



Grassroots

District 4 News

Grassroots in Action



Joe Bragger

WFBF District 4 Director

I write to you with a great deal of pride in Farm Bureau and all Farm Bureau members, especially those in District 4.

This December, you showed me that we truly, 'do more in District 4.' Farm Bureau is known for its grassroots approach to policy. This means that each and every voting member has the ability to affect and change the policies of our organization.

This year was truly historic. A major change has occurred do to the efforts of members working together. I was called by Eau Claire County Farm Bureau member Matt Krenz and was asked, "What is Farm Bureau doing to help dairy?" I was told that other organizations are supportive of supply management for dairy and were having meetings around the state. I didn't know what to say, but I knew I better listen. I expressed that I would look into our policy and see what we could do.

Historically, Farm Bureau members and delegates have been staunch supporters of a free-trade system. Supply management was off the table. The only option was to change policy, open up discussion, explore options and let the policy development process work.

Seeding the Grass

Through the summer, Farm Bureau held meetings on dairy; Districts 4 and 8 jointly hosted the Dairy 1,2,3 series and Wisconsin Farm Bureau held the Focus on Dairy meeting in Arlington. A lot of reasons as to why prices are low were discussed; trade was touted as a solution, yet we continue to outproduce demand and prices do not look to come around any time soon.

A recent farm article indicated that it would be 2026 before prices would rise to \$19. "Keep doing what you're doing, we've been through

this before," has been the message from those who make money off the backs of dairy farmers.

Late summer rolled along and our Policy Development session was held in District 4. The session produced many good resolutions for counties to consider, one of those dealt with supporting a supply management program.

Throughout the fall, county annual meetings were held and each county in District 4 passed a resolution to support a supply management program. Resolutions supporting supply management came in from other counties around the state, as well. Members agreed from around the state to make a major push for supply management at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The Grass Sprouted

District 4 has a special meeting each year on the Saturday of the WFBF Annual Meeting to discuss which resolutions are important to them and to prioritize their efforts. Todd Quarne and Steve Kling were founders of this meeting. This year, as I started to review the proposed resolutions, the push was made to focus on one or two that were important to the members. I wanted to be sure that no resolution by a member was dismissed if they wanted support. "Supply management is going to be the focus," stressed our membership.

Time to Water the Grass

Buttons and flyers appeared throughout the WFBF Annual Meeting, this prompted many great debates and discussions at dinners, in the halls and, some of the best, at the watering holes. Relationships were created and strategy formulated. On Sunday morning, county-passed resolutions or amendments to policy where brought to the Policy Development Committee to enable them to be brought before the delegates.

Sprinkle on a Little Fertilizer

Monday – the big day – voting delegates from every district met and discussed amendments to policy. District 4, while working with others, strategized on how to best present the amendments right down to where delegates sat. Who would move the amendment, who would second, who would re-amend and who would second again. Talking points where discussed and final details put together with delegates from other counties.

Many in leadership worried that considering the contentious issue, delegates might get unruly or possibly malign each other over despair with the dairy industry.



While the discussion went on for more than an hour the delegates where passionate, respectful and worked through the discussion with such dignity that it serves as a testament to the quality of the

members in Farm Bureau. The delegates finally formulated policy language that would allow for the consideration of a supply management program.

Mowing the Grass

"What do we do now?" is the question I receive most often. So many contributed in so many ways to change policy and allow for more options to be considered. I can never express the emotions I felt when your efforts came to fruition. Whether it be a local affairs or larger issues like supply management, we cannot become complacent and hope someone else will do the work now.

It is up to us to continue to advocate and educate. The grass will not grow without continued care, it might even get mowed over many times, but if we take care, it will continue to grow back thicker and greener.

As always enough is too much.

Now is Your Chance: Getting More Involved in Your County Farm Bureau



Cassie Olson
District 4 Coordinator

As I continue to meet farmers and agriculturists from District 4, a question I often hear from members is, "I am a member, but how do I get more involved with Farm Bureau?"

My response, you ask? "It is up to you!"

Throughout the pages of this new and improved newsletter, you will find countless activities that Farm Bureau has to offer. From your local counties to state and district-wide events, Farm Bureau provides countless offerings to its members.

From state conferences such as the Ag LEAD Summit (below) to events like Jackson County Farm Bureau's Christmas on the Farm (on page 10), there is something for everyone to participate in and learn from at every level.

Of course, these local events and offerings could not be put on without the work of

committee volunteers. Each of your local counties have committees that fit a variety of interest areas. There are standing committees in each county for Promotion and Education as well as Young Farmers and Agriculturists (YFA).

Additionally, there are subcommittees in each county for areas including, but not limited to: membership recruitment and retention, public relations, policy development, local government affairs, scholarships, Ag in the Classroom and youth activities.

Finally, each county has its board of directors. These individuals are responsible for representing the county Farm Bureau and assemble monthly to make decisions on behalf of the membership.

Board members are elected annually at the county Farm Bureau annual meeting in the fall, but can be appointed as needed or requested.

If you have an interest in serving on the county Farm Bureau board of directors or want to attend your local Farm Bureau meeting to learn more, please contact me and I would love

to get you involved.

Whether it is a one-hour commitment reviewing scholarship applications, a one-day venture to a workshop or conference or serving a term on your local board of directors, there truly is an opportunity for everyone to get involved in Farm Bureau.

As your district coordinator, I am happy to

point you to an area that fits your desired time-commitment and interest area. I want to get to know you and point you in the right direction.

Please contact me at colson@wfbf.com or 715.896.4526, call or text, or by appointment for meetings in



person.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is the largest general farm organization in the state of Wisconsin. As the voice for farmers, our mission is the lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relation and leadership development.

The time is now to get involved.

Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

Join us for the 2019 Ag LEAD Summit March 8-9, at the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley in Appleton. At the Wisconsin Ag LEAD Summit, you will learn about tools, resources, new ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events.

Keynote Speakers



Jay Hill



Donna Moenning

Agenda

Friday, March 8

- 9:30 a.m. Registration Open
- 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Keynote Speaker
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions
- 5:00 p.m. Reception
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner and Program
- 7:30 p.m. Entertainment - Spicy Tie Band

Saturday, March 9

- 9:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions
- 10:15 a.m. Brunch
- 11:00 a.m. Closing Keynote Speaker
- 12:15 p.m. Adjourn

Registration

Register: bit.ly/2019AgLEADSummit

Meet the New Directors of District 4

Members join county Farm Bureau Boards ...

1. How did you become involved in Farm Bureau?

Bradt: A friend encouraged me to join.

Dowiasch: I decided to join in 2018 when approached by a fellow Eau Claire County Farm Bureau member, Jody Wilhelm.

Gibson: I have friends that were involved in Farm Bureau and they thought I would be a good fit.

Goplin: I believe my first ever Farm Bureau event was in a stroller at the annual YFA Conference. When the opportunity arose to serve as the Ag Promotions chair, I knew it would be a great way to teach others outside of my school about the importance of agriculture.

Kaltenberg: I first became involved in Farm Bureau in Columbia County. Once my husband and I moved back to Buffalo County, we knew we wanted to get involved with Buffalo County Farm Bureau. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the monthly county meetings.

Peterson: I was recruited by a current board member and friend.

2. What interested you in serving on your county's Farm Bureau board?

Bradt: I wanted to be more involved with the county events and also wanted to teach the community more about agriculture.

Dowiasch: I have actively served on the Augusta FFA Alumni board over the past five years. There are several events in our local community that involves both the Alumni and the Eau Claire County Farm Bureau. I feel that my involvement in both organizations will be helpful, when working together.

Gibson: I am hoping to use my knowledge to support producers in Eau Claire and to be a source of information for those that are unsure of what agriculture in their community is all about and how it affects them.

Goplin: I am interested in a career in either agriculture education or marketing so this will give me some experience doing both.

Kaltenberg: Farm Bureau is an important asset to the agriculture community in Buffalo County. The board is a valuable voice for those working in agriculture within the community.

Peterson: I was interested in serving on the Farm Bureau board to get more people involved in agriculture or at least educated on the importance of agriculture while also addressing concerns for the future of it.

3. What are you most looking forward to about serving on the board?

Bradt: We have a great group of people on the board and I am excited to work on projects with them.

Dowiasch: I'm excited to meet new people involved in agriculture from my area and throughout Wisconsin. We have exciting things going on in our county and I want to share what we are doing with others.

Gibson: I am most looking forward to working with people on the board in affecting change of the perception of agriculture.

Goplin: I am most looking forward to learning about the Ag in the Classroom material so I can serve our county schools well.

Kaltenberg: I am looking forward to working with a great group of board members to continually improve our county organization through involvement and effectiveness.

Peterson: I am most looking forward to educating our future by doing classroom events in our local schools in an effort to make a positive outlook for the industry.

4. What is one Farm Bureau related goal of yours?

Bradt: I look forward to getting involved in the community and educating them about agriculture.

Dowiasch: I will be attending the 2019 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. I'm looking forward to gaining personal growth and education. I plan on bringing back ideas to my local community and organizations. I want to help grow my local Farm Bureau membership by getting new people involved.

Gibson: Research water quality contamination across the US and research current data analysis that will be coming in from Eau Claire on water quality to determine common sources of pollution to support farmers in Eau Claire county that are being accused of water pollution.

Goplin: My goal is to get to as many elementary schools with hands on lessons of the importance of agriculture and encourage the teachers to continue to integrate agriculture into their curricula.

Kaltenberg: I would like to help Buffalo County get more YFA members enrolled and involved. YFA made a big impact on my initial involvement in Farm Bureau and I would love to see more young people get involved at a county and state level.

Peterson: A goal of my own for Farm Bureau would be to surpass our county's membership record in 2019.



Jared Bradt
Jackson County



Brenda Dowiasch
Eau Claire County



Dawn Gibson
Eau Claire County



Kendra Goplin
Trempealeau County



Emily Kaltenberg
Buffalo County



Mariah Peterson
Jackson County

WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII: Bittersweet Ending

By Savannah Brown and Erica Olson

WFBF Leadership Institute Session 5: Iowa Farm Bureau



We departed for Iowa in a 15-passenger van on November 1 for our last session together. We visited Kinze Manufacturing on the way to West Des Moines, Iowa. We arrived at our hotel, had a pizza party and discussed our biggest

takeaways from being a part of the Institute.

Our Leadership Institute class became close throughout the year, and many of us expressed our favorite part was making new friends from around the state in the agriculture community. Many of us have already bumped into one another at Farm Bureau and other ag-related conferences and events.

On November 2, we had the pleasure of

visiting the Iowa Farm Bureau Office. We listened to Iowa Farm Bureau's leadership director Mary Foley Balvanz, CEO of Farm Bureau Financial Services Jim Brannen, Research and Commodity Services Director Dave Miller, Farm Bureau Development Manager Amanda Van Steenyk, Economic Development Administrator Sandy Ehrig and ended with Upper Midwest Regional Field Office Agricultural Statistician Tony Dahlman.

It was interesting to learn the similarities and differences amongst Farm Bureau in another state. The Iowa Farm Bureau has a larger membership than Wisconsin mainly because of the strong insurance presence, however, they hold true to Farm Bureau's grassroots, farmer-led mission.

2018 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute: Graduation

Our Leadership Institute class graduated at the WFBF Annual meeting on December 2. This was bittersweet. We have grown a special bond with our classmates because of



our year-long journey together. We would not trade our experiences for anything. We look forward to reuniting this June as the class travels to Washington, D.C., to put our developed leadership skills to work on Capitol Hill. We will talk with our representatives about important agricultural issues.

If you have thought about applying for the WFBF Leadership Institute and told yourself you don't have time, it's not about having time but making time. Your future matters, so please invest in yourself. There are so many great things that come out of the WFBF Leadership Institute program.

Not only did we find out who we are as leaders, but also who we want to become.

Ellis Family Recognized in YFA Achievement Award

Dustin and Ashley Ellis of Buffalo County recently competed in the Achievement Award competition. The couple submitted an application for the award in the summer of 2018, and upon judging, were selected amongst the final four to compete at the YFA Conference. Farm Bureau's Achievement Award is a contest that awards farmers between the ages of 18 and 35, who have excelled in their farming career, understand issues affecting agriculture and have shown leadership and involvement in Farm Bureau and civic organizations.

Dustin is a third-generation farmer and part-owner

on his family's dairy operation. Together with his parents and brother, they have a 240-cow robotic milking barn and grow 1,400 acres of corn, soybeans, alfalfa and rye. They also operate a custom farming business, which consists of planting, combining, chopping and baling. Ashley is a stay-at-home mom to the couple's three-year-old daughter, Finley. Ashley said Finley keeps her busy, but she enjoys the time they help on the farm.

The Ellis's want consumers to know that their food is safe. They take pride in raising a quality product, feeding their family and all consumers.



DISTRICT 4 FARM BUREAU BOARD MEMBER TRAINING



Lunch will be provided.
ALBION TOWN HALL
N5740 HWY-54, BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI 54615
SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 2019 - 10AM TO 2PM

Join members from across District 4 to learn more about your responsibilities as a County Farm Bureau board member, membership recruitment and retention, and what the Promotion & Education Committee is all about.

Guest speakers will include:

- **Bob Leege**, WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations
- **Wendy Kannel**, WFBF Director of Training and Leadership Development
- **Megan Rebout**, WFBF Director of Member Relations
- **Darby Sampson**, District 4 Promotion & Education Chair

RSVP by Thursday, February 7th to District 4 Coordinator, Cassie Olson 715-896-4526 (call or text) or colson@wfbf.com.

REGISTER NOW! MARCH 15-18, 2019

The conference will bring together volunteers from Promotion and Education, Women's leadership and Young Farmers and Ranchers.



MARCH 15-18, 2019

More information at <http://bit.ly/fbfusion19>

District 4 Shines During WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

By Cassie Olson, District 4 Coordinator

There was plenty to see, do and celebrate as the 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. More than 80 members from District 4 made the trip to Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells between November 30 and December 3 for the grand event.

More than 30 Young Farmers and Agriculturists attended the YFA Conference. Members were entertained by speakers, learned from workshops and enjoyed one another's company throughout social gatherings. One highlight was Buffalo County members Dustin and Ashley Ellis's competition in the final four of the YFA Achievement Award contest. The couple completed the interview process before being recognized on stage during Sunday morning's brunch.

Another highlight of the YFA Conference was the Discussion Meet. Allison Bragger, Andrea Rippley and Kyle Danzinger, all of Buffalo County, represented District 4.

The achievements of District 4 didn't stop with YFA. On Saturday evening, members Joe Bragger (Buffalo County), Jody Wilhelm (Eau Claire County), Savannah Brown (Jackson County) and Shane Goplin (Trempealeau County) were recognized as qualifiers for the Farm Bureau Proud Club. To be a member of the Farm Bureau Proud Club, each member recruited at least five new members to the organization. As a reward, members were invited to a steak dinner in a roped off area while listening to comedian C. Willi Myles.



Monroe County Farm Bureau president Jack Herricks joked with Santa Claus during the WFBF Trade Show.

Jackson County Farm Bureau was recognized during the WFBF Annual Meeting for their outstanding Farmer-led Elk Forum event. They received an award as a part of Wisconsin Farm Bureau's County Activities of Excellence program in the local affairs category. Throughout the weekend, Jackson County Farm Bureau members had a trade show booth where they shared their event and answered questions about the forum.

During the WFBF Annual Meeting awards banquet on Sunday night, Jackson County Farm Bureau members Savannah Brown and Erica Olson were recognized as graduates of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XII. Both members completed a year-long training program geared towards improving their leadership and personal development. Graduates of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class will reflect on and use their skills when they travel to Washington, D.C., in June to speak with our



Jackson County Farm Bureau was recognized for the Farmer-Led Elk Forum, part of the County Activities of Excellence competition in the Local Affairs category.

state's elected officials.

Joe Bragger (Buffalo County) and Savannah Brown (Jackson County) were recognized during the awards banquet for their outstanding leadership in membership recruitment. Bragger and Brown both landed amongst the top ten membership volunteers for Wisconsin Farm Bureau, both recruiting nine new members.

As the capstone of the weekend, District 4 delegates convened on Monday morning for the annual policy development resolutions process. Delegates from our six counties took part in delivering testimony, defending positions and voting on policy that will shape the coming year of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Overall, it was an outstanding weekend in which District 4 shined through. Thank you to everyone who participated in the YFA Conference, congratulations to our award winners and participants and best wishes in the coming year of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.



Savannah Brown, Jackson County, and Joe Bragger, Buffalo County, (pictured stage right) were recognized among the top membership volunteers for WFBF.



Dustin and Ashley Ellis of Buffalo County were recognized as finalists in the YFA Achievement Award contest.



Savannah Brown, pictured with Keith Henke, of Jackson County; Joe Bragger, pictured with Noel Bragger, of Buffalo County; and Shane Goplin, pictured with Mindy Goplin, of Trempealeau County, were recognized as members of the Farm Bureau Proud Club on Saturday night. Not pictured is Eau Claire County member, Jody Wilhelm, who also qualified for the Farm Bureau Proud Club but was unable to attend.

From Your County to the State Policy Book



By Amber Radatz, District 4 Policy Development Chair

Serving on the Policy Development Committee and participating in the delegate session at the WFBF Annual Meeting is a great

learning experience and an honor. It is amazing to see policies that come from individuals at the county or district level discussed by the delegates from the state. One of the key functions of Farm Bureau membership is being able to have your voice heard on issues that affect you directly.

Policy suggestions are submitted annually by each county. District 4 has gone one step further. We hold a joint policy development meeting each year in July that includes all counties in the district so that policy concerns from one county can be heard, discussed and eventually supported by a larger number of counties. This year, counties from District 4 submitted a number of policies to be considered by the Policy Development Committee for state and federal policy sections.

District 4 holds a meeting on Saturday of the WFBF Annual Meeting to discuss policies that did not make it in the book that should be brought to the delegate floor on Monday. This ensures that our delegates are well represented and well informed on policy questions.

When a policy is submitted and eventually passed by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau voting

delegates, it does not automatically become law. If a policy is passed and gets incorporated in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy book, it means that the Governmental Relations staff can research and become knowledgeable about that policy, and work with partners and elected officials to try and incorporate the ideas supported by the delegate body into the policies and laws of our state and even nation.

The following five policies were submitted by counties in District 4 and eventually incorporated into the state policy book.

- We support eliminating the 12-ounce restriction on school milk vending machines.
- We are willing to consider a dairy supply management system.
- We support prohibiting local governments from declaring productive farmland 'blighted' to take it by eminent domain and turn it over to a private developer.
- We oppose the expansion of the NR151 Silurian bedrock performance standards to other areas of the state until the impact of the implementation of the standards on water quality and agricultural producers can be evaluated.

These policies also were submitted for consideration into federal American Farm Bureau Federation policy and were discussed by



District 4 members convened Monday of the WFBF Annual Meeting to discuss strategy and policies they wanted to advocate for during the resolutions process.

delegates at the national meeting in January.

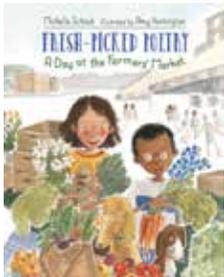
- We support requiring utilities and utility marking services to use biodegradable alternatives to wire flags.
- We are willing to consider a dairy supply management system

The proposed policy regarding supply management systems became of particular interest to many delegates in District 4 as well as delegates from around the state given the changes and challenges that the dairy industry has been facing. The special interest in this policy gave way to sharing information through pamphlets and buttons worn by District 4 delegates and members around the state, too.

Starting the discussion early and extending it through the entire conference made for a great discussion and a rich debate on the delegate floor. It was exciting to see the policy pass with an amendment; however, in the room it felt as though, pass or fail, the issue was given due diligence, and that this discussion was an important moment in WFBF Policy Development.

Thank you for allowing me to represent our district in this important and fascinating process.

Wanted: Applicants for the Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest



The essay contest topic is, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.' The Book of the Year is "Fresh-Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub.

The book and essay topic allow students to explore farmers' markets from a variety of perspectives – the farmer's preparation for the market, the people attending and buying products, the products available and happenings at the market.

All rules, promotional materials, county Farm Bureau Essay Contest coordinator's info, lessons and activities and other resources related to the essay contest and book program can be found at wisagclassroom.com. All counties in District 4 have county-level essay contests; winners will advance to the district-level essay contest. One district winner will advance to the state contest.

Contest rules

- The essay contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students in public schools, private schools and home school programs. Students

involved in 4-H, PALS and after-school programs are encouraged to participate.

- Essays must be handwritten in ink or be computer generated. They must be single-sided and fit on one sheet of paper.
- The essay must be between 100- and 300-words in length.
- Essays will be judged on content (50 points), grammar and spelling (25 points) and originality and creativity (25 points).
- Essays must include: student's name, grade level, parents' names, teacher's name and email address, school name and address, school phone number and county on the back of the essay. Please do not identify the student on the front side.
- Entry deadline: Postmarked by **April 1** and sent to: Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Ag in the Classroom, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Ag in the Classroom coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.



District 4 County

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.

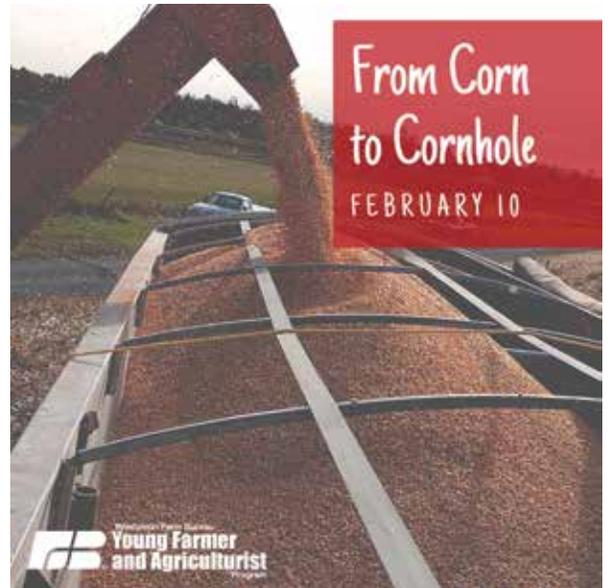
We also will tour Custer Farms and the Chippewa Valley Grain and Processing in Chippewa Falls. We will learn about the farm's grain facility, trucking and foreign marketing efforts.

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 4 YFA Representative Rosli Bragger at 715.530.2526 (call or text) or District 4 Coordinator Cassie Olson at colson@wfbf.com or 715.896.452675 (call or text).

When you RSVP, please indicate which of the events you will attend.



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:



Ride the Bus to Ag Day at the Capitol

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. All appointments with legislators will be made for you.

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 4 Coordinator, Cassie

Olson 866.366.7344 or colson@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.



Ride the Bus!

A Message from the President ...



Ed Rippley

Buffalo County Farm Bureau
president

Hello, everyone. My name is Ed Rippley, and I am the newly-elected president of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau.

I am a sixth generation farmer and the third generation on the current farm. My wife, Laura, and I own and operate a broiler, beef, goat and cash crop farm in the Waumandee valley.

We have three daughters: Andrea is a UW-Extension agent for Price and Oneida

counties; Ella, who owns and operates her own pottery studio on the farm; and Anna is in her final semester at UW-River Falls majoring in animal science, with an emphasis in equine management.

As we amp up to celebrate Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 100-year anniversary, we want to hear from you. Share with us memories of the past Farm Bureau members.

A memory I have is when Farm Bureau marketed fruit. My dad, Charlie Rippley, would take care of this enterprise; oranges and grapefruit in winter, peaches and frozen cherries in a tin tub in summer time.

Answering phone calls from people wanting the produce, marking it down on the piece of paper next to the phone. Picking up the produce with the pickup truck in Etrick, Sparta, Menomonie or Mondovi Farm Bureau offices. The fruit sale is one of the many memories I have from my involvement in Wisconsin Farm Bureau, but now it is your turn.

Share your stories with us by visiting bit.ly/WFBF100story.



New Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program Offered

By Carrie Olson, Buffalo County conservationist

The Buffalo County Zoning Department and Land Conservation Department are pleased to announce that the county's new ANR-40 zoning district has been approved and certified by the State of Wisconsin as a farmland preservation zoning district.

Under the certified zoning program, income tax credits at \$7.50 per acre are provided to landowners in exchange for keeping the land in agricultural use and complying with the state's agricultural soil and water conservation standards.

In the course of the recent comprehensive revision of the Buffalo County Zoning Ordinance nine towns opted to select the ANR-40 zoning district as their primary district and are now eligible to participate in the Farmland Preservation Program.

The nine towns certified for participation in the Farmland Preservation Program include: Alma, Belvidere, Cross, Dover, Glencoe, Modena, Mondovi, Naples and Nelson.

The Farmland Preservation program offers state income tax credits to landowners who practice conservation farming. This is a voluntary program and there is no long-term agreement necessary for enrollment. Landowners receive a \$7.50 per acre tax credit for keeping the land in agricultural use and meeting state conservation standards. There is no cap on the amount of credit that an individual can claim or on the amount of acreage eligible for a credit. Land that is under the Managed Forest Law (MFL) is eligible for the tax credit.

To be eligible, you must be a Wisconsin resident for the entire taxable year, your land must be located in the ANR-40 zoning district, your land must have produced at



least \$6,000 in gross farm revenue during the previous year (or \$18,000 within three years), all property taxes for the previous year must have been paid, and a Certificate of Compliance must be received from the Land Conservation Department showing your farm meets the state soil and water conservation standards.

An initial on-site visit will start the process. Your farm will be inventoried by local land conservation field staff to determine if land is in compliance with applicable cropland, pasture and livestock conservation standards. Conservation compliance standards include requirements for nutrient management planning, soil sampling and for controlling sources of soil erosion and other agricultural sources of non-point pollution.

A Certificate of Compliance will be issued by the Land Conservation Department to every landowner who is meeting the agricultural standards that is used to claim the farmland preservation tax credit. Farm reviews are conducted at least every four years on all land owned to remain eligible for the program.

We are scheduling appointments for status reviews.

For more information, please contact Carrie Olson at 608.685.6264.

Soil Conservation Seminar

Date: Friday, February 8

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Place: Gilmanton American Legion

Pre-register by **Monday, February 4**

For more information or to register, please contact Carrie Olson, Buffalo County Land Conservation at 608.685.6264 or carrie.olson@co.buffalo.wi.us.



Details

Cost: \$5 per person

11:30 a.m. - Registration and lunch

12 p.m. - Program begins

Speakers

Mary E. Drewnoski, Beef systems specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; *Returns from Grazing Cover Crops*

Carrie Laboski, Extension soil scientist, UW-Madison; *Keeping Science in Soil Conservation and Soil Health*

Camille Bruhn, Water Quality Biologist-Water Quality Bureau, Wisconsin DNR; *Phosphorus Standard in Surface Water, and How It Is Established*

Sponsored by: Buffalo County UW-Extension, Buffalo County Land Conservation, Producer-Led Waumandee Creek Watershed Project, funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

Fun and Celebration at the Buffalo County Farm Bureau Christmas Party

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau board of directors gathered on December 13 at the Waumandee House in Waumandee for the board's annual Christmas Party.

The event included the recognition of Buffalo County's farm family of

the year, Marty and Becky Hallock and family.

After the meal and recognition, the board wrapped 15 gifts that were later donated to Toys for Tots and had a white elephant gift exchange.



Marty Hallock accepted the Buffalo County farm family of the year award from board member Julie Lindstrom.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau members Joe Bragger, Sharon Fernholz and Marty Hallock wrapped a gift that was donated to Toys for Tots.



Buffalo County Farm Bureau board of directors held their annual Christmas party on December 13 at the Waumandee House.

Eau Claire County

Farm Bureau Members Serve on Ag-Ordinance Review Workgroup

By Steve Strey and Jody Wilhelm, directors

Late last summer, concerned citizens approached the Eau Claire County board about livestock citing and confined animal feeding operations (CAFO) with 1,000 or more animal units. There was public input at the county meeting in October. We as Farm Bureau and several other farms addressed several concerns to help educate the county board.

After multiple meetings with discussion, the county board still had several concerns, so a six-month moratorium was put on all CAFO applications. The county board also commissioned Greg Leonard, the county Land Conservation supervisor, to form a special county committee called the Ag-Ordinance

Review Workgroup. This committee is entrusted with the job of reviewing state standards and county ordinances, and deciding if the country ordinances need updating.

There are five Farm Bureau members on the special county committee working to make sure the interests of agriculture are in the forefront, while also fairly addressing realistic environmental concerns.

The goal of this committee is to implement performance standards either from state standards or new ideas provided by the committee.

The meetings will go until March 26 and the new ordinances will be

presented to the county board at the April or May meeting.

The reason to implement the new standards is so the county Land Conservation can enforce the new standards. We believe this issue is of great importance for the future of agriculture in Eau Claire County and this is why as Farm Bureau members, need to be involved.

For more information, please contact Steve Strey at 715.797.2347. Meetings are public if you want to attend.



Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

By Jody Wilhelm, YFA chair

Happy warm winter Farm Bureau members. I hope 2019 has been treating everyone well. Earlier this year I was perusing the internet looking into some scholarships because I decided to go back to school a couple of years ago to earn a master's degree.

I noticed Eau Claire County Farm Bureau did not have a scholarship. I brought the lack of a scholarship up at our monthly board meeting and we decided we wanted to implement one.

We have put a committee together to develop a local scholarship. We do not have

all of the details of the scholarship, but we have decided that it will be offered to anyone pursuing a higher education in an agricultural-related field.

This can include anything including two-year, bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees.

People who are qualified to apply are students who are involved in agriculture in Eau Claire county, 4-H, FFA or live in or are from Eau Claire County.

At present, we are planning a \$1,000 scholarship. We will provide more information once we have the details.



Farmers Supporting Friends at Christmas on the Farm

By Savannah Brown and Erica Olson

On December 9, the Jackson County Farm Bureau and Garden Valley Farmstead teamed up to host the first annual Christmas on the Farm event.

We had pictures with Santa, a cookie contest, horse-drawn wagon rides, grilled cheese and homemade hot chocolate. Most importantly, we had free-will donation boxes to help the Rosenberg family. The husband, Matt Rosenberg, was diagnosed with stage 4 brain cancer in June, just before he welcomed their daughter, Vada. We were so glad to be able to give the proceeds from the event to the Rosenberg family to aid in medical expenses and to ensure they had a Merry Christmas.

We estimated that more than 600 people

attended the event. The weather was great and it was a joy to see the smile on children's faces as they interacted with the baby calves and got a photo with Santa Claus.

Craig Culver donated 500 Culver's double scoop sundae coupons.

We couldn't have done this event without the help of our sponsors: Garden Valley Farmstead,



More than 600 people attended Christmas on the Farm on December 9. The event included pictures with Santa, a cookie contest, horse-drawn wagon rides, grilled cheese and homemade hot chocolate.

Dairy Pricing Association, Jackson County Dairy Promotion Committee, Black River Falls FFA Alumni, Alma Center FFA Alumni and Taylor FFA Alumni.

The Jackson County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee wants to thank the volunteers who helped make this event possible and run smoothly.



Jackson County Farm Bureau Offers \$500 Scholarship

Jackson County Farm Bureau is proud to offer a \$500 scholarship to graduating high school seniors and first-year college and technical college students. Applications are due **April 1** and applications can be found at online at wfbf.com/about/counties/jackson.

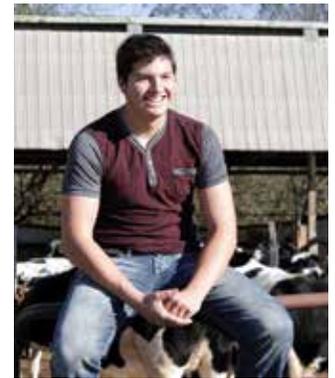
Requirements

1. Parent or guardian must be a Jackson County Farm Bureau member in good standing.
2. High school seniors and first-year college and technical college students can apply for this \$500 scholarship.
3. Scholarship will be awarded with proof of GPA above 2.5 for first semester or first two semesters. Also, show re-enrollment for the upcoming semester.

4. Students seeking an agricultural major are encouraged to apply; however, first-year students pursuing secondary education are welcome to apply. Applicants can be enrolled at a university or technical college.
5. Please include an up-to-date resume.
6. Completed applications are due **April 1**.

Questions about the application can be directed to Savannah Brown at brown_swiss13@hotmail.com or 715.896.8780.

Mail or email a signed copy to:
Savannah Brown
617 Elm Street
Black River Falls, WI 54615



Victor Ponterio of Melrose received the 2018 Jackson County Farm Bureau scholarship. Ponterio is a freshman at UW-Stevens Point where he is studying wildland fire science.

Monroe County

A Message from the President ...



Jack Herricks

Monroe County Farm Bureau president

Recently, I participated in WFBF's president's training seminar conducted by WFBF's Director of Training and

Leadership Development, Wendy Kannel.

Nearly every facet of Farm Bureau received some attention. Topics included everything from how to conduct an effective board meeting to working with your district coordinator to stimulating member involvement.

Dan Merk, who will be the new CEO of Rural Mutual Insurance effective April 1, delivered an interesting presentation of the history of the long-standing connection of Rural Mutual Insurance and WFBF.

There also was an interesting presentation concerning public relations and governmental relations.

The best part of the entire seminar was listening to the experiences of the attending county presidents. They are a very interesting group to be able to interact with.

The single most important take-home message for me is that we need to stimulate

member involvement. As a board, that is an area that we really need to work on.

If you are interested in becoming more involved with Monroe County Farm Bureau, we would love to find a way for you to get you more active.

Whether that is participating on the board, helping on a local committee, assisting with Ag in the Classroom or volunteering at an event, we can find an activity that tailors to your personal interests and skill set.

If you want to get more involved with the Monroe County Farm Bureau, please contact me at 608.487.3004.

Monroe County Farm Bureau Scholarship

To be eligible you must meet the following qualifications.

1. Must be a family member of the Monroe County Farm Bureau.
2. Must be going to school in agriculture, it may be either to Farm and Industry Short Course, a technical school or college.
3. Must have the application in by March 15.
4. Must be a graduating high school senior.

There will be two \$250 scholarships presented and they will be awarded to the winners upon proof of first semester attendance.

For more information and to get an application, please contact Peggy Wright at 608.269.3173, 800.236.3173 or 608.372.9272.



Trempealeau County

Blazing the Trail with Ag in the Classroom

By Kendra Goplin, Ag Promotions chair

Hello, my name is Kendra Goplin and I am joining the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board as the Ag Promotions chair. My main responsibility is to contact the elementary schools in our county and visit their classrooms to promote agriculture.

This fall, I contacted 13 schools and offered to visit students in fourth and fifth grade with a hands-on presentation focusing on the 'A-maize-ing Corn' production.

I visited Blair-Taylor Elementary to teach their fourth through sixth grades, Galesville

fifth grade and Trempealeau fourth grade. All together, I reached about 130 students. After teaching a 30-minute lesson, each teacher was presented with materials to make corn plastic with their students and additional information on corn production including a YouTube video I produced on the harvesting of corn.

This winter, I will contact the 13 schools, hoping to read "Fresh Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub and the present each school with a copy for the libraries. I also will promote the Farm Bureau essay contest, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market,' for fourth and fifth grade students in our counties.

I encourage Farm Bureau members to contact the elementary school principals and teachers and let them know that this is a great opportunity for students to practice their writing skills while learning more about agriculture. It is important as members that we continue to encourage integration of agriculture into our schools at a young age.

I look forward to my upcoming year of educating elementary students and learning more about the Ag in the Classroom program.

If you have suggestions or contacts in your school district, please contact me at goplink@whitehallsd.k12.wi.us. Be Ag Strong.

Trempealeau County Fair Project Animal Grants Offered

The Trempealeau County Farm Bureau is a great supporter of the animal exhibitors at the Trempealeau County Fair. This year, we are sponsoring 10, \$50 youth grants to help improve their projects. The grant is open to junior livestock exhibitors who are enrolled in the following projects: Dairy, swine, beef, goat or sheep. The grant may be used to purchase feed, animals or equipment needed for the project. Project participants must show their animals at the Trempealeau County Fair.

To apply for the grant, write a brief essay on how the grant will help improve your project, such as helping with feed cost, bedding, supplies, etc., and send with this form.

All applications must be submitted by closing time on **Sunday, July 21**, at the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau shake stand located across from the dairy barn on the fairgrounds.

Winners of the grant will be notified after the fair and must attend the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting in late August to receive the check. For more information, please contact Amber Radatz at 608.317.0001.

Name _____ Age _____
 Parents/Guardians _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 Email _____
 Name of 4-H club/FFA chapter _____
 4-H leader or FFA advisor _____
 Name of farm _____ Years in 4-H _____ Years in FFA _____
 Fair projects (animal or other) _____
 Jobs/volunteering at fair (other than exhibiting) _____
 Parents' signatures _____
 Member's signature: _____

Scholarships For High School Seniors, First Year Students

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau is offering a \$500 scholarship for high school seniors and first year college and technical college students.



The scholarship will be awarded with proof of GPA above 2.5 for the first semester or first two semesters. Also proof of re-enrollment for the upcoming semester.

Students seeking an agricultural major are strongly encouraged to apply; however, all-first year students pursuing secondary education are welcome to apply.

The recipient will be invited to the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau annual meeting for a presentation of the award certificate and an opportunity to speak.

Applicants must be the child of a Trempealeau County Farm Bureau member in good standing. Applications are due **April 1**.

For more information and to get a scholarship application, please visit wfbf.com/about/counties/trempealeau.



County Farm Bureaus
 PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
 Organization
 US Postage
PAID
 Platteville, WI 53818
 Permit No. 124

**This Issue Contains
 Highlights for:**

Buffalo County

Eau Claire County

Jackson County

Monroe County

Trempealeau County

We Support
WISCONSIN FARMERS



Over the last 2 years, we've given over **\$5 million** back to Wisconsin farmers.
 It pays to be protected by the **#1** Farm Insurer in Wisconsin.
 Contact your local Rural Mutual agent to learn how you may qualify.



www.RuralMutual.com/Agent