



Vernon County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY
THANK YOU
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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner



Roen Cary, a fifth-grade student from Mineral Point, was named the District 3 winner of the Agriculture 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 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.

Register for the Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is hosting a bus tour in the Arcadia area on **July 24-25**. The cost is \$50 and opportunities for credit will be offered. Tour stops include: Pilgrim's Pride; Compeer Financial; Buck Country Grain; Arcadia High School Agriculture Department; Ecker's Apple Orchard; Suncrest Gardens Farm; Northern Family Farms, LLP; Superior Fish/Freshwater Family Farm; Harvest Home Farm and AMPI.

This annual tour is perfect for teachers of all grade levels and subject areas, Ag in the Classroom volunteers, UW-Extension and 4-H staff and others who want to learn about Wisconsin agriculture.

The tour is limited to 50 participants and the registration deadline is **July 1**.

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 Promotion and Education Program 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

VERNON 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. Those walking by the west lawn that afternoon could grab a walking taco, enjoy delicious Wisconsin made snacks, participate in sheep shearing demonstrations, visit farm animals, and learn more about Wisconsin agriculture.



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



Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted its first IGNITE Conference at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point. Attendees built 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 including: updates on the 2018 Farm Bill and trade, consumer outreach tactics, member recruitment and many more.

★ ★ ★

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

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President's Message



Hopefully the spring challenges are behind us and we are looking forward to a great summer. Higher milk and grain prices would help to put a smile on our faces.

As you and your families travel this summer, make sure to take advantage of your WFBF membership benefits. Visit the WFBF website for more details. Also, check out the many Farm Bureau activities planned for the summer.

The political ads will start in earnest after the

August 14 primary elections. Be sure to pay attention to which candidates WFBF endorses. WFBF takes this procedure very seriously and does a lot of homework on the candidates before they will endorse a candidate.

Then it's up to us to become involved and vote. Once again, agriculture faces challenges on the political front that we would not have envisioned just 10 years ago.

The political landscape is most certainly changing.

Make sure your voice is heard.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization. Each of you and your involvement is critical. Maybe more important now than ever before.

As always stay safe and stay informed.

Robert Nigh
Vernon County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director Report



No regrets. As wrote in my last newsletter article, I'm retiring from the Board of Direc-

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

True Leadership Doesn't Require A Title

By Andrew Dal Santo, WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII



Leadership: Are you born with it or molded into it?

Some say it's one or the other and some also say it's a mixture of both.

Whatever the case may be, a true leader does not need a title to make an impact.

of our group to do things you would never even imagine them doing.

I didn't understand it at the time, but what he was doing was leading us to be greater people and work for the bigger picture as we grew into the adults. This man led me from being that boy dreaming about becoming a farmer, to taking the steps to becoming the farmer on the tractor.

For those of you involved in clubs and organizations such as 4-H, don't think that you need a title to lead our future young farmers to do great things.

Leadership always presents itself to us in one fashion or another and I believe that agriculture is one of the greatest fields where leadership opportunities are presented to everyone, title or not.

I remember growing up on our small farm, looking out to our fields and dreaming of one day being the farmer out on the tractor with the lights beaming through the thick dust late at night.

Looking back at it now, 20 years later, there were so many people who may not have known it, but they led me to where I am today. And in some ways, I think all of us have those people.

Those people who pushed us, tested us, helped us achieve something greater than we thought we could reach at that time. For some it may have been the old woodshop teacher or the assistant coach, but for me there is a different person who stands out, an individual involved with my local 4-H group who led me to be the person I am today.

Surprisingly, it wasn't the traditional leaders of our group who I'm referring to. It wasn't the appointed leaders who drove me to work harder, to push myself to learn more and teach others. Looking back, it was the father of some of my best friends who turned out to be the leaders I never expected.

This man took time to understand what we needed, as individuals in our 4-H group, he sacrificed his time and opened his farms to teach us the passion, commitment and dedication within the agricultural field.

He never asked for anything in return. He never once asked for recognition but was always there to help. While other appointed leaders stood by the sidelines, this man took charge and got members

All you have to do is show them you're willing to understand them and guide them to ideas that they may not think of on their own. Taking the time to show up and give advice or direction is enough to push them to work harder and reach for bigger goals.

One day these kids will look back and understand what the bigger picture was and how unperceived leadership guided them to do more and share the bigger picture with others. One day they will come up to you with a handshake, a hug or a thank you for everything you did that went unnoticed, and that's the day you will know that leading without a title is one of the greatest fruits of your labor.

Andrew Dal Santo grew up on his family's 100-acre farm on the Wisconsin-Illinois state line in South Beloit, Illinois.

He was active in track and 4-H during high school and he earned his bachelor's degree in agricultural business with an emphasis in agricultural engineering and a minor in building construction management from UW-Platteville.

Andrew works for Reddy Ag and Ross Soil Service in southwest Wisconsin as a precision ag consultant. He has been involved with Wisconsin Farm Bureau for four years and takes part in discussion meets as well as other activities.

Andrew is a part of the WFBF Leadership Institute and looks forward to learning and growing within the organization and is excited for the opportunities that will come his way.

He also is working on expanding his Angus beef herd and hopes to one day, own his own bison herd.

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



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.



New Family-Fun Member Benefit Announced

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members can now take advantage of discounted tickets at Six Flags® Great America, an amusement park in Gurnee, Illinois.

Members will save nearly 40 percent off a regular admission ticket during the 2018 regular season. The discounted tickets are an added value of a Farm Bureau membership.

"We are excited to add this family-fun benefit to the lineup of discounts and offers already available to our members," Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Jim Holte said.

To learn more about the amusement park visit sixflags.com/greatamerica.

Members can get more information about the new benefit or learn more about other discounts and incentives by visiting wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.

Vernon County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Robert Nigh	608.689.2633
Vice President, Steve Wagemester	608.638.3187
Secretary/Treasurer, Scott Sherry	608.637.7440
YFA Chair, Alex Bringe	608.606.9182
Promotion and Education Chair, Dan Obert	608.489.3867
Director, Trent Erickson	608.606.9355
Director, Majja Haggith	360.303.7724
Director, Rod Ofte	608.452.2861
Vernon County Farm Bureau	888.830.2572
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
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	866.355.7343
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

VERNON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 18 | 6:30pm | Old Towne Inn, Westby

The Vernon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors invites all members to join them at this year's Vernon County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting! Watch your mailbox for a postcard with additional meeting details and RSVP information.



Do You Know?

- In Vernon County, agriculture contributes \$258 million to the county's total income.

* **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.

*  *