



Grant County Farm Bureau

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Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Young Farmers and Agriculturists in Action



1. The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on August 27 at Keiler Farms. The district topic was: As the Voice of Agriculture, how can Farm Bureau be more inclusive of all agriculture and production practices? There were six participants including, front row (from left): Maija Haggith, Vernon County and Kent Jerrett, Grant County. Back row (from left): Ryan Studnicka, Grant County; Andrew DalSanto, Grant County; Kyle Shepard, Grant County; and Dan Frank, Grant County. Andrew, Dan and Maija will participate at the YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



2 and 3: In conjunction with the Discussion Meet, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted members from District 3 for their annual Night on the Farm. YFA members in attendance enjoyed a potluck dinner, wagon ride and tour of Keiler Farms.

4. The District 3 YFA Golf and Grill Outing took place on August 3 at the Platteville Golf Course. Attendees enjoyed a round of golf, followed by a delicious meal and socializing with fellow YFA members.


**Young Farmer and
Agriculturist Program**



COUNTYnews

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 25 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business meeting. Members selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 14 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support fluid milk imported into the state of Wisconsin contributing to the checkoff program.
- We support notification being given to dairy producers within 30 days if there are changes to standards or changes to enforcements of standards. Producers should have six months to meet these new requirements.
- We support the usage of the "Wisconsin Cheese" label only on products made with 80% of milk originating in Wisconsin.
- We support the funding to connect retiring farmers with beginning farmers.
- We support legislation that allows tax incentives and credits to transfer farms from older generations to younger generations or beginning farmers.
- We support basic agriculture questions on state standardized testing.
- We support the use of tools and resources to ensure livestock and herds are protected on our farms, including the use of livestock guardian dogs. Livestock guardian dogs do not serve the same purpose as a general household pet and have been used for centuries to protect livestock from predators that are difficult to control through any other means. Livestock guardian dogs live with their herd all day, every day, and are well-cared for, as well as having access to food and shelter at their will. Use of these animals as a tool for livestock protection should be supported.
- We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles that transport people to pay a registration fee to aid in the transportation budget.



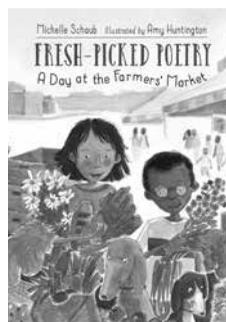
- We support a one-time capital gains holiday for livestock herds dispersing.
- We support the removal of the PRRS test requirement in the swine industry.
- We support having a recycling program for all agriculture plastics.

Federal

- We support the USDA working with the FDA to take appropriate and immediate action and enforcement against improperly labeled imitation products such as meat derived from cells grown in a laboratory.
- We support a one-time capital gains holiday for livestock herds dispersing.
- We are opposed to any form of a quota system for dairy supply management.

These resolutions will be forwarded to the state policy development committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest



"Fresh-Picked Poetry" written by Michelle Schaub, has been selected as the 2019 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the year.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth and fifth grade students. This year's essay contest topic is, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.' Accompanying lessons aligned to state standards and educational

resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

"Many schools offer farm-to-school and locally grown foods to their students, so this book and essay will be popular," said Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. "The essay

contest will give students a wide variety of topics to write about and teachers may also encourage poetry within the essay."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/whats-new. Essays are due **April 1, 2019**.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Promotion and Education Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for their class. The essay contest is sponsored by We Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Last year, more than 2,500 students participated in the contest.

For information or questions about the essay contest, please contact Grant County Ag in the Classroom committee chair Charisse Orth at 608.778.8101 or charisse31gifts@gmail.com.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 President's Message

District 3 Director Report
FFA Farm Forum
Grant County Fair Success

3 District 3 YFA Update

District Promotion and
Education Update
County YFA Update
Board Contacts

President's Message



Wow, just like that I have completed my third year as the Grant County Farm Bureau president. I sat down and looked at what our board of directors and members of Grant County have accomplished. Again, our members have been very busy this year.

Andrew DalSanto will be graduating from the WFBF Leadership Institute in December. The year-long training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders. Participants learn more about Farm Bureau, communication skills and other things that make a successful leader. We have had a member participate in the class almost every year.

Tammy Wiedenbeck is serving as the District 3 WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee representative. While Katie Roth is the District 3 WFBF Promotion and Education Committee representative. On the national level, Derek and Charisse Orth are representing Grant County and Wisconsin

on the AFBF Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee.

The WFBF Annual Meeting is held during the first weekend of December at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The YFA Conference is held in conjunction with WFBF Annual Meeting. We've been very fortunate to have many members attend each year and compete in the contests, including the Discussion Meet and Achievement and Excellence in Ag competitions.

A big part of the WFBF Annual Meeting is voting on resolutions brought forward through the grassroots efforts of counties from around the state. The county delegates establish policy that determines where WFBF stands on an issue. Sometimes an idea that seems small, is brought forth and becomes state or federal policy for Farm Bureau.

This spring, we had many members attended Ag Day at the Capitol. We heard from Governor Scott Walker and met with Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Travis Tranel. We had great discussions regarding the budget, roads, education and other issues that affect the ag industry.

Our county will cover the registration fee for up to 10 members to attend. Grant County Farm Bureau contributes to many causes each year.

Some include: Rural Safety Day, Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville, FFA Farm Forum and to many local food pantries.

With the wonderful help of our members and other volunteers, we had another very successful food stand at the Grant County Fair. Our goal is to provide quality food for families at reasonable prices. We take a lot of time sourcing and preparing the food and drinks we serve.

As we lose numbers in farming, it becomes more and more important for farmers to join Farm Bureau so that we have a strong and united voice for agriculture.

Thanks for your help in making Grant County Farm Bureau a success. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

District 3 Director: Farewell



During the last month, I've had the opportunity to address and thank my district counties for their support. It truly has been a privilege and honor to represent you and agriculture these past 21 years on the Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company Board of Directors.

"Like the school and church, farm organizations are an accepted part of our way of living. We take them very much for granted..."

"They have been elevated to the position of a commonplace institution. Commonplace institutions are likely to be our most important and at the same time the least impressive. One seldom misses them until they fail to function properly, or are gone..."

"Farmers can only be served by organizations which are made up of farm people, led by farm leaders, financed entirely by farmers and run in the interests of the men and women on the farm who appreciate that the farmers' interests are best served only when society as a whole is best served..."

I hope you find these words as meaningful and purposeful as I do – I believe them with all my heart.

Thank you all and may God Bless.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director

At each of the county annual meetings, I read a Forward from our 75th anniversary book that puts into eloquent words my feelings. It was written by Dr. Chris Christensen, a former Dean of the College of Agriculture at the UW-Madison, and appeared in our 1946 membership brochure. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this coming year, the words of Dr. Christensen still hold true.

"If farm organizations were to disappear tomorrow, it is certain that within a very short time their praises would be sung by even those who have never supported them..."

"Acting as individuals, farmers have comparatively little influence. Acting together in the best interests of the nation, they are a powerful force..."

2019 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships



Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor students interested in attending FFA Farm Forum on **February 15-16, 2019**, at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

The forum is for students who are ready and willing to explore new topics and learn outside their comfort zone. It features general

session speakers, workshops, a discussion meet demonstration and a game-night.

If you or an FFA student you know wants to attend, please contact president Peter Winch by **January 15, 2019**.

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Farm Bureau Success at Grant County Fair

The Grant County Farm Bureau food stand proved to be a great success at the Grant County Fair again this year. Thank you to those who volunteered to work at the stand. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.

The Ag Tent also was a hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their ag knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading industry. Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit the animals, color the large farm mural and win prizes.



District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Lately, I know we have been experiencing a crazy weather pattern in Wisconsin with the rain and temperature changes. Let's take our minds off of that for a few minutes and talk about the great things that we have done in Farm Bureau during the summer.

On June 4-8, I embarked on another adventure with fellow

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and attended the Washington, D.C., Fly-In. This event is designed to give attendees a chance to speak with elected officials, legislators, agencies and other professionals about current agricultural issues and policies.

Our group had the chance to meet with Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and Representative Ron Kind. We toured the American Farm Bureau building and were briefed on immigration, trade, regulation and farm bill issues.

We visited the USDA and discussed beginning farmer and rancher, conservation, dairy and crop insurance programs. We also toured the New Zealand Embassy, where we learned about agricultural commodities in their country and that you can find common ground with any farmer no matter where you are in the world.

Earlier in July, we had our state YFA Committee meeting in Appleton, where we focused on team building and worked on

planning the YFA Conference that will be held in Wisconsin Dells on November 30-December 2. We also volunteered at Feed America and packaged more than 5,000 pounds of meat to go to food pantries in Wisconsin.

This year, I also was selected as one of the 15 participants for the AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp. The experience was designed to make us step out of our comfort zones and practice public speaking, print, radio and television interviews using key messages.

We were briefed on agricultural issues, social media and met with our elected officials. The women I met in the class were beyond amazing, and I am very grateful for the financial support from WFBF and Grant County Farm Bureau and to Equity for letting me take part in this experience.



Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events next year: AFBF Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, on **January 11-16, 2019**, and the FUSION Conference in Milwaukee on **March 14-17, 2019**. There will be sponsorships available to attend the FUSION Conference, so look for those applications in the coming months.

Wishing you all the best and a safe harvest season.

Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 YFA Committee Representative

District Promotion and Education Update



Fall is in the air. I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new people at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Essay Contest

A new school year means it's time for a new essay contest topic. This year fourth and fifth grade students can submit essays to answer the following topic: 'Making it happen at the Farmers' Market.' Information and rules can be found at wisagclassroom.org. Essays are due on **April 1, 2019**. "Fresh-Picked Poetry" is the Book of the Year. Lessons and activity packets also can be found on the website to help students compose essays.

Ag LEAD Summit

Mark your calendars for **March 8-9, 2019**, to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when conduct-

ing promotional events and advocating for agriculture. Hotel accommodations, registration and a tentative agenda for the conference will be available in November. The conference is broken into four tracks: Engaging consumers, leading your own self-development, advocating for agriculture and developing agribusinesses.

Playbook

Looking for a new idea to incorporate in your county Farm Bureau? Don't forget to check out the 'Playbook' online at wfbf.com for planning agriculture awareness and promotion events. Topics include resources for consumer outreach, Ag in the Classroom, fundraising, member development and policy.

Wishing you a safe harvest this fall season.

Katie Roth
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Collegiate Corner

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau had an exciting fall semester. The students participated in the annual UW-Platteville homecoming parade, enjoyed an outing to Vesperman Farms and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet. The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau. The officer team includes: Bridget Cleven, president; Brittany Rennhack, vice president; Sara Elizabeth Raemisch, treasurer; Lexey Hammerly, secretary; Vinny Reiter and Evan Young, Ag Day On Campus co-chairs; Katie Lux, Brag About Ag chair; Heidi Smith and Ally Birochik, Ag in the Classroom co-chairs; and Kailyn Ripp, historian.



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Director, Andrew DalSanto	608.778.5105
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Director, Jason Heberlein	608.533.3233
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WFBF YFA Committee, Tammy Wiedenbeck	608.723.2382
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RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	866.355.7343

Grant County YFA Update



Thank you to those who attended this year's YFA events and activities. We organized some new events along with our annual favorites. Last fall, we started by hosting a night out at Yoder's Rockville Bar with good food and great company.

The Mystique Community Ice Center was the location for our next two events. First, we planned a family ice-skating day in February. Great fun was had by all and there were no broken bones. Second, we hosted an adult night out and attended a Dubuque Fighting Saints game in March. It was a night full of fun and lots of memories were made.

Many YFA members were a big part in making the Ag Tent at the Grant County Fair a success. All the hard work was appreciated by the fair-goers who could sample cheese, interact with a calf, play a game to test their knowledge on agriculture topics, win prizes and color the farm scenery mural.

Grant County Farm Bureau YFA members also could be seen at many other county, district and state events including the District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig, bowling night, IGNITE Conference and Ag Day at the Capitol.

Many of our members plan to attend the YFA Conference on November 30-December 2 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells to network with fellow Farm Bureau members.

We had a great first year serving as the Grant County YFA co-chairs. Please let us know if you have suggestions or ideas for YFA activities we can plan next year. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Paige Hampton and Jackie Seelow
Grant County YFA Committee Co-Chairs