



# Grassroots

District 2 News

## \$6,400 Raised at District 2 Golf Fundraiser

By Sam Skemp, event coordinator

This is the first year that all six counties in District 2 joined forces on a fundraiser: the District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser.

The funds raised go back to our agriculture community to be used for: College student scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program, materials for our farm safety demonstrations, agriculture promotions, legislative and local affairs committee activities and more.

I am pleased to report that our District 2 Golf Outing, held at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove, was a huge success. The event took place on Tuesday, August 14. The weather was great and a fun time was had by all. There were hole events, 50/50 raffle, silent auction prizes, ball toss and a putting contest.

There was a box lunch served during the golf event followed by snacks and hors d'oeuvres. After golf we announced all the prize winners while everyone had the opportunity to visit with each other.

We raised more than \$6,400 at this event. The proceeds were divided up into the District 2 counties based on the number of people they had participate and auction prizes donated. We received many positive comments on this event.

Thank you to those who participated in the golf event by either golfing or donating prizes, sponsoring a hole or contributing towards the lunch.

We believe our first District 2 golf fundraiser was very successful and we are looking forward to holding another event next year. There will be more information on next year's event coming in future newsletters.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising event. Whether it was helping with the event, contributing prizes for the raffles and silent auctions or being a hole or lunch sponsor, we couldn't accomplish everything without your support.



Mike Duerst runs the 50/50 raffle during the golf outing.



District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr. volunteered at the putting contest.



Volunteers from all six counties in District 2 helped make the golf outing run smoothly.



The silent auction, 50/50 raffle drawing and awards banquet followed the golf outing.



The winning team enjoyed a beautiful day on the golf course supporting local Farm Bureau activities: (from left) Greg Wuethrich, John Reeter, Guy Thoman and Scott Timm.

## District 2 Director Report



**Arch Morton Jr.**  
WFBF District 2 Director

Our Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors have been very busy this past year. Most of us attended the AFBF Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee,

where we heard from Reba McEntire, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and President Donald Trump all in the same afternoon. That was quite a day.

We also traveled to Washington, D.C., with the WFBF Dairy and Farm Bill Committees. We were there again with the 2017 WFBF Leadership Institute graduates. Some federal issues we discussed included the farm bill,

immigration, trade tariffs, the reclassification of industrial hemp as a crop and dairy labeling.

In late January, WFBF along with many Wisconsin commodity groups hosted Ag Day at the Capitol. Some state topics discussed include: Implementation of hemp legislation, CAFO transfer from DNR to DATCP, the high capacity well permitting process, wetland legislation and NR151 targeted performance standards. We had a very productive day.

WFBF and all of Wisconsin has been facing the dairy crisis. With very low milk prices and rising expenses, to say that our dairy farmers are going through tough times may be the understatement of the year.

Our WFBF Board of Directors has addressed this often in the past year. There are no easy solutions. There has been discussion from some members that our board should change

our policy to support supply management while other members do not support supply management or some type of a quota system. This is a policy that needs to be decided (whether to keep our existing policy or to change it) by the delegates. We are a grassroots organization. Our delegates, elected by you the members, are responsible for those decisions.

Sometimes there are no easy answers. Opening up more trade can help; taking time to educate consumers and legislators can help; and, finding new ways to market our products and research to develop new ones can help.

We value your opinion, whether it has to do with the dairy crisis or anything involving Farm Bureau or Wisconsin agriculture. Let's work together to make a difference. It's my pleasure to serve you and the six counties in District 2.

## District 2 Promotion and Education Report



**Andrea Brossard**  
District 2 Representative and  
Committee Chair

For those of you I have yet to meet, I am a third-generation dairy farmer from Beaver Dam, located in Dodge County. I represent

District 2 on the Promotion and Education Committee for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation covering Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk counties. In addition, I served this past year as the committee chair.

As a committee we want to hear from you ... our members. We are continuing to develop and expand our 'Playbook.' The 'Playbook' is a working document filled with

Farm Bureau activities, events and programs.

During the past year, I've worked with many of you to submit 'plays' for the AWESOME programs you are doing within your counties and throughout the district. I will continue to request 'plays' and encourage you to share your successful programs.

This year so many amazing events were held that made an impact in the agriculture community, built solid relationships and grew membership.

To share just a few, we built on the accomplishment of previous years, by hosting another successful District 2 Youth Ag Summit that introduced high school students to a wide variety of agriculture careers. We are already in the midst of planning for our next Youth Ag Summit this coming December in Sauk City.

During August, the WFBF Promotion and

Education Committee educated thousands of Wisconsin State Fair attendees at the House of Moo. We shared Wisconsin's dairy story and helped people understand the important role that the industry plays in our state and in our lives.

As we look forward to 2019, there will be some changes to the programs and events that WFBF carries out. We are excited to announce a new event called the Ag LEAD Summit to be held **March 8-9, 2019**, in Appleton.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months and year to build on educating and promoting Wisconsin agriculture and Farm Bureau.



**Andrea Brossard** showed visitors how to milk a cow at the Wisconsin State Fair.



**In June, Andrea Brossard** talked with consumers about Wisconsin agriculture at the West Allis Farmers' Market.

**SAVE THE DATE**

New in 2019  
Ag LEAD Summit  
Hosted by  
**Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

**March 8-9, 2019**  
Appleton, Wisconsin

**Ag LEAD**  
summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

## District 2 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Report



**Alison Kepner**  
District 2 YFA Representative

My name is Alison Kepner, and I work at Compeer Financial in Baraboo as a financial officer. I work with farmers for their financing needs.

I was raised on a hog and grain farm in northern Illinois and enjoy going home to the farm to help.

I serve as your District 2 Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee Representative for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation covering Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk counties.

This was the final year of my three-year term serving as the District 2 YFA Representative. I have enjoyed my time on the committee, have met a lot of great Farm Bureau members throughout the state and made lasting friendships while planning activities.

Emily Johnson of Rock County will be the YFA Representative for District 2 for 2019-2021. Please take a moment to wish her luck in her new role with Farm Bureau.

The YFA contests recognize individuals and couples on their accomplishments in the agriculture industry. The District 2 Discussion Meet was held on July 31 at Baerwolf Farms in Columbus and the top three finalists selected to move on to the state competition at the YFA Conference are: Julie Sweney (Dodge), Joshua Schenk (Green) and Erin Marchant (Rock).

I want to say thank you to the participants of the Discussion Meet – you did great.

District 2 had one applicant for the Excellence in Ag contest as well, Ben Huber from Green County. Ben was selected as a top four finalist in the state and will compete Saturday afternoon at the YFA Conference. We wish him the best of luck on his presentation.

District 2 YFA and Promotion and Education Committees held a successful annual Every Farmers Dream 2.0: Rotary, Research and the Ridge event in March. More than 40 members

from District 2 participated. Save the date for Saturday, February 9, 2019, with Sauk County as the featured county. Look forward to more information on a third annual Every Farmers Dream event in 2019.

I'm looking forward to meeting more of you at the 99th WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held on November 30-December 2. We have some fun social media contests and a 'new' euchre tournament this year.

Save the date for Fusion Conference brought to you by the American Farm Bureau on **March 15-18, 2019**, at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will provide sponsorships for the Fusion registration fee (\$285) for members to attend. Sponsorship applications are due on **December 10**. The number of sponsorships available will be based upon funds raised from the 50/50 raffle at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

Best wishes to you and thank you for letting me be part of the legacy.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
fusion conference  
Milwaukee 2019  
Brought to you by American Farm Bureau  
**March 15-18**  
**Wisconsin Center**

Engaging Speakers | Network with Farm Bureau members from across the U.S. | Tours | Hands-on Learning Sessions | Entertainment & Fun!

### Details:

- The conference will bring together volunteers from Promotion & Education, Women's Leadership & Young Farmers & Ranchers
- Early registration will be \$285/person
- Rooms will be available at the Hilton Milwaukee Center (\$145/night) and the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee (\$142/night)

### Sponsorships:

- The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will provide sponsorship for registration fees (\$285) for members to attend. Sponsorship applications are due on **December 10, 2018**. The number of sponsorships available will be based upon funds raised from the 50/50 raffle at the 2018 WFBF YFA Conference and Annual Meeting.

Apply today at <http://bit.ly/fusionsponsorship>



The top three Discussion Meet finalist: (from left) Julie Sweney (Dodge), Erin Marchant (Rock) and Joshua Schenk (Green) will represent District 2 at the WFBF Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference in December.



The District 2 YFA Discussion Meet participants discussed the question: As the Voice of Agriculture, how can Farm Bureau be more inclusive of all agriculture and production practices? This includes, but is not limited to, women in agriculture, organic production, fresh produce, forestry and aquaculture.



The District 2 YFA Discussion Meet was held at Baerwolf Farms in Columbus. Jamie Baerwolf gave a presentation about Baerwolf Farms and Sassy Cow Creamery.

## Members' Voices Heard During Policy Development Meeting

By Ben Huber, District 2 Policy Development Representative

As many of you know, the pulse of our grassroots organization starts with being a leader and key influencer of agriculture policy in Wisconsin.

On July 31, I had the privilege of conducting my first District 2 Policy Meeting at Bearwolf Farms near Columbus. We had 13 people in attendance from Dodge, Green, Columbia, Sauk and Rock counties. We covered many topics related to WFBF policy and upcoming resolutions.

The state policy committee did not have any issue backgrounders at the time of our meeting, so the discussion was very open and geared towards topics and potential resolutions coming from District 2 counties.

Much of our discussion revolved around the dairy industry and items related to the price

contraction within the dairy market. Much of the conversation revolved around WFBF policy and whether we are in the right standing or should upgrade our position.

We talked through the pros and cons of a quota system, and ultimately settled on taking this conversation back to our counties.

Food labeling, particularly labeling of non-milk products and milk required for being labeled as Wisconsin Cheese, was debated across the table.

Other topics of interest include updating policy book verbiage and grammar, the federal tariff relief package, potential incentive changes to the Farmland Preservation program and the Wisconsin fence law.

We covered the current policy around these items and identified a couple potential resolutions that may come up from District 2 counties.



District 2 Farm Bureau members discussed Farm Bureau's current policy, issues and potential resolutions during the district policy development meeting.

Thank you to the counties who participated in the District 2 Policy Meeting. It is your involvement and leadership that will help shape Wisconsin ag policy as we move into the future.

I look forward to working with the state policy team to develop our 2019 resolutions.

## Volunteers for Agriculture®

### Doug Rebout

District 2 VFA Representative



Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) is Wisconsin Farm Bureau's political action committee. Since 1990, the VFA has helped elect candidates who work for agriculture's interests in Madison. The VFA builds strong relationships with legislators of both parties to help us achieve our legislative priorities.

The VFA committee has been busy this year interviewing candidates in state races to see who Wisconsin Farm Bureau is going to endorse in the 2018 election. The VFA committee looks at the races around the state and selects candidates who have been good to agriculture in the past. Where there is a race for an open seat, we have the county presidents and some members in those districts interview candidates to make the decision of who we endorse.

This is a very important committee because it can help a candidate get into office where they will be voting on some very important agricultural issues. The only way that this committee can truly make an impact is by our members donating to the VFA fund.

We know times are tough, but any donations by you now can have big impacts on agriculture later on. Thank you for letting me be your district representative on this committee.

For more information or if you have questions about the VFA, please contact me at 608.290.5928.

**Volunteers For Agriculture®**

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.

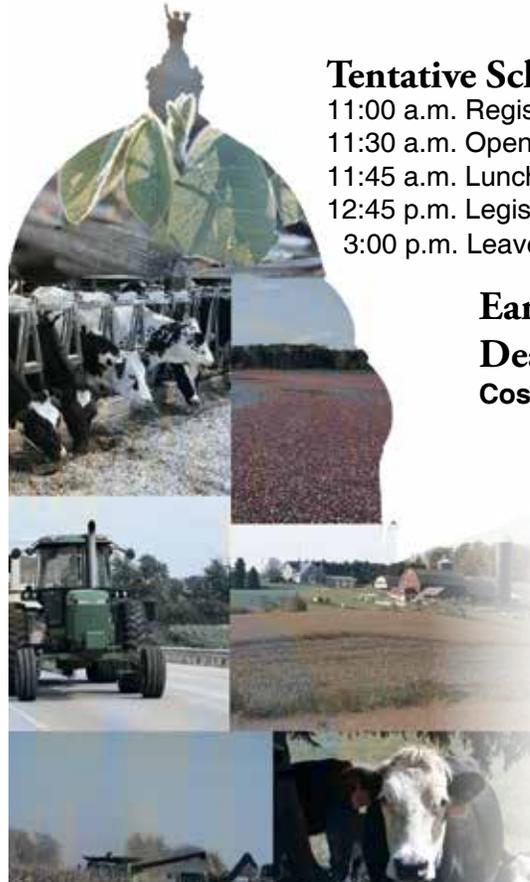
### Presented by:

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## Annual Meeting Highlights Servant Leadership and Supporting Our Community

By Scott Eastwood, annual meeting co-chair

On September 13, 72 people attended the 2018 Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting held at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.

Upon conclusion of a social hour, President Tom Jelinek opened the meeting and we enjoyed an excellent meal highlighted by roast beef and roasted chicken.

More than \$1,000 was raised through the silent auction and 50/50 raffle. Thank you to those who donated to the auction as these funds are used for scholarships and youth ag programs.

The scholarship recipients were recognized and included Rachel Beuthin, Rachel Hellenbrand, Lindsey Sarbacker, Katherine Taylor and Jessica Wendt.

Jenna Lee Crayton, the assistant farm director for the Wisconsin Farm Report Radio Network, was our emcee and did a wonderful job keeping the crowd engaged and entertained.

We also were honored to have Thomas Thibodeau, Distinguished Professor of Servant

Leadership and Director at the D.B. Reinhardt Institute for Ethics and Leadership at Viterbo University as our keynote speaker. He gave an engaging and motivating speech on the importance of servant leadership and the importance of farmers and agriculture in today's society. We want to thank him for taking time from his schedule to join our group.

Elections were held. Dane County Farm Bureau had three open seats on the board. Of those, three directors successfully ran for reelection and will serve another three-year term. Those individuals are: Scott Eastwood, Tom Jelinek and Dennis Jesberger. In addition to new officer elections, 10 delegates were chosen to represent Dane County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting, held at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells on December 1-3. The 2018 Dane County Farm Bureau delegates are: Jerry Derr, Mike Duerst, Keith Engel, Jim Haack, Nicole Hibbard, Tom Jelinek, Jack Meffert, Pat O'Brien, Chuck Ripp and Sam Skemp.

Finally, a number of state and federal resolutions were voted on at both the State and Federal levels. Dane County Farm Bureau chose to support a number of resolutions pertaining to:

- Accurate identification and labeling of agriculture produced products.
- Efforts to assist agriculture to understand nutrient management, as it applies to surface water (lakes and streams) and groundwater (drinking water).
- A performance and needs review of the DATCP Ag Chemical Clean-up fund.
- Changing prevented plant and replant crop insurance payments by eliminating the 20-acre minimum to supporting a uniform percentage of crops grown.

The annual meeting is another wonderful benefit of being a member of the Dane County Farm Bureau.

Have a wonderful and safe harvest. We look forward to seeing you at the 2019 Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Jenna Lee Crayton, the assistant farm director for the Wisconsin Farm Report Radio Network, served as the emcee for the evening.



More than \$1,000 was raised through the silent auction and 50/50 raffle.



Seventy-two people enjoyed each other's company at the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.



Scholarship recipients included: Rachel Beuthin, Rachel Hellenbrand, Lindsey Sarbacker and Jessica Wendt; not included in the photo is Katherine Taylor.



Thomas Thibodeau, Distinguished Professor of Servant Leadership and Director at the D.B. Reinhardt Institute for Ethics and Leadership at Viterbo University, gave an engaging and motivating speech on the importance of servant leadership and the importance of farmers and agriculture in today's society.

## A Message from the President ...



**Tom Jelinek**

Dane County Farm Bureau president

I want to thank those who attended the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

The evening was a huge success with our main speaker Dr. Thomas

Thibodeau. His speech on servant leadership was uplifting. It was a great reminder to me of what my purpose is during this life.

This has been a very hard year for agriculture in Wisconsin. Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by the historic flood this summer.

Other issues have been the low commodity prices, the trade war talk and the upcoming fall elections. Hopefully, the new trade agreement among the U.S., Mexico and Canada will

help. Now is the time for you to contact your Senators and Representatives to voice your opinion.

Dane County Farm Bureau will be well represented at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Additionally, if you have a topic that you want addressed at the Dane County Farm Bureau Winter Meeting, please contact a board member.

We are a voice for Wisconsin Agriculture.

## Dane County Fair Scavenger Hunt

By Lindsey Hellenbrand, Ag Promotions chair

Dane County Farm Bureau awards grant money to Dane County 4-H clubs who participate in our Learning Lanes at the Dane County Fair.

The goal of the grant is to encourage youth exhibitors to create an informative display about their animal project. These displays help to educate fair attendees about agriculture as they stroll through the barns.

To encourage fair attendees to engage in the displays, we host a scavenger hunt on Saturday of the fair. The scavenger hunt is made up of questions where answers can be found on the displays. The reward for completing the hunt, a cream puff or cheese curds. This family friendly event has everyone from kids to grandparents participating and learning new animal facts.



Fairgoers enjoyed walking around the Learning Lanes at the Dane County Fair to find answers on their agriculture scavenger hunt.

## Stoughton Safety Day

By Mike Duerst, Farm Safety co-chair

The Stoughton Safety Day had a very good turnout of 83 students from first through fourth grade. Students divided into four groups.

We were kept very busy presenting our farm safety puppet show and giving a wood chipper demonstration. In addition, James Omar of Stoughton was very kind and let us use his power take-off driven side rake to give a demonstration of what happens if something gets caught in the power take-off shaft. It was a very good demonstration for the students because they got to see how bad things can happen and how quickly it can happen.

## Dane County Farm Bureau Donates to Local Food Pantry



Members were encouraged to bring non-perishable goods to the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting. Dane County Farm Bureau board member Mike Duerst delivered the donations to a local food pantry.

### 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

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## Annual Meeting Generates More Than \$1,900 Through Silent and Live Auctions

By Ben Huber, Green County Farm Bureau president

On September 6, Green County Farm Bureau hosted their annual meeting at PepperCORN Banquets and Catering in Monroe. We had a great turnout with 82 members in attendance.

Green County Farm Bureau honored distinguished members for their dedication and service to agriculture in Green County: Carmen Montgomery, Devan Klopfenstein and Kelsi Mayer were recognized as retiring



Cal and Sandy Wasserstrass were recognized as the Green County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture.

board members; and the annual Friend of Agriculture Award was awarded to Cal and Sandy Wasserstrass, who have been Farm Bureau members for more than 30 years and have contributed a tremendous amount of time and dedication to our county Farm Bureau. Thank you for your leadership and enthusiasm promoting agriculture in Green County.

During the business session, members voted to pass several changes to Green County Farm Bureau board policy and bylaws. They also voted to pass three resolutions for submission to the WFBF Policy Development Committee. We voted to support delisting industrial hemp as a narcotic, support county level mental health and addiction service programs that target rural residents and farmers and to support legislation that restricts state and federal utility providers from requiring nondisclosure agreements upon settlement of judgment of lawsuits.

Also during the business session, the members re-elected Ben Huber and Dustin Williams to the board, and elected three new people. Please welcome new Green County Farm Bureau board members Tess Zettle, Travis Skattum and

Brianna Reynolds. Afterwards, officer elections were held. Ben Huber was elected president; Dustin Williams, vice president; and Alissa Grenawalt, secretary/treasurer.

Throughout the meeting, members networked and bid on the silent auction items. We also hosted our second annual live auction featuring local canned goods, a custom-made steel fire pit, handmade picnic table, a Green Bay Packers jersey, UAV farm photos and Badger Basketball tickets. Between the live and silent auctions, we generated more than \$1,900 for support of Green County Farm Bureau programs and agriculture education pieces to be used in Green County during the next year. Thank you for so generously supporting Green County Farm Bureau.

Finally, thank you to those who attended the Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting. Any grassroots organization is only as strong as its membership, and the Green County Farm Bureau has never been better.

To see a copy of the meeting minutes, visit [wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/green](http://wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/green).

## Partnering with Jacob's SWAG during Generosity Days

By Dustin Williams

July 28, 2018, Monroe, Generosity Day

Green County Farm Bureau partnered with Jacob's SWAG (Strength With Awareness and Giving), a mental health awareness and suicide prevention non-profit organization to assemble and distribute 800 farmer appreciation bags.

These bags included donations of gloves, flashlights, lip balm, hand cream, handkerchiefs, coupons, thank you notes and most importantly a copy of 'So God made a Farmer' poem.

The packets were made possible by the generosity of area businesses and the work of Teri Ellefson and Jacob's SWAG organization. Teri contacted Green County Farm Bureau and brought us the idea of assembling these appreciation bags at Generosity Day held on Monroe's Historic Square.

Along with several Farm Bureau members and members of the SWAG group, community members stopped by our tent and helped assemble and pack 800 appreciation bags. The task was completed in about four hours.

Bags have been distributed to farmers across the region by local ag lenders, ag businesses and others. In a time of economic hardship for many farmers, this project was very well received.

The items in the bag do not have a lot of monetary value, but it's something to let farmers know that their community cares about them and that they are thinking of them during difficult times.

Farmers are important. You are important. Thank YOU for what you do to produce food for families.

Need help during these difficult times? Don't wait too long to ask for help. If you are

struggling financially, or otherwise, please don't wait to ask for help. Reach out to a neighbor, a pastor, a teacher or a friend and share your experience. There is always someone who can help. If you want someone to talk to, there are lots of resources available.

Please contact your local Farm Bureau or contact any of the board members; we can direct you to local and state resources.

You also will find a comprehensive list of local and state resources on the Green County UWEX website at <https://green.uwex.edu/files/2018/10/Farm-Resource-Guide-Final-Version.2018.pdf>.

For assistance with financials, counseling, transition planning and many other topics often provided free of charge, you can contact the Wisconsin Farm Center at 800.942.2474.



This fall, Ben Huber of Green County Farm Bureau and Teri Ellefson of Jacob's SWAG Foundation, Inc., distributed farmer appreciation bags.



Green County Farm Bureau board member Alissa Grenawalt helped assemble farmer appreciation bags during Generosity Days.



Green County Farm Bureau partnered with Jacob's SWAG (Strength With Awareness and Giving), to assemble and distribute 800 farmer appreciation bags.

## Green County Farm Bureau Hosted Family Farm Adventure at Green County Cheese Days

By Alissa Grenawalt, Family Farm Adventure chair

The Green County Family Farm Adventure made its return to Cheese Days for its 104<sup>th</sup> anniversary on September 14-16 on the northeast corner of Monroe's Historic Square showcasing the rich agriculture heritage displayed in Green County as well as in Wisconsin.

The Family Farm Adventure, sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau, had many educational and hands-on stations that allowed festival goers a chance to see how they measured up to farm animals, learned about breeds of dairy cattle and what they eat, tested their dairy

knowledge and won some fabulous prizes.

Green County Farm Bureau was awarded grant money from the 2007 Green County Farm Technology Days event to help make the Family Farm Adventure a mobile educational display that can be used at future agriculture-based events and for years to come.

The Family Farm Adventure was open during the following times during Cheese Days weekend. Friday: 2 to 8 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; and from 3 to 5 p.m. after the Cheese Days parade.

For more information, please contact Alissa Grenawalt at [agrenawalt@wisc.edu](mailto:agrenawalt@wisc.edu) or visit [www.cheesedays.com](http://www.cheesedays.com).



Kids and adults enjoyed learning how to milk a cow.

## More Than 240 Students, Teachers and Chaperons Participate in Rural Safety Day

By Carmen Montgomery, chair

Green County Farm Bureau hosted the second annual Rural Safety Day on September 19 at the Green County Fairgrounds. This event was open to fifth-grade students in Green County.

The goal of this event was to teach students about staying safe in rural areas. With many generations removed from the farm, students don't know the dangers when visiting farms or friends' places in rural areas.

Green County Farm Bureau, along with about 50 volunteers from businesses and organizations, welcomed more than 240 students, teachers and chaperones from six

schools in the county. Students rotated to nine different stations ranging from grain safety, tractor roll over, power take-off, fire, trailer safety, EMS Stop the Bleed, ATV safety, animal safety, confined space and electrical.

Thank you to the following organizations, businesses and volunteers for their help in putting this event together: Monroe Fire Department, Green County EMS, Stateline Farm Rescue, Alliant Energy, Jed Kempel, Dubuque Fire Equipment and Monroe Fire and Safety, Johnson Tractor, Green County Sheriff's Office, Monroe Police Department, Blackhawk Technical College, UW-Extension Green County, Jacqui McCarville and many Green County Farm Bureau members.

Thanks to our sponsors who contributed to this event. Your sponsorship helped provide milk, ice cream and a t-shirt for each student.



Green County Farm Bureau board of director Dustin Williams taught students about tractor safety.

## Meet Your New Board Directors



I am Brianna Reynolds from Albany. I grew up in Evansville and agriculture has been a part of my life for many years. I earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture business from UW-Platteville. While at UW-Platteville, I

was involved with the Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter. I served as president and was the Ag Day on Campus committee chair.

Since graduation, I have worked for Insight FS in Brodhead as a crop specialist helping farmers make agronomic and economic decisions about their crops. I look forward to advocating for agriculture and becoming more involved in my county. I believe I will bring good experience, a positive attitude, and

a teamwork mentality that fits well with the Green County Farm Bureau board.



I am Travis Skattum, Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair. I live in Gratiot with my wife and two sons ages 6 and 10. I earned a degree in agribusiness science and technology from

Blackhawk Technical College. I am working for Insight FS in Darlington while continuing with my education in the agricultural world.

Due to my enthusiasm for agriculture and the rewards that it brings with it, I look forward to serving on the Farm Bureau board. I want to be

able to help shape the voice that we have as a community regarding the issues that we face in respective endeavors. Ensuring that those hopes of the next generation of farmers, land owners and entrepreneurs in the ag industry are not dashed.



I am Tess Zettle, Promotion and Education chair. I am from Juda and live with

my family on a 24-acre dairy farm. We milk registered Holsteins.

I work at Kuhn North America in Brodhead in the product management department as an administrator.

## Annual Meeting Recognizes Accomplishments

By Emily Johnson, chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at Rotary Botanical Garden's on September 24. Of the 69 people in attendance, 46 were voting members.

Members were recognized for their accomplishments and awards were presented. Becky Wellnitz, Bryan Meyer and Doug Rebout were recognized as top membership workers for the 2018 year. Craig Wieneri was recognized as our top Rural Mutual agent for signing new members.

This year, we also presented four service awards. Richard and Darlene Nyman received the Distinguished Service to Rock County Farm Bureau Award; the Friend of Farm Bureau award was given to Amy Blakeney; Jill Uhe received the Trailblazer Award; and Sheila Everhart received the Exceptional Service Award.

During the business meeting, voting members adopted the 'Restated Bylaws of Rock County Farm Bureau' and elected new board of directors and delegates. Six resolutions were passed by our voting members. Those resolutions will be sent to the WFBF Policy Development Committee to review and then on to the WFBF Annual Meeting to be voted on by county Farm Bureau delegates in December.

Our guest speaker for the night was Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Sheila Harsdorf. She talked about the importance of Wisconsin agriculture and steps they are taking to insure it will continue to thrive in the future. She also focused on the new Wisconsin Dairy Task Force 2.0 and their role in making recommendations on actions to maintain our state's dairy industry.

Thank you to our sponsors: Union Bank and Trust Company, Town Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank and United Cooperative.



Jill Uhe presented the Distinguished Service Award to Richard and Darlene Nyman. This award is to recognize a person who has given a lifetime of service to the organization.



Doug Rebout thanked John Gerbtiz, Patti Wellnitz and Rene Johnson for their years of service to the board of directors.



Jill Uhe (center) recognized the top three membership workers. Doug Rebout and Becky Wellnitz; not included in the photo was Bryan Meyer.



Sixty-nine people enjoyed each other's company during the Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting held at Rotary Botanical Gardens in Janesville.



Sheila Everhart presented the Rock County Farm Bureau scholarships. Family members of the following recipients accepted scholarships: Hanna Kearns, Ciera Ballmer, Caleb Johnson, Mary Rebout and Caitlyn Wileman.

## Food Stand Draws 300 Volunteers for Six-Day Event

By Sheila Everhart, chair



Fairgoers of all ages stopped by the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand to get the best burgers and malts.

Thank you to the many member volunteers and customers of the Rock County Farm Bureau Food Stand during the Rock County 4-H Fair on July 24-29.

With your support, the Rock County Fair Food Stand was successful. More than 300 Farm Bureau members and friends volunteered during

this six-day event.

The food stand at the county fair serves as a leadership opportunity, a positive consumer experience and a way to support agricultural youth groups. The food stand is a place for exhibitors and visitors to get great food at reasonable prices while helping local organizations raise money.

This year local youth and service groups were award \$3,500. Rock County Farm Bureau early figures estimated earnings of approximately \$7,092.

These funds support scholarships, educational activities and community projects like Ag in the Classroom, the Rock County Ag Ambassador Program, 4-H and youth groups. Scholarships awarded to members' dependents were \$2,500.

The Food Stand Committee met in August to review expenses and operating procedures. The committee also met to evaluate either to

continue the discussion to build a permanent food stand building on the Rock County Fairgrounds or to purchase a food concession trailer. Rock County Farm Bureau did purchase a storage trailer for the food stand to eliminate our storage unit costs. Additionally, we gained efficiency during setup and tear down with this purchase. All options will be considered.



More than 300 Farm Bureau members and friends volunteered at the food stand to make it successful.

## Community Outreach during 'Tractors Up Close'

By Doug Rebout

On July 14, Skelly's Farm Market hosted 'Tractors Up Close,' a new event designed to give the community a hands-on farm experience and learn about farm equipment.



Skelly's Farm Market hosted 'Tractors Up Close' for community members to learn about farm equipment.

Parker FFA and Milton FFA members volunteered at different stations to explain what each piece of equipment does. The event gave kids and parents an opportunity to climb up into the cab of a tractor to see what they look like and experience the size of farm equipment.



Kirk Leach, Rock County Farm Bureau board member, handed out farm safety brochures.

Skelly's Farm Market also provided tractor rides and hay rides. 'Tractors Up Close' was sponsored by Skelly's Farm Market, Rock County Farm Bureau, Ag Business Council of Rock County and the Janesville Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Rock County Farm Bureau members Jill Uhe and Steve Earleywine taught community members about farm equipment safety on the road.

## Meet Rock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors: William Arnold and Mary Hookham

My name is **Mary Hookham** and I am excited to serve on the Rock County Farm Bureau board of directors. I work from my home in Janesville as a freelance agriculture journalist and photographer, and write easy-to-read feature articles, primarily for Agri-View.



I love meeting Midwestern farmers and learning about their farms and the great things they're doing. Farmers are such passionate, dedicated and hard-working people, something I do my best to accurately portray in every article I write.

I grew up west of Janesville on a 140-acre beef and chicken farm that is still in operation. My family remains passionate about agriculture, and dedicated to producing delicious beef and eggs. We believe farming is not just a career; rather, it's a lifestyle. Without farmers, we would be naked and hungry.

My husband of eight years, Matt, and I met at our Catholic church in Footville while I

was attending college at UW-Whitewater. We got married one semester before I graduated. I earned a bachelor's degree in print journalism and a minor in English for writers.

We work together with his parents to operate their feed and garden store, Jack and Dick's Feed and Garden, on the south side of Janesville.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my husband and family members, socializing in my community, reading, baking, playing with my dog, Bella, kayaking and camping.

I am a graduate of Leadership Wisconsin, a two-year program designed to build leaders to strengthen communities.

Through this program, I gained many useful leadership and community engagement skills while studying various issues around the state, in Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Croatia.



My name is **BJ Arnold**. I live on the east side of Rock County in Johnstown.

I have a small herd of crossbred pigs, and I work at Fertilizer Dealer Supply in Milton.

Growing up, I was always involved in 4-H and FFA. I have been looking

to get involved in an organization and Farm Bureau sounds like a good fit.

I'm looking forward to this new opportunity and can't wait to help out with whatever I can.



Front row: (from left) Sheila Everhart, BJ Arnold, Emily Johnson, Jill Uhe and Mary Hookham; back row: (from left) Kirk Leach, Doug Rebout, Steve Earleywine, Hallie Metcalf, Becky Wellnitz, Stacy Skemp, Allison Funk, Erin Grawe, Jacob Bobolz and Logan Frei; not included in the photo: Bill Barlass, Megan Daluge and Vaughn Johnson.

## A Message from the President ...



**Mike Turner**  
Sauk County Farm Bureau  
president

It has been an up and down year starting right in the spring with wet conditions for planting. Once everyone got through that, the crops looked excellent; however, as harvest approached, a lot of farmers were hit by the recent flooding that destroyed the

beautiful crop.

We all have been hit hard by low prices the last few years, but now for the farmers hit with flooding, it is a double whammy. Please keep an eye out for information coming from the Farm Service Agency for updates on aid from tariffs. There also will be more information on flood disaster relief, too.

The flood has brought the best out in people of our communities. It is amazing how communities have come together to help each other out.

In my part of the county, farmers came

together to keep as many acres as they could from flooding along the Baraboo River. It was nice to see everyone pull together.

I know there hasn't been a lot of positive things lately, but when it comes to trade, it is looking up. There has been progress made with Mexico with an agreement, pending Congress approval. Canada is still in negotiations that is holding up the Mexico agreement from going to a vote. Keep an eye on these negotiations as they will be pivotal for the future.

In closing, please have a safe harvest season and remember to report any flood damage.

## Sauk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 11 at Northshore Restaurant in Baraboo. Thirty-six people gathered to reflect on activities and accomplishments.

Sauk County Farm Bureau vice president Tommy Brennan led the meeting. The business meeting included an adoption of, 'Restated Bylaws of Sauk County Farm Bureau,' board of director and delegate elections and adoption of policy resolutions.

Reports were shared including: county

committees, affiliate company Rural Mutual Insurance Company, WFBF District 2 representatives and staff members.

Richard McFarlane, McFarlane Manufacturing, gave a memorable presentation about the history of the family owned company and how the family business has grown and diversified over the years. He also talked about the steel fabrication portion of their company.

Door prizes and a 50/50 raffle followed adjournment.



Thirty-six people enjoyed each other's company during the Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting held at Northshore Restaurant in Baraboo.



Vice President Tommy Brennan led the Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Karen Reisinger welcomed and registers guests.



Craig Sandmire coordinated the 50/50 raffle.

## Meet New Board Director: Lindsey Lehman



I recently graduated from UW-River Falls where I studied dairy science and agricultural business.

I work at Lodi Veterinary Care as a veterinary service specialist in the livestock and companion animal divisions.

In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, attending tractor pulls and grilling with friends and family.

I live in Denzer with my boyfriend, Ben, and our dog, Davey.

## Sauk County Fair Food Stand Report

By Karen Reisinger, Food Stand chair



The Sauk County Farm Bureau food stand was well attended and enjoyed by all. Workers enjoyed several hours of fellowship while volunteering at our major fundraiser of the year.

Money raised goes toward student scholarships and FFA Farm Forum participant's registration.

Be sure to volunteer next year to join in the fun.

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