



Jackson County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Mark Your Calendar! District Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting

Join us for the District 4 YFA Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting.

Tuesday, July 24 • 7 p.m.
Sand Creek Brewery
320 Pierce Street
Black River Falls.

Any member ages 18-35 is eligible to compete in the Discussion Meet. The question to be discussed 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."

The discussion meet handbook can be found at bit.ly/DMHandbook18

Following the discussion meet will be the District Policy Development Meeting. Any individual or county wishing to propose a resolution to be considered during the 2018 policy development process is encouraged to attend.

The schedule for the evening includes:

- 6:30 p.m. – Discussion Meet Registration
- 7:00 p.m. – District Discussion Meet
- 8:00 p.m. – Policy Development Meeting

For questions or if interested in competing in the YFA Discussion Meet, please contact District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson, at colson@wfbf.com or 715.896.4526 or District 4 YFA Representative Rosli Bragger at rbragger7@gmail.com or 715.530.2526.



(From left) Jody Wilhelm, Rosli Bragger and Emily Herness discussed an agricultural topic during the 2017 District 4 Discussion Meet.

Mark Your Calendars for JCFB's Annual Meeting

You and your family are cordially invited to attend Jackson County Farm Bureau's annual meeting on **Sunday, September 23** at Steve and Pat Kling's Party Barn, W15300 Relyea Lane, Taylor.

The meal will begin at noon with the meeting to follow. The meeting is potluck style, so please bring a dish to pass. Meat, beverages and paper products will be provided.

This is a child-friendly event and open to all voting members, so please bring your families.

For any questions or to RSVP by September 22, please contact Steve Kling at 715.662.5053.



Matt Stuessel addressed members during the 2017 Jackson County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



COUNTYnews

JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Ponterio Receives JCFB Scholarship

By Savannah Brown



Victor Ponterio of Melrose was selected as the 2018 recipient of the Jackson County Farm Bureau Scholarship.

The Jackson County Farm Bureau scholarship was established to support the youth of our county's members in their post-secondary education. Victor Ponterio is the first to receive the scholarship and plans to attend UW-Stevens Point to study wild land fire science in the fall.

Victor grew up on his family's dairy farm in Melrose. He helps with the newborn calves, milks cows, sweeps mangers, and feeds cows and calves. Victor has been active in many school activities such as: football (Honorable Mention All- State Kicker), soccer, basketball, band, Student Council, Drama and FFA. Victor also has been especially active in ag-related events such as: Melrose Satellites 4-H Club, 4-H Small Animal Auction, Jackson County Fair Ice Cream and Food Stand, FFA's Food for America, Jackson County Dairy Breakfast clean-up crew and helped host the 2009 Jackson County Dairy Breakfast.

Jackson County Farm Bureau wants to thank all the applicants for applying!

WFBF Seeks Rural Route Photos

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members live and work in some of the most beautiful places. In Rural Route, WFBF wants to highlight those sights.



Please email your photos (high resolution jpgs, 4x6 inches at 300 dpi) to lsiekmann@wfbf.com.

Briseno Wins JCFB's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Brisha Briseno is Jackson County Farm Bureau's essay contest winner. Brisha is the daughter of Carlos and Jenny Briseno and was in Megan Bradshaw's fourth grade class at Melrose-Mindoro Elementary. This year's essay topic was "Inventions that have made agriculture great."

The essay contest coincides with the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2018 Book of the Year, "John Deere, That's Who" by Tracy Nelson Maurer. The book and essay topic allowed students to learn about inventions and the important role they play in agriculture.



(From left) Kathy Sampson presented Brisha Briseno and her teacher, Megan Bradshaw, with the JCFB Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest award with AITC Coordinator, Darby Sampson.

Rural Mutual Insurance Donates to Friends Sharing Food



(As printed in the Banner Journal) Friends Sharing Food (FSF) volunteers Kathleen Peterson (left) and John Warmke (right) accepted a check for \$650 from Rural Mutual Insurance agent, Barbara Brueggen, of Taylor. Brueggen explained Rural Mutual Insurance hosts two food drives each year, one in the spring and another in the fall. The recent spring food drive resulted in 20 to 25 agents from five Rural Mutual Insurance districts rallying together to raise the donation presented to FSF.

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Farmers Voice Questions and Concerns Over Elk Reintroduction

(As published by WEAU-13 News) The Jackson County Farm Bureau hosted a forum March 8 on the elk reintroduction project.

For the past two decades, the Wisconsin DNR and other agencies have been working to bring elk back to the state.

Now in the thick of the project, some farmers say it is costing them their livelihoods.

“What we’re seeing is a lot of winter damage, we’re seeing to our crops. We’re also seeing a lot of summer damage to hay, corn and beans. Not enough to stop you from farming, but as this herd grows and stays in our area it will eventually



Elk were reintroduced into Jackson County in 2015. There are currently 56 elk in the Jackson County herd, with a projected goal of 390 elk.

stop the crop farming in our township,” said Farmer Scott Goetzka.

Currently there are 56 elk in Jackson County.

Around half of that population is living on private property.

While farmers can collect damages if crops are destroyed by elk, they say it is not enough.

Goetzka says representatives from the DNR, USDA and other agencies have been very forward and cooperative, but there still needs to be someone held accountable.

“I think it’s what you would call a feel-good program, but

nobody has yet offered to pay me thousands of dollars a year out of their families income like we’re being asked to do, me and my neighbors, to sustain these elk,” he said.

The DNR knew there were going to be challenges.

“Certainly, we knew the potential was there, however we do have tools to address crop damage now and moving into the future and we’ll adapt our management strategy with these elk as we learn more and as we go forward,” said DNR Wildlife Biologist for Jackson County Scott Roepke.

Both sides say while this can be a controversial topic, it is good to have an open dialogue to hear questions and concerns.

The goal for the DNR is to get 390 elk in Jackson County, or enough to have a sustainable herd.

Elk have also been re-introduced in Clam Lake in northern Wisconsin.

Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Class XII By Erica Olson, Jackson County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

Last year, Cassie approached me about applying for the Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Class. At first I was not sure if the Leadership Institute would be for me, but now after attending the first three sessions I am so glad that I applied and got accepted into the program. Savannah Brown, a fellow Jackson County Farm Bureau member, and I are in the Leadership Institute Class XII together and I think we can both say it has been a very positive, fun experience.

Savannah says, “My favorite part about the leadership institute so far has been gaining new friendships with other Farm Bureau members in the state as we become stronger leaders for agriculture.”

The Farm Bureau Leadership Institute is a year-long premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. There are six leadership sessions throughout the course of a year that cover

a wide variety of topics including media training, public speaking, building trust and legislation to name a few.

Our Leadership Institute Class will conclude next June with a trip to Washington, D.C., putting all our skills obtained through the year together to speak with members of congress on Capitol Hill about issues facing agriculture. It can be hard to find optimism in the agricultural industry during tough times, which is why it is important to have strong leaders sharing their stories and passion for agriculture.

I encourage anyone looking to build their confidence to apply for the Leadership Institute. I have already found that I am becoming more confident in myself as I volunteer for new opportunities I would not have before. Being a member of the Leadership Institute Class XII has been a very influential experience for me and I am grateful I was encouraged to get out of my comfort zone and apply.



Erica Olson and Savannah Brown are two of the 15 members in the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII. Olson and Brown will complete their year-long training in December before traveling to Washington, D.C., in June 2019.

Look for Jackson County Farm Bureau at the Fair!

We are proud to sponsor the Outstanding Farm Family Award again this year at the Jackson County Fair. Also look for Farm Bureau members clerking the auction, serving the meal after the livestock auction and dairy basket silent auction as well as coordinating the exhibitor scavenger hunt.



Winners from the 2017 scavenger hunt received buckets with donated items from local area agricultural businesses.



The 2017 Outstanding Farm Family Award was presented to Kim and Frank Ponterio of Melrose. To nominate a family for the award, submit an application found inside the Jackson County Fair book.

YFA Contests - Apply Now!

Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are eligible for the Achievement Award, Discussion Meet and the Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Achievement Award

The Achievement Award recognizes participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on-farm production for the past three years.

Excellence in Ag Award

The Excellence in Agriculture Award recognizes participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must not have derived a majority of their income from a farm (that they own) for the past three years.

Applications and resources can be found at

<http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests>.

Deadline to apply is July 9.

Celebrating National Ag Day with Melrose and Mindoro Elementary Schools

National Ag Day was celebrated March 20 at the Melrose and Mindoro Elementary Schools. Students kicked off the morning by listening to ag-related books read by guests from the community with careers related to agriculture. The guests also shared how their jobs help farmers. Each class also ate lunch

with area farmers. More than 20 farmers visited the schools to eat with students and chat with them about how the food on their plates is grown and to tell them a little about their own farms.



Be a part of the 2019 Leadership Institute by applying today!

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long leadership development program to help you become a strong and effective leader. With six different sessions, you can network with Farm Bureau members and industry leaders and take your personal and professional leadership development to the next level. This program is open to ALL Wisconsin Farm Bureau voting members.

wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute
APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 15

★ **WANTED:** ★

First Time Attendees

Join us for the 2018 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference November 30-December 2 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Never attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference? Now is your chance to experience this conference for **FREE!** You will network, learn and have fun with engaging speakers, educational workshops, contests and more.

If you are a first-time attendee, Rural Mutual Insurance will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. Registration fee includes registrant meals, workshop sessions and entertainment. **BUT HURRY!** This sponsorship is limited to 50 individuals/couples! Complete the short application by August 15 at <http://bit.ly/RuralSponsor18>

REWARD
Qualify for Cash - Refer A Friend

Any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee who is accepted for sponsorship and attends the event will qualify for a \$100 cash award.

★  ★

Jackson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Steven Kling	715.662.5053
Vice President, Chris Curran	715.662.5500
Secretary/Treasurer, Nate Kling	715.662.2600
Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
YFA Chair, Erica Olson	715.299.2678
Director, Savannah Brown	715.896.8780
Director, Norman Johnson	715.284.2390
Director, Brady Laufenberg	715.533.0846
Director, Leonard Olson	715.284.7180
Director, Will Prindle	715.896.2631
Director, Alan Sampson	715.797.5031
Director, Ryan Sawyer	715.396.1021
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
WFBF YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409 715.630.4801
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

Jackson County Farm Bureau Members Kick Off June Dairy Month



Jackson County Farm Bureau members (from left) Violet Goodwin, Savannah Brown and Erica Olson (not pictured) handed out cheese samples to customers at Hansen's IGA in Black River Falls on Thursday, May 31. The members promoted the Jackson County Dairy breakfast as a part of Savannah's Farm Bureau Leadership Institute advocacy project.



Jackson County Farm Bureau director, Nate Kling, and his family – wife, Karen, and their children (from left) Justin, Grace and Jacob – hosted the 37th Annual Jackson County Dairy breakfast on Saturday, June 2. The breakfast brought in 1,755 total visitors. Congratulations, Nate and Karen!