



Barron County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Ag Day at the Capitol Planned for March 20, 2019

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Wednesday, March 20, 2019**, in Madison. A bus from northwest Wisconsin is being planned again for 2019.

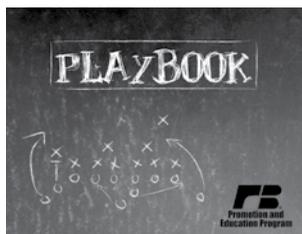
This is a great opportunity to make contact with your local representatives and network with other Farm Bureau members.

Watch for more information to come soon.

If you want to reserve your spot early, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.



Have You Heard About the 'Playbook'?



The 'Playbook' is a collection of great ideas from around Wisconsin used to promote agriculture. It highlights the costs and materials that others have implemented to run successful promotions in their counties.

Please use the 'Playbook': bit.ly/WFBFPlayBook.

Also, please share and submit your own successful ideas so we can continue to grow and benefit from shared promotions.

Submissions can be made at: bit.ly/PlaybookForm. Submission deadlines are: December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15.

Meet New Barron County Board Member: Noah Voelker



Noah Voelker of Rice Lake was appointed to the Barron County Farm Bureau board at the annual meeting held on September 22.

Hobbies: Spending time with family when not

busy on the farm.

Family: Wife, Toni of nine years; Daughter, Prentiss (age 4).

Farm: Milk 60 cows and crop farm 600 acres. Also feed out our own bull calves to finished steers, about 30-40 head per year.

Why did you choose agriculture? I grew up on the family farm and it's what I have always had a passion

for. I enjoy working with the animals and trying to improve my herd. I especially enjoy growing crops and trying different practices to improve yields.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I was invited to a Young Farmer and Agriculturist event put on by our local county. After learning more about the organization and my belief that the ag industry needs a strong voice, I decided it was a good fit.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? I think being able to network with like-minded people and to work together towards common goals for the future of agriculture.

Why do you think it is important to be part of the agriculture industry? Besides my love for raising livestock and growing crops, I believe it is important for us younger people to become involved as the average age of farmers is increasing. I believe it is important for us to carry on the tradition of family farming rather than large corporations controlling our nation's food supply.

Welcome New Barron County Farm Bureau Members

Nicole Breed, Tobias Bornstreger, Levi Borstad, Walter E. Herrman*, Zachary Paulus, Nicky Repka, Sierra Solum* and Surplus Outlet, Inc.

* Denotes voting membership.

Welcome
to Farm
Bureau



COUNTYnews

BARRON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

The Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on September 22 at Broker Farms in Rice Lake. Members enjoyed a picnic style lunch in the freestall barn at the farm.

Following lunch, the business meeting was held where members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Noah Voelker of Rice Lake replaced Trevor Kodesh on the board of directors.

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 Federation is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin both in Madison and Washington, D.C. During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues.

Barron County Farm Bureau will be presenting the following resolutions, passed during this meeting, on for consideration to be presented to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We require all USDA bear traps be equipped with trap monitors to both reduce time spent by farmers and to ensure the health of the trapped animals.
2. We want to see better tracking and studying of movements of any relocated bear.
3. We want to see the removal of the \$10,000 maximum payout from the Department of Natural Resources for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.
4. We require that the Department of Natural Resources create sub-zones for better control of over-populated wildlife (bear, deer, goose and turkey) in a small area.
5. We support availability of ARC and PLC coverage through FSA as well as MPCCI coverage under the federal crop insurance program for crops planted after harvesting a forage crop.
6. We support utilizing the Wisconsin Cheese label only on cheese products made with a minimum of 95 percent Wisconsin-produced milk.
7. We support milk imported into the state of Wisconsin contributing to the Wisconsin checkoff program.
8. We support eliminating the 12-ounce restriction on school milk vending machines.
9. Amend page 1, line 39 of the current policy book to add 2% and whole milk options. The resolution would then read: "We encourage school districts to offer student the choice of white and flavored milk with the option of 2% or whole milk."
10. 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. We support such a program that would also focus on the transportation of



Serving on the 2018-2019 Barron County Farm Bureau board are (from left): Joe Braml, Noah Voelker, Karyn Schauf, Sam Olson, Teresa Marker, Nate Kringle and Dan Rippliner; not included in the photo is Craig Hammernik.

milk and milk products to ensure that deficit areas have readily available product.

11. We oppose a mandatory government managed dairy supply management system.
12. We support the use of dairy checkoff dollars to go towards research of non-food dairy products.
13. We support imported dairy products paying into the dairy checkoff at an equal or greater rate than domestic milk.
14. We do not support investor owned or investor financed farms, be it foreign or domestic as defined by the USDA (farms where the principal operator and partners related to the principal operator do not own the majority of the business) and therefore they should not be eligible for agricultural government program payments.
15. We do not support investor owned or investor financed farms, be it foreign or domestic as defined by the USDA (farms where the principal operator and partners related to the principal operator do not own the majority of the business) and therefore they should not be eligible for agricultural tax exemptions.
16. We do not support the purchase and/or ownership of agricultural land by foreign entities.
17. We support exclusive domestic ownership of food processors as opposed to foreign ownership.

Delegates who will be representing Barron County Farm Bureau members at the WFBF Annual Meeting are: Karyn Schauf, Sam Olson and Al Sigurdson.

For more information on Barron County Farm Bureau, please contact 877.483.5447 or visitwfbf.com/about/counties/barron.



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President's Message



Happy harvest,

For another year, your board of directors has appointed me as president of our Farm Bureau. I consider it a privilege, an assignment I assure you, I take very seriously.

This year brings with it increased challenges especially in the dairy industry and your state delegates

and myself will be taking forward to the WFBF Annual Meeting the resolutions you see printed in this newsletter. Many other counties are also taking forward resolutions encouraging Farm Bureau to work to develop a farmer-led supply management plan for the dairy industry.

The challenge, of course, is that as it is in the nation's population, agriculture must rely on a majority of non-farm folks to understand and legislate an industry they have no experience with. So will WFBF's delegate body most likely be comprised of a majority of non-dairy people who over Farm Bureau's history have upheld a free market philosophy.

It will be a challenge for us to convince them what this entire

span of history has also proven that a free market does not and has never worked for the dairy industry with our perishable product.

The resulting loss of many smaller family farm units and increased consolidation of cow numbers continues to greatly negatively impact the rural communities where agriculture has been the economical backbone.

There are many reasons for even the larger dairies to support a balanced supply and demand as a resulting healthy dairy infrastructure will make business better for them as well. Our challenge is to get people to stop and look farther down the road we are headed and ask ourselves is this really where we want agriculture to go? Is it really the best for many?

I want to thank the Broker family for hosting the Barron County Farm Bureau annual meeting at their farm. We had a very good turnout and many positive comments were made as members toured the changes and improvements this family has made in the recent years. They are well positioned to meet the future.

I also want to thank Trevor Kodesh for his great service as a member of our board over the past years. He was a valuable board member, so conscientious and undertook the structural improvements made to our sagging food stand this past year. There are 'seasons' in our lives where we realize the demands

on our time changes. Trevor, with a young family, recognized that he is in a new season and his time priorities had to adjust.

Fortunately, we had several members run for our board and we are very happy Noah Voelker was elected to take Trevor's seat. You can get to know a bit about Noah in this newsletter. Welcome, Noah. We are glad to have you.

In concluding, my mind travels over the recent past, the horror and sadness of the murders in our community, the seriousness of the mid-term elections and the potential of increased turmoil for our precious U.S., the harvest difficulties with the weather, loved ones facing serious illness and most definitely, the health of our dairy industry.

What a perfect time for us to FOCUS on this being the season of thanksgiving. Despite the negatives in any of our lives, we can and must find the many things we CAN be thankful for, a family, a beautiful sunrise, a new day. Look for them. Count your blessings. Help others find the blessings in their day, at the very minimum you can BE the blessing.

And then, 'Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endureth forever.' That is a blessing each of us can know.

Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau president

Barron and Polk Counties Hire Agriculture Extension Educator



UW-Extension Barron and Polk Counties are excited to announce the addition of a new Agriculture Extension Educator, Becky Schley.

During the past several months, County Extension Committees

and county administrators have been dedicated to working with the area Extension directors to identify the best ways to use Extension resources for Barron and Polk counties. Schley will be serving the two-county area, with her main office in Barron County.

Schley grew up on a dairy farm in Gilman where she was a member of the Poplar Grove 4-H club

and showed dairy cattle. Her educational background includes earning a bachelor's degree in broad area agriculture. She has 10 years of experience working with Genex as a regional service coordinator and reproductive consultant.

Most recently, Schley was the UW agricultural supervisor at UW-River Falls, Mann Valley Lab Farm for the last five years. Her work experiences have taught her how to implement farm protocols to help increase profitability and efficiency.

Schley will be defining her plan of work after meeting with community members to help determine priority programming.

"I like to solve problems, build relationships and am excited to serve the people of Barron and Polk Counties," said Schley.

Donate to WFBF Annual Meeting Silent Auction

Farm Bureau members can get items ready to donate or be ready to bid at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting WFB Foundation Silent Auction.

Due to the generosity of members, county Farm Bureau programs, businesses and sponsors, a large selection of items will be offered again this year. Bidding starts at 12 noon on Saturday and will end Sunday night before the Award's Program.

If you want to donate to the Silent Auction, forms can be downloaded at wfbf.com/aboutwfbf/foundation/silentauction.

We ask that all items be new items. If you are bringing a gift certificate or gift card, please make

a copy. The copy will be on the bidding table and the buyer will receive the original upon check out.

Please send the donation form to the WFBF office by **November 23**, bidding sheets can be made in advance and will save you time checking in.

Items can be brought to the Kalahari Resorts to save postage and chance of damage in shipment.



Mark Your Calendars



Camp you will have the opportunity to hear Steve Boe shine light on issues facing agriculture. Cost for the day is \$10. This leadership day will include lunch and a panel discussion. The Boot Camp will wrap up at 2 p.m.



ers, Advocating for Agriculture and Developing Agribusinesses. This will be a unique opportunity to share information and bridge the gap with those not involved in agriculture. Stay tuned for more information.



• **FUSION Conference:** Wisconsin has the unique opportunity of hosting the American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION Conference: **March 15-18, 2019**, in Milwaukee. This is an honor for our state to host this venue. This event will sharpen the leadership skills of any volunteer in our Farm Bureau organization.

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



WFBF will hold their 99th Annual Meeting in conjunction with the YFA Conference on November 30-December 3 at Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The theme is Our Legacy. Make sure you don't miss a moment of the action by following Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation or 'wifarmbureau' on social media.

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
- 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

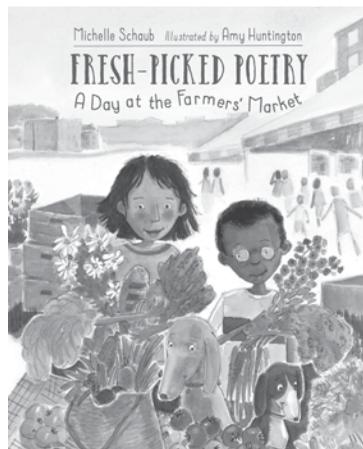
- ScriptSave® Prescription Drug Savings Card
- Life Line

Travel

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

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

Ag in the Classroom Announces Essay Topic and Book of the Year



The 2019 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is "Fresh-Picked Poetry – A Day at the Farmers Market" by Michelle Schaub.

This collection of poems takes young readers to a day at an urban farmers' market. Who to see, what to eat and how produce is grown—it's all so exciting, fresh and delicious.

Readers are invited to peruse the stands and inspect vendors' wares with poems like, 'Farmer Greg's Free-Range Eggs,' 'Summer Checklist' and 'Necessary Mess.'

This year's essay topic, 'Making it happen at the Farmers' Market,' is linked with the book and students can use the book as one resource, if they choose. The book and essay topic allow students to explore farmers' markets from a variety of

perspectives: the farmer's preparation for the market, the people attending and buying products, the variety of products available and other happenings at the market.

The essay contest is open to all fourth- and fifth-grade students in public, private and home school programs. Students involved in 4-H, PALS and after school programs also are encouraged to participate.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and originality and creativity.

Find contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities at wisagclassroom.org. Essay entries must be postmarked by **April 1, 2019**, and sent to the respective county Farm Bureau essay coordinator.

For questions or to obtain materials, please contact your county essay contest coordinator:

- Barron County Ag in the Classroom essay coordinator, Teresa Marker, 715.829.5584 or tmhanson_98@yahoo.com.

Good News for the Farmers of Barron County Watershed

The Farmers of the Barron County Watershed recently received the good news that their grant request had been selected by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to not only receive monies but to receive monies at the level they had requested. Competition for the program was keen with 27 requests for money far above available funds.

Barron County is unique in that almost the entire county is part of a watershed that impacts the waters of our state further downstream. The goals for 2019 are to increase the acres planted to cover crops by targeting more acres planted to vegetable production (snap beans) and corn silage acres, provide incentive payments to encourage experimenting with cover crops, direct new efforts in the Chetek sands and purchase and use soil probes for on-farm demonstration with real time data in regard to nutrient concentration, soil pH and salinity and moisture and temperature at three different soil depths.

Barron County requested and received \$40,000 to accomplish these goals. Thank you Farm Bureau members Craig Hamernik, chair, Andy Bensed, Clayton Wohlk, Logan Dwyer and Julie Wadzinski for their work Thank you to Barron County Land Conservation and Tyler Gruetzmacher for their great support.



Barron County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Karyn Schauf 715.790.7203
Vice President, Sam Olson 715.837.1861
Secretary/Treasurer, Teresa Marker 715.829.5584
YFA Chair, Joe Braml 715.495.5706

Director, Craig Hamernik 715.418.0053
Director, Nate Kringle 715.418.0536
Director, Dan Ripplinger 715.296.4176
Director, Noah Voelker 715.651.7965

Barron County Farm Bureau 877.483.5447
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte 715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, 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 608.347.0383

'Like' Barron County Farm Bureau on Facebook.



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