



# Dunn County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Platteville, WI 53818  
Permit No. 124



Rural Mutual Agents in Dunn Co:

Geof Liddle (715) 235-0616 Jeff White (715) 235-5656

Laurie Peterson, District Manager - (608) 347-0383

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### EXTending a Hand in Dunn County

By John Sippl, Dunn County NRCS District Conservationist

Precision agriculture technology is revolutionizing how farmers plan, implement and evaluate their operations.

NRCS and Pheasants Forever have been working in Wisconsin to help farmers and their advisers interpret their precision ag data and implement solutions to simultaneously improve their bottom line and boost wildlife populations.

After having successfully worked with a farmer-led watershed group in St. Croix County, Pheasants Forever biologists expanded the offer of EFC Solutions software (former AgSolver) to Dunn County watershed groups.

The demonstrations were offered through a grant from The McKnight Foundation and financial contributions from the local county Land and Water Conservation Departments.

Jeff Lake, who owns and operates a sixth generation family grain farm was the first one to implement the software. Working with NRCS and PF biologists, areas in fields were identified that had the potential to make big changes in ROI - return on investment.

Lake had already implemented much change in the past years, practicing no-till and cover crops on the entire farm and adding variable rate technology.

“Combining variable rate planting and results from the AgSolver software has allowed us to focus the right amount of resources on each area of our farm,” said Lake.

Lake takes care of the land and the critters that call it home. His family are big whitetail deer enthusiasts and have been working for bigger, healthier populations for more than 30 years.

Alternative management has benefited wildlife.

“We saw our best numbers of pheasants in years, this year. Our whitetails are doing great,” said Lake.

If you want more information on the products or services, please contact PF biologist Cody Tromberg at 715.684.2874 ext. 126; Scott Stipetich at 715.461.6023; or myself (Dunn County NRCS district conservationist) at 715.232.2614 ext. 3110.



## Dunn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

# Our Legacy

We invite you to come celebrate our Dunn County Farm Bureau year and take part in our annual business meeting ...

Tuesday, September 25

### TIME

- 6:30 p.m. - Social
- 7:30 p.m. - Dinner, followed by the business meeting

### LOCATION

Dean and Sue's Bar and Grill  
2002 Midway Road  
Menomonie, WI 5751

### COST

\$5 per person, free for new members.

### RSVP

By **September 20** to Carl Casper at 715.235.3323 or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 (call or text) or kmattison@wfbf.com.

### DETAILS

Join your friends and neighbors at the Dunn County Farm Bureau annual meeting where we will celebrate accomplishments, create policy for 2018, vote on directors for Dunn County Farm Bureau and elect delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Please plan on attending and let your voice be heard.

Door prizes will be awarded.

Stan Larson



# COUNTYnews

DUNN COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Policy Development: Grassroots Work at Its Best

Members from across northwestern Wisconsin came together for their voices to be heard on policy decisions at the District 9 Policy Development Meeting held in Menomonie at the Stout Ale House on August 1.

The purpose of the meeting was to develop resolutions that will be discussed and possibly proposed within each county Farm Bureau. WFBF President and District 9 Director Jim Holte as well as WFBF Executive Director of Government Relations Paul Zimmerman were on hand to assist with the discussion.

Nearly 70 members from Barron, Dunn, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer and St. Croix counties were in attendance.

Some of the topics that were included in policy discussion were dairy, UW-Extension, wildlife, fuel tax, CAFO permitting, agriculture markets, advocating for agriculture and food security.

As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin both in Madison and Washington, D.C.

This fall, Farm Bureau members across the state will be voting on resolutions that cover issues at county Annual Meetings and forwarding them on to be discussed at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

**Do you have a topic that you would like brought up? Either contact one of your County Farm Bureau board members or attend your County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Tuesday, September 25.**



Farm Bureau members came together to discuss issues important to farmers and agriculturists in northwestern Wisconsin.

## Dunn County Fair: A Tradition By Cindy Bourget, Dunn County Farm Bureau food stand committee chair



Keeping with tradition, St. Croix County Farm Bureau members volunteered at the food stand the Saturday night of the fair: (from left) Randy Roquette, Dave Kruschke, Jim Holte, Geri Wolfe, Tony Christopherson, Cletus Wolfe and Carl Casper.

The Dunn County Farm Bureau Food Stand was another success thanks to the efforts and dedication of the volunteer members of the Dunn County Farm Bureau.

As with tradition, the stand literally forms before our eyes the Friday before fair week, as a trusted group of volunteers builds the stand. I will always remember the moment I realized that the stand, a true staple of the Dunn County Fair, seems to magically appear and disappear just as the fair does.

A few short days later, the stand is filled with everything that makes Farm Bureau wonderful: food, friends and community. The stand becomes a place where workers come to fill their shifts but end up connecting with each other and community members as only you can at a Farm Bureau happening.

Thank you to those who volunteered to share time at the food stand this year.

While the food stand officially serves as a way to make sure we can fund the work we do for our farmers and community, it is also a place where magic happens. Strangers become friends. A community becomes connected with its farmers. And just as the stand seems to magically appear, it has now retreated to await next year's call.

Thank you again to those who helped in any capacity, and we cannot wait until next year to see the magic happen over again.

### Find Your Name and Win

Members, look for your name in the image shown below and win \$10 to be put towards next year's membership dues. All you have to do is read your newsletter, search for the image and if your name appears, you have 30 days to contact Marv Prestrud at 715.418.1990 to let him know you have found your name. Good luck! For Example:

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**2** Washington, D.C. Fly-In  
Discussion Meet  
Farm-City Day  
Ag LEAD Summit

**3** Cover Crop Field Day  
No-Till Drill Program  
New Farm Bureau Members  
Board Contacts

## For the Good of the Cause: Washington, D.C., Fly-In

By Julie Wadzinski, Barron County Farm Bureau Member and District 9 YFA Chair



On June 4-8, Farm Bureau young farmer leaders traveled to Washington, D.C. Julie Wadzinski, Barron County, and Andrew Winiarczyk, Sawyer County, were among the attendees.

My county Farm Bureau president, Karyn Schauf, said at a county annual meeting several years ago, "We all need to take our turn."

That simple sentence has resonated with me. Certain things, like talking to representatives and legislators, can be uncomfortable. For some of us, it is a new experience and that can be scary. For some, we might be intimidated by their titles. I know that without my Farm Bureau training and the organizing efforts of the Farm Bureau staff, I would be hard pressed

to work up the courage to talk to them about issues near and dear to my heart.

This past June, I traveled with other Farm Bureau members to D.C. The trip was phenomenal. We were briefed on Federal issues, had appointments with our representatives and met with Senators as a group, toured and were briefed by USDA officials and learned the importance of trade at the New Zealand Embassy.

When it came time to meet with Representative Sean Duffy, I was a nervous rambling wreck. President Jim Holte soothed nerves with a humorous balm, "Remember, they put their pants on in the morning the same way that you do, one leg at a time."

When the moment of truth came, Representative Duffy and I shared a laugh over the circumstances behind my knee injury. A dancing accident as it were. After the initial laugh, talking about tough topics like NAFTA, immigration, Farm Bill and the wolf status on the Endangered Species list was much like talking with a friend over coffee.

After the important work was done we did a night tour of the monuments with stirring stories shared by our tour guide



Steve Kline, something struck me as I looked at the faces of Vietnam Women's Memorial. We all need to take our turn, be uncomfortable and do the work for the good of the cause. Washington D.C. has immortalized great leaders and common folks who sacrificed, for the good of the cause.

They took their turn, and I challenge you to take yours.

## Outstanding Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet



Contestants for the District 9 Discussion Meet including: (from left) Jenna Behrends, Rusk County; Isaac Christianson, Polk County; Kirsten Konder, St. Croix County; Nathan Kringle, Barron County; Lauren McCann, Barron County; Lexi DuSell, Barron County; and Laura Benitz, Pierce County.

The District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet was held on August 1st at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie in conjunction with the District Policy Development Meeting.

The question that participants discussed was: 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.

Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build these crucial skills in young farmers and agriculturists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems. The YFA Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking

skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Each of WFBF's nine districts holds a district meet competition late summer or fall. Three contestants from each district move on to the state competition at the YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells in December.



Congratulations to Isaac Christianson, Laura Benitz WFBF Discussion Meet in December.

## New Ag Promotion and Education Summit

On March 8-9, WFB will host a new agricultural promotion and education summit in Appleton.

The Ag LEAD Summit will give attendees the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events.

The conference will be broken into four tracks: Leading Your Own Self Development, Engaging Consumers, Advocating for Agriculture and Developing Agribusinesses.

Registration is open to Farm Bureau members and non-members. Registration information, hotel accommodations and a tentative agenda for the conference will be available in November. For updates, visit [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com).

Rural Mutual Insurance Company is a co-sponsor of the Ag LEAD Summit. The summit is scheduled to take place on a biennial basis.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization representing farms of all sizes, commodities and management styles.

**11th Annual Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day**

Visit Farm-City Day!

- Learn about agriculture & organic farming practices
- Guided wagon tours
- Enjoy the petting zoo
- Kid's play area
- Lunch available for purchase from Bloomer FFA
- Admission is FREE!!!

**HOSTED BY SEIBEL'S ORGANIC DAIRY**  
Owned by Chuck & Diane and Adam & Chrissy Seibel

**09.08.18**  
Saturday, September 8th, 2018  
Join us from 10:00am - 2:00pm  
[www.farmcityday.com](http://www.farmcityday.com)

**10494 157th Ave  
Bloomer, WI 54724**  
Directions: From Eau Claire, travel North on HWY 53 to Tilden County Rd B exit 102. Turn right onto County Rd B and then left onto County Rd Q for 5.5 miles. Turn right onto 157th Ave and follow event signs for parking.

Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day  
[www.farmcityday.com](http://www.farmcityday.com)

# Red Cedar Demonstration Farm 2018 Fall Cover Crops Field Day By Katie Wantoch

**Date:** Wednesday, September 26

**Time:** 12:30-3:30 p.m. (rain or shine)

**Location:** Red Cedar Demonstration Farm, near Highway 12/29 East and Stokke Parkway, Menomonie

**Directions:** The Red Cedar Demonstration Farm is located on the east side of Menomonie near the intersection of Highway 12/29 and Stokke Parkway. The tent will be near the Dunn County Transit Commission building, 640 Stokke Parkway, Menomonie

Are you interested in cover crops and the benefits that they may provide?

Please join us for a field day to discuss:

- Changes to soil profiles in Dunn County, *Tim Miland, NRCS Area Resource Soil Scientist*
- Insect management with fall seeded cover crops, *CVTC and Countryside Cooperative*

- Maintaining soil fertility for profitably and soil health, *Carrie Laboski, professor and extension soil scientist at UW-Madison*
- Matching cover crop seed varieties with soil types, *Chad Zutter, Elk Mound Seed*
- Nitrogen use efficiency project, *Kevan Klingberg, UW-Extension Discovery Farms program*

Refreshments will be provided by Compeer Financial.

Three certified crop adviser (CCA) continuing education units (CEUs) have been applied for this field day.

Please register by **September 21** to ensure enough hand-outs. For more information or if you have questions, please contact UW-Extension Dunn County agriculture agent Katie Wantoch at [katie.wantoch@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:katie.wantoch@ces.uwex.edu) or 715.232.1636. Information is available at <https://dunn.uwex.edu/agriculture/redcedar-demonstration-farm>.

## No-Till Drill Program: Saves Your Soil, Time and Money

By **Chris Gaetzke**, Environmental Services Department Land & Water Conservation Division conservation planner



The Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) focused on improving our soil and water resources in 2017.

We also focused on engaging citizens to define their role in meeting that goal. One tool we have to offer is a 2017 Great Plains 1006NT drill, which gives landowners the opportunity to try no-till soybeans, planting permanent cover, cover crops or pasture renovation.

This drill plants a variety of seed mixes from two seed boxes at 7.5 inches apart with 15 rows that total a 10-foot path into many soil conditions.

### Soil Savings

Modern no-till drills have been around since the 1970s, but only 21 percent of our nation's cropland is implementing no-till practices (USDA). No-till drills can be used with the same tractors as conventional planting and have added benefits.

They do not disturb the soil beyond seed planting depth. By contrast, preparing the soil with conventional tillage implements yields more wear and tear on a tractor, releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, depletes soil organic matter, decreases soil moisture and increases sheet soil erosion.

No-till planting allows the soil structure to remain intact, which maintains the health of the soil. With no-till planting, soil will build structure, hold more water during dry periods and become more resilient during the ever-common extreme weather events.

### Time Savings

No-tilling allows you to schedule your time for other uses rather than being tied up running equipment and pulling implements in the spring and fall. Wouldn't you rather be spending your time with your family or friends?

For instance, for each eliminated pass across a 100-acre field, you will save roughly seven hours of time. How much is that time worth to you?

### Monetary Savings

On average, conventional till practices use more than six gallons of fuel per acre per year. No-till systems use less than two gallons of fuel per acre per year.

This equals a savings of \$1,000 when applied across 100 acres at \$2.50 per gallon. By covering the soil with plant residue, you armor your topsoil from wind, rain and snow. This armor allows your soil to function on its own with fewer costly amendments of fertilizers and chemicals.

### Questions to Consider and Next Steps

Where do you see your farm in 15 years? Are your farming practices going to sustain your soil for the generations to come? Are you interested in trying no-till practices after you have read about just some of the benefits it can offer?

If any of those questions have your attention, give us a call so we can discuss your farm and how no-till practices could save your soil, time and hard-earned money.

### Details on the No-Till Drill Rental Program

A security deposit of \$100 is required to rent the no-till drill. A two-day rental is \$50, or a four-day rental is \$100 plus an additional \$8 per acre seeded. The renter provides a tractor with 70 or more horsepower and their seed. Staff from Land and Water Conservation Division will deliver the drill, assist with set-up and perform calibration.

For more information, please contact 715.231.6540, visit the Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Division Office at 800 Wilson Avenue, Room 330, Menomonie; or browse the Dunn County website at [www.co.dunn.wi.us](http://www.co.dunn.wi.us); Departments: Environmental Services, Land and Water Conservation, Equipment Rental, No-Till Drill Rental Program.

## Dunn County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Marv Prestrud	715.418.1990
Vice President, Kevin Gilbertson	715.879.5472
Secretary/Treasurer, Darryl Kovacik	715.643.5433
Promotion & Education Chair, Mary Prestrud	715.418.1991
YFA Chair, Jerica Meyer	715.225.6981
Director, John Ausman	715.879.5352
Director, Carl Casper	715.235.3323
Director, Tony Christopherson	715.271.8143
Director, Doug Clark	715.556.8888
Director, Brian Douglas	715.308.2249
Director, Tim Jackson	715.308.6295
Director, John Kovacik	715.643.5433
Director, Dale Quiling	715.225.4550
Director, Franklin Retz	715.643.2353
Dunn County Farm Bureau	877.457.8897
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Rep., Julie Wadzinski	715.432.8740
District 9 Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson	715.271.8141
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson	715.514.4477

## Calling All Farm Bureau Members

Dunn County Farm Bureau is seeking individuals interested in serving a term on the board of directors.

Board meetings are held once a month at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Dean and Sue's Bar and Grill in Menomonie. We want you to join us.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com).



## Welcome New Members

Colfax Community Fire Department, Donald Anibas\*, Chad Bahr, Spencer Bartz\*, Larry Bjork\*, Lee Brantner\*, Theresa Hurtgen\*, Randall Koller\*, Fred Manor\*, Travis Mckay\*, John Mckay\*, Matthew Sollman, William Swannack\*, Mark Unser\* and Jeremy Webb.

Curt Brion

\*Denote voting membership.

## WISCONSIN FARM CENTER

Free, Confidential Assistance

Hours: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm | Monday - Friday

### NEED TO TALK?

Are you struggling with making payments, feeling stressed or just worried you have no one to turn to for help?

CALL: 1-800-942-2474

EMAIL: [FARMCENTER@WISCONSIN.GOV](mailto:FARMCENTER@WISCONSIN.GOV)

