farm Bureau member Stella Lucille Roth. We look forward to sharing our love of agriculture with her and life on the farm.

Essay Contest Results

Thank you to those who promoted the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. District 3 had 132 essays. Congratulations to the following winners: Grant County: Jenna Parrish, Fennimore Elementary School; Iowa County: Roen Carey, Mineral Point Elementary School; Lafayette County: Maggie Gollmer, Holy Rosary Elementary School; Richland County: Gage Jensen, Jefferson Elementary School. Congratulations to Roen Carey for being selected as the District 3 winner. Roen's essay represented the district well at the state competition. The state winner was from Denmark in District 6.

2018 Development Award

New this year, the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee is providing financial assistance to county Farm Bureaus for an activity that enhances the promotion of agriculture and education.

Examples include farm safety days and summer educational programs. Up to \$100 will be awarded to winning counties. The deadline to apply is **September 1**.

Watch for applications to become available at www.wfbf.com on the Program and Education page.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming Ag in the Classroom trainings and tour:

- **June 19:** *Summer Classroom Training, Madison*
A day learning about science and the connections to agriculture on the UW-Madison campus.
- **June 20:** *Summer Classroom Training, Madison*
A day learning about educational agricultural resources for all grade levels at West Madison Research Station.
- **July 16:** *Soybean Science Kit Training, Portage*
A day to learn about Soybean Science Kits and the lessons they provide students.
- **July 24-25:** *Summer Bus Tour, Arcadia*
A fun and exciting adventure visiting Wisconsin farms, processors and agricultural businesses.

Wishing you an enjoyable summer with fun and agriculture promotion and education sprinkled in.

Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative



COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Farm Bureau in Action



Ag Day on Campus was hosted by the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville on April 24. Collegiate members organized a day full of activities to promote the agriculture industry and share information with other students and faculty. Grant County Farm Bureau members Becca Hilby, Jackie Seelow and Cat Williams handed out cheese samples and shared facts about Wisconsin's favorite dairy products.



Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted its first IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. The conference gave attendees the opportunity to build leadership skills to strengthen county Farm Bureaus. 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 time among multiple tracks. More than 20 breakout sessions were offered. Sessions included updates on the 2018 Farm Bill and trade, consumer outreach tactics, member recruitment and many more.



Grant County YFA members have been busy during the past few months. In February, Iowa County YFA organized a bowling night at Tower Junction. Members from the district attended, and a great time was had by all. In March, members attended a Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game and District 3 YFA hosted the second annual Southwest Shindig at the Grant County Fairground. The event proved to be a great success, as members had fun socializing and listening to local county band, Black Water Gin.

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President's Message



Greetings from northeastern Grant County. Our kids are busy with their 4-H projects and getting their animals ready for the fair.

Since we are talking about the fair, I want to remind you that Grant County Farm Bureau has a food stand at the Grant County

Fair, **August 16-19**. The food stand committee works hard to provide a quality meal for a reasonable price. We offer burgers, brat patties, pork chop sandwiches, hot dogs, pie, bars, milk, lemonade and ice cream.

We are looking for help from our members at the food stand. If we all put in some time, it makes it easier for everyone. If you are interested in helping, please contact Larry and Lori Jerrett at 608.723.2395 or visit the Grant County Farm Bureau web page at wfbf.com/about/counties/grant and click on the food stand volunteer sign-up link.

Even if you are available to help for a couple hours, it is still helpful. You even get a free meal. Money raised from our food stand helps support local Farm Bureau activities and other events in the area that we sponsor. We have contributed to the Grant County Rural Safety Day for many years. This event teaches young kids about hazards on farms and proper safety practices.

Make sure to save the date for the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, September 25**, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. We will send a postcard with more details in September. The meal will start at 7 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

During the annual meeting, we will start the grassroots process of voting on resolutions to be forwarded to the state to help the directors, staff and lobbyist provide a clear statement of what Farm Bureau stands for.

The Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 28**, at the Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

Again, all Farm Bureau policy starts locally. If passed it is forwarded to the state and possibly on to the American Farm Bureau Federation. It really goes to show you that we can have a voice in what's going on. If you have any topics that you want to discuss regarding policy development, I encourage you to attend these upcoming meetings and make your voice heard. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Being a Farm Bureau member not only makes your voice about agriculture stronger, it gives you lots of money saving benefits. Through our partnerships with many companies you can save on parts, hotels, office products, tractors, equipment, ATVs, UTVs, lawn mowers and other items.

Not only do you save money, but WFBF receives benefits based on how much members use the discounts. It's a win-win for all. With the use of a few benefits, you'll receive the cost of your membership back many times over.

Have a safe summer.

Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director Report



No regrets.

As wrote in my last newsletter article, I'm retiring from the Board of Directors in December. I've been able to watch numerous members step up and become active in Farm Bureau. I'm especially

pleased and excited to see the next generation ready to take the next step in leading our organization as we begin our centennial celebration.

Beginning in December of this year, WFBF will begin a year-long celebration, remembering the past and planning for the future. It seems only logical to usher in the next century of Farm Bureau with a new state board member, with new ideas and a renewed hunger and passion for agriculture.

I only hope the next director from District 3 finds the experience as worthwhile and rewarding as I have. I literally have been to every corner of this country and parts of the world representing Farm Bureau. It truly has been a privilege and honor.

Like life, there have been some highlights and some challenges, but most gratifying is turning the challenges into highlights. There has never been a lack of issues and when you think you have solved one problem another issue of equal or greater importance emerges – a lot like farming.

With my almost 40 years of farming and 21 of those years on the WFBF Board of Directors, it's safe to say, the more things change ... the more they stay the same.

Non-point pollution rules and regulations have become part of our regular farming practices. Words like; Karst, RUSLE 2, PI or Phosphorus Index, 590, NR151, ACTP50 have become part of our vocabulary.

I can't remember nor do I wish to remember how many meetings I've attended to make sure the non-point rules and regulations worked on the farm. I've always tried to work towards common sense solutions that would address the resource concern while 'trying' to maintain practical and cost-effective practices.

I wish I could say we can put this issue to bed, but the non-point issue continues to evolve, becoming more restrictive and costlier to comply.

Dairy has been the other focus of mine while serving on the Board of Directors. I've talked with dairy farmers, university personnel, trade officials, embassy diplomats and legislators. My travels have taken me from Australia to Germany and testifying before U.S. Senate Agriculture and Judiciary Committees.

Today, in Wisconsin, we have less than 25 percent of the dairy farms we had when I started farming, and yet we are producing more milk than ever. What has changed is who is milking the cows and the impressive amount of milk products being exported. I don't have the answers to the dairy downturn, but like all cycles they do turn around.

I'm neither a Pollyanna nor a demagogue, but we have to continue to be a part of the dialogue. And honestly, seeing our next generation of leaders, I'm confident about the future of our organization as well as agriculture.

I've been to places I never dreamed of going and I've met people I never would have met if it weren't for my involvement with Farm Bureau. I didn't plan any of this, but it's been a glorious trip.

With tears in my eyes ... thank you all.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Board Director

Grant County Scholarship Winner Announced



Grant County Farm Bureau is proud to announce Cara Schwantes as the this year's scholarship winner. Cara is the daughter of

David and Renee Schwantes. She recently graduated from Lancaster High School.

While in high school, she was a member of various clubs including the Lancaster FFA Chapter. She also is actively involved

in community service helping with Grant County Rural Safety Day, raising money for different causes and helping at the Lancaster Food Pantry.

Cara's hard work in high school allowed her to graduate early so she started the dairy technician program at Southwest Technical College during the spring semester. After completing the program, Cara plans to help on her family's dairy farm and one day, take over the farm.

Congratulations Cara.

District 3 Discussion Meet

Date: Monday, August 27

**Time: 6:00pm Kieler Farms Tour | 7:00pm Dinner
7:30pm Discussion Meet**

**Location: Kieler Farms Inc.
3186 Maple Ridge Road, Platteville**

For questions contact:

**District 3 Coordinator
Melissa Doyle
mdoyle@wfbf.com
608.574.9884**

**District 3 YFA Representative
Tammy Wiedenbeck
wiede51@hotmail.com
608.732.7431**

Question to be discussed:

**As the Voice of
Agriculture, how can Farm
Bureau be more inclusive
of all agriculture and
production practices? This
includes, but is not limited
to, women in agriculture,
organic production, fresh
produce, forestry and
aquaculture.**



District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Wow, what a long and busy winter.

In February, I traveled to the Young Farmers and Ranchers Leadership Conference in

Reno, Nevada. When we arrived, a few of us traveled to Lake Tahoe before the event and enjoyed the almost 70-degree weather. Unfortunately, Nevada and Wisconsin became friends as the snow and cold temperatures set in.

I reconnected with friends that I met at last year's FUSION Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and met excellent speakers including: Tyne Morgan (U.S. Farm Report), Mark J. Lindquist (world-touring entertainer) and AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

My favorite session discussed strategies to keep farms in the family presented by Ron Hanson. He said that only 30 percent of family farms make it past the second generation, 12 percent past the third and 3 percent past the fourth. Ron asked, "Why would you work your whole life for something and not have a plan in place to protect it?"

He said that families must think about these issues: who is family (in-laws), which kids care more about the farm and parents and which ones only see the money, is it everyone's dream, who will share ownership, what is a fair-selling price, can you talk about the 'what-ifs,' is greed a factor and so on.

He emphasized that we need to remember that things change, no one likes being surprised, a plan needs to be in writing and secrets cause problems. "A farm or ranch can be replaced, a family cannot!"

District 3 hosted a number of events to give Farm Bureau and community members a chance to meet new people and do something fun off of the farm. District 3 YFA held the second annual Southwest Shindig at the Grant County Fairgrounds on March 24, where the band, Black Water Gin, performed. We had cornhole and other games for people to play. Thank you to those who planned a county or district event. Those experiences make an impact on the members who attended more than you know.

I encourage YFA members to consider applying for either the Excellence in

Agriculture Award or Achievement Award. Applications can be found online at www.wfbf.com and are due **July 9**. The state winners of these awards will compete at the 2019 AFBF National Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. If you have questions about the application process or need assistance, please contact me or District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle.

Also, make sure to mark your calendar for the District 3 Discussion Meet on **August 27** at Kieler Farms in Platteville. Do you like discussing important and relevant agriculture issues? Join us. The night will start with a tour of Kieler Farms, followed by dinner and the Discussion Meet. All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend. The district contest question is: **As the Voice of Agriculture, how can Farm Bureau be more inclusive of all agriculture and production practices? This includes, but is not limited to, women in agriculture, organic production, fresh produce, forestry and aquaculture.**

I hope to see you at one of the many YFA events this summer.

Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 YFA Representative



Grant County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Update



Jenna Parrish was named the Grant County winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

She is a fourth grade student in Ms. Nelson's class at Fennimore Elementary School.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.'

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. This contest is open to Wisconsin fourth and fifth grade students.

A total of 2,564 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and We Energies.

Jenna's winning essay **Threshing Machine**

The first threshing methods involved beating grain with a flail, or trampling it with animal hooves. The first threshing machine was powered by horses. Improvements were made to the original machine in the late 1800s. In about 1890, the power changed from horses and mules to steam engines.

In the first stage, bundles of grain and straw were pitched into the feeder (or hopper). The feeder controlled the rate of feed passing into the machine to prevent overloading. In reality, the rate at which the bundles were pitched into the hopper probably had more effectiveness than the hopper itself.

In the second stage, the separator, a rapidly rotating set of blades (visible at the end of the feeder), first tore the bundles apart, breaking the twine and snapping heads from the straw, then beats the straw heads onto a grooved plate, knocking kernels from the heads without crushing them. The straw then passed over a straw rack that removed most of the straw from the kernels. Whatever passes through fell onto a series of progressively smaller shaking screens, removing most of the remaining straw and chaff from the kernels.

In the third stage, the cleaner, kernels passed through the last screen were moved over a stream of air that blew straw and chaff away. The cleaned kernels then fall into a hopper to be elevated to a measuring device before being dumped into sacks or conveyed to a granary. The straw and chaff were blown out onto the straw stack by a larger, stronger blower. They might not use the same stages today as I listed but they still use the threshing machine.

Grant County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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| President, Peter Winch | 608.822.7806 |
| Vice President, Allen Johnson | 608.348.7144 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Jaclyn Bevan | 608.732.4251 |
| Women's Chair, Charisse Orth | 608.778.9049 |
| YFA Co-Chair, Paige Hampton | 608.778.8052 |
| YFA Co-Chair, Jackie Seelow | 608.632.1714 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Director, Matt Adrian | 608.348.2391 |
| Director, Josh Bailie | 608.778.4498 |
| Director, Jennifer Digman | 608.744.3357 |
| Director, Jason Heberlein | 608.533.3233 |
| Director, Larry Jerrett | 608.723.2395 |
| Director, Richard Johnson | 608.348.7144 |
| Director, Derek Orth | 608.778.9049 |
| Director, Andrew Puetz | 608.778.6886 |
| Director, Katie Roth | 608.482.3200 |

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| Grant County Farm Bureau | 888.644.8368 |
| WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder | 608.987.3424 |
| WFBF Promotion and Education, Katie Roth | 608.482.3200 |
| WFBF YFA Committee, Tammy Wiedenbeck | 608.723.2382 |
| District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle | 608.515.3123 |
| RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer | 866.355.7343 |

Volunteer at the Grant County Fair Food Stand

Grant County Farm Bureau is looking for volunteers to help at the county fair food stand. We appreciate any help you can give.



To sign up for a shift, please contact Larry or Lori Jerrett at 608.723.2395 or visit the Grant County Farm Bureau web page at wfbf.com/about/counties/grant and click on the food stand volunteer sign-up link.

Save the Date: Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors invites members to join them at the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

When: Tuesday, September 25, 7 p.m.
Where: Grant County Youth and Ag Building

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with additional meeting details and RSVP information.

Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting on **Tuesday, August 28**, at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at the Grant County Farm Bureau Building.



To learn more about the grassroots policy development process and issues of interest, please visit wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.