



# Buffalo County Farm Bureau

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Steve Berger  
(715) 926-3871

Emily Kaltenberg  
(608) 626-2500

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

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Teachers, Volunteers Attend Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour



On July 24-25, teachers and volunteers from across Wisconsin were in Buffalo County for the WFBF Ag in the Classroom bus tour.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom hosted its annual summer bus tour in the Arcadia area on July 24-25.

Staff welcomed 30 teachers and volunteers from across the state for a tour of the beautiful area.

Tour stops included: 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; and Harvest Home Farm.

Thank you to Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson, for her work in organizing a great bus tour.

### Buffalo County Pee Wee Livestock Show Deemed Success



Children exhibited animal projects during the Buffalo County Fair Pee Wee Show, which was organized and sponsored by the Buffalo County Farm Bureau.

This year, at the Buffalo County Fair, the Buffalo County Farm Bureau helped organize the Pee Wee Livestock Show. We had a great turnout with 12 dairy exhibitors, nine beef exhibitors, six goat exhibitors and one sheep exhibitor.

The little showman packed the show area with spectators. The Pee Wee Livestock Show is for children second grade and younger who are not yet eligible to show with 4-H.

It gives them the opportunity to get comfortable going in the show ring with their animal.

We also hope to promote their interest in future fair projects.

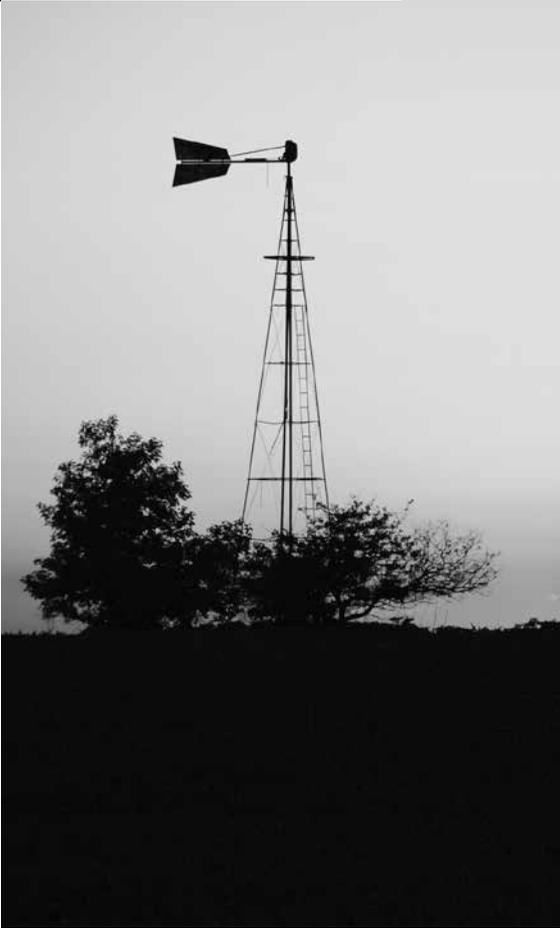
Each exhibitor received a participation ribbon, a milkshake ticket and \$5. The sponsors of these items were Buffalo County Farm Bureau, Buffalo County Holstein Association, Buffalo County Dairy Promotion Committee, Melitta Schaffner, Doug George Plumb- ing and Rolling Acres Ranch.

**Dustin and Ashley Ellis**  
Buffalo County Farm Bureau YFA chairs

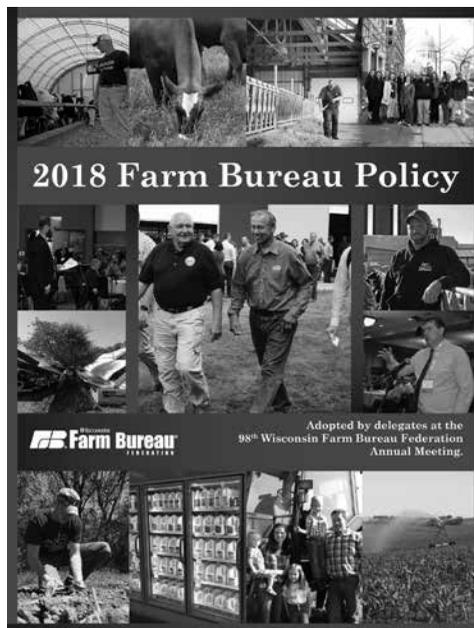


# COUNTYnews

BUFFALO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



## Farm Bureau District 4 Proposed Resolutions



Farm Bureau members of District 4 met on July 24 for the District Policy Development meeting.

The following resolutions were developed during the meeting and are being proposed to the counties within District 4 for consideration during the county annual meeting season.

These resolutions are merely

suggestions and will be voted upon during the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Thursday, October 11.**

If you have any objections to any of the resolutions, or a resolution you want to propose, please attend the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

for business-dependent internet services, equal to that of medical and similar services.

### Federal

- WE SUPPORT the development of a national dairy supply management program unique to the United States that, while balancing supply and improving milk quality standards will still allow for beginning farmers to enter agriculture. WE SUPPORT a program that is tiered in which the largest farms shoulder more of the supply reduction burden when needed. Consideration should be made that allotments should not carry a trade value, similar to former tobacco allotments. WE SUPPORT such a program that would also focus on the transportation of milk and milk products to ensure that deficit areas have readily available product.
- WE OPPOSE cooperatives, processors or procurers of a farmer's milk from instituting base excess programs that penalize a farmer for increasing production without extra compensation for maintaining base. (These programs have the negative of a quota system without any reward of the quota system for the farmer, all the benefit falls to the purchaser).
- WE SUPPORT affordable farm safety options for farming operations, including but not limited to PTO shaft covers, etc.
- WE SUPPORT requirements for utilities and utility marking services to use biodegradable alternatives to wire flags when marking in order to prevent damage to equipment and livestock health.
- WE OPPOSE commodity requirements that exceed base commodity state and federal health safety standards and standardized measurements unless the farmer is reasonably compensated beyond the base price by the purchaser. Such requirements may include, but not be limited to, rBST-free, non-GMO, arbitrary animal standards such as taildocking, etc.
- WE SUPPORT offering whole milk in school lunch programs including the choice of white and flavored milk.
- WE SUPPORT consideration of protein and micronutrients in student elective beverage options as beneficial, and we OPPOSE using only calories, fat and sugar to determine eligibility to purchase.

### Internal

- WE SUPPORT a statewide initiative to identify member emails, birthdates, and commodity interest areas/professions to better assist with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation programming and involvement.
- WE SUPPORT a statewide pilot program for county leaders to utilize Google Drive for access to meeting agendas, minutes, notices and other committee documents as needed.
- WE SUPPORT a WFBF program to prepare members to testify at conservation congress hearings on issues affecting agriculture.

### County

- WE OPPOSE the expansion of the NR151 Silurian bedrock performance standards to other areas of the state until the impact of the implementation of the standards on water quality and agricultural producers can be evaluated.

### State

- WE SUPPORT utilizing the Wisconsin Cheese label only on cheese products made with a minimum of 95 percent Wisconsin-produced milk.
- WE SUPPORT milk imported into the state of Wisconsin contributing to the Wisconsin checkoff program.
- WE SUPPORT a deadline for tax return disbursement by the state of Wisconsin, similar to the deadline for tax payment.
- WE SUPPORT equal taxation for woodland and farmland acreage for woodlands a part of a working farm.
- WE SUPPORT equal weight limits for hauling manure, whether it is being hauled to the field or being applied.
- WE SUPPORT calling vehicles used only for hauling manure to the field Ag CMV.
- WE OPPOSE the expansion of the NR151 Silurian bedrock performance standards to other areas of the state until the impact of the implementation of the standards on water quality and agricultural producers can be evaluated.
- WE SUPPORT eliminating the 12-ounce restriction on school milk vending machines and replace with 16-ounce serving, as there are very limited 12-ounce options available. (Currently we are allowed 12-ounce for middle and high school and eight-ounce for elementary in vending machines).
- WE SUPPORT a timely response from utility companies, especially

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## President's Message: Maybe It's Our Own ... Fault



This year, I have been asked several times, "What is Farm Bureau doing for dairy?"

The answer, quite frankly, is everything our members have asked for. If you go through our policy on dairy, you will notice that it is rather limited in scope: the definition of milk, milk in schools, notification by milk inspectors, MPP, etc.

Farm Bureau has worked to get real fixes to MPP, get support for dairy in the Farm Bill, worked on the definition of milk and expressed how the recent tariffs are affecting agriculture.

So, what do I mean? Maybe it's our own ... fault. Perhaps when we look at the recent three- to four-year downturn in dairy prices – and possibly a fifth year right around the cor-

ner – as members, we have to ask ourselves, does our policy language go far enough? The most important role a member can play in Farm Bureau is to be involved in the resolutions process.

It does little good to complain about our situation and not offer direction to the organization. Some members talk trade, some talk supply management, some bring up regulations that keep us from being competitive in world markets, yet we have little in terms of policy.

As your district director, it is important to me to hear from you and get your resolutions together. We can build strategy to get things accomplished for the benefit of our farms. Without good direction, the best we can do is hold informational meetings, hearing from those who benefit from our current oversupply of milk: exporters, processors, cooperatives, etc. While they tell us that they are suffering along with farmers, cheap milk is to their benefit.

Then, along came tariffs and trade wars, another reason for low prices. Remember that in May of this year we had record

exports of 18 percent of our production, yet milk prices barely started to rebound. Many may feel that trade is important, but at current levels of production, it would take a tremendous climb in trade to levels never seen before to make a difference. Please don't forget that a strong dollar doesn't necessarily help exports. Yet, we produce more and more.

So please bring your ideas and do not be afraid to speak up and provide input. Consider nominating someone that can articulate your thoughts as a state annual meeting delegate or volunteer yourself.

I am truly honored to represent you. District 4 has a strong legacy of getting things done and being innovative. Now more than ever we need to demonstrate that leadership and, together, be a part of the solution. If not us, then who?

As always, enough is too much!

**Joe Bragger**  
WFBF District 4 Director  
Buffalo County Farm Bureau President

## Fun on the Farm: Another Fun Time



Buffalo County Farm Bureau members gathered at Together Farms in Mondovi on August 18 for fun, socialization and relaxation.

On August 18, the annual Fun on the Farm was held at Together Farms in Mondovi. We have held this event as our way to bring the county together for a time of relaxation with no agenda.

It also is our way to say thank you for the milk shake workers for their help.

Members were treated to a supper and a beverage of their liking surrounded by beautiful scenery. We are grateful for Together Farms for allowing us to come and enjoy the farm.

**Jan Schaffner**  
Buffalo County Farm Bureau ag promotions chair

## New Ag Promotion and Education Summit Scheduled

On **March 8-9, 2019**, WFBF 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.

## Farm Bureau Names Achievement Award Finalists

Four finalists will vie for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award this December.

"This year's finalists are some of the best and brightest young farmers in Wisconsin," said WFBF President Jim Holte.

The YFA program is open to Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35. The Achievement Award recognizes YFA members who excel in production farming, leadership ability and involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations. Achievement Award applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on-farm production during the past three years.

This year's finalists include:

- Josh and Ashley Claussen, Brown County
- Brian Douglas, Dunn County
- Dustin and Ashley Ellis, Buffalo County
- Ryan and Lindsey Prah, Marathon County

Each finalist must fill out an application by October 1. A three-judge panel will score those applications and conduct an interview with the four finalists at the 2018 WFBF

Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on November 30-December 2.

WFBF co-sponsors this contest with GROWMARK, Inc. and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Information and applications for YFA contests can be downloaded from WFBF's website: [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com). The state winner competes at the 2019 AFBF Annual Conference in New Orleans.

In addition, Rural Mutual Insurance Company provides a free financial plan for the state winner and Fabick Cat Equipment provides the state winner with 40 hours use of a skid-steer loader.

Last year's winners of the Achievement Award were Chad and Katrina Gleason from Lafayette County.



Ashley and Dustin Ellis and daughter Finley.

## 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](mailto:lsiekmann@wfbf.com).



## 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 (NEW)

### Travel

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

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

## A Productive Policy Meeting and Discussion Meet

Members from District 4 gathered at the Sand Creek Brewery in Black River Falls on Tuesday, July 24, for the annual YFA Discussion Meet contest and Policy Development Meeting.

Congratulations to Andrea Rippley, Allison Bragger and Kyle Danzinger, of Buffalo County, for advancing in the YFA Discussion Meet. They will represent District 4 during the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

Jackson County Farm Bureau member Savannah Brown was drawn for the District 4 membership incentive. For

recruiting new members, Savannah received two tickets to the Badgers-Gophers football game in November and she received a variety of Wisconsin Badgers memorabilia.

Thank you to those who attended the Policy Development Meeting. Many great ideas were presented and discussed, and the proposed resolutions that were drafted during the meeting are included in this newsletter.

You are encouraged to attend the Buffalo County annual meeting to vote on these proposed resolutions.



Jackson County Farm Bureau member Savannah Brown received the Badgers football prize package valued at \$500.



The District 4 Policy Development Meeting was held at the Sand Creek Brewery in Black River Falls on July 24.



(from left) Allison Bragger, Andrea Rippley and Kyle Danzinger, all of Buffalo County, will represent District 4 during the YFA Discussion Meet in December.

## Buffalo County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Joe Bragger 715.530.0466  
 Vice President, Chris Ellis 608.863.0007  
 Secretary/Treasurer, Taliah Danzinger 608.332.3889  
 Ag Promotions Chair, Jan Schaffner 608.687.3044  
 YFA Chair, Dustin Ellis 608.797.0380

Director, Patrick Danzinger 715.495.0450  
 Director, Mark Denk 715.577.3036  
 Director, Sharon Fernholz 608.863.1503  
 Director, Derek Leiffing 715.495.3686  
 Director, Julie Lindstrom 715.495.2679  
 Director, Doug Olson 715.495.7543  
 Director, Ed Rippley 608.626.3921  
 Director, LaVae Wantoch 608.687.6062

Buffalo County Farm Bureau 888.644.8315  
 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, Laurie Peterson 608.347.0383

## County Annual Meeting, 'All in Favor'

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 11**. You are invited to attend at Danzinger Vineyards in Alma, for a social hour at 6:30 p.m., supper at 7:30 p.m., followed by the annual meeting. Board members will review the past 12 months of events as well as the financial standing.

Please RSVP by **October 7** to Jan Schaffner at [jan.schaffner@outlook.com](mailto:jan.schaffner@outlook.com). We look forward to seeing you.



Please join us for the Buffalo County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Thursday, October 11.

## Buffalo County Fair: It's A Wrap

With the conclusion of Buffalo County Fair, another successful season of milk shake making is behind us. Between Broiler Days and the Buffalo County Fair, volunteers have scooped and mixed more than 4,670 milk shakes in the year 2018.

With only a few hiccups, 14 shifts covered the man power needed to keep fairgoers with a milk shake in hand. We want to express our gratitude for the volunteers and know that we couldn't have had the success we had without the time and energy of everyone who lent a hand.

I want to say thank you to Doug and Karon Olson for their work and guidance that they provided to the stand and workers. From running to get the freezer trailer, to checking in every day; this year, they were the backbone of the stand.

**Jan Schaffner**  
 Buffalo County Farm Bureau ag promotions chair