



Monroe County Farm Bureau

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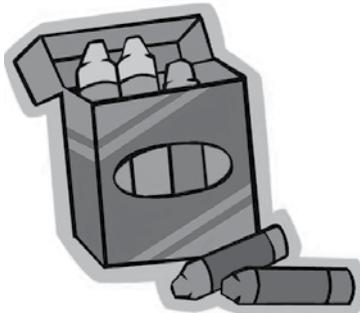
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Monroe County Farm Bureau

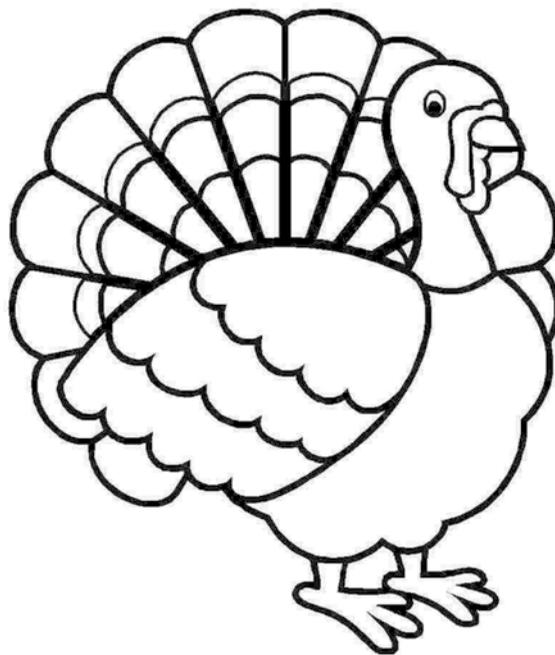
Coloring Contest

Age Groups:

- 3 & 4** *A prize is given*
- 5 & 6** *to a winner in*
- 7 & 8** *each age group.*



Mail entries by **December 31** to:
Peggy Wright
605 W. Wisconsin Street
Sparta, WI 54656



Coloring Contest

Name: _____ **Age:** _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____

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.



COUNTYnews

MONROE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

An Enjoyable Monroe County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



Monroe County Farm Bureau's annual meeting was held Sunday, August 12. There were over 60 members in attendance who were able to hear from WFBF Executive Director of Public Relations, Amy Eckelberg.

The Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting and picnic was held on August 12 at the Herricks Dairy Farm.

The weather was spectacular and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal by bringing a dish to pass complemented by pulled pork sandwiches and grilled sweet corn. There was a nice crowd of more than 60 members and guests present.

WFBF Executive Director of Public Relations Amy Eckelberg delivered a presentation about leadership and communication. Amy also took some video of our meeting to be used in the WFBF Centennial video that she is developing.

There was good discussion concerning the resolutions. An important part of the business conducted was selecting delegates for the WFBF Annual meeting. Those selected included: Al Ferries, Dawn Powell, Corey Leis, Derek Trescher, Jim Herricks and Jack Herricks. Thank you to those who attended the Monroe County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



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. Monroe 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.



District 4 YFA members participated in relay races during the District 4 member meeting at the 2017 YFA Conference.

Mark Your Calendars



• **Boot Camp:** The second annual Boot Camp will be held on **Saturday, January 19, 2019**, at Chippewa Valley Technical College, 621 West Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire. The day will begin at 10 a.m. with speaker WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe. At Boot 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.



• **Ag LEAD Summit:** Will be **March 8-9, 2019**, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. This bi-annual event will be open to Farm Bureau members and non-members. The conference will be broken into four tracks: Leading Your Own Self Development, Engaging Consumers, 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.

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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

Put Rental Agreements in Writing

By Bill Halfman, UW-Extension Monroe County

Putting rental and lease arrangements in writing is important to both parties involved. It is estimated that less than half of land rental arrangements have written arrangements. Many arrangements continue on an annual basis with only a handshake.

Many of us would like to believe that a person's word is all that is needed, but in today's society, that is often not enough. As farming becomes more complex and risky, it is prudent for all parties involved to develop a workable, written agreement. The basis for a good agreement is honesty, fair treatment and open communications by both parties in the agreement. It is a good idea to have written agreements even when dealing with your close friends and relatives.

There are numerous stories we have probably all heard about unwritten business agreements with close friends and family that have caused a great deal of bad feelings and legal battles. Written agreements are most often used to verify things when unexpected situations occur. None of us can predict the unexpected very well. One example is the death of one of the primary contract parties. Family members may not be familiar with unwritten arrangements and confusion and legal action many times are the result.

Written agreements can save frustration and money in this and other instances. It also is wise to have written agreements notarized for additional credibility in the unforeseen event that one of the parties dies. Both parties should work together to include items in the agreement that fit their particular situation. While there are many examples of rental contracts available, it is important to make sure that one that addresses the situation at hand is used. Some examples available are

extremely complex and agreements to not necessarily have to be overly complex.

Following are some items that should be included in written agreements:

- Name and address of all parties involved.
- Time period and length of the agreement, (beginning and ending dates) with provisions for cancellation or amendment of the agreement during its time frame.
- A description of the property.
- Specific uses of the property the agreement is for. For example, is it only for the purpose of growing agricultural crops, or is building use, hunting or snowmobiling privileges also included?
- The rental rate and the dates of payment due.
- Whether subleasing is allowed or not.
- Owner's access to the property during the rental period.
- Signatures of both parties.

Other things that might be included in a written agreement include:

- A renewal provision.
- Conservation practices or crop rotations that must be used.
- Maintenance of conservation structures.
- Soil fertility levels required at termination of agreement.

A fact sheet on land rental contracts and an example lease can be found at the Monroe County UW-Extension website tinyurl.com/yagh6l5g. For more information, visit www.aglease101.org, or contact the Monroe County Extension Office for more example leases that you can make fit your own situation.

Vice President's Message: Counting Down the Days to the WFBF Annual Meeting



Changing seasons bring new activities and opportunities in our home. It is time to put away the cross country running attire and trade it in for basketball shoes.

Silage trucks are cleaned out, making time for combining and manure hauling. And as the weather cools, you can bank on this ... our children begin the countdown, and ask often, "When do we get to go to the Kalahari?"

Yes, the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference is indeed a time that our children look forward to. But it's a time of the year that I also cherish. It's a weekend spent with those who share many of the same joys and passions as we do. They understand our struggles and challenges. And they pride themselves in making agriculture not just their livelihood, but their lifeblood.

It is at the WFBF Annual Meeting that we can join forces with others in this great organization, allowing us to set our policy that guides our Farm Bureau. It is a platform where our voices can be heard.

A grassroots organization, such as Farm Bureau, is only as strong as its members. Thank you for your membership and your involvement.

Sincerely,
Dawn Powell
Monroe County Farm Bureau vice president

Monroe County Farm Bureau Scholarships

To be eligible, you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be a family member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau Federation.
2. Must be going to school in agriculture, it may be either to Farm and Industry Short Course, a technical school or college.
3. Must have the application in by **March 15, 2019**.
4. Must be a graduating high school senior.

There will be two, \$250 scholarships presented and they will be awarded to the winners upon proof of first semester attendance.

For more information and to get an application, please contact Peggy at 608.269.3173, 800.236.3173 or 608.372.9272.



There are Benefits to Your Farm Bureau Membership:

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- Farm Bureau Bank

Supplies and Products

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Communication

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- Life Line

Travel

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

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

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.

Monroe County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jack Herricks	608.654.7740
Vice President, Dawn Powell	608.823.7380
Secretary & Treasurer, Miranda Leis	608.654.5524
Promotion & Education Chair Kathy Schmitz	608.269.7031
YFA Chair, James Herricks	608.386.8936
Director, Al Ferries	608.823.7400
Director, Karen Leis	608.269.7052
Director, Scott Schmitz	608.269.2058
Director, J.M. Wells	608.366.1011
Monroe County Farm Bureau	888.377.0296
WFBF Board Director, Joe Bragger	715.530.0466
District 4 Promotion and Education Chair Darby Sampson	715.299.1409
District 4 YFA Chair, Rosli Bragger	715.530.2526
District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson	866.355.7344
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	715.515.3123

Music, Food, Friends and Fun



Country rock artist Jake Gill served as entertainment for the 2018 Concert in the Park.

Another successful concert in the park is in the books. Help was limited, but with great help from our past office secretary Peggy Wright, we pulled it off.

Offering our signature sandwiches, grilled cheese or grilled ham and cheese, the line was steady before and into the beginning of Jake Gill, country rock artist. Scott and Sue Schmitz poured root beer and scooped ice cream for floats while I kept the griddles hot.

A new addition and fan favorite giant pickles were surely a hit. All in all, great weather, music, food and friends made for an evening of fun.

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