



Trempealeau County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau needs you. Trempealeau County Farm Bureau will once again be selling shakes during the Trempealeau County Fair, **July 19 to 22.**

Funds raised from the shake stand help support Trempealeau County Farm Bureau's program funding and donations to youth organizations throughout the year.

Sign up for one of the following shifts by contacting the shift leader listed below:

Wednesday
4 p.m., to close Shane Goplin 715.533.4218

Thursday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Amber Radatz 608.317.0001
4 p.m. to close Mandy Speerstra 715.533.2360

Friday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crystal Johnson 406.480.0729
4 p.m. to close Brian Maliszewski 715.530.1107

Saturday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kyle Nilsestuen 608.799.1688
4 p.m. to close Kyle Nilsestuen 608.799.1688

Sunday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bruce Prudlick 715.695.3446
4 p.m. to close Bruce Prudlick 715.695.3446

www.trempealeaucountyfair.com



IGNITE Your Farm Bureau By Amber Radatz, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau director

In early April, Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted a brand new conference in Stevens Point called the IGNITE Conference.

The conference featured guest speakers from all over the U.S., and four workshop tracks for members to receive training on different topic areas.

The topic areas included: policy, issues and advocacy, building Farm Bureau, communicating for agriculture and Farm Bureau and governance and organization.

With nearly 200 Farm Bureau members in attendance, this was a great opportunity for networking and learning about successful efforts from other counties.



Members from across District 4 attended the IGNITE Conference, April 5-6, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point.

In addition to hosting a session of my own, I attended sessions on Thursday and felt motivated and engaged when I left. There are so many great ideas and resources within Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and staff.

Everyone that I spoke with felt similarly-that this was a great use of time and a great new conference option for members and directors throughout the state.

This conference will be offered every other year, so mark your calendar for 2020.





COUNTYnews

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Brinna Goplin Selected as District 4 Essay Contest Winner



Trempealeau County Ag In the Classroom coordinator Crystal Johnson (left) presented Brinna Goplin (right) with the District 4 essay contest award. Goplin also was selected as the Trempealeau County essay contest winner and was a finalist in the state essay contest.

Brinna Goplin, a fifth-grade student from Whitehall, is the District 4 finalist in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

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

Each year, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. The contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students across the state. This year's state winner was Isaiah Claussen, a fourth-grade student at Denmark Elementary in Brown County.

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

The finalist from each of Wisconsin Farm Bureau's nine districts received a certificate, educational resources for the teacher and a presentation about Wisconsin agriculture for his or her class.

This year's finalists include:

- District 1:** Kyla Weber, Allenton Elementary, Washington County
- District 2:** Andrew Harms, Watertown Catholic School, St. Henry, Dodge County
- District 3:** Roen Carey, Mineral Point Elementary, Iowa County
- District 4:** Brinna Goplin, Whitehall Elementary, Trempealeau County
- District 5:** Dylan Thomas, Omro Elementary, Winnebago County
- District 6:** Isaiah Claussen, Denmark Elementary, Brown County
- District 7:** Olivia Bowers, St. Martin Lutheran School, Waupaca County
- District 8:** Logan Welsh, Multum Non Multa Academy, Taylor County
- District 9:** Ellie Schiszik, Elk Mound Elementary, Dunn County

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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.

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.



Order forms can be found at wfbf.com/foundation/farm-signs or contact Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.

President's Message – Next Year Will Be Different



All we know is that next year will be different. We don't know if it is going to be better or worse, but that it will be different.

As I write this, most of the farmers throughout the county are wrapping up spring planting, while trying to keep up with spraying and, oh, by the way, first crop needs to be harvested, as well.

This spring has proven to have a whole new batch of challenges. As I said, we are finishing planting, but as I look back, we are only five weeks removed from 10 plus inches of snow, and in that five weeks, we went from snow to 95 degree days. Welcome to Wisconsin.

Even though the weather and markets are challenging most farmers at this time, which seems like a broken record, as it seems to have been a while since we have been able to enjoy

some comfortable returns on our time and investments. The next obstacle that we are facing is our dire need to improve our infrastructure.

I'll be the first to admit that when it doesn't affect you personally, it is easy to turn a blind eye on how bad our infrastructure is until it does affect you personally.

We live in one of the more scenic areas around our country, which means that we have that much more need to keep up with the proper maintenance of our local roads and bridges. I have heard reports that nearly 50 bridges in Trempealeau County have been de-rated to less than 80,000 pound load rating.

This is already a huge issue but is only going to get worse if we cannot find some money to allocate to fix and maintain our local roads and bridges. Once we get behind on this, it is going to be much harder to catch up again.

As we are in campaign season, I would ask you to talk with the people running for office what their position on fixing our infrastructure is. It is starting to get some more attention as of late. When I started talking about this topic, it felt like it

was falling on deaf ears. But just in the last couple weeks, our story has been told in newspapers around the state, we were mentioned on Wisconsin Public Radio and I did an interview with a gentleman from Florida. But one voice is not enough, we need to keep the momentum going.

We are going to be faced with some tough decisions about how we can dig ourselves out of this hole. Do we need to raise our gas tax? Do we need to start putting a tax on off-road fuel? Increase our sales tax? These are some of the ideas being passed around. None of them sound very attractive, especially given our current ag economy, but we need to do something.

On the national level, they have been talking about fixing our locks and dams infrastructure for years, but there has been little done to improve them yet either.

I have said that the biggest advantage the U.S. has over South America is our infrastructure. But this may not be the case if things do not change.

Shane Goplin
Trempealeau County Farm Bureau President

District 4 Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

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.

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.



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

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

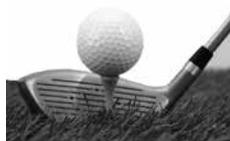
For questions or if you are interested in competing in the Discussion Meet, please contact District 4 Coordinator Cassie Olson at colson@wfbf.com or 715.896.4526 or District 4 YFA Representative Rosli Bragger at rbragger7@gmail.com or 715.530.2526.

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.

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.



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

What a Ride: My experience with WFBF's Leadership Institute

By **Shane Goplin**, Trempealeau County Farm Bureau President

As some of you may know, I was a part of Class XI in the WFBF Leadership Institute; I honestly don't even know where to start on this one.

I should probably start with the person who pushed me to apply in the first place. Steve Boe had been trying to talk me into applying for a few years while he was the District 4 Coordinator. He called me one day and told me that he really thought I should apply.

"Steve, I am going to have to give a speech ... in front of people!" was my reply.

He told me I could do it and that this would be a great opportunity. I did not at the time, but I truly thank him for pushing me to apply.

I met my amazing class members. I would never have imagined how it would be possible to make such a strong connection with people in such a short amount of time. Some of them I still keep in contact with on a daily basis through social media. Yes, you read that right, social media.

We had people in the class that ranged from their early 20s to a gentle giant of a man, Reuben, who was in his mid-70s. It was such a diverse group that came together; truly amazing.

Then there are the outstanding people at Wisconsin Farm Bureau. I have been involved with Farm Bureau long enough to have met most of the people involved in making the Leadership Institute such a great opportunity for members throughout the state. But until I was involved in the class, it was then that I realized the great talent we have at our home office in Madison as well as the American Farm Bureau staff in Washington, D.C.

I knew it would be challenging, but I figured it would help me become a

better leader for our county Farm Bureau. As it ended up, it was the hardest thing I ever loved. They had a way of finding our strengths before we knew they even existed.

One story I want to share is from when we had our meeting in La Crosse last spring. We were given different assignments to complete during the summer. As I walked back to my chair and read the note card that awaited me, I literally sank.

It said something to the effect of, "Reach out to a local TV news station and do a news story regarding farm safety on the roadways." I went over to Wendy Kannel and Amy Eckleberg, who were responsible for my fate, and told them they had to be kidding.

"I can't do that!"

They assured me that I would be fine and that they already knew someone at Channel 18 out of Eau Claire that would make the whole process very easy. Needless to say, this did not calm my nerves.

So I asked them who this magical person was, who would be able to calm my nerves enough for me not to be shaking in my boots and stuttering every other word that came out of my mouth? They said her name is Kaitlyn Riley, she has a background in agriculture.

On a side note, yes, I did my first TV interview with the person who is now the 71st Alice in Dairyland.

I will say I was still very nervous, but she did a great job making me feel comfortable. I will forever cherish this experience that I was so scared of. Thank you for taking me out of my comfort zone and expanding my horizons.



Shane was one of fifteen members of WFBF's Leadership Institute Class XI. Shane traveled to D.C. this spring to meet with legislators on current agricultural issues.

about the greatest industry on Earth: agriculture.

I will say that I am still a bit nervous to get in front of a news camera. Having said that, it also has opened so many doors for me.

In March, we traveled to Washington, D.C., to speak to our representatives about important issues facing agricultures, including trade, dairy policy and immigration. Where else could a farm kid from northern Trempealeau County be able to talk with Congressmen, U.S. Senators, state Senators, state Representatives as well as the Governor of Wisconsin. It truly was an awesome experience.

Thank you to my family and co-workers for supporting me when I was not able to be at home as much as I would have liked this past year. Even though the sessions are aimed to be held during the slower times of the year, we know there really is not a slow day on the farm and at home. Thank you to my family and Greg, who never skipped a beat when I was away and ran the farm seamlessly.

In the end, I want to thank you. Without the support of Trempealeau County Farm Bureau, this experience never could have happened. Some of the greatest people in this country are in Trempealeau County Farm Bureau. I am honored that you sponsored me in Farm Bureau Institute Class XI.

I encourage you to consider applying for a future WFBF Leadership Institute class.

To learn more about the WFBF Leadership Institute or to apply, visit bit.ly/WFBFLeadershipInstitute.

I can all but guarantee that you will find this to be such a rewarding opportunity.



Shane Goplin speaks with U.S. Representative, Ron Kind, about agricultural issues affecting him and his farm in Trempealeau County.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Shane Goplin	715.533.4218
Vice President, Brian Maliszewski	715.530.1107
Secretary/Treasurer, Amber Radatz	608.317.0001
YFA Chair, Mandy Speerstra	715.533.2360
Ag Promotions Chair, Crystal Johnson	406.480.0729
Director, Derek Husmoen	608.863.0105
Director, Kyle Nilsestuen	608.799.1688
Director, Bruce Prudlick	715.695.3446
Director, Annaliese Wegner	608.386.7820
Trempealeau County Farm Bureau	888.830.2573
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.985.2314
District 4 Promotion and Education Chair	
Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Managers,	
David Meihak	715.544.6824
Laurie Peterson	608.347.0383

Save the Date: Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, August 21**, beginning at 6 p.m. at Schroeder Park in Blair.

SAVE the **DATE**

The meal will begin at 6 p.m. with the meeting to follow. Come and hear from our animal grant recipients, hear about our events throughout the year and participate in our policy development discussion.

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

* **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.

*  *