

Grassroots

District 6 News

District 6 Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

On March 20, more than 300 farmers and agriculturists met in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol.

The program kicked off with a transportation panel comprised of Wisconsin DOT Secretary-Designee Craig Thompson, WFBF President Jim Holte, Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell and Vice President of Government Relations and Education from Forward Janesville, Inc., Dan Cunningham.

The panel members discussed transportation items in the Governor's budget proposal and

what funding possibilities would be viable moving forward.

"Maintaining and funding rural roads is desperately needed in Wisconsin," President Holte said. "We cannot lose sight of the importance of rural infrastructure for our farmers and rural residents."

The featured guest speaker was Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary-Designee Brad Pfaff who talked with attendees about dairy, hemp and water.

He emphasized his rural roots and upbringing on a farm in rural La Crosse County and shared

his plans to have DATCP help farmers in whatever way it can.

After legislative issue briefings by speakers, attendees walked to the Capitol to meet with their legislators.

"This year's meetings had a strong focus on the Governor's budget proposal and ensuring agriculture programs are well-funded," added President Holte. "Farm Bureau members also stressed the importance of farmers having a seat at the table for water-related discussions."



Members of Manitowoc and Sheboygan County Farm Bureau's met with State Senator Devin LeMahieu during Ag Day at the Capitol.



Members posed with State Representatives and staffers after an informative discussion.



Brown County members Stan Kaczmarek and Kathy Duescher met with area members with Representative Cowles.



Kewaunee members meet with Representative Kitchens to discuss the state budget.

Ag LEAD Conference Is a Success

On March 8 and 9, more than 120 farmers and agriculture advocates gathered at the first-ever Ag LEAD Summit in Appleton.

The opening keynote speaker was Donna Moenning from the Center for Food Integrity, who shared data on how farmers can best engage people on food and farming topics.

The closing keynote speaker was Jay Hill, a New Mexico farmer, entrepreneur and agricultural advocate who encouraged attendees to step outside of their comfort zones to talk about farm life.

The event was coordinated by WFBF's Promotion and Education Committee whose mission is to build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.

"The Ag LEAD Summit provided some insight to our members to better connect with consumers," said dairy farmer and chair of WFBF's Promotion and Education committee Andrea Brossard. "From learning the correct way to handle tough conversations, to understanding the intensely competitive grocery industry, our attendees are well-equipped to be better advocates for our industry."

Ag LEAD stands for leadership, engagement, advocacy and development. The summit gave attendees the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company co-sponsored the Ag LEAD Summit, which will take place on a biennial basis.



Conference attendees listened to key note speaker New Mexico farmer Jay Hill.

Little Pink House Film Screening Held

A film screening of the Little Pink House was co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union Lake to Bay Chapter and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Districts 6 and 7.

It was shown at the Northeast Wisconsin Technical College Student Center auditorium on April 15.

The film is based on a true story, a small-town paramedic never expected to be at the

center of one of our nation's most controversial legal battles.

When politicians planned to bulldoze Susette Kelo's home for a giant corporation, she fights back and helps millions protect their homes.

After the film, viewers held a discussion about how eminent domain for private gain continues to threaten Wisconsin farm land and communities.



Hear the story of how one small-town paramedic fought to protect private property rights, and learn how the use of eminent domain for private gain remains a threat to Wisconsin farm land and communities.

Tri-County Meeting Held in Kiel

Calumet, Manitowoc and Sheboygan County Farm Bureau's hosted a Tri-County meeting called, 'What to do when it hits the fan.'

The meeting was held April 17 at Millhome Supper Club in Kiel.

The first speaker was WFBF Executive Director of Public Relations Amy Eckelberg, who spoke on crisis management and how to prepare for an incident on your farm.

Incidents that were examples were manure spills, road accident or animal activist on your farm.

Frankie Rodriguez from Agri-Staff USA addressed the group. Rodriguez shared some common issues when hiring employees.

He warned the group, "If they are too good to be true, that is probably the case."

He shared an example of someone from Mercy for Animals, an animal rights group who was trying to get a job and had recently been bailed out of jail.

AgriStaff USA is a full-service workforce consulting agency specializing in providing a workforce and human resource management.

The final speaker was John Vandenoorn, an environmental specialist for Holsum Dairy.

Vandenoorn explained that the Town of Stockbridge in Calumet County had proposed an ordinance to eliminate the spreading of manure on rented land.

A new farmer-led watershed group, the Calumet County Agricultural Stewardship

Alliance, has been created to continue to work on water quality in Calumet County.

Vandenoorn talked about the creation of the group and the priority of items they are working on.



Frankie Rodriguez from Agri-Staff USA, LLC, talked to the group about common issues when hiring employees.



John Vandenoorn discussed the recent proposed ordinance in the Town of Stockbridge.

Bus Tour Visits Three Unique Agricultural Businesses

Farm Bureau members in District 6 gathered for a fun day on April 12. They boarded the bus at 9 a.m. and headed to three fun-filled agricultural stops throughout the district.

The first stop was at Lakeside Foods. In 1887, the company started in a kitchen at a hotel on the shores of Lake Michigan. Founder Albert Landreth took note of Wisconsin's rich soil and started canning peas. That kitchen eventually gave way to Wisconsin's first canning facility.

Today, Lakeside has 13 processing facilities and distribution centers around Wisconsin, Minnesota and Ohio. The company employs 965 full-time workers, plus 1,170 seasonal workers.

A vital part of Lakeside's success is its connection to its farmers. Lakeside has 85,000 acres of contracted land and provides farmers with seed, checks on the crops and handles harvesting. The company then contracts with

truckers to take the crops from the field to a processing facility.

The Manitowoc facility packages hundreds of millions of pounds of products annually for more than 100 private label customers.

The second stop was at Trout Springs Winery in Greenleaf. Wonderful wine, a cozy tasting room, charming country setting and vineyard views, they've got your winery expectations covered. But with some ingenious twists.

Besides being a winery, they are a licensed trout hatchery. They grow grapes and trout. They're not named Trout Springs for nothing. Makes sense, trout are the wine of fish after all.

Originality and creativity are a way of life at Trout Springs Winery. Members walked around the trout ponds and sampled some of the amazing wines.

The final stop was at IntheWoods Sugarbush. A family-owned and operated maple syrup

producer on the shores of Lake Michigan in Manitowoc.

They manage more than 17 acres, and had approximately 1,300 maple trees tapped, producing pure maple syrup, which has received multiple blue-ribbon awards.

Their specialty is amber, but they also make all grades of pure maple syrup.

In addition to pure maple syrup, they also offer granulated pure maple sugar, pure maple leaf candies and pure maple cream.

Using the latest technology to ensure the highest quality results, staff at IntheWoods Sugarbush uses vacuum tubing to collect sap from the trees, and the sap passes through reverse osmosis equipment.

All of the firewood used to make their pure maple syrup is harvested from their woods.

Watch your newsletters for information on the next bus tour.



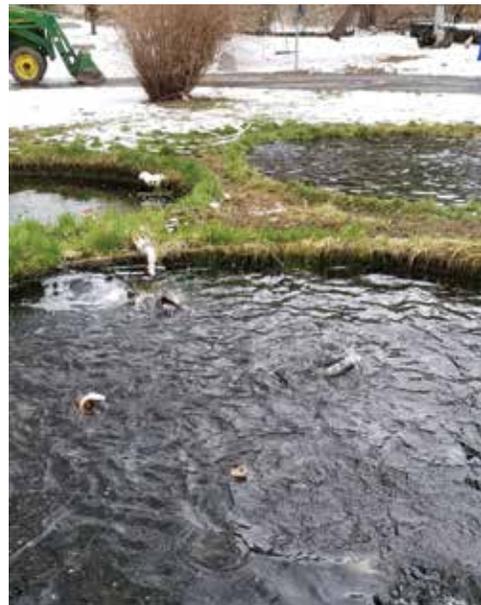
About 50 Farm Bureau members toured Lakeside Foods.



Members enjoyed a variety of wine samples at Trout Spring Winery.



Margo Wagner, co-owner of IntheWoods Sugarbush, shared the process of making maple syrup.



Trout jumped as owner of Trout Spring Winery Steve DeBaker tossed in some feed.

Leadership

BOOT CAMP

Training Series

Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

Saturday, November 16

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center
7001 Gass Lake Road, Manitowoc, WI 54220

This year's Boot Camp program will focus on working with media and how to use social media to advocate for agriculture.

Fun for the whole family!

Save nearly 40% on admission

Visit wfbf.com/membership/memeber-benefits

Ag in the Classroom Summer Trainings Offered

Teachers of all subjects and grade levels and Ag in the Classroom volunteers are encouraged to register now for summer Ag in the Classroom trainings.

Attendees will learn to incorporate agricultural concepts into their curricula, network with fellow educators and obtain free resources for students and classrooms.

Bus Tour

July 15-16

Taylor County

Jump on the bus as it takes you on agricultural stops in Taylor County. The cost is \$75 per person and opportunities for credit will be offered.

The stops include: Crass Sawmill, Inc.; Medford High School Agriculture Department and barn; Hemlock Hills Trophy Ranch, LLC; Stone Acres Farm; Heil Ginseng, Inc.; Riesterer



and Schnell John Deere dealership; Peissig's JTP Robotic Dairy; and Meyer Manufacturing Corporation.

Graduate credits are available through Concordia University. For the syllabus and other information, visit wisagclassroom.org/volunteers-information/volunteer-training. The registration deadline is June 14 and the tour is limited to 48 participants.

One-Day Training Sessions

Tuesday, July 9, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

West Madison Research Station, Madison

The training will begin at the West Madison Research Station with presentations from the Wisconsin Beef Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Discover Mediaworks and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Book of the Year will be selected during this event.

In the afternoon, attendees will travel to the

O.J. Noer facility to participate in a hands-on activity. The registration deadline is June 30.

Wednesday, July 31, 9:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Neville Public Museum, Green Bay

This training will feature presentations by the Wisconsin Maple Syrup Producers Association, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and Brown County Dairy Promotions. A tour of the Neville Public Museum and their resources will be part of the afternoon program.

There also will be an overview of the resources available through Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, National Ag in the Classroom and the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture. The registration deadline is July 15.

For more information, please contact the Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com. To register for any of these events, visit wisagclassroom.org and click on 'What's New.'

Upcoming District 6 Events

June

- 2 Brown County Breakfast on the Farm
- 9 Manitowoc County Breakfast on the Farm
- 23 Calumet County Sundae on the Farm

July

- 9 One-Day Ag in the Classroom Training, West Madison Research Station, Madison
- 13 Ice Cream Safari-NEW Zoo and Adventure Park, Suamico
- 15-16 Ag in the Classroom Summer Bus Tour, Taylor County
- 23-24 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Jefferson County
- 31 One-Day Ag in the Classroom Training, Neville Museum, Green Bay

August

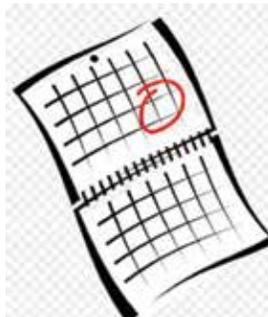
- 1-4 Door County Fair
- 6 District 6 Discussion Meet
- 14-18 Brown County Fair
- 21-25 Manitowoc County Fair
- 24 Rural Open Golf Outing, Calumet County
- 29-2 Sheboygan County Fair
- 30-2 Calumet County Fair

September

- 10 WFBF Ag Open
- 17 Door County annual meeting
- 24 Calumet County annual meeting
- 30 Membership year end

October

- 1-5 World Dairy Expo
- 8 Sheboygan County annual meeting
- 10 Manitowoc County annual meeting
- 12 Brown County annual meeting



Mark
Your
Calendar ...

District 6 Discussion Meet Set

The Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics.

Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Date: Tuesday, August 6

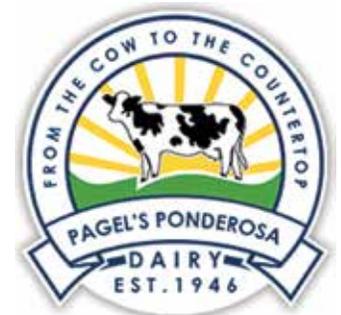
Location: Pagel's Ponderosa, N4893 County C, Kewaunee

Time: Farm tour: 7 p.m., Refreshments: 7:30 p.m., Discussion Meet: 8 p.m.

Discussion Meet Topic: *The customer is always right. How do farmers and ranchers think and respond, through the lens of consumer priorities and marketing trends, to build common values and confidence in modern production methods to build consumer acceptance?*

All YFA members are welcome to share in the farm tour, stay to support the Discussion Meet contestants.

If you are interested in participating or attending this fun event, please contact John or Megan Lyons at lyons.audio@gmail.com or 920.562.2004.



Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees

Do you know a Wisconsin farmer or forester who goes above and beyond in the care and management of natural resources? Nominate them for the 2019 Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award®.

Sand County Foundation, the nation's leading voice for the conservation of private land, presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners in 13 states for extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation.

In Wisconsin, the \$10,000 award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association.

Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the award recognizes landowners who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat management on private, working land.

In his influential 1949 book, "A Sand County Almanac," Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage.

Nominations may be submitted on behalf of a landowner, or landowners may nominate themselves. For an application, visit <https://sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/Wisconsin-2019-CFN.pdf>.

Applications must be postmarked by **August 5**. Mail applications to:

Leopold Conservation Award
c/o Sand County Foundation
131 W. Wilson Street, Suite 610
Madison, WI 53703

"Leopold Conservation Award recipients are at the forefront of a movement by America's farmers and ranchers to simultaneously achieve economic and environmental success," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer.

"This award showcases outstanding farmers who are going above and beyond to make sure they are protecting land and water resources for the next generation," said Jim Holte, Wisconsin Farm Bureau President. "I know many of our state's farmers have already implemented sustainable farming practices and could easily fit the criteria. I encourage all who are eligible to apply."

"Dairy farmers have a long history of nurturing and protecting the natural resources within their care. The Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and the dairy farm families we represent are proud to again sponsor the Leopold Conservation Award," Patrick Geoghegan, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Senior

Vice President of Marketing and Industry Relations.

"Locally led conservation would not be nearly as effective without the hard work and collaboration with farmers across Wisconsin. Environmental stewardship is an indivisible part of sustainable agriculture and Leopold Conservation Award nominees are models for successfully applying those practices," said Matt Krueger, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Executive Director.

The Leopold Conservation Award Program in Wisconsin is made possible thanks to the support of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association, American Transmission Company, Compeer Financial, We Energies Foundation, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Corn Promotion Board, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, and McDonald's.

The Leopold Conservation Award will be presented at the WFBF's Annual Meeting in December. The first Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award recipient was selected in 2006. In 2018, David Geiser of New Holstein received the award.

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2019 YFA CONFERENCE

December

6-8

Kalahari Resort
Wisconsin Dells

Check out this offer for
first time attendees!

If you've never attended this event before, Rural Mutual wants to sponsor you and a guest. Just complete the sponsorship application at <http://bit.ly/RuralSponsor19>.

You may apply as an individual or as a couple, but don't delay - only 50 double-occupancy rooms are available, and the deadline to apply is **August 15!**

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company

 **Wisconsin Farm Bureau**
Young Farmer
and Agriculturist
Program

President's Message



Stan Kaczmarek
Brown County Farm Bureau
president

The summer months are upon us, and our work as Farm Bureau members does not stop. Before long it will be time for Policy

Development.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization where polices are brought forth by county Farm Bureaus. Member bring new policies before the county Farm Bureau membership for a vote. If a policy passes at the county Farm Bureau level, it is forwarded to the state Policy and Resolutions Committee.

The committee members sort through the polices and resolutions from 61 county Farm Bureaus and make a list of new polices and resolutions and ones that will be deleted or amended at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Delegates vote on the polices and resolutions during the business meeting of the WFBF Annual Meeting.

If a county Farm Bureau submits a resolution and it doesn't make it to the state Policy and Resolutions Committee, the county Farm Bureau may resubmit the resolution.

Last fall, that was the case in Brown County when it was brought before Farm Bureau members at the Policy and Resolutions meeting that, "trucks hauling maple sap are subject to weight limits during the spring if roads are posted." Brown County Farm Bureau members supported a new resolution, "Giving the vehicles transporting maple sap the same weight limits that exist for milk haulers to those transporting maple sap."

This resolution passed at the Brown County annual meeting and was forwarded to Madison where the Policy and Resolutions Committee rejected it.

The delegate body of Brown County thought

this was worthwhile to pursue so I brought it back to the Policy and Resolutions Committee to review. Success. We passed the first hurdle and then we needed to convince a majority of the state delegates to help us approve it. After several amendments, it passed on 2/3 majority vote and the new WFBF Policy reads:

"We support extending weight limits that exist for milk haulers to vehicles transporting maple sap or syrup from the point of collection to production or storage."

Where does it go from here? Good news as of May 10, it was introduced by Senator Andre' Jacque with SB 171 and AB 165. It has made it to the state house where WFBF registered its support of the bill. I hope this will become law before the next maple sap season.

This is why Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization and there is no such thing as a poor or bad resolution, so if you want to offer a new policy or resolution, I encourage you to attend the county policy and resolution meeting.

Fairest of the Fairs Gala Held



Stan Kaczmarek posed with the new state Fairest of the Fair Meghan Buechel with the new banner, courtesy of Brown County Farm Bureau. A banner will be donated for the new Brown County Fairest of the Fair, Olivia Kamps.

Olivia Kamps of De Pere is the 2019 Brown County Fairest of the Fair. She is the daughter of Anne and Don Kamps and was selected from the three candidates during the Fairest Gala at the Neville Public Museum in Green Bay on April 28.

Performing the crowning honors was last year's Fairest and now Wisconsin Fairest of

the Fairs, Meghan Buechel of Wrightstown.

Kamps is a graduate from De Pere High School and attends UW-Milwaukee. She plans to graduate with a communication sciences degree and become a speech language pathologist.

She exhibited poultry, rabbits, cultural arts, sewing and photography, and won I Dare You, merit and state fair awards.

Her 4-H highlights are best awards at State Fair Fashion review and dressing up as Chris Clover for community events.

Princess and Zooperhero Day

The Brown County Farm Bureau YFA committee has teamed up with the NEW Zoo in Green Bay to offer a Princess and Zooperhero Day.

The event will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on **Saturday, July 13.**

We will have free ice cream sundaes for the first 1,000 visitors, children's crafts and activities to celebrate National Ice Cream Month.



Scholarship Winner Announced

Joseph Schlies, son of Lester and Nancy Schlies of Denmark, received the board of directors' \$500 scholarship.

Joseph graduated from Denmark High School in June and plans to attend UW-River Falls to pursue a bachelor's degree in agriculture business.



Show Ring Clinic Offered

A 4-H Youth Livestock and Dairy Auction Educational Clipping Clinic was held on May 5, at the Brown County Fairgrounds. The event was open to youth participants.

They started with registration and pizza, followed by the guidelines meeting, Farm Bureau workshop and then clinics.

Pizza was compliments of Brown County Farm Bureau.



Almost 90 students attended a show Clinic in Brown County.

Meet Your Local Farmer

On April 27, five farms in Calumet and Fond du Lac Counties, each with a different specialty, opened their doors for this unique self-guided tour.

In the evening, the chefs at LaClare Family Creamery offered a three-course dinner using products from each farm for a true farm-to-table experience.

The farms included:

- **Kesler Family Farm:** A multi-generational and multi-species family farm specializing in beef cattle that are raised solely on the farm's own crops along with production hogs.

- **Sattler Lamb Farm:** Brings experience in raising lambs. The farm is a fifth-generation farm raising Wisconsin-grown, quality farmer to consumer lambs.

- **LaClare Family Creamery:** Established in 1978, an original agricultural business, allowing guests to view dairy goat milking, on-site milk processing and cheese production. It also has a retail shop and café.

- **Lake Breeze Dairy:** Created in 2002 by five Wisconsin farming families. 1,000 cows call the dairy home. Milk from the cows

is shipped to Foremost Farms in Appleton where it is made into cheese. Lake Breeze Dairy is part of Breeze Dairy Group that owns and operates three dairy farms in Wisconsin.

- **Ledgeview Farms:** Established in 2008, Ledgeview Farms is a hydroponic greenhouse that produces tomatoes and English cucumbers. The greenhouse is owned and operated by Deborah and Leonard Opsteen and family. Nearly 3,000 plants are grown in the 12,000-square foot facility.



Gloria Kesler showed off a donkey to a visitor to their family farm.



Kids loved the adventures at Meet Your Local Farmer.



A baby goat rests outside the parlor at LaClare Creamery.



Ledgeview Greenhouse opened their doors to visitors as part of the Meet Your Local Farmer event.

Roehrig Crowned Farm Bureau Princess



Farm Bureau Princess Allyson Roehrig helped at the Meet Your Local Farmer event.

In March, **Allyson Roehrig** was crowned Calumet County Farm Bureau Princess.

She is the daughter of Jason and Danielle Roehrig from Hilbert.

Roehrig is active in 4-H and school sports and is interested in sharing more awareness about agriculture and how important agriculture is in our society.

Chilton Career Day Held

Calumet County Farm Bureau participated in a Career and Job Fair held at Chilton High School on April 10. During the day, 650 high school students from Brillion, Chilton, Hilbert, New Holstein and Stockbridge High Schools attended targeted workshops.

They also attended a Career Expo that had Farm Bureau members talking about careers in agriculture such as agronomy, genetics, custom harvesting, cheese making and herdsmanship.



Farm Bureau hosted a booth and distributed, "An Agricultural Career for You" booklets.

Scholarship Winner

Bettina Vanderloop of Brillion, daughter of Carey and Colleen Vanderloop, received the Calumet County Farm Bureau board of director's \$500 scholarship.

Bettina graduated from Brillion High School in June and plans to pursue a degree in agricultural business.



Mark Your Calendars

Save the date for the 2019 Rural Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, August 24**, at Hickory Hills Golf Club.

There is room for 40, four-person teams. Enjoy the bucket raffle and live auction. You won't want to miss it.

Ag Safety Day Held For Students

On April 13, Shiloh Dairy hosted Brillion FFA's Ag for a Day camp for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students.

They learned how to make ice cream, necklaces about ag, they wrote thank you notes to area farmers and watched how cows are milked, how the calves are raised and where they live.

Calumet County Farm Bureau provided swag bags with educational agricultural literature for each of the students. They are excited to be part of the project.



Board member **Debbi Calaway** taught students how to be safe around different types of farm equipment.

Scholarship Winner Announced



Gretchen Mueller, daughter of Marty and Anne Mueller of Sturgeon Bay, received the Door County Farm Bureau \$500 scholarship.

Mueller graduated from Southern Door High School and plans to attend Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to study entrepreneurial business. She hopes to own a poultry farm in Door County.

Fair Time is Just Around the Corner

It's fair time again, and we are always looking for volunteers to work a shift or any amount of time you are willing to volunteer. We provide the food and you provide the smile to our customers.

If you are interested, please contact any board member with contact information on the county's Facebook page, visit the county's web page at www.wfbf.com/Doorcounty or contact Steven Baxter at 920.559.0939.

Thank you for everything that you do for the county.

Manitowoc County

Update from the Promotion and Education Committee

By Cheryl Duchow and Rosalie Geiger, Promotion and Education Committee co-chairs

After a few small snowstorms in April, we are beginning to wonder if spring is really here to stay. Even though we lucked out on one snowstorm, the weather is not very warm yet, but hopefully this will change. The birds are back and the geese are around, but it needs to get better than this.

Our committee brought personal hygiene items to our February meeting to donate to The Crossing of Manitowoc County. Terri Herrmann and Cheryl Duchow took them to The Crossing on North 8th Street, toured the facility, which is a program of benefits through education that fosters responsibility, self-worth and independence supporting women and families.

Alice Peterman, Ag in the Classroom chair had an ag display at the Lester Public Library in Two Rivers and read to children at that library and the Manitowoc Public Library in recognition of National Ag Week. She also has been going to the schools and promoting the soybean kit, which involves learning activities for students.

Rosalie Geiger and Cheryl Duchow attended the Ag LEAD Conference and the AFBF FUSION Conference. Both conferences were educational and worthwhile events.

Cheryl Duchow went on the District 6 Bus Tour that included tours of Lakeside Foods, Trout Springs Winery and Inthewoods Sugarbush Maple Syrup. The tour was very interesting and those who attended learned a lot about each business.

Of course, keeping up with the rest of this spring season, it was a windy, chilly day.

Aside from those activities, the Promotion and Education committee have been busy preparing for several events. We sponsored the Ag in the Classroom essay contest, which was, 'Making It Happen at the Farmers' Market.' The winners of the essay contest included: First



Members were able to take tours of agricultural areas as part of the AFBF FUSION Conference. Cheryl Duchow was part of the group who toured Lake Breeze Dairy. Her son gave the tour.

place: Olivia Kaczrowski; Second place: Kaelyn Wotachek; Third place: Porter Arkens, all from O.H. Schultz Elementary.

Also, we sponsored a coloring contest for kindergarten thru third-grade students and the winners included: Kindergarten and First Grade: First place: Willem DeCleene, St. John's Lutheran, Manitowoc; Second place: Walker William Ulness, Valders Elementary; Third place: Karlee Mahloch, St. John's Lutheran, Manitowoc; Second and Third Grade: First place: Olivia Mancheski, O.H. Schultz Elementary, Mishicot; Second place: Addison Quillen, Reedsville Elementary; Third

place: Sallican Burrows, St. Francis of Assisi, Manitowoc.

We also have taken applications for Miss Farm Bureau and for the scholarship. The winners for these two contests will be announced at Breakfast on the Farm.

We also will donate a set of ag books to Madison Elementary School in Manitowoc.

If you are interested in any events that we have planned, we certainly want you to join the Promotion and Education committee.

Normally we meet the third Thursday of each month in St. Nazianz at 8 p.m.



This year, the recipient of a set of ag books was Madison Elementary School in Manitowoc.



Farm Bureau members helped make 30 fleece-tie quilts for the homeless.

President's Message

Dan Meyer

Manitowoc County Farm Bureau president

Thank you to the Haelfrisch family for hosting the Breakfast on the Farm. It is always great to find excellent, resourceful and hard-working farmers in Manitowoc County who are willing to open their doors to the public so they can see where and how milk is produced.

Writing these articles is sometimes challenging since it is May 12 and there are only a few acres planted in our county, milk prices are starting to rally, the trade dispute is in limbo and the need to publish a newsletter that will arrive in your mailbox in mid-June when hopefully hay season will be near completion. Maybe we will even be done planting and China will again be buying our corn and soybeans.

Manitowoc County Farm Bureau has been busy with many activities. Farm Bureau members throughout the state, including Brent Sinkula and myself, presented to the Joint Finance Committee about the need to support funding for local roads, funding research specialists for UW-CALS/ UW-Extension and the need for funding the Dairy Innovation Hub.

Our legislators need to hear from farmers about what we need in agriculture.

The county fair food-stand, the biggest fundraiser of the year, will once again be asking members to work a shift. Every township director is responsible for organizing one shift.

For more information, please contact your township director or me.

Manitowoc County Farm Bureau members also supply the animals for the Big Red Barn at the Lincoln Park Zoo. Take your kids and grandchildren to the zoo, it is a very nice local, family-friendly destination.

With the help of many Farm Bureau members, we once again made our early-bird bonanza membership bonus and received a \$1,000 bonus. We use the money from our fundraisers to promote and support agriculture.

Some payments we made included: Two, \$400 scholarships to students; \$4,000 this year and during the last several years for a total of \$10,000 to the Wisconsin Ag Discovery Center; \$200 for the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund; and more.

Now, closer to my thoughts on the last several months. It has been hard not to feel the financial and personal pain of many friends and neighbors. The need for words of

“Renew, release, let go. Yesterday's gone. There's nothing you can do to bring it back. You can't “should've” done something. You can only DO something. Renew yourself. Release that attachment. Today is a new day!” -- Steve Maraboli

encouragement are needed by many.

Today is a new day, reminds me of why I love farming. Every day is different, new challenges, new fears, new successes and often new opportunities. Nothing changes a day faster than a motor that won't run or a rainstorm that shuts down hay making on a day the weatherman said, “slight chance of spotty rain.”

The feeling you get when you fix that motor with a screwdriver (and a big hammer) and a little luck or get the last load of hay off before the looming storm.

Or the end of the month when you find out the milk check won't pay for the motor (the hammer didn't fix) because the cows produced less milk because the hay got rained on.

That's what I signed up for when I became a farmer. Days turn into months, years, lifetimes and generations. This has been the story of agriculture for generations on my farm and

many throughout the county. We make plans and often because of things out of our control we need to change those plans. Things like prices, drought, floods, trade disputes and life's personal tragedies.

My grandfather and father raised pigs on our farm until the late 1970s. They made money for many years and were good at it. The pigs left not because they wanted them to, they left because they knew they were losing money every day selling pork at 12 cents a pound.

The times have changed. Today, a first-generation farmer just a half mile down the road from where our pigs were raised is selling locally raised pork for \$9 to \$12 per pound, no this is not a typo, \$12 per pound.

I cannot help to think of how agriculture is changing. Many parallels to the late 1970s and early 1980s. Many challenges and for those who are looking for them, many opportunities.

My friends, neighbors and fellow Farm Bureau members need to make drastic changes to their lifestyles and family farms not by choice. But we must remain positive, we must move forward.

Please if you need help, get it. So much of what happens on farms is out of our control, you are not alone and do not be afraid to ask for help.

The most important part of any farm are the people, take care of each other. Farm Bureau will continue to work on behalf of farmers in Manitowoc County, being the voice of agriculture.

If you want to find out how you can become more involved in Farm Bureau, have ideas to make our organization better or need anything, please contact me anytime at 920.980.9098 (call or text) or dbmeyer@tcei.com.

Yours in Farm Bureau,

Update from the Manitowoc County YFA Chair

By Stephanie Abts

Happy spring. Whenever it decides to come around. Once it does, I wish everyone a safe and productive planting season.

During the last few months, the YFAs gathered for a few events. The largest event that we partook in was the District 6 bus tour.

We started the day at Lakeside Foods where we learned how vegetables are harvested from field-factory-to canning. Lakeside Foods has 13 facilities and farms more than 85,000 acres.

They are connected to the local community and are thankful for the working relationships

they have with their producers.

Secondly, we enjoyed a winery tour of Trout Springs Winery in Greenleaf. Not only do they serve different types of wine, but they are a licensed trout hatchery.

Lastly, we wrapped up the day at IntheWoods Sugarbush in Manitowoc. This family-owned and operated maple syrup producer harvests sap from more than 1,300 maple trees and has received many awards for their finished products. A good time was had by all. Thanks to those who attended.

In the summer months, the YFAs want to have a few events for members to enjoy. Some

of these include, but are not limited to fruit picking, a Brewer's baseball game and the Manitowoc County Fair.

If you haven't already, please visit the Facebook page. We are conducting polls to see what members want to do.

Please cast a vote, or if you don't have Facebook, please contact me at 920.973.6547. We are looking for new ideas to help us grow and expand.

Lastly, again this year, we are looking for volunteers to help with Kiddie Showmanship.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Scholarship Winners Announced



Macey Pingel, daughter of Randy Pingel and Tanya Pingel of Chilton, received the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau YFA \$400 scholarship.

Pingel graduated from Chilton Door High School and plans to attend Fox Valley Technical College in the fall to study business management.

She hopes to pursue a career in human resources.



Caitlin Berge, daughter of Nichole Duchow of Collins, received the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee \$400 scholarship.

Berge is a student at Lakeshore Technical College studying dairy herd management. She is looking forward to a career in the dairy industry.

Kiddie Showmanship Form Is Available

With summer, comes the county fair. Manitowoc County Farm Bureau YFA sponsors Kiddie Showmanship each year.

This is an excellent opportunity to get your youngster started showing dairy cattle. The goal is to encourage a fun, learning experience in agriculture for youth.

The event will be at the Manitowoc County Fair at 11:30 a.m. on **Sunday, August 25**.

The rules are as follows:

1. The calf must be born between **April 15, 2019, and August 1, 2019**. We ask that everyone please abide by this rule. The calf can be either a heifer or a bull that is healthy and well grown. It must be a dairy animal. No beef animals. This is a dairy showmanship event. A calf that is shown in open class or junior fair may NOT used in the Farm Bureau Kiddie Showmanship

event. A second calf may be entered in the event if the first calf is not show-ring ready.

2. There will be four (4) classes: four-year-old preschool, kindergarten, first grade and second grade. The grades are what the children completed in 2018. Children in three-year-old preschool are not eligible.
3. Calves must be at the fairgrounds by 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and taken home after the show because barn space is limited. Check-in will be in the show ring.
4. Children are not required to wear white clothing and calves do not need to be clipped.
5. Children are required to wear a number, which will be distributed prior to the show. The order of the children is pre-selected and exhibitors will enter the ring in numerical order.

6. Children will be judged on the way they handle the calf and their basic dairy showmanship skills.
7. If you have children in more than one age group, they may show the same calf, however, **THIS IS DISCOURAGED** because the young calves tire easily. If you have two children in the same age group, they will need two calves.
8. Ribbons will be awarded.

For more information or for an application, visit www.co.manitowoc.wi.us/media/7397/kiddie-showmanship-2019.pdf.

Please return the form to Stephanie (Nagel) Abts, 6493 County Highway K, New Franken, WI 54229. Late entries will not be able to participate. No exceptions.

We hope for a good turn out, and look forward to the show.

Celebrating National Ag Day

On March 14, farmers and agriculturists were invited to join Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom Program in celebrating National Ag Day.

The theme was, Agriculture: Food for Life.

Nominate A Farmer

Wisconsin residents were invited to nominate someone who embodies the National Ag Day theme, Agriculture: Food for Life.

Finalists were selected by the WFBF's Promotion and Education Committee and were featured on social media.

The winner was selected by popular vote on Facebook.

The winners were Dave and Terri Wilfert of Wilfert Farms in Manitowoc. They received a \$50 gift card to Blain's Farm & Fleet.

Ag in the Classroom Reading Event

Manitowoc celebrated National Ag Day by reading books about agriculture.

The recommended book is the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's book of the year "Fresh-Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub.



Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for Manitowoc County, reads to children and their parents at the Lester Library in Two Rivers.

The book is available for purchase at wiagclassroom.com.

Ag in the Classroom coordinator Alice Peterman read at the Lester Public Library in Two Rivers.



Miss Farm Bureau Camryn Braun posed with two participants of National Ag Day activities.

District Essay Winner

A student from Random Lake is the District 6 winner in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest reported Ag in the Classroom coordinator Liz Gartman. There were 63 entries and the winner was Sabrina Phalen from Random Lake Elementary School in Sheboygan.

Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.'

A total of 1,899 Wisconsin students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Insight FS and We Energies.



Scholarship Winners

Three students were awarded scholarships this year from the Sheboygan County Farm Bureau.

Best wishes to the three recipients.



The board of director's \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to **Jamie Jensema**, daughter of Jeremie and Brenda Jensema of Sheboygan Falls. Jamie graduated from Oostburg High School and plans to attend UW-River Falls majoring in animal science.



Brianna Breunig, daughter of Mark and Kelly Breunig of Sheboygan Falls, received the women's committee \$500 scholarship. Brianna graduated from Oostburg High School and plans to attend UW-River Falls majoring in animal science.



The second recipient of the women's committee \$500 scholarship is **Maycie Navis**, daughter of Mark and Mary Navis of Cedar Grove. Maycie graduated from Cedar Grove-Belgium High School and plans to attend UW-Stevens Point majoring in agriculture.

Volunteer at the Food Stand, Free Food and Fun

Farm Bureau is looking for volunteers to help in our food stand during the Sheboygan County Fair on **August 29-September 2**. Volunteer shifts are as follows:

Thursday, August 29

Open: 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Afternoon: 2-6:30 p.m.
 Close: 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Friday, August 30

Open: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Afternoon: 1-5 p.m.
 Close: 5-10 p.m.

Saturday, August 31

Open: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Afternoon: 1-5 p.m.
 Close: 5-10 p.m.

Sunday, September 1

Open: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Afternoon: 1-5 p.m.
 Close: 5-10 p.m.

Monday, September 2

Open: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Close: 2-6 p.m.

Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Volunteer positions include: wrapping sandwiches, filling cream puffs, serving food/beverages, cashiering, wiping tables and managing dining room. Volunteers will receive a meal voucher at our stand. Six to eight volunteers are needed per shift. Family and friends of Farm Bureau members and non-members are welcome to volunteer.

To reserve your spot, please contact Jessica Ramel by **August 15** at 920.980.9563 (call or text).

Classroom on the Farm Hosts Students

Sheboygan County Farm Bureau held Classroom on the Farm again this year on April 30, May 2-3. More than 900 students toured Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. Each student took a farm tour of the Grotegut Farm in Newton, toured the exhibits and the birthing barn.

Thank you to those who volunteered to help with Classroom on the Farm, and thank you to the Sheboygan County Dairy Promotion Committee for providing string cheese for the students.



Students listened to the birthing barn manager talk about the day in the life of a cow.



Students learned different ways that water moves through soil and how to protect the soil.



The drone table showed students what fields look like from up above and how farmers use this information to make decisions on a farm.



Students get an up close look at this Holstein in the Birthing Barn.



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Manitowoc County

Sheboygan County

Growing Farm Safety Traditions in Wisconsin



Safety is important. Be smart, be safe, live another day.

Review farm safety tips and resources at
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