

Polk County Farm Bureau

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Outstanding Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet

The District 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet was held on August 1 at the Stout Ale House in Menomonie in conjunction with the District 9 Policy Development Meeting.

The question that participants discussed 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.**

Farm Bureau's strength depends on its members' ability to analyze agricultural issues and decide on solutions that best meet their needs. The Discussion Meet is an activity designed to build these

crucial skills in young farmers and agriculturists. By participating, members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

The YFA Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Each of WFBF's nine districts holds a district meet in late summer or fall. Three contestants from each district move on to the state competition at the YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells in December.



Seven contestants participated in the District 9 Discussion Meet: Jenna Behrends (Rusk County), Isaac Christianson (Polk County), Kirsten Konder (St. Croix County), Nathan Kringle (Barron County), Lauren McCann (Barron County), Lexi DuSell (Barron County) and Laura Benitz (Pierce County).



Congratulations to Isaac Christenson, Laura Benitz and Nathan Kringle who will be representing District 9 and competing at the state contest in December.

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.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about state issues and meet with their state legislators.

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.





COUNTYnews

POLK COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Polk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Polk County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 27 at Cricket's Bar, Grill and Event Center in Amery.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide-range of issues including wildlife, school milk and UW-Extension. Resolutions that passed during this meeting will be forwarded on for consideration by the WFBF Policy Development Committee. 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 is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin both in Madison and Washington, D.C.

The following resolutions passed during this meeting and will be forwarded on for consideration to be presented to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We support over the counter sales of bear licenses, similar to Minnesota.
2. 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.
3. We want to see better tracking and studying of movements of any relocated bear.
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 increased funding for each county to have access to UW-Extension agents.
6. We support eliminating the 12-ounce restriction on school milk vending machines.
7. 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.

8. We believe farmers have a vested interest in the sustainability of agriculture to continue their farming operations to future generations. Therefore, we believe that they are committed to best agriculture practices and safe food production. We also support education to consumers of safe food production and animal care practices.
9. Any judicial process should at least involve experts on the topic that is being presented.

Members of Polk County Farm Bureau also voted to change the name of Polk County Farm Bureau to Polk-Burnett Farm Bureau. Prior to this change, there was not a Farm Bureau in Burnett County. This change was enacted to include farmers and agriculturists in Burnett County.

Kirsten Konder joined the board of directors as the new Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee chair. During the meeting, delegates also were elected to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting in December to represent Polk County Farm Bureau. Delegates to the 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting will be: Andy Gould, Chris Owens and Rick Wester.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf. She thanked members for all that they do and shared information on what is happening within DATCP.

For more information on the Polk County Farm Bureau, contact 715.485.3010 or visit wfbf.com/about/counties/polk.



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The 2018-2019 Polk County Farm Bureau Board of Directors pictured Back (from left): Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection – Sheila Harsdorf, Dale Wester, Andy Gould, Chris Owens, Erik Melin, Mike Garvey, WFBF President – Jim Holte; Front (from left): Crystal Meier, Kirsten Konder, Jim Melin, Trent Jensen. Missing: Ken Nelson.



Attendees to the Polk County Farm Bureau annual meeting heard from keynote speaker, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Sheila Harsdorf.

Barron and Polk Counties Hires New 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.

Polk County Farm Bureau Works at Promoting Agriculture



Attendees at Burnett Dairy Days were excited to participate in the 'corn baby' activity and take home agriculture activity books.

Throughout the past few months, Polk County Farm Bureau members have been working hard to promote agriculture around the county.

Some of the events that Polk County Farm Bureau was present at included: Unity Ag Day on the Lawn, Frederic Ag Day on the Lawn, Burnett Dairy Days and the Polk County Fair.

We are excited to continue to promote agriculture around the county during the next year.

If you have any ideas on where you want to see Polk County Farm Bureau promoting our great agriculture industry, please contact Crystal Meier at 715.292.7798.

Polk County Farm Bureau Meets Membership Goals



Each year, County Farm Bureaus have goals to increase their membership. Congratulations to Polk County Farm Bureaus for meeting their membership goals for the year.

Farm Bureau is a membership driven organization, which means your membership is what drives Farm Bureau. Members like you want to see local businesses and rural communities prosper.

You want to be heard when decisions that affect your farms, families and futures are made by elected officials. This is why you joined Farm Bureau.



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Wants Your Story

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Public Relations Centennial Committee is looking to collect stories from Farm Bureau members for our upcoming centennial celebration.

Do you have a great Farm Bureau story, or do you know someone who does? Let us know about it.

Members can submit stories at: bit.ly/FarmBureauStory

Please share this information with anyone who might have something to share or ask them to contact their District Coordinator. The committee's goal is to share 100 Farm Bureau stories during the centennial in 2019.



Mark Your Calendars



Training Series

Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

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.

• **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



LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • 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.

• **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,



• **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.

Have You Heard About the 'Playbook'?

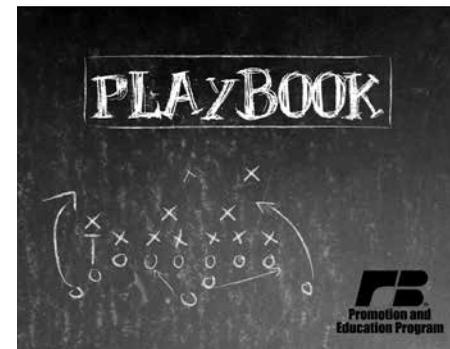
The 'Playbook' is a collection of great ideas from around Wisconsin used to promote agriculture.

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.



Polk County Farm Bureau Members Participate in a Sporting Clay Shoot

Polk County Farm Bureau members got together on October 14 at Coyland Creek Sporting Clay and Game Preserve for a sporting clay shoot. Even though the day was a little cold and winter like, everyone had a great time.



Despite the cold, winter like weather, Polk County Farm Bureau members had a good time shooting sporting clays. Steven Owens, Chris Owens, Andy Gould, Julie Wadzinski and Katie Mattison posed for a quick photo in front of one of the shooting stands.

We want to hear from you with ideas for future events that you want to participate in. If you have any ideas, please contact any board member.



Julie Wadzinski ran the thrower while Andy Gould shot.

Do You Know Someone Who Should be a Polk County Farm Bureau Member?

To the right is a membership application for Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The dues in Polk County are \$55 per membership. Below are a couple of quick hints for you as you go through the membership application.

1. Can my spouse and I share a membership? Yes. Each membership is one vote for the Polk County Farm Bureau. If you and your spouse feel you can have a shared opinion on county happenings, then you can have a shared membership. If you'd rather have two votes, you would each have to buy a membership.
2. Why do you need my date of birth? Your birthday is used for the accidental death benefit that comes along with your Polk Farm Bureau membership. It also helps us target our Young Farmer and Agriculturist members so that we can be sure to include them in activities that are specific to them. We won't sell it to anyone, it just helps us.
3. What is the Ag Newswire? The Ag Newswire is produced by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation each Friday and it is a summary of agriculture news for the past week.
4. How do I know what my Membership Type is? Polk County Farm Bureau has established that a Voting member is someone engaged in agricultural purposes, actively engaged in the business of producing agricultural products, or owners of property where such business is conducted and that an associate member is other persons, partnerships, unincorporated associations and corporations interested in the philosophy and objectives of this association can be a member, but without the right to vote or serve as a director. Typically, associate members are those without direct ties to agriculture, but carry a Rural Mutual Insurance Policy.
5. Who is the Membership Worker? At Farm Bureau, we like to reward those who help us grow our membership. So, if you are giving this membership newsletter to someone in hopes that they will also join, please write your name in the Membership Worker blank. We'll send you \$20 for each new member that you sign up. It's a great way to be rewarded for taking time out of your day to make the visits and help us grow our membership.
6. Where do I mail my application? How do I get you my information? You can mail it to WFBF, P.O. BOX 5550, Madison, WI 53705 or you can drop it off at a board member's home. Or you can sign up for Polk Farm Bureau online at: wfbf.com/membership/application.
7. When should I send in my payment,

when is it due? Your membership starts on the day we receive your membership application and that will remain your renewal date. So, if you know that your cash is a little tight in the spring, but you could manage the renewal in June, send it in June. We are glad to have your membership anytime.

Welcome to the *Family*

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive WFBF's weekly email newsletter, Ag Newswire? Yes

Would you like a Rural Mutual Insurance agent to contact you? Yes

Membership Type: Associate Voting

County of Membership: _____

Membership Worker: _____

Make checks payable to
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

A Voice for Farmers.
A Vision for Agriculture.®

Polk County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Jim Melin	715.488.2261
Vice President, Dale Wester	715.646.1447
Secretary/Treasurer, Trent Jensen	715.268.8211
YFA Chair, Kirsten Konder	715.977.7351
Promotion and Education Chair, Crystal Meier	715.292.7798
Director, Mike Garvey	715.825.3229
Director, Andrew Gould	715.554.1357
Director, Erik Melin	715.566.0803
Director, Ken Nelson	715.268.6426
Director, Chris Owens	715.566.2804
Office Secretary, Lisa Thomfohrda	715.485.3010
WFBF Board Director, Jim Holte	715.835.6708
District 9 YFA Chair, Julie Wadzinski	715.432.8740
Promotion and Education Chair, Kay Gilbertson	715.879.5472
District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison	866.355.7349
RMIC District Manager, Laurie Peterson	715.514.4477

Welcome New Members

Justin Carlstrom, Dale Richter, Scott Johnson*, Kristin Petherbridge, Jason Johnson*, Noah Horsch, Joseph E. Lynch, Larry Agne*, Craig W. Peterson*, Dean L. Johnson*, Seth D. Olson*, Dan Murphy, Karrie M. Swenson*, Anthony Cronick, William Schnur, Dallas Coury* and Gus J. Koecher*.

**Denotes voting membership.*

Meet Polk County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair: Kirsten Konder



Hello. My name is Kirsten Konder and I am the newly elected YFA chair for the Polk County Farm Bureau.

I am a recent graduate of UW-River Falls where I earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education. Currently I am the agricultural/technology education teacher at Luck Public Schools where I am able to promote agriculture every day of my life, which makes me so happy.

I reside north of Star Prairie with my boyfriend Reggie and my two-year-old daughter Arianna. We have raised pigs and are hopeful to raise beef cattle in the near future.

I grew up on a 45 cow Holstein dairy farm near Glenwood City, so agriculture has been with me my entire life.

I cannot wait to get to know more residents of Polk County and see what the Farm Bureau can do.