



# Iowa County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**  
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY  
**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND  
LOYALTY!




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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### District Promotion & 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.

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](http://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

#### 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

## 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  
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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.**





# COUNTYnews

IOWA 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.



Iowa County Farm Bureau helped at the 4-H Farm Gard event that was held at the Leix Family Dairy Farm on May 14. More than 50 Iowa-Grant fourth grade students attended. Members led an activity titled 'Snacking Around Wisconsin' where students made a snack mix of products sourced from Wisconsin.



The Iowa County Ag in the Classroom program has been out in full force this spring. Krista Dolan visited several area elementary schools to read the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who!" Livia Doyle visited the Mineral Point Public Library for the story-hour program. She read a book titled, "Pancakes, Pancakes!" by Eric Carle, and talked about the ingredients used to make pancakes and the connection to agriculture. Melissa Doyle and Jackie McCarville presented at the library after-school program. The activities involved learning about the planting and growing process and the many food products that come from Wisconsin.



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.

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## President's Message



*"The farmer has to be an optimist or they wouldn't still be a farmer." Will Rogers*

During this busy time of year, we see the need for optimism in agriculture. In addition to the busyness of getting

crops in and hay out, we know the dairy industry is facing challenging times.

As Farm Bureau members, we have the opportunity to contribute to the conversations about our industry. I am proud to lead the Iowa County Farm Bureau.

During challenging times, your board is not only optimistic, but also proactive. Your county board has been in communication with the WFBF board to encourage collaborative communication with WFBF members and other leaders in the dairy industry.

Thanks to the grassroots structure of our organization, we each have the opportunity to meaningfully impact policy and conversation. We invite you to join us for the Iowa County

Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting on **July 24** in Dodgeville at the Dodger Bowl.

Current WFBF policy can be found online at [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) under the 'Policy' tab. If you want to learn more about the issues facing agriculture on the national level, visit AFBF Issues at [www.fb.org](http://www.fb.org).

Have a safe summer.

**Adam Heisner**  
Iowa 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

## Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Update



Roan Carey, a fifth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary, was selected as this year's District 3 and Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner.

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 across the state.

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

**Congratulations Roen.**

### *Roan's winning essay* **Advancements in Technology for Farmers**

*Did you know that farmers do a lot of work without technology? Some farmers do not know that technology is getting more complex and could be very helpful. Farmers use technology to improve their efficiency, since they need to handle the increase in the need for food. Farmers also have to deal with the increasing cost for food. Advances in technology will help farmers continue to make a living.*

*Drones help farmers in many different ways. Drones are affordable for farmers. Drones find information on soil. Drones help farmers be more efficient with their use of water and fertilizer. Drones help farmers by going to places that the farmer needs to check. The farmer does not even need to move, all they have to do is fly their drone there.*

*Automated milking is another advancement in technology for farmers. Automated milking is helpful because the farmer does not have to be present when the milking takes place. Automated milking helps lower labor costs for farmers. Automated milking is cleaner than the farmer milking the cows themselves. Automated milking prevents over milking cows as well.*

*Automated tractors are examples of advancement in technology in farming. Automated tractors are faster and more efficient than the farmer driving the tractor. Automated tractors can plant and harvest crops. Automated tractors can save on labor costs. Automated tractors are becoming more affordable.*

*These technologies, and many others, will help farmers across the globe keep up with the increasing population, since the increase in population brings an increase in the need to feed them. Technologies will help countries that lack farming resources, making them more able to feed their population. Lastly, technology will help the ecosystem by maintaining the soil for the future production of food, helping future generations survive.*

## Iowa County Ag Promotions Update

May and June are fun months for the promotion and education sector of Iowa County Farm Bureau ... Beef Month and Dairy Month back to back. In May, we sponsored, District 3 Coordinator Melissa Doyle to speak on a couple local radio stations to promote the beef industry. We also helped at the 4-H Farm Gard event that was at the Leix Family Dairy Farm.

Looking ahead, Iowa County Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year on **Sunday, July 8**. A variety of activities are planned, beginning with a display of fireworks on Saturday night. Sunday will kick off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, a live auction, displays and food at Harris Park.



Farmers Appreciation Day has truly become a community tradition in Iowa County. Not only does the event show our appreciation for farmers and agricultural businesses, but it also serves as an excellent opportunity to promote and educate the general public about the agricultural industry.

We hope many of you will join us for this special celebration of agriculture.

For more information and a detailed schedule of the event, please visit [www.farmersappreciationday.com](http://www.farmersappreciationday.com). Have a wonderful and safe summer.

**Kayla Anderson**  
Iowa County Ag Promotions committee chair

## 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](http://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



## Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

The Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members have been busy during the past few months.

In February, Iowa County YFA hosted a bowling night at Tower Junction. Members from around the district attended, and a great time was had by all.

The second annual Southwest Shindig was held March 24 at the Grant County Fairgrounds. Black Water Gin provided music, and food and beverages for purchase thanks to Vesperman Farms. There were lots of snacks for everyone donated by local businesses. There was a great turnout and everyone had a lot of fun.

Recently, we used the money from the Iowa County annual



meeting silent auction to purchase books for the Upland Hills Health Birthing Unit. This year the donated book was titled, "Colorful World: Farm." Families with newborn babies at Upland Hills will receive a copy of the book to take home.

In June, the Iowa County YFA members are traveling to Madison for the annual Madison Mallards game outing.

If you have any questions about YFA or want to know how to get more involved, please contact me.

Have a fun and safe summer.

**Jackie McCarville**  
Iowa County YFA Committee Chair

## Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder 608.987.3424  
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Katie Roth 608.482.3200  
WFBF YFA Chair, Tammy Wiedenbeck 608.723.2382  
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer 608.515.3123

## Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting

Mark your calendar for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting on **Tuesday, July 24**, at 7 p.m. The event will be held at the Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be provided.

**SAVE** the **DATE**

To learn more about the grassroots policy development process and issues of interest, visit [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) and click on the 'Policy' tab.

## Iowa County Annual Meeting

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

**When:** Thursday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.  
**Where:** Hi Point Steakhouse, Ridgeway

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

## Scholarship Winners Announced

Iowa County Farm Bureau is proud to award five deserving students with scholarships.

Congratulations to Kathryn Fitzsimmons, Austin Heisner and Martina Steffes all from Mineral Point; Seth Watrud of Dodgeville; and Megan Wienkes of Highland.

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on these young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and of course, growing the food we eat.

We wish them the best of luck as they pursue careers in the agriculture industry.

