



Richland County Farm Bureau

PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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Rural Mutual Agent in Richland Co:

Tony Dougherty
(608) 647-2972

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Young Farmers and Agriculturists 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? 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 compete during the YFA Discussion Meet during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

2. In conjunction with the Discussion Meet, Grant County Farm Bureau hosted members from District 3 for the annual Night on the Farm. YFA members enjoyed a potluck dinner, wagon ride and tour of Keiler Farms.

3. 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.

4. In June, 25 Young Farmers and Agriculturist members from around Wisconsin traveled to Washington, D.C., for the YFA Fly-In. The trip is designed to put real farmers and agriculturists 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 other individuals from the state who are actively involved in agriculture.



COUNTYnews

RICHLAND COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

Richland County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights



The Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on October 10 at the White House Ramada in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business meeting.

Several guests attended the meeting. Rural Mutual Insurance Executive Vice President and CEO, Peter Pelizza, talked about the importance of Farm Bureau and what it stands for. He discussed the grassroots process and how significant it is to let your voice be heard.

Rural Mutual District Manager, Randy Palmer, shared his appreciation of Farm Bureau and how proud he is to represent a company that has the strength and resources to take care of its members and their families.

Senator Howard Marklein discussed the significant role and powerful reputation Farm Bureau has at the state level. He acknowledged times are tough, but encouraged members to be enthusiastic and thanked them for what they do for the agriculture industry.

Thank you to everyone who attended the annual meeting. We look forward to seeing more of you there next year.

Members selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed one resolution, reading: We support requiring all animal drawn vehicles that transport people to pay a registration fee to aid in the transportation budget. This resolution will be forwarded to the state policy development committee for consideration by the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

District 3 Promotion and Education Update



Fall is in the air. I am looking forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new people at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Ag LEAD Summit

Mark your calendars for **March 8-9, 2019**, to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when conducting promotional events and advocating for agriculture. Hotel accommodations, registration and a tentative agenda for the conference will be available in November. The

conference will be broken into four tracks: Engaging Consumers,

Leading Your Own Self Development, Advocating for Agriculture and Developing Agribusinesses.

Playbook

Looking for a new idea to incorporate in your county Farm Bureau? Don't forget to check out the 'Playbook' online at wbf.com for planning agriculture awareness and promotion events. Topics include resources for consumer outreach, Ag in the Classroom, fundraising, member development and policy to name a few.

Wishing you a safe harvest this fall season.

Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Farm Bureau Success at Richland County Fair

Richland County Farm Bureau members could be seen helping in the Ag Discovery Area at this year's Richland County Fair. Adults and kids visited the dairy barn to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry.

Fairgoers pet animals, played on the My American Farm kiosks and turned in their postcard for a free Farm Bureau bucket.

Thanks to those who stopped by to visit and learn something new.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2 President's Message

District 3 Director Report
Boot Camp

3 District 3 YFA Update

Agriculture for ME on Land
and Sea
Book of the Year and Essay
Contest
Board Contacts

President's Message



Well, there is no need to talk about the weather or the harvest progress. Those topics just bring on stress and there is plenty of that to go around.

The Richland County Farm Bureau's fiscal year ended on September 30 and it has been an interesting year. With the struggles in the dairy and cash crop farming we only had a net drop in voting membership of

12. Richland County has 277 voting members and 451 total members. We prefer to have a gain and hope that 2019 will come through with an increase.

Some of Richland County Farm Bureau's activities this past year included contributions to the dairy breakfast, State High School Rodeo, Richland County Fair, Viola Horse and Colt Show, Ithaca School Fair and a bucket giveaway for members at the county fair.

The Richland County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on October 10 and covered the necessary items for our organization. The board of directors election was held, and I am pleased to announce that we have added two new directors, Bill Hying and Josh Joseph. We also elected Richland County delegates to represent us at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December where they will get updated information on issues that affect agriculture and act on policy for the coming year.

This is an election year and I hope that you take the time to vote. We need to keep people in Madison who support rural Wisconsin and use common sense in making laws that affect how agriculture can produce food and support our families. Wisconsin Farm Bureau has a Volunteers for Agriculture® committee that does a thorough job of investigating the candidates stand on ag issues and then makes endorsements. You have most likely received information that gives you who the endorsed candidates are.

Here's to hoping for a good ending to 2018.

Dick Hauser

Richland 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 Col-

lege 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 Gordner

WFBF District 3 Director

2019 FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships

Richland 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 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 Richland County Farm Bureau president Dick Hauser by **January 15, 2019**.

Wiedenbeck Reflects on AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp



Sometimes it isn't easy taking time away from home. It can get discouraging to continue to take advantage of opportunities that are presented to you in order to avoid criticism; however, the consequence of giving up on life-changing experiences is NEVER worth it because life is too short. No matter how much stress it may

take to prepare for your journey, you always come home with a special gift that you never had before. My gift at the end of July was going to Washington, D.C., and meeting 15 of the most amazing women in this country. Not only did they share my passion for agriculture, but they also shared my commitment to growing personally and professionally to better our futures.

On July 23-25, I participated in the Women's Communications Boot Camp sponsored by the American Farm Bureau Federation's Women's Committee. After meeting the class and hearing about their accomplishments, I thought to myself, "I don't even compare to these ladies." Yet, they are the ones who boosted me up and helped convince me that I, too, deserved to be there. After having a brief introduction dinner and beautiful night tour of the historical monuments, we jumped right into doing our presentation speeches the next morning. It was interesting to hear different perspectives on agricultural issues that other states are dealing with.

Following our presentations, we took an in-depth look at

public speaking and covered topics of content, messaging and delivery dynamics. Then media training was covered, giving us tips on hitting our key message using tag lines or seven-second sound bites. That prepped us for day two, where we participated in print, radio and television interviews and were forced to step out of our comfort zones.

Before we headed to Capitol Hill to meet with our legislators, we gained more information on farm policy, regulatory reform and trade issues. We also learned about social media advocacy and how to have successful congressional visits. I have been to Capitol Hill, but it was a new experience meeting with staffers one-on-one versus in a group setting. I enjoyed sharing my connection to issues and addressing concerns that Wisconsin farmers may be facing.

Finally, we began our third day with a message from AFBF President Zippy Duvall who read, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries (1 Cor: 16:9)." This means that wonderful opportunities to do great work present themselves every day, but there are always people who will be against you. Then, the group finished the class by giving our final presentations and I was very proud of how far everyone had come.

They say a missed opportunity is worse than defeat, and I know this group of women that I met left me with a sense of confidence that I didn't have before because they believed in me more than I believed in myself. Flipping fear into curiosity is a gift and that I got to bring back to Wisconsin, along with a family and a fan club that I wouldn't have had without this experience.

I am very grateful for my job letting me partake in this opportunity and I would recommend the Women's Communications Boot Camp to anyone. I am always willing to answer questions, so don't be afraid to contact me.

Richland County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



The Richland County Farm Bureau board of directors meet on a monthly-basis to discuss agricultural issues, plan events, and make decisions that benefit the organization. These leaders dedicate their time to represent Farm Bureau in the community and at state and national levels. We're lucky to have a board that exhibits a variety of knowledge and experience. Their service and dedication to Farm Bureau and the agricultural industry is appreciated. Thank you to past and current board members. The 2018-2019 Richland County Farm Bureau board of directors includes (from left): Byron Hillberry, Bekka Martin, Josh Joseph, Bill Hying, Dick Hauser and Germaine Hying.



In June, Richland County directors joined board members from Crawford and Vernon counties for the District 3 Northern Tri-County Meeting. At the meeting, members heard from WFBF staff and were briefed on legislative issues impacting the agricultural industry. The meeting also gave the three counties an opportunity to network, share ideas and discuss Farm Bureau business.

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.

"Over the summer, many counties had food stands at their county fairs or booths with educational resources and games about agriculture. In August, the District 3 YFA held a Golf and Grill Outing at the Platteville Golf Course and the Discussion Meet in conjunction with Night on the Farm at Kieler Farms in Platteville.

Thank you to the YFA members who participated in the discussion and to Angie Hermsen, Jacque Metille and Toby Spillane for judging the event. Congratulations to Andrew DalSanto, Dan Frank and Maija Haggith for being selected to move on to the state competition at the YFA Conference. Also, congratulations to Justin and Livia Doyle, who were named finalists for the Excellence in Agriculture Award. I look forward to seeing you at the YFA Conference later this year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events next year: AFBF 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 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.

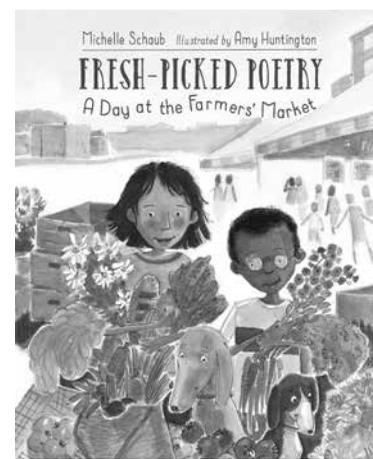
Melissa Doyle
WFBF District 3 Coordinator



Richland County Farm Bureau Contacts:

President, Richard Hauser	608.585.4808
Vice President/YFA Chair, Bekka Martin	608.642.0185
Secretary, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367
Treasurer, Josh Joseph	608.604.9819
Promotion and Education Chair, Germaine Hying	608.739.3367
Director, Byron Hillberry	608.537.2352
Director, Bill Hying	608.574.2781
Richland County Farm Bureau	888.830.2576
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
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle	866.355.7343
RMIC District Manager, Randy Palmer	608.515.3123

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 Richland County Ag in the Classroom committee chair Germaine Hying, at 608.739.3367.

DO YOU KNOW?

Richland County farmers own and manage 227,833 acres, or 60.7 percent, of the county's land. This includes cropland, rangeland, pasture, tree farms and farm forests. As stewards of the land, farmers use conservation practices, such as crop rotation, nutrient management and integrated pest management, to protect environmental resources and provide habitat for wildlife.