



Oconto County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Brat Stand Fundraiser Is Successful By Ken Harter

June 1 saw several Oconto County Farm Bureau board members tending the grill and the till as they operated the Brat Stand at Witt's Piggly Wiggly in Oconto Falls.

The organization has held a sandwich sale at the stand in early summer for a number of years. The stand, just outside one of the grocery store entrances, is available for use by any non-profit organization to raise funds.

In addition to raising modest

revenue to support Farm Bureau programming in the county, the stand provides a welcome option for a delicious quick lunch according to some of our customers. It also raises awareness of the Farm Bureau and agriculture generally as we have the opportunity to visit with those who patronize the stand.

The Oconto County Farm Bureau thanks Witt's Piggly Wiggly for making the stand available and the Oconto Falls FFA Alumni for lending us their grilling equipment.



Dave Schneider cooked up some beef and brats.



Dave Schneider, Maryann Monette and Dennis Jahnke kept the customers satisfied over the lunch hour.



Patrons lined up for the delicious lunch and to support Oconto County Farm Bureau educational programs.

Youth Fair Booth Offers Dairy Products By Dennis Jahnke

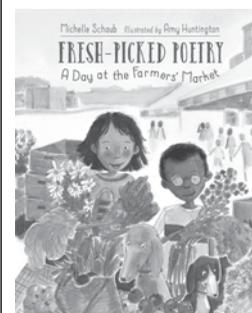
Oconto County Farm Bureau again had a booth at the Youth Fair in Gillette. We had our corner booth in the tent where we were amused by the robots across the way. Even though there were no rides this year the Fair seemed well attended. Nearly perfect weather and only a bit of rain made for a perfect Fair experience.

We sold chocolate milk and ice cream as usual and added fresh cheese curds from Spring Side cheese factory in Spruce. They sold very well, and people enjoyed the fresh, soft and squeaky cheese curds.

On Saturday, we had 'Sid's balloons,' where Sydney Sylvester from Lena, was a hit with the kids making his intricate balloon animals.

Thank you to those who spent time working at the booth. Your time is very much appreciated by our Farm Bureau County organization. See you next year.

Ag in the Classroom Report By Kayla Zahn



This year's ag in the classroom book of the year is "Fresh-Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub. A book highlighting the diversity of agriculture and activities found at a farmer's market. This year's essay topic is "Making it happen at the farmer's market." This allows students to write from the farmer's perspective preparing, the consumer's perspective attending and buying goods, the availability of a variety of goods, or the other activities going on at the farmer's market. I think the topic will be making this another diverse year for essays, and I'm looking forward to reading them.

As always if you know a teacher or 4-H or scout leader who you think may be interested in the essay contest, feel free to contact me and I will make sure they get the information they need.



COUNTYnews

OCONTO COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Oconto County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

On September 25, Oconto County Farm Bureau president Dennis Jahnke convened the 2018 Oconto County Farm Bureau annual meeting at S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant in Oconto Falls with 23 members and guests in attendance.

The members present elected members to the board of directors, elected delegates to represent Oconto County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, and approved resolutions to propose to Farm Bureau policy. Directors elected to two-year terms from board district 2 were: Gordon Aprill, Ken Harter and Maryann Monette. Elected as promotion and education committee chair was Kayla Zahn, and elected as Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee chair was Walter Taylor. Delegates elected were: Ken Harter and Dennis Jahnke. The policy resolutions that passed were:

County

1. Oconto County Farm Bureau supports best management practices that promote water quality in the Oconto River Watershed.

State

2. We support elimination of the school voucher system in Wisconsin.
3. Whereas 45% of mass shooters exhibited warning signs before committing their crimes, we support a 'Red Flag Law', a gun violence law that permits police or family members to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who may present a danger to others or themselves. Whereas the warning signs are not always easily ascertained, this law should allow for an expedited process once the danger is found.

Federal

4. Whereas plastic bottles create \$1 billion worth of waste (the U.S. used 50 billion bottles but only recycled 23% of them), and whereas plastic bottles use 17 million barrels of oil annually, we support a ban of plastic water bottles.



President Dennis Jahnke welcomed members and guests to the annual meeting.



Rural Insurance Agency Manager, Chuck McDaniel, updated the group.



Retiring board member Russ Brock was presented with a certificate and a gift card.



Walter Taylor showed photos of the ag enterprises he visited during the Ag in the Classroom bus tour.



District 7 WFBF board member, Adam Kuczer, urged everyone to be involved with Farm Bureau's programs and make their voice heard.



District 7 Promotion and Education Committee representative Katelin Steege introduced the group to the new Ag LEAD Conference that will take place on March 8-9, 2019, in Appleton.



District 7 YFA Committee representative Brian Preder talked about his role as Chair of the WFBF YFA Committee in 2018.



WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty commended Oconto County Farm Bureau for their many successful programs.



Oconto Farm Bureau policy development committee chair Ken Harter conducted a very active discussion on the proposed resolutions.

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Young Farm Bureau Members Advocate in Washington, D.C.



District 7 YFA members Brian Preder and Brittney Muenster attended the YFA Washington, D.C., Fly-In.

Farm Bureau's young leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. on June 6.

The issues discussed were trade, immigration and the farm bill.

The June 4-8 trip was available to Farm Bureau members active in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program.

The program provides members between the ages

of 18 and 35 with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while networking with their peers.

"This YFA trip was the experience of a lifetime," said Brittney Muenster, an Outagamie County Farm Bureau member and dairy farmer. "The program dramatically increased my confidence when advocating for agriculture."

While in Washington, D.C., YFA members met officials from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture

where they discussed issues pertaining to federal crop insurance, Conservation Reserve Program and changes to dairy's Margin Protection Program.

A visit to the New Zealand Embassy on June 5 included a conversation on trade and the global agricultural economy.

The 21 young leaders met with Senator Tammy Baldwin, staff from Senator Ron Johnson's office and their member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

District 7 Young Farmers and Agriculturists Discussion Meet Held

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



Walter Taylor gave his opening statement during the District 7 YFA Discussion Meet held at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Shawano.

The District 7 YFA Discussion Meet contest took place on September 10 at the Four Seasons Restaurant in Shawano.

The three competitors discussed how Farm Bureau can be more inclusive of all commodities and production practices. District 7 YFA representative, Brian Preder, moderated the proceedings.

The winners were Jake Hoewisch, Waupaca County; Brittney Muenster, Outagamie County; and Walter Taylor, Oconto County. They will compete at the state competition at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells in December.



District 7 Farm Bureau members watched and listened as YFA members came up with solutions to how Farm Bureau can be inclusive of commodities and production practices.



The District 7 YFA Discussion Meet winners were: (from left) Jake Hoewisch, Waupaca County; Brittney Muenster, Outagamie County; and Walter Taylor, Oconto County.

2018 Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm By Ken Harter



This year, butter making was the Ag in the Classroom project at the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm.

Annually, a dedicated group of local dairy farmers, associated agribusiness people and farm service providers work to raise awareness of and celebrate Oconto County's dairy industry by planning and coordinating the Breakfast on the Farm.

The 2018 breakfast in early June, hosted by the Hischke Family at their Sunrise Dairy near Suring was a huge success, serving around 4,700 guests.

Nearly 300 volunteer adults and youth insured the smooth operation and success of the breakfast.

Promotion and education chair and new mom, Kayla Zahn was unable to attend but supplied the materials and instructions for a butter-making activity that was conducted by FFA chapter and 4-H club members in the youth activity tent during the breakfast.

Great Discussion during District 7 Policy Meeting

By Adam Kuczer, District 7 Board of Director

Twenty-five Farm Bureau members from the counties in District 7 got together to discuss issues important to agriculture.

Some of the counties already had their policy development meeting and they shared their resolutions with the group.

Others brought their ideas to the forum to get input from others around the district. Some of the topics discussed involved milk and cheese labeling, environmental regulation and transportation and road repair funding issues.

Policy development is very important to Farm Bureau. Because Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization, we need members to bring their problems, concerns and ideas to the county policy development sessions and annual meetings. The strength of this organization comes from the involvement of our members.



Adam Kuczer conducted the policy discussion at the District 7 Policy Development meeting.

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For complete details visit wfbf.com/benefits-membership.

Membership and Action in Farm Bureau Important in These Times By Ken Harter

During economically challenging times, some may be tempted to view their Farm Bureau membership as a lower priority, a way to conserve scarce revenue.

It is in times of economic and policy turmoil that the investment in the strong voice for agriculture afforded by the Farm Bureau is more important than ever to improving conditions for farmers and the industry.

Farm Bureau's governmental relations staff gets the attention of legislators and policy makers due to the large number of their constituents the organization represents. To get our desires before those who make the rules, membership matters. But

the other critical aspect is individual members willing to get actively involved — marketing, promoting and educating consumers as well as advocating with government officials.

The Oconto County Farm Bureau provides opportunities for members to get involved in education and promotion, policy development and advocacy at the local level. Every member is encouraged to get involved in some way. To learn more, please contact one of the county directors.

As a bonus, remember Farm Bureau members can take advantage of a number of potentially valuable perks. See a list in the accompanying article.

Young Farmers and Agriculturists Washington, D.C., Fly-In By Brittney J. Muenster



Brittney Muenster participated in an issue briefing session with AFBF staff prior to speaking with legislators.

In June, I had the privilege of visiting Washington, D.C., with the YFA Fly-In group on behalf of Wisconsin Farm Bureau thanks to the support of our local Farm Bureau.

As a young producer this was an experience of a lifetime. The most valuable aspect I found of this trip was the program Farm Bureau had in place preparing the YFA participants for the meetings we had with our legislators.

Learning how to better tell our personal stories and how young producers adapt to every day issues is vital to our continued existence and a priceless skill to have.

Making connections in the agriculture industry is also a necessary piece of the 'producer puzzle' as networking keeps our minds fresh with ideas and improves our abilities to troubleshoot, that being said, the friendships I made on this trip are invaluable.



On June 4-8, Brittney Muenster and Brian Preder attended the YFA DC Fly-In.

I returned home with renewed perspective as an advocate for agriculture and great excitement for what the future holds.

Thank you to those who made this trip possible.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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| Vice President, Dave Schneider | 920.321.6701 |
| Secretary/Treasurer, Maryann Monette | 920.826.7703 |
| Promotion and Education Chair, Kayla Zahn | 920.373.0261 |
| YFA Chair, Walter Taylor | 920.980.7865 |
| Director, Gordon Aprill | 920.846.2465 |
| Director, Ken Harter | 920.846.2046 |
| Oconto County Farm Bureau | 888.377.0295 |
| WFBF Board Director, Adam Kuczer | 920.822.2772 |
| WFBF Promotion and Education Chair Katelin Steege | 715.210.5384 |
| WFBF YFA Chair, Brian Preder | 920.851.5776 |
| District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz | 866.355.7346 |
| RMI District Manager, Chuck McDaniel | 715.258.8830 |

How Can I Be Involved Locally in Farm Bureau?

Get involved in your Oconto County Farm Bureau.

Contact one or more of the committee chairs to become involved in projects, events and programs that promote and advocate for agriculture in Oconto County.

It could be taking a shift for a couple hours at the Oconto County Fair booth or 10 minutes reading an ag book to kids at a local library reading group.

Whatever time you are willing to devote could make a big difference in your community.

Ag in the Classroom coordinator: Kayla Zahn,
kayla.steffel10@gmail.com

Membership chair: Dennis Jahnke,
djahnke@centurytel.net

Policy Development chair: Ken Harter, kharter@plbb.us
Promotion and Education chair: Kayla Zahn,
kayla.steffel10@gmail.com

Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair: Walter Taylor,
walter.taylor894@gmail.com

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Chemistry Professor: "What can you tell me about nitrates?"

Student: "Well, I think they're a bit cheaper than day rates."

Why did the farmer throw seeds into the pond? He wanted to grow water-melons.

Why did the farmer name his pig 'Ink'? Because it always ran out of the pen.

What do you get when a chicken lays an egg on the barn roof? An egg roll.

