



# Jackson County Farm Bureau

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FROM THE **# 1 FARM INSURER**  
IN WISCONSIN, WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY  
**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND LOYALTY!



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## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

### Teachers, Volunteers Attend 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. About 30 teachers and volunteers from around the state toured 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.



Teachers and volunteers from around Wisconsin were in Buffalo County for the WFBF Ag in the Classroom Bus Tour on July 24-25.

### Jackson County Farm Bureau Serves at Livestock Auction



Jackson County Farm Bureau members Erica Olson, Mariah Peterson, Savannah Brown and Leonard Olson served meals to livestock exhibitors and purchasers following the 2018 Livestock Auction on Saturday, August 4. The buyer's reception is hosted annually at the conclusion of the Livestock Auction during the Jackson County Fair and is sponsored by Jackson County Farm Bureau.



# COUNTYnews

JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Another Great Jackson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



The Jackson County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 23 at Homestead Country Retreat in Taylor.

President Steve Kling led the business meeting. An excellent keynote speaker was welcomed WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty. Dale shared his experience of traveling abroad to Ireland on an agricultural tour with his wife and her students.

He shared photos and stories about the unique farming practices in Ireland. Because of wet and cold soil conditions in the spring, to grow corn, farmers place plastic over top of the planted seeds so

they can germinate. The plastic is thin enough for the corn to puncture and grow through as it matures. Dale shared his favorite part of the trip was visiting working farms and getting a taste for farming.

Dale's presentation was followed by the business portion of the meeting where nominations for delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting were accepted and voted on, new board chairs were chosen and District 4 policy was reviewed and approved. The meeting concluded with several door prizes awarded to attendees.

Election results:

WFBF Annual Meeting delegates: Steve Kling, Nate Kling and Erica Olson

Promotion and Education chair: Savannah Brown  
Young Farmer and Agriculturalist chair: Erica Olson

New board member: Jared Bradt

President: Steve Kling

Vice president: Ryan Sawyer

Secretary/treasurer: Nate Kling

## Jackson County Farm Bureau Board Member Highlight: Erica Olson



Hi, my name is Erica Olson. I grew up and reside in Black River Falls. I work at UW Discovery Farms, a state Extension Program that focuses on water quality and how it relates to agriculture. We work directly with farmers doing research on privately owned farms.

My job title is farmer network and communications coordinator. When I am not at work, I enjoy helping on my parents' organic dairy farm near Black River Falls. In 2016, I earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy and a certificate in agricultural business management from UW-Madison.

I was involved in Farm Bureau while I was in college and joined the UW-Madison's collegiate chapter. I joined to remain involved in agriculture while I was attending school. I believe Farm Bureau is a great organization to be involved in with its grassroots policy development and support for farmers. I am serving as the Jackson County Young Farmer and Agriculturalist chair and am a member of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class 12. I am excited to go to Washington, D.C., next summer to the test the leadership and policy skills I have gained through the program.

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## Farm Bureau and Black River Falls FFA Alumni Select Outstanding Farm Family



Congratulations to Nathan and Karen Kling of Taylor, who were nominated and selected as the 2018 Outstanding Farm Family during the Jackson County Fair in August.

The Kling family currently milks 250 cows. The Klings have rotationally-grazed their cattle since 2003, and recently completed the transition to organic milk production. The Klings hosted the 25th Jackson County Dairy Breakfast in 2006, as well as the 37th Jackson County Dairy Breakfast in 2018. Nate serves as the secretary and treasurer on the Jackson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

The Outstanding Farm Family award is presented and sponsored by Jackson County Farm Bureau and the Black River Falls FFA Alumni.

## District 4 Director Report: 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

## WFBF Leadership Institute Session 4: Government and Legislative Testimony Session

By Savannah Brown, WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII Participant



Jackson County YFA Chair, Erica Olson, and Promotion & Education Chair, Savannah Brown, are both members of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII, and recently experienced the program's fourth session on government and legislative testimony.

The fourth session of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII was in Madison.

WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe, AFBF YF&R committee member Derek Orth, Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Keith Ripp and John Holevoet with DBA were guest speakers during this government session.

Steve Boe talked with us about speaking with legislators. All the dos and don'ts when going to the State Capitol, and many great tips to get your point across in a respectful manner.

Then we had the pleasure of listening to Derek Orth. Derek taught us if we don't have a story, share someone else's story to a legislator. As well as to use, "yes, and" versus "yes, but."

I have been trying to change my habit of

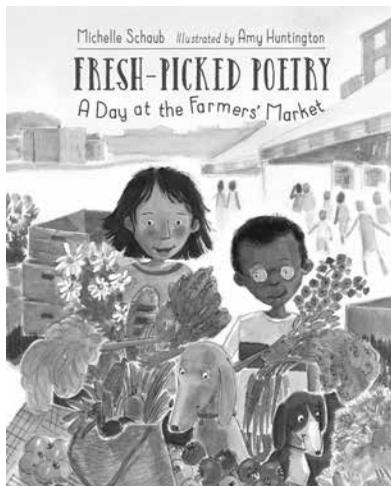
using 'but.' Using 'yes' changes the whole meaning of the sentence you are trying to communicate, and puts a positive twist to it. Give it a try.

Furthermore, Assistant Deputy Secretary Keith Ripp did a question and answer session about his life, political career and what he does in his current role.

We had an etiquette dinner as a group on Thursday evening, which was very informative. Friday, I had the pleasure of going to the Capitol to do a mock legislative hearing. I have never had to write a testimony or for that matter present my view on a topic to the committee that I feel very strongly about.

This session, I learned many different things and was very educational. I hope to use some of the things I learned with my involvement with Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

## Ag in the Classroom Program Announces Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic



"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](http://wisagclassroom.org/whats-new). Essays are due April 1.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the WFBF's Promotion and Education Committee

members. 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 questions about how to place an order, or about the book, please contact Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@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
- 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/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.



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.

## Jackson County Farm Bureau Contacts:

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YFA Chair, Erica Olson	715.896.8780
Director, Jared Bradt	715.608.3069
Director, Brady Laufenberg	715.533.0846
Director, Leonard Olson	715.284.7180
Director, Mariah Peterson	715.299.4500
Director, Will Prindle	715.896.2631
Director, Alan Sampson	715.797.5031
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
WFBF YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
WFBF Promotion and Education Chair, Darby Sampson	715.299.1409 715.630.4801
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.630.4801

## Calling All YFA Members

Are you between the ages of 18-35? Are you interested in meeting other young farmers and agriculturalists? Could you use a weekend away filled with fun and networking? You're in luck. Eau Claire County Young Farmers and agriculturalists are highly encouraged to attend the YFA Conference on November 30-December 2 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. Hear from invigorating speakers, sit in on educational workshops, meet Farm Bureau members from across the state and enjoy entertainment alongside your friends.

For more information or to register for the YFA Conference, please contact District 4 Coordinator Cassie Olson at 715.896.4526 or [colson@wfbf.com](mailto:colson@wfbf.com).



District 4 YFA members participated in a variety of relay races during the District 4 member meeting at the 2017 YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.