



# Portage County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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




Rural Mutual Agent in Portage Co:

Jenni Zinda-Mancl  
(715) 341-5808

David Meihak, District Manager - (715) 630-4801

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation



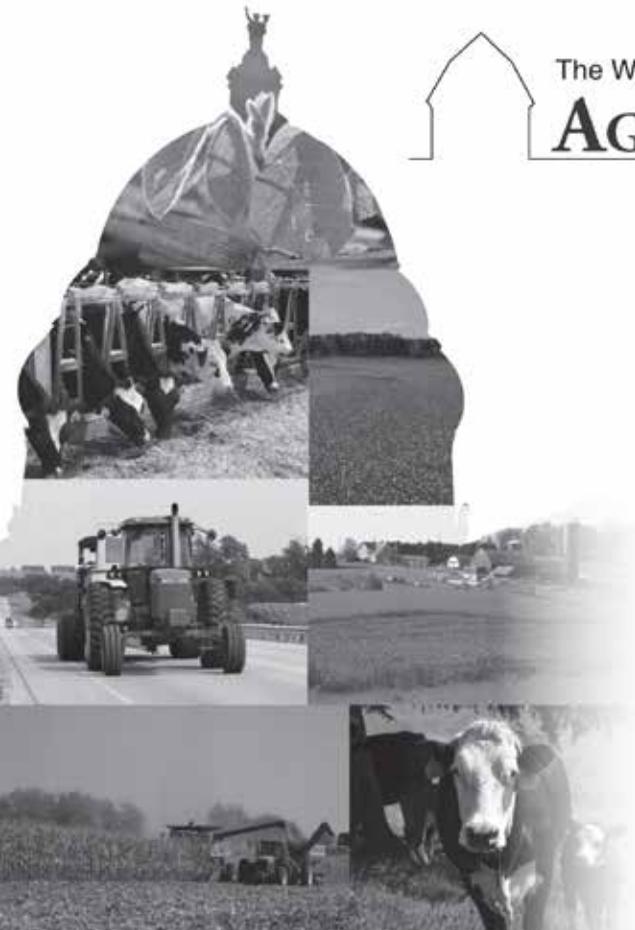

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend  
**AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL**  
March 20, 2019  
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

**Early Registration Deadline: March 14**  
**Cost: \$30** per person by registration  
deadline.  
**\$35** after deadline and at the door.

**Tentative Schedule of Events:**  
11:00 a.m. Registration  
11:30 a.m. Opening Program  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing  
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: 

Thank You to Our Sponsors:  
 



## Share Farm Bureau Stories

In 2019, WFBF will be celebrating 100 years. As part of the celebration, the Centennial Committee is collecting stories.

Farm Bureau members past and present can submit their stories via a Google form found at [bit.ly/SubmitAFarmBureauStory](http://bit.ly/SubmitAFarmBureauStory). You can also email your story to [wfbf100@wfbf.com](mailto:wfbf100@wfbf.com) or mail items to: Attention: Centennial Committee, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.

The goal of the WFBF Centennial Committee is to share at least 100 Farm Bureau stories during the centennial year.

### WISCONSIN FARM CENTER

Free, Confidential Assistance  
Hours: 7:45 am - 4:30 pm | Monday - Friday

#### NEED TO TALK?

Are you struggling with making payments, feeling stressed or just worried you have no one to turn to for help?

CALL: 1-800-942-2474  
EMAIL: [FARMCENTER@WISCONSIN.GOV](mailto:FARMCENTER@WISCONSIN.GOV)





# COUNTYnews

PORTAGE COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Grassroots Policy: 72nd Portage County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap Up



Below is the list of resolutions that the Portage County board of directors presented at their annual meeting on October 16. All resolutions passed and will make their way to the WFBF Policy Development Committee, which is made up of volunteers from around the state. Last year the committee reviewed close to 600 resolutions submitted from around the state.

If you have questions or concerns or maybe you believe there is another pressing issue that needs to be dealt with – then be sure to make sure your voice is heard by contacting your county board members.

### State

1. We are in favor of appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and fines across the state for any individual or entity that intentionally and willfully allow manure and/or leachate to enter waterways or wetlands and do not follow nutrient management plans. *Natural Resources and the Environment - Nutrient Management Regulations*
2. We support a hunting season on Sandhill Cranes with ag tags available to land owners. *Hunting and Wildlife - Hunting Seasons*
3. We support more equal distribution of state road funds to rural areas. *Transportation - Highways*
4. We support uniform training of milk inspectors to reflect current technology, construction and production practices. *General Government - DATCP*
5. We support striking sludge from line 7 page 18 and insert waste and amending it to add it into a nutrient management plan.



- a. We support reasonable state laws and regulations governing manure handling and runoff problems with appropriate consequences for those who disregard them. We oppose a ban on the winter spreading of manure. Winter manure applications should be based on a farmer's nutrient management plan. We support requiring municipal and industrial waste applications to be at the nutrient needs of the crop rotation and included in the nutrient management plan.
6. We oppose use of "all-natural" and "GMO Free" synonymously with "organic" to avoid producer certification as an organic grower. *Marketing - Labeling*
7. We would like to 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 animal.
8. We support better tracking and studying of movement of any relocated bear.
9. We support the removal of \$10,000 max payout from the DNR for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.
10. We support the DNR to be required to create sub-zones for better control of over-populated wildlife bear, deer, goose, and turkey in a small area.
11. We support gasoline to contain ethanol with ethanol free gasoline as an option.
12. We support basic agriculture questions on state standardized testing.
13. We support the implementation of the Wisconsin Agricultural Food and Natural Resource Standards in schools.
14. We support striking lines 27 and 28 page 19 of the WFBF 2018 policy book. (We support a \$0.05/gallon tax on agricultural dyed fuel to be used only for town road improvements and maintenance.) *Taxation - Fuel Tax*

### Federal

1. We are opposed to price gouging by pharmaceutical companies.



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## From the Desk of the District 8 Director and WFBF Vice President



Greetings from your WFBF Board of Directors.

I want to thank you for being members. I know that times are tough and I hope that this letter offers you some reassurance from your WFBF Board of Directors.

This year has proven to have quite a few challenges: damaging milk prices, low commodity prices and ongoing trade discussions let alone Mother Nature. To top it off, we are seeing an internal battle amongst farmers, activists speaking on our behalf more and more and an even greater divide amongst our consumers.

In the last year we have seen so many great things happen. Below is my run down of my top five reasons why I continue to be Farm Bureau proud.

1. This spring, we hosted our first IGNITE Conference. This two-day leadership conference was geared towards county leaders to ensure that they continue to have the tools that they need to run their county Farm Bureaus and be the outstanding leaders they are in their communities.
2. We had 12 counties band together for the Dairy 1, 2, 3 series. This series was geared towards identifying how our dairy pricing came to be, where dairy trends are going and what we can do to ensure a viable and healthy dairy industry. We also recorded the first two sessions. I encourage you to watch them online if you haven't yet.
  - a. Session 1 with Director of the Center for Dairy Profitability Mark Stephenson: [bit.ly/Dairy123-1](http://bit.ly/Dairy123-1).
  - b. Session 2 with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin staff member Beth Schaefer: [bit.ly/Dairy123-2](http://bit.ly/Dairy123-2).

3. We continue to lobby for the farm bill and ensuring that it works for Wisconsin farmers.
4. We continue to advocate for trade deals working to create opportunities for Wisconsin farmers.
5. Policy Development. District 8 continues to try innovative ideas to engage members in the agriculture industry, to speak up and to think outside the box when brainstorming ideas to ensure Wisconsin stays America's Dairyland.

Thank you for your continued support of the county Farm Bureau.

**Don Radtke**  
WFBF District 8 Director  
WFBF Vice President  
715.573.7208  
[djradtke@gmail.com](mailto:djradtke@gmail.com)

## District 8 YFA Update



Congratulations to Clark County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer and Agriculturist members Brad and Kristine Boon (far left), who were appointed to the WFBF YFA Committee. They will start their three-year term at the YFA Conference.

Brad Boon farms full-time on his family's 300-cow dairy farm Boon Farms, LLC. His wife Kristine owns a quilting and fabric business in addition to managing the farm's finances and book work. The couple has been married for 12 years and have three children: Natalie (7), Fletcher (5) and Baylee (3). Brad is a Clark County Farm Bureau board member and the couple regularly attends the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from across the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and involved in Farm Bureau. They carry out state-wide initiatives, such as conferences,



Jill Nieman, Will Litzer and Marissa Graven will represent District 8 and Marathon County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Discussion Meet in December.

contests and award programs. The YFA Program is funded by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

This summer, we hosted the District 8 Discussion Meet in conjunction with the District 8 Policy Development Meeting at Randall's Sports Bar in Abbottsford. We want to thank the judges for the evening.

### YFA Achievement Final Four



Congratulations to Ryan and Lindsay Prahls (Marathon County) for being named to the Achievement in Agriculture Award Final Four.

### State YFA Conference Updates

We have been working to plan a fun and informative YFA Conference.

Please join us at the YFA Conference on November 30-December 2 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

### Rural Sponsorship for YFA Conference

Rural Mutual Insurance has announced the recipients of the 2018 Rural Mutual First Timers Sponsorship. The following YFA members from District 8 will receive paid hotel and registration to the YFA Conference held at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells: **Clark County:** Luke Luchterhand, Mark Elmhorst and Justin Schmitz; **Marathon County:** Sijmen Stuij and Samantha Solin.

Remember, if you nominated one of these individuals and they attend, you will receive \$100 on Friday night at the YFA Conference.

## WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

WFBF will hold their 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in conjunction with the YFA Conference on November 30-December 3 at Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. The theme is 'Our Legacy.' Make sure you don't miss a moment of the action by following Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation or 'wifarmbureau' on social media.





# SAVE THE DATE!

conference

## fusion

Milwaukee 2019

Brought to you by American Farm Bureau

### March 15-18

## Wisconsin Center



Engaging Speakers

Network with Farm Bureau members from across the U.S.

Tours  
Hands-on Learning Sessions

Entertainment & Fun!

### Details:

- The conference will bring together volunteers from Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership & Young Farmers & Ranchers
- Early registration will be \$285/person
- Rooms will be available at the Hilton Milwaukee Center (\$145/night) and the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee (\$142/night)

### Sponsorships:

- The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will provide sponsorship for registration fees (\$285) for members to attend. Sponsorship applications are due on December 10, 2018. The number of sponsorships available will be based upon funds raised from the 50/50 raffle at the 2018 WFBF YFA Conference and Annual Meeting.

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/fusionsponsorship>

## 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 [wbf.com/membership/member-benefits](http://wbf.com/membership/member-benefits).

## District 8 Splash of Red Cranberry Tour

District 8 Farm Bureau members toured different area marshes, picked fresh fruit from the vine and observed testing, cleaning and freezing of the fruit harvest with students from the nation's only cranberry science class as our tour guides.

A scrumptious lunch with special cranberry treats was included with the tour. All monies raised through the tour will go

toward scholarship and trip opportunities for Pittsville FFA members. The two-hour cranberry tour took place east of Pittsville in the heart of central Wisconsin cranberry country.

Pittsville FFA members and students gave this all-inclusive tour. The tour met at the Pittsville School auditorium with an introductory video to kick off the event.



## Portage County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, John Eron	715.498.5222
Vice President, John Herman	715.630.7317
Secretary/Treasurer, James Isherwood	715.344.9654
Promotion and Education Chair, Melissa Eron	715.498.7013
YFA Chair, Jeff Dombrowski	608.963.6797
Director, John Kosmalski	715.677.3857
Director, Leroy Miller	715.677.3435
Director, Lance Wolosek	715.213.1737
Director, Nathan Wolosek	715.421.5342
Director, Mark Zajackowski	715.457.2860

Portage County Farm Bureau	888.385.5945
WFBF Board Director, Don Radtke	715.573.7208
WFBF YFA Chair, Beth and Matt Schaefer	608.577.6845
District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway	866.355.7348
RMIC District Manager, Dave Meihak	715.544.6824

## Share Your Farm Bureau Stories

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Farm Bureau members past and present can submit their stories via a Google form found at [bit.ly/SubmitAFarmBureauStory](http://bit.ly/SubmitAFarmBureauStory).

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# SAVE THE DATE

New in 2019  
Ag LEAD Summit  
Hosted by



March 8-9, 2019  
Appleton, Wisconsin

Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT