



Rural Mutual Agents in Iowa Co:

Debra Young (608) 935-2769 Deneen Doll (608) 623-2882 Charles Collier (608) 987-0800

Randy Palmer, *District Manager* - (608) 515-3123

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau in Action



1 The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on August 27 at Keiler Farms. The topic 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. 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 WFBF Discussion Meet held during the YFA Conference in December. **2** 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. **3** Iowa County Farm Bureau played a large role in planning the 33rd annual Farmers Appreciation Day. Members participated in the event from set-up to tear down, truly helping to make the event a success. Thanks to everyone who attended and showed their support of the event. Mark your calendar for next year, July 13-14, and be sure to 'Like' the Farmers Appreciation Day Facebook page for more updates. **4** In June, 25 Young Farmers and Agriculturists members from around Wisconsin traveled to Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In. The trip is designed to put real farmers and agriculturalists in the room with our congressional representatives. Justin and Livia Doyle of Iowa County, Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County and Joe and Amber McComish of Lafayette County represented District 3. The group lobbied at the Capitol, visited historical sites and met others from the state who are involved in agriculture. **5** Each year, Iowa County Farm Bureau sponsors the Iowa County 4-H Ambassador program, specifically the 4-H King and Queen tiara and sashes. The Iowa County 4-H Ambassador Team is made up of high school youth who are selected based on leadership qualities, ability to be good role models and commitment to bettering the community. The 4-H King is Nathan Daniels and 4-H Queen is Bree Gaffney.



COUNTYnews

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION



Iowa County Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 13 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a delicious meal and was followed by the business meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed nine resolutions, including the following:

County

- We support Iowa County having a 1.0 FTE 4-H and Youth Educator.
- We support a segregated fund being created from the revenue generated from solar and wind in Iowa County that would incentivize agriculture growth.

State

- 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 deleting current WFBF policy that states: "We support a \$0.05/gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance."
- We support state law being amended to prohibit local governments from declaring productive farmland "blighted" in order to take it by eminent domain and turn it over to a private developer.

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 flexible dairy supply management system to improve the long-term stability of the industry. This system would include incentivizing cull cow sales when the milk price is below the cost of production.
- 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.

These resolutions will be forwarded to the WFBF Policy Development Committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Thank you to those who attended the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you next year.

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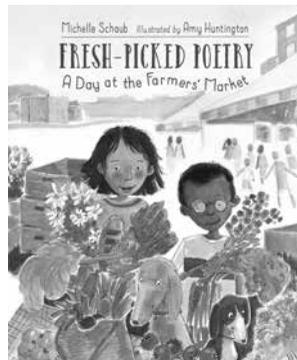
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Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest



"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.

The essay contest topic is, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.' Lessons plans aligned to state standards and educational resources

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

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**.

In May, nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner by the WFBF 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.

Questions about the essay contest can be directed to Iowa County Ag in the Classroom committee chair Livia Doyle at 608.574.9253 or doylelivia@gmail.com.

President's Message



As fall has begun, it means that another fiscal year is in the books for Iowa County Farm Bureau. I am happy to announce that we met our total membership goal for the year. We couldn't have done it without a handful of our members going the extra mile, so to them I say thank you.

Once again, we had an excellent annual meeting, and as always, the resolution portion brought great discussion. This is a perfect opportunity for farmers to share and discuss ideas that need to be addressed at county, state and federal levels.

I am honored to again be serving as your county president. I held this position a few years ago, but to our new members I will take a moment to introduce myself. My husband Ryan and I are co-owners of Dolan Farms LLC. Our dairy farm is located north of Dodgeville. We have two sons Kaleb and Gage. We have been very active in Farm Bureau at the county and state levels for a number of years.

I want to thank Adam Heisner for serving as president for the last three years. Your commitment to the organization is sincerely appreciated.

We have a great board of directors, and I am excited to see what lies ahead for this year. If you have any questions about Farm Bureau or want to learn how you can get more involved, please don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful harvest season.

Krista Dolan
Iowa 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.

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 ... "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 and may God bless.

Dick Gorder
WFBF District 3 Director

2019 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Iowa 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 a FFA student you know wants to attend, please contact Iowa County Farm Bureau president Krista Dolan by **January 15, 2019**.

Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Thank you to those who attended this year's YFA events and activities. We hosted a night at the Fayette Saloon, organized a tri-county bowling night, attended a Madison Mallards baseball game, assisted with Farmers Appreciation Day and made library and classroom visits.

Iowa County Farm Bureau YFA members also could be seen at many other county, district and state events, including the District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig, Discussion Meet, Ag Day at the Capitol, IGNITE Conference, YFA D.C. Fly-In and Night on the Farm.

We had a silent auction during the Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting to generate funds for the YFA pro-

gram. Most of the money raised is given back to the community. Last year's proceeds were used to purchase farm animal books for families of newborn babies, make a contribution to the Iowa County Food Pantry and help pay a portion of the Madison Mallards game tickets purchased for Iowa County members. This year, we plan to use the funds raised to purchase agricultural-related books to give to families of babies born at Upland Hills Health.

Many of our members plan to attend the YFA Conference on November 30-December 2 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Every year, Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsors several first-time attendees from around the state to attend the conference. We were fortunate to have Iowa County members Matt and Sara Cuckler selected. Justin and Livia Doyle will also be representing Iowa County as they compete for the Excellence in Ag Award.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me. Hope to see you at an upcoming YFA event.

Jackie McCarville
Iowa County YFA Committee Chair

Iowa County Promotion and Education Update



The Promotion and Education Committee had a busy year participating in community events, teaching others about the agriculture industry and promoting Farm Bureau.

In January, we held an ag products tasting at the Dodgeville Piggly Wiggly. In preparation for the Super Bowl, a committee of YFA members whipped up several delicious appetizer recipes that encouraged consumers to use featured meat and dairy products in their recipes for that weekend. Consumers could take recipe cards and sample the recipes.

In May, we helped at the 4-H Farm Gard Event that was held at the Leix Family Dairy Farm. More than 50 Iowa-Grant fourth grade students attended. Iowa County Farm Bureau members led an activity titled, 'Snacking Around Wisconsin' where students made a snack mix of products sourced from Wisconsin. From cherries grown in Door County to cranberries from central Wisconsin and back to Iowa County for some Rural Route One Popcorn.

Again, Iowa County Farm Bureau members played an integral role in organizing Farmers Appreciation Day. The event

was held during the second weekend of July and celebrated its 33rd year. Saturday night featured a spectacular firework show. Sunday kicked off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, a live auction, displays, and food at Harris Park. Members could be seen handing out string cheese in the parade, parking cars, helping in the kids' activity area, emceeing the awards program and conducting the live auction.

Iowa County Farm Bureau is proud to support the youth in our community. We awarded five deserving students with scholarships. We also sponsored the 2018 Iowa County Fair Master Showman Contest and awarded cash prizes to 4-H clubs for their educational displays.

We definitely kept ourselves busy and hope to continue adding new and innovative ways to engage the public and inform consumers about the agriculture industry.

Kayla Szama
Former Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair



District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



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

On June 4-8, I embarked on another adventure with fellow WFBF 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 agricultural issues and policies.

Our group met 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 Boot Camp 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: American Farm Bureau Federation 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

Agriculture for ME on Land and Sea

In June, my sister-in-law, Livia Doyle, and I traveled to Portland, Maine for the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. Traveling to Maine for the first time was a wonderful experience, and one I'll never forget. From learning about Maine's unique agriculture industry to meeting new friends from across the U.S., the National Ag in the Classroom Conference was truly a one of a kind opportunity.

We took advantage of all the conference had to offer. During our first day in Maine, we participated in the pre-conference tour titled 'Experience Maine at its Best on Land and Sea.' The full-day tour included a stop at a wild blueberry farm, a visit to Acadia National Park and a ride on the Margaret Todd, a 151-foot, four-masted schooner, across Frenchman's Bay. Livia and I even helped raise the sails on the schooner.

During the next few days, we had the chance to explore the Portland area more. We spent time sightseeing in the historic Old Port district, stopping in local venues, visiting with the native 'Mainers,' and eating lots of SEAFOOD. Maine leads

the nation in lobster production ... and like Wisconsin is with cheese, they're pretty proud of it. At the Lobster Bake on Peaks Island, we quickly learned we weren't the only ones unfamiliar with how to 'properly' eat a lobster. Luckily, the locals were willing to lend a hand and teach us. The lobster was delicious and definitely worth the hard work.

The conference also featured many different workshops, keynote speakers, tours of nearby agribusinesses and research facilities, and opportunities to network and learn from educators, volunteers and staff members. The highlight of the conference was seeing Livia honored as one of the USDA Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award Recipients.

We left Maine with new knowledge, lifelong friendships, unforgettable memories and innovative ideas of how to incorporate agriculture in the classroom.

Melissa Doyle
WFBF District 3 Coordinator



Iowa County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Krisa Dolan	608.574.4565
Vice President, Justin Doyle	608.574.9882
Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Adams	608.574.8270
YFA Chair, Jackie McCarville	608.604.0321
Promotion and Education Chair, Megan Yager	608.574.4028
Director, Bob Daentl	608.623.2731
Director, Laura Daniels	608.987.1329
Director, Ryan Dolan	608.574.6280
Director, Dakotah Hammerly	608.574.2303
Director, Adam Heisner	608.574.0408
Director, Kyle Levetzow	608.963.7943
Director, Donald Ley	608.935.5036
Director, Matt Limmex	608.588.7216
Director, John Meyers	608.924.4746
Iowa County Farm Bureau	888.644.8363
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	866.355.7343
WFBF Board Director, Richard Gorder	608.987.3424
WFBF Promotion and Education Representative, Katie Roth	608.482.3200
WFBF YFA Representative, Tammy Wiedenbeck	608.723.2382
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

Doyles Named YFA Excellence in Ag Award Finalists



The Excellence in Ag award recognizes members of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program who excel in their leadership abilities and involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations.

Iowa County Farm Bureau members, Justin and Livia Doyle, were named finalists along with three other deserving individuals. Together they farm 150 acres of cropland, raise 50 cow/calf pairs of Red and Black Angus beef cattle and co-own On Point Auction Service. They are proud parents of two boys: Quayde and Gentry.

In addition to farming, auctioneering and raising a family, they are in their ninth year of teaching. Justin is an agriculture/technology teacher at Darlington High School and Livia teaches fourth grade at Mineral Point Elementary School.

Justin and Livia will compete for the top award at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.