



Grassroots

District 9 News

What Does My Membership Return to Me?



Jim Holte
WFBF President
and District 9
Director

Agriculture finds itself in challenging times and that is no surprise

to anyone. It is only natural that we ask ourselves, "What do my membership dues return to me?" or "Do I get my money's worth?" Through the WFBF Public Relations staff, there are notices and press releases that are sent to share this information.

Still, I know that most farmers spend little time reading this information since they are fully engaged in their everyday responsibilities of farming. So, I thought I would take time to share some of the efforts from WFBF on behalf of Wisconsin farmers.

Education and training

Through the efforts of our Ag in the Classroom programing, we impact adults and youth with positive messages about agriculture. The WFB Foundation sponsors 4-H and FFA programs around the state. Our three collegiate chapters receive staff support and funds to assist with the programs. The WFBF Leadership Institute has provided training to more than 150 members. We have excellent state-wide participation through our YFA programs.

Member services

Our nine district coordinators deliver organizational expertise to our county boards, giving the county boards time to concentrate on decisions for the county Farm Bureau.

Operations and legal

Farm Bureau's finances and investments are handled with a high level of professional competence. While we do not enjoy spending resources on legal expenses, we have realized that defending topics such as Wisconsin's 'right to farm' law or the 'use value taxation' on farm property, are critical to our financial well-being in agriculture.

Communications and Public Relations

From maintaining our websites to keeping members informed through newsletters and *Rural Route*, we are active every day on the information front.

Governmental Relations

Farm Bureau is probably best known for its ability to put agriculture's voice in front of elected officials. Both at the state and national levels, we carry agriculture's message.

This is a summary of involvement, and is supported by WFBF Board member activities like the following:

- Meeting with Region 5 EPA officials.
- Issue advisory committees at American Farm Bureau Federation.
- Joint meetings with other groups, like the Wisconsin Towns Association.
- Regular meetings with CALS/ UW-Extension.
- Participating in promotion with USDEC and Wisconsin Beef Council.

As you probably can realize, I believe Wisconsin Farm Bureau delivers to its members.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Kay Gilbertson

District 9 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Greetings, from the District 9 Promotion and Education Committee with the mission to build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership

development for the agricultural community.

The Promotion and Education Committee is excited to host the Ag LEAD Summit on **March 8-9**, at the Red Lion-Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. The Ag LEAD Summit is the first summit of it's kind. This summit will give attendees the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events. The conference has four tracks: Leading your own self development, engaging consumers, advocating for agriculture and developing agribusinesses. Registration for this event is open to Farm Bureau members and non-members. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/AgLead.

The Promotion and Education Committee strives to bring valuable resources to Farm Bureau members to be able to enhance your own county programs. We invite counties to submit ideas to the "Playbook" so others may benefit in their own counties. The "Playbook" is a collection of events, programs and activities that happen throughout the state on a local level. Throughout the "Playbook," you will find activities and events for all ages, time frames and budgets in each of the following categories: Ag in the Classroom, consumer outreach, education/ag promotion, fundraising, member development and policy development/implementation. Updates to the "Playbook" will be made quarterly. Please submit updates to plays and new plays. These updates are due at the WFBF office by these dates: March 15, June 15, Sept. 15 and Dec. 15. Updates received after these dates will be held until the next update.

Please submit your entries by following this link. bit.ly/PlaybookForm. Look through the "Playbook" for more information, visit wfbf.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/P-and-E-Playbook-Jan-2017.

If you have question or want to share information, please contact me.

'Our Legacy' 99th Annual WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

'Our Legacy' was the theme of the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held at the Kalahari Resorts in the Wisconsin Dells on November 30-December 3.

To kick off the weekend, more than 480 young farmer members came together on November 30 for the YFA Conference. This is an opportunity for YFA members ages 18-35 from around the state to gather for social sharing and networking, to gain personal growth, leadership development and increased knowledge of agriculture issues through quality speakers and workshop presenters.

It also was a time to celebrate the accomplishments of individual YFA contest winners and county YFA programs.

Saturday evening featured the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet, when the YFA Conference converged with the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Nearly 1,300 farmers and agriculturists from across Wisconsin attended the WFBF Annual Meeting to vote on policy, gather ideas from workshops and keynote speakers, and to network with members from around the state.

"Our farming community knows they can count on Farm Bureau to stand up for them

through our grassroots process. As we look to the future, there is no doubt in my mind that Farm Bureau will once again lead the way on the tough issues facing agriculture," stated President Jim Holte when he addressed the group during the Farm Bureau Proud banquet.

On December 3, Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2019. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.



Barron County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Kayla Kringle and Elnora, Sierra Solum, Al Sigurdson and Sam Olson; front row (from left): Nate Kringle and Felix and Remington, Karyn Schauf and Julie Wadzinski.



Dunn County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Marv Prestrud, Kevin and Kay Gilbertson, Jim Holte, Ben and Hailey Sand, Matthew and Heather Kirkpatrick, Al and Bristol Shannon, Brian Douglas, Jess Bowker and Tony Christopherson; front row (from left): Mary Prestrud, Tara Prochnow, Carl Casper and Kayla and Nick Perkovich.



Pierce County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Amy and Dave Bechel, Leanne and Peter Kimball and Monica and John Krings, front row (from left): Tom and Laura Benitz, children: Mary, Heather and Emma, Ryan Bailey and Kari Benitz.



Polk County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Rick Wester, Andy Gould, Chris Owens and Hans Johnson; front row (from left): Jolene Wester, Crystal Meier, Maria Menart and Catherine Johnson; not in the photo, Isaac Christenson.



Sawyer County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Dale Beissel and Mike Robers; front row (from left): Andrew Winiarczyk with Jacob and Collie Winiarczyk with Abby.



St. Croix County Farm Bureau members who attended included, back row (from left): Gary and Melanie Peterson, Jade Kruschke, Lexi DuSell, Jenny Mueller; front row (from left): Lynn Brosi, Dave Kruschke, Leslie Svacina with Cody, Scott Svacina with Cady and Dean Mueller.



Alan and Liz Shiefelbein represented Superior Shores Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Rusk County Farm Bureau members Paul Hetke, Evan DuSell and Terry DuSell served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.



UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau students had a great time networking and learning at the YFA Conference.



District 9 had a great showing of Young Farmers attend the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference.

10 Ways WFBF Has Made a Difference in Agriculture ...



Katie Mattison
District 9 Coordinator

Thanks to members like you, and with your help, WFBF has made a difference in Wisconsin agriculture.

Listed are 10 ways that WFBF made a difference during the past year.

1. Membership: Your Farm Bureau membership is the main reason WFBF has been able to make a difference in agriculture. As of membership year end September 30, 2018 WFBF had a total of 46,893 total members, a 271 member gain compared with 2017.

2. Grassroots Policy:

A Voice for Farmers. A Vision for Agriculture. As a grassroots organization, farmers have a voice. WFBF uses a structured policy development process. Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote on them at county Farm Bureau annual meetings. Policy ideas advance to the WFBF Annual Meeting where delegate members vote on the proposals. This process continues at the national level. Events like Ag Day at the Capitol and the Washington, D.C., Fly-In allow farmers to talk with their elected officials. To support the grassroots action of our members, WFBF's governmental relations team is employed to fight for what, you, our members want. WFBF's governmental relations team works advocating for agricultural interests at the local, state and national levels.



3. Member Communication: WFBF communicates actively with our members as well as with the media. Last year 158 county

newsletters were sent to Farm Bureau members in 52 county Farm Bureaus, six *Rural Route* magazines were published and sent statewide. Every Friday, Ag Newswire is emailed. In

addition, WFBF uses www.wfbf.com, Ag Newswire and social media to keep audiences engaged and informed.

4. Rural Mutual Insurance: WFBF's success is enhanced by the partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Rural Mutual sponsors many WFBF programs and events throughout the year including: Ag Day at the Capitol; WFBF Annual Meeting; YFA Washington, D.C., trip; WFBF Leadership Institute; Council of Presidents; YFA Conference; and WFBF Leadership Washington, D.C., Fly-In. As of membership-year-end September 30, 2018, Rural Mutual Insurance agents signed 3,385 new WFBF members.

5. Ag in the Classroom:

Ag in the Classroom is coordinated by WFBF staff, with a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Ag in the classroom program provides teachers and students with an understanding of where food comes from. Ag in the Classroom provides many free resources, lesson plans and hands-on activities to teachers, volunteers and students.



6. Youth Programs: WFBF has continued to have strong support for youth programs. WFBF is a supporter of 4-H and FFA and county Farm Bureaus sponsor a variety of local youth programs, events and activities. 2018 marked the 47th year WFBF has sponsored the FFA Farm Forum for Wisconsin youth. FFA Farm Forum is a learning and leadership conference open to high school juniors. Nearly 200 students attend this annual conference in Wisconsin Rapids. 2018 also was the 44th year in which the 4-H Key Awards were sponsored by the WFBF Foundation, including its partners Rural Mutual Insurance Company, GROWMARK, Inc. and Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

7. Young Farmer and Agriculturist: WFBF's YFA program is for members between the ages of 18 and 35 and offers opportunities for leadership and skills development, along with the chance to meet and network with peers. YFA members are active around the state



through district and county events, with each County Farm Bureau having a YFA chair and each district having a YFA representative who serves on the state YFA Committee. Last year, more than 500 YFA members attended the YFA Conference.



8. Collegiate Farm Bureau: The first Wisconsin collegiate Farm Bureau was formed in 2010 on UW-Madison campus. It was started because students wanted their voices heard on agricultural issues and policies. In 2012, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls established collegiate Farm Bureaus. Each collegiate Farm Bureau is led by students who work to advocate for the agriculture industry on their campuses. Every April each chapter hosts an Ag Day on Campus.



9. Training and Leadership Development: When our members have the right tools, they can better themselves and become stronger Farm Bureau leaders. There are many opportunities for WFBF members for training and leadership development.

10. 100 Years: In 2019, WFBF will celebrate 100 years of serving members and standing up for agriculture in Wisconsin. I am excited to see what the next 100 years brings.



It is a pleasure working with you. For more information or if you have questions, please contact me. I want to hear from you.

Something New, Something Old and Something Blue



Julie Wadzinski
District 9 Young Farmer and
Agriculturist Representative

Some of you know this line and its familiarity with weddings and you're thinking I left out the 'something borrowed.'

I did that on purpose. In this first letter to you, I want to talk about some of the new things we have planned this year.

Something New

This year is particularly exciting to me for a few reasons, the new year always brings a sense of hope and optimism, and a clean planner that feels like a fresh start. This year, I am serving as the Chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. I am honored to have been elected from such a fine group of leaders.

Currently, District 4 YFA Committee Representative Rosli Bragger and I, with the

help and support of the district coordinators, are planning a joint YFA event in the Chippewa Falls, Menomonie and Eau Claire area on **Sunday, February 10**. Mark your calendars and look for a postcard and Facebook event for more details.

Coming up, Wisconsin will host the FUSION Conference in Milwaukee on **March 15-18**. It is a fantastic networking and learning event topped with a sprinkling of fun. I highly recommend to anyone and everyone to attend, even if it is for a day.

Something Old

This year is our Centennial celebration and I can say that there is so much excitement and planning that is going into the next WFBF Annual Meeting. I remember back to the time when I first learned what the word 'centennial' meant. I was seven years old and I was traveling with my family to a recognition ceremony for our farm celebrating its centennial. It wasn't until I was older that I learned centennial wasn't

just meant for 100-year-old farms. Farm Bureau has stood the test of time and that is something to be proud of and celebrate. Not many organizations can say the same.

Something Blue

As I'm done mentioning the Centennial celebration, I know the atmosphere in the ag community is frustrating. I know farmers have a subconscious sense of hope otherwise no spring crops would ever be planted.

As membership gets brought up, there is a sense of hesitation to ask someone to renew or join because of the agriculture economy. But I also want to mention the intrinsic value of this organization is not the discounts and deals but being around like-minded people who understand. Coming to events and getting off the farm for a couple of hours can make a huge difference in your outlook and recharge you.

I look forward to seeing you during the year. Please contact me with any questions or comments. Have a happy 2019.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company Update



Laurie Peterson
District
manager,
Rural Mutual
Insurance
Company

With 2018 in the books, and 2019 in full swing, it is my pleasure to reach out to you in this newsletter.

Many of you may not know, but one of the most important aspects of my job is to find, recruit and train new talent to come on board and work as agents for Rural Mutual Insurance, and I have some work to do.

From day one, I encourage recruits to learn, understand and embrace not only the benefits that being a Farm Bureau member provides, but also to get involved and understand the purpose and drive of the organization and the individuals who become members.

As Rural Mutual begins a year of transition with Peter Pelizza leaving and Dan Merk starting his

role as Executive Vice President and CEO, I believe you will notice few, if any, change in how we do business. Consistency is crucial to a healthy relationship. The growth and success we have had as partners will remain the same. As a company, we will continue to support county Farm Bureau boards by helping to meet membership goals. We have been and will continue to be available to assist with events, activities and provide support so that you can continue to make a difference.

As WFBF begins its Centennial Celebration, we look forward to sharing another successful year of remembrance, growth and celebration.

We value our partnership and together aim to support the common mission of growing and supporting agriculture at the state and local levels.

I look forward to working with you to continue to make great things happen. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns, I am always available to help.

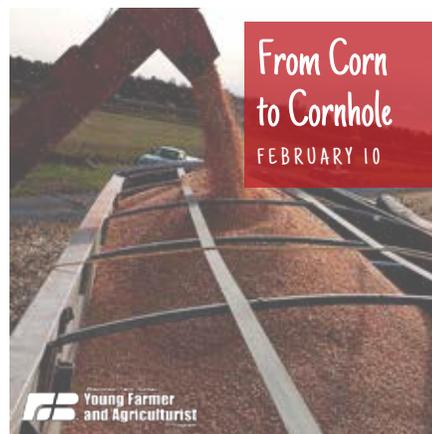
From Corn to Cornhole, Join Districts 4 and 9 YFAs for Some Fun

Come and join Districts 4 and 9 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members for a day of farm tours and socializing in Eau Claire and Chippewa Valley on **Sunday, February 10**.

Farm tours will go from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will visit Prochnow Family Farms near Menomonie to learn about their cash crop farming and grain dealing business. We will learn about drying, storing and hauling on the farm and the family behind the operation. Lunch will be provided. We also will tour Custer Farms and Chippewa Valley Grain and Processing in Chippewa Falls. We will learn about the farm's grain facility, trucking and foreign marketing efforts.

Following farm tours, we will travel to The Complexx at Wagner's Lanes in Eau Claire. The Complexx has many activities to choose from including volleyball courts, bean bags, darts, pool and more. Food and drinks are available for purchase at Wagner's Lanes.

To RSVP by **Friday, February 8**, to District 9 YFA Representative Julie Wadzinski at julie.wadzinski@gmail.com or 715.432.8740 (call or text) or District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 715.418.0975 (call or text). When you RSVP, please indicate which of the events you will attend.



District 9 News

District 9 Membership Incentives Announced



Get decked out in Farm Bureau gear for the Centennial.

1X Membership Incentive!

Prize: Farm Bureau hat to the first 15 members to get at least one new

member.



2X Membership Incentive!

Prize: Farm Bureau t-shirt to the first 15 members to get at least two new members.



4x Membership Incentive!

Prize: Farm Bureau long-sleeve shirt to members who get at least four new members or eight renewal members.



Top Membership Incentive!

Prize: STIHL MS 170 chainsaw

Dates: October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

- One entry for each new member.
- One entry for every two renewal members.



You are Invited to attend:

DISTRICT 9

WORKSHOP

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2019

• 10AM-2PM •

BARRON ELECTRIC, 1434 WI-25, BARRON



Want to learn more about Wisconsin Farm Bureau and how to get involved?

Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau and members from across District 9 to discuss Farm Bureau, the value of membership, and how to work with local elected officials.

** Lunch, refreshments, and door prizes will be provided **

RSVP by Friday, February 22nd to District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison, at 715.418.0975 (call or text) or kmattison@wfbf.com

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

March 20, 2019

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

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



Early Registration Deadline: March 14

Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline. \$35 after deadline and at the door.

Presented by:



Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Join farmers and agriculturists from around Wisconsin for an important day in Madison. Learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with your state legislators.

Don't Want to Drive Yourself or Worry About Parking? Ride the Bus

Bus schedule, departure time

6:30 a.m. **Baldwin:** Park and Ride, south of McDonald's

7:03 a.m. **Menomonie:** Walmart parking lot

7:45 a.m. **Eau Claire:** Walmart parking lot, off Highway 53 and Golf Road

8:15 a.m. **Osseo:** Osseo Inn parking lot

9:23 a.m. **Tomah:** McDonald's by Greyhound pickup area

Arrive at Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center at 11:15 a.m. The bus will depart Madison to return home at 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 per person; event registration is a separate cost.

Deadline: March 14

The bus trip is limited to the first 47 people who register and pay. Reserve your seat today. To reserve your seat, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 866.355.7349 or kmattison@wfbf.com. Please indicate which location you want to be picked up at.

Contact your county Farm Bureau for potential sponsorship to attend Ag Day at the Capitol.

A Message from the President ...



Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau
president

Fellow Barron County Farm Bureau members, In December, delegates joined others from around the state at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Our task was to carry forward our county's resolutions, with support of supply management being high priority. We put forth amended language that Farm Bureau be 'willing to consider supply management.' After an hour of passionate discussion, as one ag newspaper reported, delegates "overwhelmingly supported" the resolution. Thank you to Al Sigurdson and Sam Olson who joined me in serving as delegates. We engaged many in discussion as to why we need Farm Bureau to be at the table to discuss

solutions for the dairy crisis and why supply management needs to be considered. WFB delegates Jim Holte, Dave Daniels and Kevin Krentz attended the AFBF Annual Convention and carried this resolution forward. I appreciate that much like we did at the state level, they are making contacts, with state Farm Bureau presidents, letting them know that Wisconsin is bringing forth this resolution and we need their support. I am grateful that President Jim Holte said that he is looking to do what he can to act on this resolution. When I think back to our farmer-led meeting last April, I know the effort, time, phone calls and meetings that have taken place to bring us to this point. Yet, it is not to where anything translates into financial relief or solutions for our dairy farmers. It is a travesty that we have lost 638 dairy farms in Wisconsin in 2018 and the Wisconsin's Dairy Task Force does not sound close to offering solutions.

At the very least, I hoped there would be a proposed a short-term solution to buy us time to create a more workable, long-term solution. I am sorry. I want to tell you there is a strong effort, yes, across the nation, that is committed to finding a solution for the dairy industry. Now, prior to this going to print, we know that the language we proposed to AFBF failed. It is not a surprise but it is still a disappointment; however, I want you to know there is strong effort out there, yes, across the nation, that is still committed to finding a solution for the dairy industry. AFBF Pres. Zippy Duvall spoke at the convention of how the most important members are the county grassroots members. That IS what makes Farm Bureau valuable to farmers and credible to non-farmers. I am still encouraged by President Holte's verbal commitment for WFBF to do what it can here in the state to honor the delegate voice. We will continue to move forward.

Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds Meeting, February 12

Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds (FBCW), a producer-led group working in the Barron County Watersheds, will host a winter meeting from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, February 12**, at the Rolling Oaks Supper Club in Barron. Lunch will be provided. Continuing education credits will be available. Please RSVP by **February 6** to Craig Hamernik at hamernik@chibardun.net or 715.418.0053. The meeting will feature Eric Cooley and Jason Cavadini. Eric is co-director of UW Discovery Farms and coordinates water quality research efforts, collects and disseminates data

and develops educational materials based on UW Discovery Farms' research results. Eric earned a bachelor's degree in soil and water conservation and a master's degree in soil physics from UW-Madison. He specializes in surface water runoff and tile drainage. Jason is the assistant superintendent and agronomist at the UW Marshfield Research Station. He has successfully demonstrated the principles of no-till works on the heavy, more poorly drained soils as well as other more well drained soil types. Jason will discuss the no-till research being done in central

Wisconsin and the benefit no-till has. He also will share expertise on cover crops and no-till farming. The FBCW also will explain its plans for the 2019 Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grant it received that includes a cover crop rebate program, research and test plots. Please watch for more details. To contact the group regarding the winter meeting or their efforts, please contact Clayton Wohlk at 715.641.0942, Andy Bensed at 715.296.7628, Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7202, Craig Hamernik at 715.418.0053 or Logan Dwyer at 715.651.9803.

County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships

The Barron County Farm Bureau will award three, \$250 scholarships for high school seniors in 2019.

These scholarships are open to all students with preference given to students from Farm Bureau families. This scholarship will be based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education and a recommendation.

Scholarships are paid after notification that the recipient has successfully completed one semester of college.

For an application, visit the Barron County Farm Bureau website at wfbf.com/about/counties/barron or by contacting Karyn Schauf at 715.537.9376.

The application deadline is **April 1**.



SAVE THE DATE

March 8-9, 2019

RED LION HOTEL PAPER VALLEY | APPLETON

Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

Registration information, hotel accommodations and an agenda for the summit are available at bit.ly/AgLead.

A Vice President Perspective



Sam Olson
Barron County Farm
Bureau vice president

I presented the following discussion as a delegate to the WFBF Annual meeting regarding a resolution

concerning dairy supply management.

Farm Bureau delegates approved the following as the AFB purpose in 1920, "To make the business of farming more profitable, and the community a better place to live. Farm Bureau should provide an organization in which members may secure the benefits of unified efforts in a way which could never be accomplished through individual effort."

It is my belief that the greatest hindrance to the people of my generation returning to the dairy farm is not lack of chores and daily tasks that must be accomplished, but a lack

of profitability to support a growing family. Farm Bureau can help lead an effort to explore and develop farmer-run supply management for our dairy farmer members to ensure our profitability, thereby strengthening our rural communities.

As I listened to the introductions of our Farm Bureau leaders, award recipients and honorees during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, a common theme among them included, "grew up on the family dairy farm."

In 2003, I turned 12 years old and dove headfirst into helping on my family's dairy farm. In November of 2003, Wisconsin had 16,010 dairy farms. 15 years later, Wisconsin is home to a mere 51 percent of those farms, 8,217.

My wife and I visited with my high school principal this past summer. He retired in 2017 after 25 years of serving the farming community of Barron.

Himself a rancher, he was excited to hear my wife and I returned home to farm. In his observations during those 25 years, he noticed the steady decline of farm kids. Work ethic,

initiative and responsibility among students gave way to more students lacking drive and gumption along with ever increasing disciplinary issues.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's vision statement reads as such, "Lead a growing and dynamic agriculture."

Are we to measure growth solely in pounds of milk and cheese made in Wisconsin? Certainly not. It is not the cows that make us America's Dairyland; it is Wisconsin's dairy farm families.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau should be the leading voice in favor of balancing our supply of milk with the demand of domestic and export markets at the most profitable prices for our farmers.

Visitors to the AFBF's website history section are greeted with the phrase, "A strong tradition of working for the collective good." Let's keep that tradition as we celebrate WFB's Centennial.

After much debate, delegates ultimately voted to adopt the resolution, "We are willing to consider a dairy supply management system."

Dunn County

Soil Health Resources Available in Dunn County



Land and Water Conservation Division (LWCD) has launched a new initiative aimed at improving the health of soils throughout the Red Cedar River Basin. Leading the project is Jessica

Schoen, soil health specialist for Dunn County LWCD.

Schoen works with farmers to provide information and resources to those who are interested in using conservation practices that improve soil health and water quality.

There has been a surge of interest in the use of conservation practices like cover crops, diverse crop rotations and no-till systems throughout Dunn County; however, adopting these systems can feel like a risk. Schoen hopes to minimize the risks associated with trying new conservation practices by connecting farmers with resources and to networks of farmers who have already adopted them.

Local farmer-led watershed councils are another great way for farmers to get

information about trying new conservation practices. The Hay River Farmer-Led Watershed Council based out of the Boyceville area, and the Red Cedar Conservation Farmers, based out of the Colfax area, are farmer-led groups that work to reduce erosion, improve water quality and host educational events for farmers and the public.

To learn more about either of these groups, please contact Dan Prestebak at 715.231.6535.

Engaging with other community groups is also important. Schoen, a 4-H alumna, has previously partnered with local 4-H clubs to promote conservation. Last fall, she worked with the Missouri Valley 4-H Club to prepare a field to be planted into long-term pollinator habitat (native flowers and grasses). Additionally, she is available to other community members and groups who are interested in helping wildlife, pollinators, wetlands or any of our other natural resources.

If you are interested in learning more about soil health or conservation practices that improve soil health and water quality, please contact Jessica Schoen at 715.231.6532 or jschoen@co.dunn.wi.us.

Scholarships Available to High School Seniors

Dunn County Farm Bureau will be granting four \$250 scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2019.

The scholarship will be awarded to graduating high school students who are enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college. All majors will be considered for the scholarship.

This scholarship is open to all students, with preference given to students from Farm Bureau families. This scholarship will be based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education, letter of recommendation and essay or cover letter.

For an electronic version of the application, visit, wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/dunn.

For more information, please contact Mary Prestrud, Dunn County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair at 715.418.1991. The deadline to apply for this scholarship is **April 1**.



Former Secretary Harsdorf Visits Menomonie High School



Sheila Harsdorf visited with community members, ag students and FFA members at Menomonie High School on January 10 to talk about the state of agriculture.

On January 10, former Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf spent time with Menomonie FFA students and their guests. Also, in attendance were farmers, educational leaders and ag business leaders.

Sheila talked about the challenges facing agriculture at this time, but also gave many reasons to be optimistic about the future of the industry. There are many career opportunities for students to pursue, especially as technology changes the way food, fiber and fuel are produced in our contemporary society.

She encouraged students to seek education and courier opportunities in agriculture. As technology progresses, there is a need for many new workers in

agriculture careers. Sheila also talked about how agriculture is in an economic transition from a marketing perspective, especially in the dairy segments. She, like others, doesn't believe she can give a forecast as to when dairy or any of the other commodities will make a recovery to better times.

Attendees thanked Sheila Harsdorf for her time and attention to leaders and future leaders of agriculture.

County YFA Tubing Event

Join Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureau YFA members for some winter fun at Badlands Sno Park in Hudson.

Details

- Badlands Sno Park, 772 Kinney Road, Hudson.
- Watch your mailboxes and Facebook for more information.

For information or to RSVP by February 18, please contact your county YFA chair:

- Dunn - Tara Prochnow, 715.556.6868
- Pierce - Ryan Bailey, 715.529.2266
- St. Croix - Lexi DuSell, 715.415.6701

Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate and Best Maid Cookies will be provided. Badlands Concessions will be available for purchase.

Pierce County

A Message from the President ...



Dean Bergseng

Pierce County Farm Bureau president

Dear Farm Bureau members,
Happy new year. So far, we have had a mild winter. But with Fairbanks, Alaska, having a high on January 6 of -30, it may

be changing here soon.

Michael Travis has served Pepin County as the agriculture and natural resources educator and, as of January 1, he also will serve Pierce county at 0.2 FTEs in that same role. Travis will work out of the Extension office in Pepin County and provide programming related to agriculture throughout Pierce and Pepin counties. He provides design assistance to farmers for calf barn ventilation systems and also enjoys working with farmers to explore value-added, on-farm processing opportunities for long-range economic viability. This is a move in the right direction for Pierce County agriculture. He can be contacted at micheal.travis@ces.uwex.edu or 715.672.5214.

The WFBF Annual Meeting went well. Dave Bechel, John Krings, Peter Kimball and Laura Benitz served as delegates. Thank you to them for taking time away from their farms and families to represent our county. Laura Benitz also represented our county competing in the YFA Discussion Meet.

Many changes have happened in Madison, with a new governor being the biggest. I'm sure use-value assessment will be an issue that will be discussed. I am thankful to have WFB staff working as a voice for farmers and fighting to keep farmers rights.

Membership and our milk stand continue to be at the top of the list of what our county board of directors continue to work on. We will appreciate any help that members are willing to provide

Stay warm, and I hope to see you at an upcoming Farm Bureau event.

Farmer Card Party

\$5
Entry fee
/person



Euchre Tournament

Friday, March 22 @ 7:30 pm

Location: El Paso Bar & Grill

W4277 County Rd G

Ellsworth, WI 54011

Details: Set charge of \$.50/couple with the pot being divided among 5 people if they had their name in the pot. Partners change after 8 hands.

A total of 8 games will be played.

Cash prizes - to be determined by number of players.

50/50 raffle with prize money awarded following the tournament.

Dinner will be provided by the Pierce County Farm Bureau Board of Directors following the tournament.

Cash bar will be available.

Hosted by:



Milk and Cookies with Santa on the Farm

On December 8, Pierce County Farm Bureau had helped sponsor Milk and Cookies with Santa on the Farm. The event was planned by the Pierce County Dairy Promotion Committee and hosted by Ti-Shi Dairy, Tim and Shirley Colbenson and family of Elmwood. The free event was from noon to 4 pm and took place in the heated shop at the farm. It included meeting and getting your picture taken with Santa. Guests enjoyed milk options and a wide assortment of cookies and Christmas treats

made by community members as well as many from Mrs. Johnson's Foods 1 class at Ellsworth High School. Other happenings of the day included tours of the milking parlor while the cows were being milked and a tram ride through the free stall barn and past the calf sheds where guests could ask questions and learn how a modern dairy farm is run. It also included a petting zoo with goats, sheep, calves and donkeys as well as Christmas music.

In total, an estimate of about 250 guests



spent a part of their day with us at the farm. The Pierce County Farm Bureau and the Pierce County Dairy Promotion Committee have hopes to make this an annual event and look forward to the event again next year.

Polk Burnett

wfbf.com/about/counties/polkburnett
PolkBurnettFarmBureau

Polk County Farm Bureau Is Now Polk Burnett Farm Bureau

Polk County Farm Bureau members voted unanimously at the annual meeting held on September 27 to change the name of Polk County Farm Bureau to Polk Burnett Farm Bureau.

This change was made to include Burnett County. Prior to the change Burnett County did not have Farm Bureau representation.

We look forward to increasing participation in Burnett County.



Luck Teacher Awarded Ag in the Classroom Mini-Grant

Congratulations to Kirsten Konder, Luck High School, who was awarded a \$100 mini-grant from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program to be used for agricultural literacy. Project details:

Write Your Way Through Natural

Resources: After studying areas of natural resources and environmental issues, students

will write a children's book concentrating on one area. The stories will be targeted to a fourth-grade reading level. Students in high school and elementary school will learn more about natural resources and the challenges we face.

The grant will help purchase blank books along with supplies needed for the project.

Scholarships Available from Polk Burnett

Polk County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce they will award higher education scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college. Preference will be given to students who will be pursuing a degree in the agriculture industry.

The applicant or his/her parent must be a Polk Burnett Farm Bureau member. Completed applications must be postmarked by **April 1**.

For an application, please contact Polk County Farm Bureau office secretary, Lisa Thomfohrda at 715.485.3010 or by visiting wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/polk.

Rusk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk
RuskCountyFarmBureau

Scholarships Available For Seniors

Rusk County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce their intent to award higher education scholarships for graduating high school seniors in the amount of \$250. The scholarship is open to graduating seniors living in Rusk County and accepted into an accredited agriculture-related field through college, vocation or technical school. Preference will be given to Farm Bureau families, but all applicants will be considered and encouraged to apply. The agriculture scholarship/scholarships will be based on the student's school history, community activities, acceptance into an accredited program, recommendations and a completed application. Any amounts more than the \$250 and number of scholarships will be based on the completed submissions and upcoming fund-raising activities by Rusk County Farm Bureau. Completed applications must be postmarked by **April 1**.

For questions or to request a scholarship application, please contact Rusk County Farm Bureau board members Ted Alberson at 715.415.4179 or Amber DuSell at 715.450.2769 or visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/rusk.

Plan to Attend the Rusk County Farm, Home, Garden and Sports Show

When: Saturday, March 16

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Ladysmith High School

Cost: Free

Rusk County Farm Bureau will have a booth where members will be available to talk about opportunities in Farm Bureau and will promote Wisconsin's dairy industry by passing out cheese and milk samples. In addition to a booth, Rusk County Farm Bureau also will host a silent auction to raise funds to support the scholarship and Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs.

Hope to see you at the show.

A Message From the President ...



Dave Kruschke
St. Croix County Farm Bureau
president

Welcome to the first district-wide newsletter. Hopefully, this will give us an opportunity to be more informed about

what all the counties in our district are doing.

One of the most important activities of the Farm Bureau year is Ag Day at the Capitol. It allows our members to travel to Madison, get updates on issues facing agriculture in Wisconsin. We walk to the Capitol to visit with legislators and discuss with them how the issues affect us on our farms.

We will have a bus taking members from northwestern Wisconsin to Madison for the day. More information on Ag Day at the Capitol and

the bus can be found in this newsletter. I hope to see many of you on March 20.

At the local level, St. Croix County Farm Bureau will offer scholarships to graduating seniors from Farm Bureau families. Our board has decided to increase the scholarships to \$500 each for up to four students. More information can be found in this newsletter.

Scholarships Available From St. Croix County Farm Bureau

St. Croix County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that they will award up to four \$500 higher education scholarships to graduating seniors. The scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school students who are enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college. All majors will be considered. The applicant or his/her parents must be a St. Croix County Farm Bureau member.

For questions or to request an application, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349. For an electronic version of the scholarship application, visit wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/st-croix. Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 25**.



Baldwin Teacher Awarded Mini-Grant

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program awarded mini-grants to teachers to be used for agricultural literacy lessons and activities. The grants, funded by the WBF Foundation, provide opportunities for teachers to obtain funding that may not be available through school budgets.

Congratulations to Kristin Thompson of Greenfield Elementary in Baldwin who was awarded a \$100 grant that will be used this school year. Details of her project include:

Respecting Rural Life

In a two-part project, students will be asked to research rural life skills, conduct interviews of rural-life experts and then design a three-dimensional model related

to the topic. With the school district's emphasis on personalized learning, the grant will help purchase non-fiction books the students can use in their research. Helping the student's reading skills and learning how to research will allow students to have a better understanding and appreciation of rural history and then develop a plan to carry those rural life skills into the future.

The Ag in the Classroom program also has matching grants available to groups and organizations that conduct agricultural literacy projects. Applications are due by **March 1** and can be downloaded at www.wisagclassroom.org or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com.

Upcoming UW-Extension Events

February 7, Produce Safety Training/FSMA compliance; Ag Service and Education Center, Baldwin. Pre-registration required at fsmaproducesafety.wiscweb.wisc.edu.

February 21, Beef Quality Assurance; Ag Service and Education Center, Baldwin; 6-9 p.m.

February 25, Cattle Feeders Workshop; Ag Service and Education Center, Baldwin;
6:15 p.m. - Registration
6:30 p.m. - Program



For more information, please contact Ryan Sterry, UW-Extension agriculture agent; 1960 8th Avenue, Baldwin, WI 54002; 715.531.1930.

Meet: Lexi DuSell, Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair



Hobbies: Reading, writing, anything outdoors.

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 5

Family: Many members of my family are members of Rusk County Farm Bureau.

Profession: Looking for new opportunities within the dairy industry; earned a bachelor's degree in science for dairy management.

Any other occupations? I milk part-time and have a job outside of agriculture.

Why did you choose agriculture? To me, there really was no choice. Agriculture is in my blood. I grew up on a dairy farm and that was all I really ever wanted to do; it's what I am passionate about and what I love.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I like that this organization can give a voice to the people who make up the agricultural industry. It is not an easy industry to be a part of, and it helps to have a voice in politics, with the consumers and with each other. I want to be a part of that voice.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member?

Honestly, the connections and friends that I have made along the way. It's great to meet other people who have the same interests as you.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry?

Because I honestly believe there is no greater industry than the agricultural industry. Every industry has its place, but we cannot sustain without agriculture. If there were more people connected to the ag industry it will make the agricultural industry easier to be a part of.

Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast



The 2019 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, June 22**, at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any aspect of the dairy breakfast, please contact Andy Winiarczyk at 715.558.2562.

Bear Crop Damage Program Update

Sawyer County and Rusk County Farm Bureaus worked for changes made in the DNR Bear Crop Damage Program. In April, Dale Beissel, Mike Robers, Andy Winiarczyk and Terry DuSell attended the DNR board meeting to voice concerns with the program, which included:

1. Lack of monitors on traps to reduce the amount of time farmers spend on the program.
2. Removing the crop damage payment limit on wildlife damage, getting more money into the program.
3. Allow baiting on crop damage tags for hunting, making it easier.
4. Getting shooting permits on a more timely basis, possibly getting sub-zones for hot spot areas.
5. Pro rate the damage payments with the amount of damage, instead of a crop damage payment limit.

In May, Mike Robers was appointed to the DNR Bear Advisory Committee and attended monthly meetings, worked towards these goals and told farmers' stories. Both counties passed resolutions and got them passed at the WFBF Annual Meeting. They are working with the Farm Bureau and legislators to get these concerns passed.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau Presents:
2nd Annual
**FARMING
• THE •
GREEN**
BILLIARDS TOURNAMENT
Saturday, March 2 • Patti's on 70, Winter, WI 54897

| TIME | ENTRY FEE | PRIZES |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 11 a.m. - Registration | \$10 for Farm Bureau members; | Cue stick raffle: anyone participating in tournament has chance to win a McDermott cue stick. |
| 12 p.m. - First game starts | \$15 for non-members (join today and pay member price!) | 1 st place - \$75 2 nd place - \$50 3 rd place - \$25 |

DAIRY PRODUCTS
supplied by Sawyer County Farm Bureau

Sawyer County Farm Bureau

Superior Shores

Scholarships Available to Graduating Seniors

Superior Shores Farm Bureau will be granting one \$500 scholarship to a high school senior in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas or Iron County. This scholarship is open to all students who will be pursuing a degree in the agriculture industry and entering a technical or four-year program.



Examples of eligible majors include traditional production agriculture majors like dairy science, soil science and agronomy. Other majors may also qualify including: biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, forestry, horticulture, environmental science and more. Preference will be given to students from Farm Bureau families.

This scholarship is based on the student's past school and community activities, plans for future education and recommendation.

For an application, visit wfbf.com/county-farm-bureaus/superior-shores or contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.

The application deadline is **April 15**.

Superior Shores Donates to Local Organizations and Foundations

The Superior Shores Farm Bureau has made donations to local organizations and state foundations. A total of \$1,100 was donated to Toys for Tots, The Brick, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation and the Wisconsin FFA Foundation.

Want to Get More Involved?

Superior Shores Farm Bureau is seeking individuals interested in getting involved with events and activities that Superior Shores Farm Bureau supports. In addition, we are always looking for new people who are interested in serving a one-year term on the Superior Shores Farm Bureau board of directors. Board meetings are held every other month at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

For more information, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at kmattison@wfbf.com or 866.355.7349.



County Farm Bureaus
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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

- Barron County
- Dunn County
- Pierce County
- Polk Burnett
- Rusk County
- Sawyer County
- St. Croix County
- Superior Shores

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