



Grassroots

District 3 News

Meet Your New District Director



Robert Nigh

WFBB District 3 Director

I hope this newsletter finds you in above zero temperatures. Bitter cold wind chills and 22 below zero are extremely challenging on our farm as I am sure it's no picnic for you either. I attended several

January meetings to meet county directors and leaders.

I plan on attending many more meetings in order to work with and better serve the counties of District 3. I believe my role is to communicate issues, ideas and concerns to the WFBB Board of Directors and back to you as members. Working together and keeping open lines of communication will benefit all. Please feel free to contact me. My job is to represent you. I hope to meet many of you in the near future.

To introduce myself a bit. I farm in Vernon County in partnership with my brother, Randy. Our son Ryan and his wife Kelsey work alongside us every day. We have a 110-cow robotic dairy that we moved into in mid-December of 2016. We have polled Registered Holsteins, the herd was started in 1955 by our father, Lewis and mother, Irene.

The first letter of our first names make up our farm name of LIRR. We also grow corn, soybeans and alfalfa on 900 acres of cropland. Ryan has a 65-cow cow-calf operation and feeds some steers.

My wife, Betty, is a public health nurse and also holds the position of county coroner. Our oldest son Brandon and his wife Megan live in West Allis where he works for Briggs and Stratton as an engineer. Son, Brady is a senior at UW-River Falls and our youngest, Rachel is a sophomore at UW-River Falls, both are studying animal science and ag business.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau has and will continue to monitor the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology study. Water is important to all of us and we need solid data to address water quality issues. If the only wells tested are those that are assumed to have contaminates then the results will be skewed toward a much larger issue than it may be. Test your water, we want you to be safe and included in this study.

Stay safe and stay informed.

WFBB Leadership Institute: The Best of the Best



Andrew DalSanto

WFBB Leadership Institute Class XII

I have been a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member for almost five years now. I

can remember joining Farm Bureau not knowing what to expect or what I was going to get out of it. But, I was ready to grow and experience new things.

These past few years, Wisconsin Farm Bureau has challenged me to be more than just a member. It has challenged me to express and share my passion of agriculture not only within Wisconsin Farm Bureau, but with my friends, family and better yet, the general public.

After about four years of being a member, I began wondering what else I could do to grow my membership and become more of an asset to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. I remembered that a few of my friends had recently went through the WFBB Leadership Institute. Hearing great things about this program and watching those close friends evolve into stronger agricultural leaders both inside and outside the Farm Bureau world, I submitted my application and was fortunate enough to be selected along with 13 others to be a part of the WFBB Leadership Institute Class XII for 2018.

What a whirlwind the past year has been. I never once thought that a group of strangers could connect and become such great and close-knit partners in agriculture. I can still remember it like it was yesterday, our first meeting and walking into the conference room and wondering what was in store, the nervousness of knowing that

no one knows you and the excitement of wanting to learn and grow.

Every class we had together I still hold close to me, from listening to one of my main mentors, Craig Culver speak on leadership to understanding the true passions that connected each and every one of class XII's participants together in agriculture.

I can honestly say that out of all the classes and programs I've participated in over the years, the WFBB Leadership Institute is one of the best of the best. No other program has taught me more about myself, no other program has truly inspired me to reach out, no other program has brought me closer to others the way Leadership Institute did.

For any of you who have considered applying for this program or those who want to take the next step in becoming a stronger leader in agriculture, the WFBB Leadership Institute is for you. You don't realize it at the time but the Institute sets you up for 100 percent success. It gives you more confidence, understanding, direction and perseverance to be the agricultural leader that is already somewhere inside of you.

This year's 2019 WFBB Leadership Institute program has already begun, but it's never too early to starting thinking about applying for the 2020 class.

Applications will be coming out shortly and can be found on the WFBB website. Don't hesitate to fill one out ... I promise you won't regret it.



Celebrating Our Legacy: 2018 WFBF Annual Meeting

The 99th WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. More than 240 delegates from around the state established new policy directives for the organization. The adopted policies will guide the legislative agenda for the organization in 2019.

Delegates held a robust dairy policy discussion regarding supply management. With much consideration and conversation, delegates adopted, "We are willing to consider a dairy supply management system." Delegates were adamant that Farm Bureau should be at the table to discuss options for the dairy industry.

Delegates supported a differentiation between lab-grown meat and milk versus conventionally produced agriculture products. They agreed that milk from mammals should be the only product eligible to use standardized dairy labeling terms. Farmers wanted clarity on federally-defined terms such as organic versus non-federally defined terms such as natural and GMO-free.

Delegates also voted to support:

- Requiring farm milk inspectors to provide consistent interpretations of regulations during inspections.

- Removing the wildlife damage payment cap.
- Better tracking and studying for relocated bear movement.
- The DNR to create subzones to better control overpopulated wildlife in small areas.
- Limiting use of the term blighted for productive farmland through eminent domain.
- Improving mental health resources for farmers.
- Transferring CAFO permitting from DNR to DACTP.
- More recycling of ag plastics.
- The right of farmers to be able to obtain necessary software and equipment to maintain their equipment.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- USDA to equip bear traps with electronic monitor systems.
- Standardization when it comes to food expiration terms, such as: sell by, best by, use by.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at the AFBF Annual Convention.

More than 50 YFA members from District 3 were in attendance for the 2018 YFA Conference that is held in conjunction with the

WFBF Annual Meeting. Members were busy networking, attending breakout sessions and learning more about Farm Bureau opportunities, all while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts.

Justin and Livia Doyle of Iowa County were selected for the 2018 Excellence in Agriculture Award. The Excellence in Agriculture Award goes to a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 who is actively engaged in agriculture but derives the majority of their income from an off-farm agricultural career. The winner is selected based on their knowledge of agriculture, leadership in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

Justin and Livia are ninth-year teachers. Justin teaches agriculture and technology at Darlington High School. Livia is a fourth-grade teacher in the Mineral Point School



Richard Gorder was recognized for his 21 years of service on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors by WFBF President Jim Holte.

District. The Doyles raise Red and Black Angus cattle and grow crops on 150 acres. They also co-own On Point Auction Service and are very active Farm Bureau members.

District 3 also was well represented in the YFA Discussion Meet. Andrew DalSanto (Grant), Dan Frank (Grant) and Maija Haagith (Vernon) competed against other Farm Bureau members, discussing current issues affecting the agricultural industry.

Plans for the centennial celebration are already in the works. Mark your calendars for the 100th WFBF Annual Meeting, December 7-9 in Wisconsin Dells.



Crawford County delegates (from left): Don Brown, Lori Brown, Mary Jo Johnsrude and Steve Johnsrude.



Grant County delegates (from left): Allen Johnson, Peter Winch, Richard Johnson, Larry Jerrett, Katie Roth, Andrew DalSanto and Derek Orth.



Iowa County delegates (from left): Adam Heisner, Kayla Sazama, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan and Don Ley.



Lafayette County delegates (from left): Mike Harms, Amber McComish, Karen Voigts, Christina Benson and Tim Appell.



Richland County delegates (from left): Jim Hying, Dick Hauser and Bill Hying.



Vernon County delegates (from left): Travis Klinkner, Robert Nigh, Alex Bringe, Scott Sherry and Maija Haagith.

District 3 Takes on New Orleans for the 100th AFBF Annual Convention

The 2019 AFBF Annual Convention and IDEAg Trade Show highlighted the successes of AFBF during the past 100 years. The event brought together farmers and policy makers to honor the organization. More than 6,000 members gathered in New Orleans to help Farm Bureau kick off its centennial celebration. District 3 members Alex Bringe, Justin and Livia Doyle, Melissa Doyle, Trevor Jacobson, Jared and Amanda Leonard, Derek and Charisse Orth, Jason and Brittany Steffes, Tammy Wiedenbeck and Megan Yager attended.

Members had the opportunity to attend educational workshops, visit with old and new friends, explore the local culture and hear from many distinguished keynote speakers, including AFBF President Zippy Duvall, President Donald Trump, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and many senators and representatives.

Young Farmers and Ranchers from around the country competed for awards by demonstrating knowledge of and achievement in agriculture, as well as commitment to promoting the agriculture industry. Justin and Livia Doyle represented Wisconsin in the Excellence in Agriculture competition and were announced as Top 10 finalists.

Delegates adopted policies to guide the organization's work during its centennial year on key topics such as Farm Bill implementation, cell-cultured food products, trade, rural broadband and rural mental health programs.

"As our organization has done for the last 100 years, grassroots delegates from across the nation came together to express a unified voice on issues vital to the success of our farms, ranches and rural communities," AFBF President Zippy Duvall said. "It was fitting to have President Trump and numerous members of Congress among our attendees as we kicked off our centennial celebration. We continue to face a challenging farm economy and we stand ready to work with Congress and the Trump administration to address the issues important to our farm and ranch families."

Trade

Delegates voted to favor negotiations to resolve trade disputes, rather than the use of tariffs or withdrawal from agreements. They also voted to support the U.S.'s entry into the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Cell-Based Food

Delegates adopted a comprehensive policy to support innovation in cell-based food products while ensuring a level playing field for traditional protein. Delegates affirmed that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is best equipped to be the primary regulator of new cell-based products as it encouraged USDA to use the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's expertise in food safety. The policy also calls

for complete and accurate product labels to ensure that consumers have all the pertinent information they need.

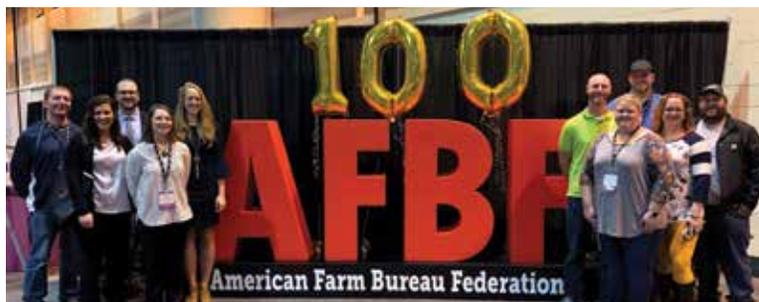
Rural Broadband

Delegates supported improved broadband coverage maps through better data and third-party provider verification. AFBF will work with the Federal Communications Commission to address map inaccuracies.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Delegates supported increased funding for programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse and mental health issues. Delegates also voted to support funding for the Farm and Ranch Assistance Network, which was included in the 2018 Farm Bill. AFBF will urge appropriations committees to fund this program, which is critical to address the mental health issues faced by many farmers, ranchers and other rural Americans.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau was honored to receive both the 2018 New Horizon Award and the 2018 Pinnacle Award. The New Horizon Award is given annually to the best new and innovative program in each membership group. WFBF received this award for their creation and implementation of the IGNITE Conference. The Pinnacle Award is the highest-level award and is given annually to the most outstanding state in each membership group.



Promotion and Education Update



Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Hello southwest Wisconsin. It was great to see you at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. The new year is jam-packed with upcoming agricultural promotion and education events.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee recently held its second Leadership Boot Camp in Eau Claire during mid-January. It was focused on how to run for office and have your voice be heard. We received great feedback and hope to plan another Boot Camp soon.

Thank you to those who participated in the District 3 Promotion and Education Committee and YFA County Chairs Committee Meeting on January 31. I appreciate your time and

commitment to learn about upcoming events.

Hope to see some of you at the Ag LEAD Summit, **March 8-9**, in Appleton. It promises to be a great conference. Join us to learn more about the tools, resources, new ideas and best practices to use when advocating for agriculture. You also will have the opportunity to network with other farmers, agriculturalists and consumers. This summit is open to Farm Bureau members and non-members.

Do you know any fourth or fifth graders you can encourage to participate in this year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest? This year's essay topic is 'Making it Happen at the Farmers Market.' It pairs with the 2019 Book of the Year, "Fresh-Picked Poetry." Students can put their writing skills to the test and write about the market from the farmer's perspective, the variety of available products or what it's like to be an attendee. Essays are due to your county Ag in the Classroom chair by **April 1**.



County Promotion and Education Committee and YFA Committee chairs from across District 3 gathered to plan events for the year, learn about available resources, brainstorm new ideas and share tips to build successful programs. Those in attendance included, front row (from left): Katie Roth, Charisse, Jaylee and Zeeva Orth, Megan Yager and Tammy Wiedenbeck; back row (from left): Livia Doyle, Jackie McCarville, Alex Bringe, Paige Hampton, Derek Orth, Andrew DalSanto and Maija Haagith.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 YFA Committee Representative

Can you believe it's 2019 already? Where did the time go? As I move into my third and final year as the WFBF District 3 YFA

Committee Representative, I have a lot to be grateful for.

We had another incredible YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells. Thank you to Andrew DalSanto, Dan Frank and Maija Haggith for representing District 3 in the Discussion Meet. And congratulations to Justin and Livia Doyle for not only winning the WFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award, but for also placing in the Top 10 at the national level during the AFBF Annual Convention.

I also had the opportunity to attend the AFBF Annual Convention, January 11-15 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Some of the highlights were watching the Young Farmer and Rancher contests, networking at the Women's Leadership events, exploring the IDEAg Trade Show and attending the Foundation Night Out featuring Craig Campbell, Eddie Montgomery and Aaron Tippin.

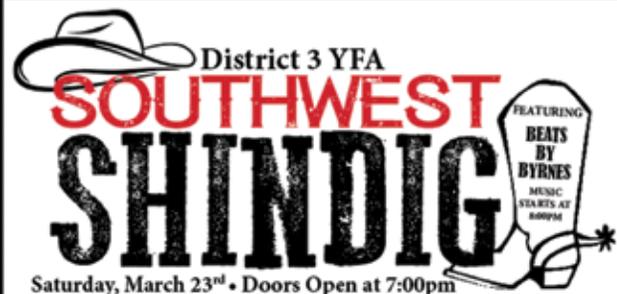
Concurrent workshops involved these themes: communication, consumer engagement,

member engagement and development, niche agriculture and marketing, public policy and advocacy, technology, business and rural development. We had the privilege to hear from many speakers like AFBF President Zippy Duvall, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and our very own President Donald Trump.

To my surprise, President Trump gave an excellent speech addressing agricultural issues like trade, EPA regulations, estate tax, immigration policy, border security and other matters. I found it interesting that at one point, the President called up a farmer from Arizona who has to worry about the drug cartel going through his land regularly. The man has lost livestock and people have died on his property, which is something I was shocked to hear as we don't have these same issues in Wisconsin.

As we gear up for the months ahead, I hope some of you consider attending the AFBF

FUSION Conference in Milwaukee on March 15-18 and the District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig on **March 23** at Vesperman Farms in Lancaster. There also will be many county events coming up, which are a great way to take a break and make new friends. Here's to a short winter and wishing you well on your farms.



District 3 YFA
SOUTHWEST SHINDIG
Saturday, March 23rd • Doors Open at 7:00pm

Join District 3 Farm Bureau for the
3RD ANNUAL SOUTHWEST SHINDIG
at Vesperman Farms in Lancaster, WI

*The night will feature music by Beats By Byrnes from 8:00pm-12:00am.
Admission: \$10 | FREE for Farm Bureau members.
Food and drinks available for purchase.*

NEW THIS YEAR: BAGS TOURNAMENT, KARAOKE & DOOR PRIZES

The event is open to the general public. Invite your friends, throw on your boots, and get ready for a fun night of dancing, socializing & great music!

A Farm Bureau Farewell



Derek Orth

AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee Representative

So long, farewell.

I looked back to see if we could use the same article we wrote when we retired from the YFA Committee, but a few things have changed as we get ready to retire from the

AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

It has been an amazing two years representing Wisconsin, and we will never forget the opportunities we've been given through Farm Bureau. Maybe this is a paradigm shift, maybe every few years we'll retire from something else.

Just yesterday, I received a call from WFBF President Jim Holte asking if I was willing to serve as the Chair of the WFBF Dairy Committee another year. Of course, I accepted.

I love the Dairy Committee and serving as the Chair also allows me to sit on the Policy Development Committee. It's a scary time in agriculture, and I look forward to serving in both of these roles.

Charisse and I recently wrapped up the AFBF Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Special shout out to Justin and Livia Doyle for competing in the Excellence in Agriculture contest.

Not only did they make the Top 10 in the national competition, but they also brought along a huge following of District 3 members.

In our three trips to the AFBF Annual Convention, District 3 has never been so well represented.

While on the Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee, we created videos about our Farm Bureau involvement. We reached out to Alex Carey of Carey-oke Productions in Mineral Point and she helped us create a two-minute masterpiece showcasing our farm.

If you haven't seen it, Google "Orth Farm Bureau Proud" or ask me for the link.

Our last event will be the FUSION Conference in Milwaukee in March. We're so excited that we'll be able to showcase Wisconsin to more than 1,000 attendees this year.

We couldn't have been any luckier to round out the Young Farmer and Ranchers experience by hosting the conference in our home state. We have always felt welcome in every county in District 3 and appreciated meeting everyone and learning each county's traditions.

We will miss you so much and can't wait to see you around again soon.

Free Resources for Farmers from the Wisconsin Farm Center

Services include:

- Financial Planning
- Farm Transition
- Conflict Mediation
- Counseling Services
- Minority Farmer Outreach
- Energy-related Issues
- Herd-based Diagnostics

Call: 1-800-942-2474 | Email: farmlcenter@wisconsin.gov

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



GRANT COUNTY

UP TO \$500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/grant19>

Due: April 25, 2019

Questions: Peter Winch - 608.822.7606



IOWA COUNTY

UP TO \$1000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/iowa19>

Due: April 25, 2019

Questions: Krista Dolan - 608.574.4565



LAFAYETTE COUNTY

UP TO \$2000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/lafayette19>

Due: April 25, 2019

Questions: Amber McComish - 608.553.2221



VERNON COUNTY

UP TO \$500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/vernon19>

Due: April 15, 2019

Questions: Travis Klinkner - 608.653.1981



ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 2019

All scholarship recipients will be announced in May and recognized at county Farm Bureau annual meetings in September. Scholarship money will be awarded after a first semester transcript and proof of second semester registration is submitted.

Kicking Off the Year With Ag in the Classroom

By Mary Jo Johnsrude

On January 5, Pat Dearth and I spent an enjoyable day with advocates from around the state at the Ag in the Classroom New Year's Kick Off at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center near Manitowoc. The day focused on exploring different ways to help students learn more about Wisconsin's vast agricultural industry.

The 2019 Ag in the Classroom Wisconsin Teacher of the Year, Ashley VandenBush, shared information about the many resources she uses in her classroom and how to present lesson plans using agriculture resources for literature, math and science classes that schools will approve.

We reviewed details about the upcoming Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Information also was provided about celebrating National Ag



Day on March 14, the available matching grants and summer day trainings, along with receiving resources for use in our own counties. You can learn more about everything the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program has to offer at www.wisagclassroom.org.

Melissa Bender, Director of Education and Programming for the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center, provided information about the center, which opened in July of 2018. We toured and experienced this wonderful new 10,000-square foot learning center that is open to the public and encourages school and tour groups.

The wonderful photographs and hands-on interactive displays and simulators are very informative and enjoyable while educating visitors about the many, many aspects of Wisconsin agriculture.

In addition to the exhibits, there is an onsite dairy birthing barn, nearby farm tour, a Wisconsin Café, ice cream shop, gift shop and conference center. Check out directions, admission costs, hours and more at www.farmwisconsin.org.

Grant County

wfbf.com/about/counties/grant
GrantCountyFarmBureau

Farm Bureau: A Voice for Agriculture



By Peter Winch, Grant County Farm Bureau President

Another winter is almost over and I'm longing to see the green spring ahead. This fall we had our

county annual meeting at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. The meal was catered by Ma's Bakery. It was nice to see new faces at the meeting. I was re-elected as president.

The county annual meeting is also where our resolutions are voted on and then passed on to the state Policy Development Committee. From there the Policy Development Committee looks over them and sends them to be voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting. This shows you how grassroots Farm Bureau really is, bringing ideas from the counties to the state and then on to American Farm Bureau. These policies are what Farm Bureau as an organization stands for. It helps our lobbyists and board members fight for us at the state and federal levels.

In December, your delegates and young farmers went to the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. We attended many workshops and meetings. Dick Gorder was honored for his dedication to Farm Bureau and service on the WFBF Board of Directors. His leadership will be greatly missed. I have

always looked up to Dick. He had a wide view of things and wasn't afraid to ask the hard questions. Thank you, Dick, for your many years of service. I wish newly elected Robert Nigh of Vernon County the best as he succeeds Dick as the District 3 Director.

The Grant County board of directors is on top of local issues. One is the tri-county water quality study. The first tests came back with surprising results. We want to follow up and make sure everything is done properly. Farmers want clean water and we need to work together and keep it clean for years to come.

Membership is one of those hard topics sometimes. Farm Bureau is a very strong organization. It is strong because of the large membership that unites together to be a voice for agriculture. The more members we have the stronger voice we have. Many people in government seek out our policies to see what we stand for. All the policies that we have as an organization were started at the county level and voted on. I encourage everyone to ask a neighbor or friend to join Farm Bureau. With the changes in state and federal offices, it is more important than ever for us to have a strong united voice.

Ag Day at the Capitol will be in March this year. If you wish to attend, the county will cover the cost for up to 10 members. It is a fun and exciting time to sit down with our elected officials and talk to them as a small group. Please contact me if you are interested. Have a safe and productive spring.

YFA Update



By Paige Hampton and Jackie Seelow, Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Co-Chairs

We are now in our second year serving as the Grant County Farm Bureau YFA

co-chairs. In December, YFA members and chairs gathered ideas and networked at the YFA Conference. Attendees participated in workshops and break-out sessions. Lots of ideas and suggestions were exchanged among the members to implement in the upcoming year.

We are in the works of planning this year's Grant County YFA activities and events. On March 1, we will be attending a Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game. It is a family-friendly event, but advanced tickets are required. Please let us know if you'd like to join in the fun and how many tickets you will need for you and your family. We are also hoping to make another appearance at the rink for open ice-skating on a Sunday afternoon before spring comes.

Additional events will be announced as they are planned. Please check the Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Facebook page for updates.

All YFA members are welcome to attend any of our events. It is a great way to meet and network with many local agriculture enthusiasts in Grant County. If you have any suggestions for events to have throughout the year please feel free to contact us. We are always looking for new ideas that will bring YFA members together.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Share Your Agricultural Story



Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Have you ever read something online or in a magazine or newspaper, or heard something on the radio or TV that just makes you shake your head and wonder where the information was obtained?

Unfortunately, I have quite often and it simply drives me crazy. There is a lot of negative and incorrect information circulating around and consumers are eating it up. This is not good for the

agriculture industry.

Public speaking has never been my thing. I have always feared being judged or ridiculed for something that I said. It takes a lot of courage. However, one day I came to the conclusion that I cannot sit back any longer and needed to do something to get the right message out there.

I did some research on the best way to express yourself and share your story because the last thing I wanted to do is reply or respond in a way that isn't polite. I learned that the main objective is to get people to listen. And in order to do this, be truthful, be yourself, don't over think, be positive (I know sometimes it's very hard), and most importantly know your audience.

I am still not a professional public speaker, and I don't really care to be. But, I am someone who shares my story with as many people as I can. Why? Because I want them to know what really happens on my dairy farm versus what an

activist group might show them.

I am very active on social media and like to share happenings, pictures and facts from the farm. Since becoming a Farm Bureau member, I have had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and feel very confident in being able to talk about the industry I love. Through the Ag in the Classroom program I have had many opportunities to visit schools and talk to students about Wisconsin agriculture.

So, if you answered yes to the questions in the first paragraph ... What are you going to do about it? I have an idea. National Ag Day is coming up on **Thursday, March 14.**

I encourage you to share your story. It can be online, through a blog, in the grocery store or to a group of students. It can be anything. Everyone in this world has faced something that has changed them and because of that everyone has a story to tell.

Meet: Megan Yager, Promotion and Education Chair



My name is Megan Yager and I am excited to be serving as the new Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee chair. I grew up working on my parent's dairy farm outside of Mineral Point where my love for agriculture first began.

I earned my accounting and business degrees from UW-Platteville in 2010 and returned to work on the family farm full time. We raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa and cattle. In 2013, I bought my first herd of beef cows and began to grow my passion for working with cattle.

I've been involved with Farm Bureau for several years because it allows me to network with other people who share my passion for agriculture. My involvement with

Farm Bureau has shown me just how much the world is becoming disconnected from the farm.

With consumers in the driver's seat influencing so many agriculture production practices, it is critical that we educate consumers on how and why we do what we do every day. I look forward to working with other members to promote the agriculture industry and help close the gap between farmers and consumers.

YFA Update

By Jackie McCarville, Iowa County YFA Chair

Iowa County Farm Bureau had a great turnout of members at the YFA Conference in December. The conference provides members with opportunities to network, attend a variety of breakout sessions, participate in contents and enjoy evening entertainment. It's a great learning experience and a fun time for all. As always, I encourage more YFA members to consider attending the conference.

Plans are in the works for our yearly activities. On February 2, we joined Lafayette County for a 'Night at the Saloon' in Fayette. A good time was had by all. I invite you to join us for the third annual District 3 YFA Southwest Shindig at Vesperman Farms on **Saturday, March 23.** All event and activity details will be shared on the Iowa County Farm Bureau Facebook page. Please check the page regularly for updates. I hope to see some new faces at our events this year.



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. For more information and to register, visit:

bit.ly/2019AgLEADSummit

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Essay Contest

Attention to fourth and fifth grade students. The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program is once again holding an essay contest for all students in fourth and fifth grade in public schools, private schools or homeschool programs. This year's essay contest topic is 'Making it happen at the Farmers' Market.' Essays must be between 100- to 300-words in length and can be handwritten in ink or typed. There are many different resources available to help promote this year's topic including detailed lesson plans and activities. Teachers and parents can access these resources via online at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting me directly.

All essay submissions are due **April 1**. Iowa County entries must be emailed to kristajdolan@gmail.com or mailed to:

Iowa County Farm Bureau
Attn.: Krista Dolan
5398 County Road ZZ
Dodgeville, WI 53533

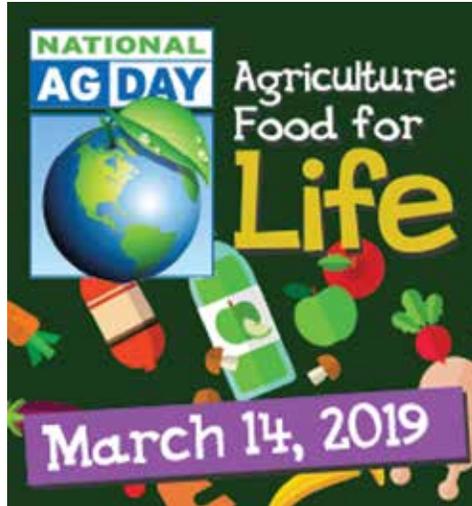
One county essay winner will be selected and their essay will advance to the district level. The student of the winning essay will also receive an ice cream party for the students in their classroom, as well as some other agriculture related goodies.

Book of the Year

Additionally, each year Wisconsin Farm Bureau selects an outstanding agricultural book highlighting facts and information on today's agriculture industry. This year's Book of the Year is "Fresh-Picked Poetry: A Day at the Farmers' Market" written by Michelle Schaub. This picture book is filled with a collection of poems showcasing how produce is grown and sold at local farmers' markets. It ties in perfectly with this year's essay contest. Iowa County Farm Bureau will be donating copies of this book to schools and libraries within our county.

National Ag Day

National Ag Day is Thursday, March 14. Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau as we celebrate all aspects of agriculture that day and throughout the week. Participate in the fun by volunteering to read books about agriculture to classroom students, nursing home residents, children in daycares, or at your local library. Share agriculture facts on your favorite social media sites using the hashtags #WIReadsAg2019, #WIAgProud, and #AgDay2019. Host a classroom field trip to a local farm or agribusiness. Or, bring the farm and ag industry



to the classroom. This experience provides a great opportunity for children to learn about different career choices and opportunities in agriculture.

As part of National Ag Day, WI Ag in the Classroom is holding a drawing and coloring contest centered around the theme, 'Thank a Farmer.' This contest is open to children ages 12 and under. Only one entry per person may be submitted. Pick up your drawing entry page at your local library or contact me for more information.

All entries must be submitted by **March 31** and can be scanned and emailed to aic@wfbf.com or mailed to:

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom
P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705

Ag in the Classroom Grants

This past fall, I submitted an application for a Teacher Mini Grant through Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom. I was awarded \$100 for my school's Books and Blankets Program. At Mineral Point Elementary, students are fortunate to have access to a beautiful school garden as well as an Oak Savannah located right next to school property. Our goal is to turn these spaces into environments conducive to hands-on outdoor learning. The funds received from this grant have been used to purchase agriculture related books for children in grades Pre-K-5 as they make use of these engaging outdoor learning spaces. If you're interested in applying for a grant, applications can be found on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at wisagclassroom.org, by clicking on the 'Grant' section.

There are so many ways to engage children and youth in agriculture. Many activities and resources can be found online at: www.wisagclassroom.org, www.agclassroom.org, www.agfoundation.org.

If you or someone you know is looking for resources or ideas, please contact me at 608.574.9253 or livia.doyle@mp.k12.wi.us. Iowa County's Ag in the Classroom program is stocked with educational resources, books, lesson plan ideas and activities to do with children of all ages. I enjoy sharing these resources with teachers, 4-H leaders, library media specialists, parents, etc. Together, we can reach out and teach so many of tomorrow's consumers about the importance of today's agriculture industry.



President's Message



Mike Harms

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

On October 1, 2018, Lafayette County entered the Wisconsin Farm Bureau County Services Program. As part of the program, voting members will now receive the District 3 Newsletter three times per year. The newsletter will provide information on Farm Bureau happenings and events.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau needs your help in reaching this year's membership goals. By the end of March, we hope to sign up 30 new voting members. We're excited to announce our new county membership incentive. We are partnering with A&M Hardware of Shullsburg to award all new voting members with a \$30 gift card for joining Farm Bureau.

To learn more about this incentive and other Farm Bureau benefits, please feel free to contact me at 608.574.7807.



In December, the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Board of Directors held their Christmas Party at The Burg in Shullsburg. Directors include (from left): Christina Benson, Joe Riechers, Leon Wolfe, Tim Appell, Karen Voigts, Amber McComish, Mike Harms and Ashley Moore.



Lafayette County Farm Bureau members, Mike Harms and Amber McComish, were selected to participate in the WFBF Leadership Institute Class XIII. The year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders and consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants.

Meet: Ashley Moore, YFA Chair



My name is Ashley Moore and I am the newly elected YFA chair for Lafayette County Farm Bureau. I grew up on a dairy farm outside of Darlington, where I also attended high school. My parents are Mike and Jolene Martin and I have two younger siblings, Robert and Makenna.

After high school, I attended UW-Platteville and earned a degree in chemistry and biology. I began working at FTCMA labs in Monroe after college where I was involved with

microbial and analytical testing of dairy products from local cheese factories.

Growing up, I was very involved in 4-H and FFA and was very passionate about showing dairy cattle at the Lafayette County Fair. That is where I was fortunate enough to meet my husband, Adam Moore.

Currently, I am in my third year of pharmacy school at UW-Madison and will be completing my clinical rotations starting in May with a focus on rural pharmacy. My husband farms full time with his father, milking 160 Holstein cows and running 800 crop acres outside of Gratiot. I enjoy helping with chores any chance I get.

My husband and I joined Farm Bureau a few years ago to not only benefit from the incentives they offer, but to show our support for the advocacy that Farm Bureau provides for the agriculture industry. I had been wanting to become more involved in the community during the past few years and fate would have it that the current Lafayette County Farm Bureau President, Mike Harms, asked me if I would be interested in becoming a board member.

As the newly elected YFA chair, I hope to bring together the young farmers in the Lafayette county area, to not only socialize, but to collaborate on the complicated problems many farmers are currently facing. With the troubling times being seen across the agriculture community, having a friend to lean on and a community of support can really change your outlook on a situation. I look forward to this upcoming year and all the good times to be had.

Centennial Celebrations

In 1920, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation was officially organized and became the 32nd state to join the American Farm Bureau Federation, WFBF will be celebrating 100 years by sharing 100 Farm Bureau stories.

No matter if you have been a long-time member or joined recently, your story is worth sharing.

To share your story and learn more about how WFBF is celebrating the centennial, visit www.wfbf.com/centennial.



What Can Farm Bureau Do For YOU?



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

As I sit down to write this article for the new District Newsletter the thermometer is at 37 degrees

below zero and I'm not sure which I would rather do, go out and break the ice in the creek for my cattle to drink or continue to write this article. My problem is to find a topic that will interest enough of you to justify the space that it takes.

I have already completed two farm shows this

year and have been pleased with the attendance and the lack of negative attitudes. With all of the issues that we hear and read about I was not sure what to expect. Most farmers seem to be optimistic that things will be ok or will get better. I am truly blessed to work in an industry that continues to contribute to the wellbeing of all the general population even when they themselves are not enjoying such prosperity.

Advances in technology and good production yields have helped. We will need to continue to do more with less until we can get market prices to improve. The new Farm bill should help add some long-term stability to get us through the present tough times until the markets get back to more profitable times.

More farmers are telling me about their

efforts to take advantage of the 'Buy Local, Eat Local' movement that seems to be growing. Granted, this takes extra work and time but for those who have been at it for a while, the feeling is that it is paying off in better income for their operation.

If you have any thoughts or feelings about what we as your county Farm Bureau can do we would love to hear from you. We are always looking for things that will benefit our members. Please remember that if we work together on issues and problems there is a greater probability that we will have a better outcome. Consider attending Ag Day at the Capitol. For more information, please feel free to contact me at 608.585.4808.

Meet: Josh Joseph, Director



Occupation: Farmer, shearer and livestock procurement. My wife and I are six generation livestock farmers in Richland County. Together we care for our Shorthorns, Holsteins, commercial flock of sheep and goats. Holsteins are milked at Wil-Ridge Swiss. Milking Shorthorn cows produce polled (naturally hornless) bulls to be sold for breeding and

feeder cattle are sent to a finishing farm. Sheep are sheared for wool to be marketed online for hand spinners, while lambs are fattened to finish weight and sold. Goats, our newest venture will be employed for weed control and meat sales for ethnic markets. I also custom shear sheep December-July, shearing small flocks in the tri-county area. During the day, I am employed at Organic Valley purchasing market cows and hogs to be processed into Certified Organic Meat to be marketed in food stores.

Agriculture background: I grew up on a Holstein finishing beef farm and my family's dairy farm, Durst-Larse Farms in Richland Center. I was involved in FFA at Kickapoo High School, winning Star Farmer of Wisconsin for Beef Production and Dairy Placement. I earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture business from the UW-Platteville and was in the Pioneer Dairy Club and Judging Team.

Family: My wife, Kristen, is a large-animal veterinarian for River Valley Vet Clinic in Plain. We were married in June 2018 with the reception held in our haymow.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? During the grazing season, we rotationally graze our flock and herd giving them access to fresh grass every day. I love the excitement and contentment of the cows getting that fresh pasture.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? If we aren't involved in agriculture policy and promotion, someone else will do it for us. And that someone will most likely NOT have the same values and opinions.

I am Farm Bureau proud because ... I can help direct the future of agriculture policy and education.

Preferred tractor color: Allis Chalmers orange

Favorite ice cream flavor: Chocolate



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:



Meet: Maija Haagith, YFA Chair



From the land of apples to the land of cheese, my name is Maija Haggith and I'm the new Vernon County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair.

I grew up on a 70-cow grazing dairy in Bellingham, Washington, and now reside in Ontario, Wisconsin.

While I don't actively farm in Wisconsin, I work for Organic Valley as the Generation Organic (Young Farmer) Program Coordinator.

I'm looking forward to creating activities and events for Vernon County YFA members to interact with each other, as well as learn from one another.

In addition to local events, I'm looking forward to working with other county YFA chairs to create new and fun opportunities for YFA members.

Meet: Travis Klinkner, Promotion and Education Chair



My name is Travis Klinkner and I grew up on my family organic dairy in Cashton. I earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from UW-River Falls. I taught high school agriculture and FFA at Sparta for two and a half years before working for Midwestern BioAg as a soil, crop, and animal nutrition consultant for four years where I met my wife, Krista.

I now farm with my wife and our four children, Liam, Brad, Hank and Alice. We operate a 60-cow organic dairy on her family's home farm, raising our own young stock and crops.

I'm excited to serve on the Vernon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and as the Promotion and Education Committee Chair. I look forward to hearing any concerns you have for the agriculture industry or things you would like to see Farm Bureau do for you.

Farmer to Farmer: Regenerative Agriculture Event

Healthy Soils, Clean Water and Increased Profits

When: 1-4 p.m., Saturday, March 30

Where: UW-Platteville, Nohr Gallery, Ullsvik Hall

Cost: FREE - All Farm Bureau members are invited to attend.

Keynote speaker, Dan Shelliam, will talk about farming practices he uses on his farm in Hazel Green. The regenerative agriculture practices enrich the soil, increase water infiltration, improve nutrient and water retention and increase biodiversity, while offering increased yields and profits for the farm operation. Dan was named Conservation Farmer of the Year for 2017 by the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association. The presentation will be followed by a panel with information and resources along with an opportunity for questions.

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Snapshots





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Vernon County

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