





# COUNTYnews

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## 2018 Monroe County Farm Bureau Essay Contest Winner Announced

The essay contest 2018 winner for Monroe County is MaKenna Roose, daughter of Lisa and Mark Roose of Tomah. MaKenna is a student of Kristine Gerke at La Grange School in Tomah.

The topic for this year was, 'Inventions that have made agriculture great.' There were 54 essays turned in from La Grange Elementary.

The winner was presented a certificate, a \$10 monetary award and

a can of one of Farm Bureau's nut products. MaKenna also will be presented with a plaque at the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting at Jack Herricks' farm in Cashton.

The other students were presented a certificate of participation. Other teachers that participated in the contest were Karen Gerken and Lindsey Guenther. Thank you to those involved in educating students about agriculture.



Mrs. Gerke's students received certificates of participation in the essay contest.



Peggy Wright, Monroe County Farm Bureau's Essay Contest chairperson, presents MaKenna Roose with the essay contest award.

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**96TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

**CANDIDATE FORUM**

**MONDAY, JULY 23**

— VIROQUA VFW | 7:00PM —

Join Crawford, Monroe & Vernon County Farm Bureaus to hear the candidates weigh in on key issues facing the agriculture industry.

GENERAL PUBLIC WELCOME  
SNACKS & REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

## Farm Bureau Member Sign Sales Ending in 2018

Are you looking for ways to spruce up your farm yard or display your Farm Bureau membership?



These single-sided 18" by 24" aluminum all-weather signs are ideal for indoor or outdoor use and can be personalized with up to 14 characters per line.

The cost is \$45 per sign and orders received will be processed by group at the end of each month. With each sign purchased, \$5 is contributed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation to support agricultural education and agricultural leadership programs in Wisconsin.

Member sign order forms can be found at [wfbf.com/foundation/farm-signs](http://wfbf.com/foundation/farm-signs) or contact Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).

## Vice President's Message



Our spring is filled with activity. School activities of field trips, band concerts, softball games and track meets collide with farming activities and community service opportunities. I often fall into bed exhausted. Sound familiar?

At a recent sporting event, my daughter's team didn't qualify for the next round of competition. It was a huge disappointment and caused a few days of sadness in our usually happy home. In times like these, I usually say little. It's part of growing up, and we can all look back on times of disappointment and see how it often turned out for our good. My only words of wisdom were, "Sometimes happiness is

not based on success. It's a result of learning to be content with your own circumstances. There's always something to be thankful for."

As I prepared to write this article, I thought of my daughter's disappointment in light of the difficult times that agriculture is facing. Farmers across the landscape are struggling with disappointments that low prices and difficult weather patterns bring. Some are even facing the loss of a market for their product. It's hard to be thankful in times like these. But it's imperative.

Our children watch and learn by our example. Just as my daughter's failure became a life lesson, so our struggles will serve us as well. So, you ask, "What is there to be thankful for?" The answer is different for each of us. For some it is health and ability to work, for others it's family and good neighbors.

This time of year is still filled with the excitement of new life as beef calves dot our hillsides and seed is buried in hopes of a bumper crop. And if you are receiving this newsletter, you are probably part of the Farm Bureau team.

Just as I reminded her that day, "Sometimes joy is not found in a victory, but in the hunt when you are truly unified as one with your team ... all working together."

May I remind you that as a Farm Bureau member, you too are part of the Farm Bureau team, and there's certainly joy in that. And for that, I am thankful.

Sincerely,

**Dawn Powell**  
Monroe County Farm Bureau vice president



## 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](http://wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute)  
**APPLICATIONS DUE AUGUST 15**

## Not Your Ordinary Pet

By J. M. Wells, Monroe County Farm Bureau director

When most people think of pets, they more than likely are speaking about a cat, dog, fish or random reptile.

The last weekend of July in Tomah is a great place to find many youths with what one might consider a unique animal as a pet. The Monroe County Fair just might be one of the county's biggest highlights of the year for many people; starting with a free gate on Wednesday July 25. You and your family can witness these pets for yourselves.

If you want to see the exhibits in action, the dog show is on Wednesday at 5 p.m. Thursday includes a beef show starting at 9 a.m. and the sheep show to follow at 4 p.m. Friday the dairy opens with a 9 a.m. start preceding the pig show at 4 p.m. and the championship rodeo in the grandstand. Saturday night holds the livestock auction at 7 p.m. along with Motokazie Motocross in the grandstand. Sunday, also a free gate, has the fun exciting Ag Olympics (for all ages) at 11 a.m. along with the draft horse show.

But there are many more things to see than animals. Arts and crafts, photography, tractor exhibits and a carnival might also catch your fancy along with some great fair food.

For more information, visit [www.monroecountyfairwi.com](http://www.monroecountyfairwi.com) or follow them on Facebook. See you at the Monroe County Fair.

## Monroe County Dairy Breakfast



Monroe County Farm Bureau director, Scott Schmitz, serves up pancakes during the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast on June 2.

## 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

### Travel

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

For complete details visit [wfbf.com/benefits-membership](http://wfbf.com/benefits-membership).

## District Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting Scheduled



(from left) Jody Wilhelm, Rosli Bragger and Emily Hernesh share a discussion during the 2017 District 4 Discussion Meet.

Join us for the District 4 YFA Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting starting at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 24**, at Sand Creek Brewery, 320 Pierce Street, Black River Falls.

Any member ages from 18 to 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](http://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 p.m. - District Discussion Meet  
8 p.m. - Policy Development Meeting

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

## Monroe County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jack Herricks	608.654.7740
Vice President, Dawn Powell	608.823.7380
Secretary & Treasurer, Miranda Leis	608.654.5524
Promotion & Education Chair Kathy Schmitz	608.269.7031
YFA Chair, James Herricks	608.386.8936
Director, Al Ferries	608.823.7400
Director, Karen Leis	608.269.7052
Director, Scott Schmitz	608.269.2058
Director, Jim Van Wychen	608.378.4813
Director, J.M. Wells	608.366.1011
Monroe County Farm Bureau	888.377.0296
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 Promotion and Education Chair Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	715.515.3123

## Save the Date: Monroe County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Sunday, August 12**, at Jack and Pat Herricks Dairy Farm, 12130 Highway 33, in Cashton.

Social hour will begin at 11 a.m., with the meal beginning at 12 noon. The meal is potluck style, with pulled pork, sweet corn and ice cream provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to pass.

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

SAVE the  
DATE

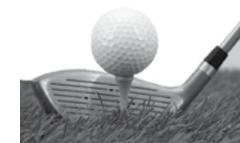
## Wisconsin Ag Open Details

Hosted by the WFB Foundation, the 2018 Wisconsin Ag Open will be held on **Monday, September 10**, at Christmas Mountain Village in Wisconsin Dells.

All proceeds from the golf outing will support the WFB Foundation education and leadership programs such as Ag in the Classroom, 4-H, FFA, WFBF Leadership Institute and Young Farmer and Agriculturist activities.

Registration is \$125 and includes 18 holes of golf with cart, box lunch, appetizers, contests and door prizes. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$50 to \$1,500.

For information, contact Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).



## Did You Know ...

- In Monroe county, agriculture accounts for \$1.05 billion in economic activity.
- Agriculture contributes \$279 million to the Monroe County's total income.
- Agriculture provides jobs for 4,662 Monroe County residents.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
**Young Farmer  
and Agriculturist**  
Program

## CONTESTS

### ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and a majority of your income is derived from production agriculture, this award is for you!

### EXCELLENCE IN AG

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and are an agricultural enthusiast but have not earned a majority of your income from an owned production agriculture enterprise, this award is for you!

Applications & resources can be found at <http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests>. Deadline to apply is July 9.



Contests  
Awards