



# Trempealeau County Farm Bureau

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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.

### Thank You, Milkshake Stand Volunteers

Thank you to those who helped in the milkshake stand at the Trempealeau County Fair.

The weather was beautiful, and there were so many fun events to partake in which made for fantastic fair attendance and record-setting milkshake sales. By Saturday evening, we were scrambling to find more milk and ice cream to keep up with demand. This was the second year of having four flavors-including vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and mint.

This is the largest fundraiser of the year for the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau, and it is what allows us to donate books to libraries in the county, sponsor scholarships and animal grants, and donate to the Trempealeau County Fair and other local agricultural events and groups. See you next year at the fair.



Farm Bureau members helped make milkshakes throughout the Trempealeau County Fair. Flavors included vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and mint.



# COUNTYnews

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY FARM BUREAU EDITION

## Celebrating During the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



The Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on August 21 with 62 members and guests in attendance.

The 2018 Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on August 21 at the Schroeder Shelter in the Blair Park with 62 members and guests in attendance. Prior to the business meeting, a meal of pulled pork, salads, chips and dessert was served.

During the meeting, attendees heard from WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege; Rural Mutual Insurance Northwest District Manager Laurie Peterson; District 4 Direc-

tor Joe Bragger; and several political candidates running for State Assembly, State Senate, and Trempealeau County Sheriff.

13 animal grants were presented to youth in the county. Those recipients who were in attendance gave a short description of their fair project and how they would use the grant.

Elections for county directors as well as WFBF Annual Meeting delegates were voted on. Kendra Goplin will serve as the new Ag Promotions chair, and Todd Quarne was elected to the board of directors. County, state, federal and internal resolutions also were discussed and voted on.

Thank you to Crystal Johnson for her time and effort in serving as the Ag Promotions chair for the past several years. Crystal, you will be missed on the board. Thank you to everyone who took time to attend. The Farm Bureau annual meeting is always a great opportunity for county members and guests to get together to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and to get updated with all things Farm Bureau. We hope to see you next year.

## Local Farmers Travel to Eastern Wisconsin for Farmer to Farmer Tour

On August 22, the Buffalo/Trempealeau Farmer Network hosted a bus tour to eastern Wisconsin to visit farms involved in the Lower Fox Demo Farms Network. At 5:30 a.m., 12 farmers boarded a bus and began the trip across the state to Greenleaf.

In 2016, 2017 and 2018 the Elk Creek/Middle Trempealeau Watershed farmer group was funded by DATCP's Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant Program. Because there were Buffalo County and Trempealeau County farmers with similar goals, they decided to form the Buffalo/Trempealeau Farmer Network. Many farmers involved with the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau are involved in the group. These farmers have focused on implementing cover crops and nitrogen management and technology and have worked together to also host educational opportunities for themselves and other area farmers.

The group was interested in hosting an educational opportunity for farmers in western Wisconsin to travel to eastern Wisconsin to learn about innovative techniques farmers are using to implement cover crops and apply manure. Farms in the Lower Fox Demo Farms Network made for a great destination as their mission is to demonstrate the effectiveness and adaptability of conser-

vation practices to reduce erosion, control phosphorus runoff and address other non-point pollution issues.

The first stop on the tour was New Horizons Dairy. The group heard from Derek Van De Hey about his cover crop and no-till strategies. Derek has seen the benefits of promoting soil health with increased infiltration rates. He plants a shorter day corn variety that gives him a larger window to plant cover crops. Derek also plants winter wheat on his farm. After wheat harvest, Derek has seen the benefits of purple top turnips planted as a cover crop.

After lunch, the group visited Vande Wettering Farms where they met Tom and Bill Vande Wettering. Two years ago, this farm implemented grazing into their dairy operation and now rotationally graze all of their heifers. They also have implemented interseeding of red clover into their corn silage crop that can be grazed in late fall after corn is chopped off the field.

Last on the tour was a stop to Brickstead Dairy. Here the group heard from 2017 Aldo Leopold Conservation Award winner, Dan Brick. Dan is a veteran no-tiller and cover crop user and believes building up the health of soils on his farm can help the farm

withstand heavy rains. The farm is a part of a long-term water quality monitoring project that is studying the impacts of cover crops and no-till on water exiting the field.

Here are a few takeaways from the day from the Buffalo/Trempealeau Farmer Network:

Kellen Nelson: "You don't have to spend a great deal of money to have great diversity in cover crops. Clover, radish, turnip and rye mixes can be done for \$12 to \$15 per acre."

Brad Sirriani: "Cover crops are helping for soil health and are adding a lot of value to no-till. Field runoff is decreased and they help manure applications and management. There are many ways to make cover crops work on farms."

Phillip Waldera: "Seeding rye before hauling manure in the fall works for good establishment."

Brian Maliszewski: There's no one way cover crops have to be used, as long as something green is growing, many benefits will occur. Everyone had a different goal in mind and covers can help achieve that. Interseeding in corn can be accomplished.

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## President's Message



As summer seems to be getting a distant memory, we turn our attention to fall. For farmers who grow crops, fall is a time we look forward to getting our report card on how we did this year growing our crops.

It amazes me that even after another challenging year, we are still able to have

much of a crop to harvest. Everything from having snow on the ground in late April to having less than a half of an inch of rain in the month of July. Even though we are discouraged at the price of a bag of seed, and I am one of them, we have to admit the yield potential is much greater than just a few short years ago.

So as farmers, we are wrapping up our cropping season, as our students are just getting a good start on their next school year.

Kids are another thing that never ceases to amaze me. This year, I had the opportunity to make it to the Wisconsin State Fair and of course the Trempealeau County Fair. The talent that kids have today is remarkable. Walking through the exhibits in Milwaukee, I can say I was very proud to be from Trempealeau County. There were a number of familiar names that were selected to represent our county at the state level. Congratulations to all.

Not to mention the number of kids from our county showing animals outside our borders. Discipline, dedication, talent, passion and love are some words I would use to describe our future leaders.

Last year, your Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board wanted to become more involved in working with our county's youth organizations. We said we want to share resources if possible. This summer we saw an opportunity to do that, after I got a phone call that I did not want to take.

The phone call was from Crystal Johnson. She told me that because they were expecting another addition to their family, that she would not be running for re-election for the board this year. Crystal has been a huge asset to the board with her talent, hard work and dedication. She is and will be missed on

our board. I can only hope that her absence from the board is temporary and not permanent. I want to say, 'Thank you' to Crystal for everything she has done to make Trempealeau County Farm Bureau better.

With Crystal stepping down from the board, that left a vacancy in our Ag Promotions chair. After a lot of discussion on who we could get to replace Crystal. We decided to do something a bit unconventional. We decided to nominate a student to fill that position. So at our annual meeting in August, Kendra Goplin was voted to take over the position of Ag Promotion chair.

Kendra's Supervised Agriculture Experience in FFA is agriculture education. She has been educating students in the Whitehall School District about agriculture and is looking forward to traveling to the schools in the county to help educate students about ag.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful harvest,

Shane Goplin  
Trempealeau County Farm Bureau president

## President's Message: 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 corner – 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 over-supply 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.

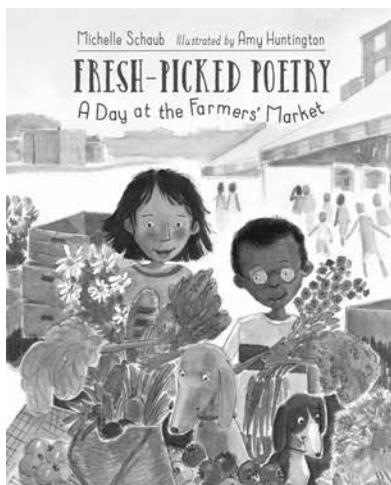
So please bring your ideas and do not be afraid to speak up and provide input. Consider nominating someone that can articulate your thoughts as a state annual meeting delegate or volunteer yourself.

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

## 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
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- Grainger
- Office Depot

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- The Country Today

### Insurance

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- Farm Bureau Financial Services

### Protection

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- 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.

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## 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.