



Grassroots

District 8 News

Director's Report



Don Radtke

WFBF District 8 Director

For Farm Bureau, 2018 was a year of new policy deliberation, including the willingness to discuss supply management in length at the WFBF Annual Meeting delegate session.

District 8 is planning to continue these discussions on **March 24** at a dairy meeting, in which other county Farm Bureaus will be invited to participate. Please watch for additional details.

As we look to 2019, one of the key issues for WFBF is water quality and quantity across the state. If this topic is of interest to you or your county Farm Bureau, this is something your local affairs committee can discuss.

These are great reminders and examples of how Farm Bureau's grassroots structure begins with your county Farm Bureau membership and local affairs committee creating policy for the WFBF organization.

In January, the AFBF Annual Convention was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, and WFBF was well represented with outstanding Achievement, Excellence in Ag and Discussion Meet contestants. Congratulations to District 8 members Ryan and Lindsey Prah on being selected as the state Achievement Award winners.

As we begin another year of challenging economic times in agriculture, we need to be aware of symptoms of depression that may be affecting our ag family and friends. Depression and suicide are real, and you can make a difference by caring and seeking out professionals who can help. This may be a topic that District 8 might want to consider for an informational meetings.

This is the first district-wide newsletter and I hope you find it interesting and informative. It should be a good resource and tool to learn what other counties are doing and to possibly inspire your county Farm Bureau to try new things.

If anybody has different ideas for policy development, please let me know and we could receive discussion papers from WFBF to work from.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at djradtke@gmail.com or 715.573.7208.

District 8 Dairy Meeting

Date: March 24

Time: Doors will open at 11 a.m. with the program starting promptly at 11:30 a.m.

Location: 203 N. 1st Street, Abbotsford Community Room (attached to library)

Lunch: County Farm Bureaus will sponsor a lunch.

The focus of this meeting will be the federal milk marketing order and two-tier pricing with Len Dahlke and Richard Bylsma presenting. Following the presentations, attendees can participate in a round table discussion. During this time there will be no 'bad ideas' but open dialogue to hopefully identify viable solutions.

To RSVP, visit bit.ly/D8Dairy or contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 (call or text) or acalaway@wfbf.com.

SAVE THE DATE



SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2019 11:30 AM ABBOTSFORD, WI



Where Concept Turns Into Action

Like the new newsletter concept? At the Council of Presidents meeting in January 2018, presidents and vice presidents throughout the state met and had a jam-packed agenda. They heard the results of the voting member survey, talked about the member benefits, heard from keynote speakers, talked about county bylaws and policy documents and discussed a new newsletter concept.

District 1, at the southeast corner of the state, was the first district to try the new newsletter idea. Since then, it has been replicated in nine districts with ours making its grand launch this month.

Inside this issue you will get to know your district leaders, upcoming county and state events, along with a few highlights of programs that have happened since the last newsletter.

New Leadership, New Members, Celebrations and Heartfelt Thanks

Please join Farm Bureau in welcoming new board of directors:

Clark County: Marcus McGuire, director; and Dennis Jakobi, director.

Lincoln County: Mary Sosnovske, Promotion and Education chair.

Marathon County: Dave Hannemann: Dave stepped in to finish Mike Borchardt's spot on the board. Thank you to Mike for his years of service to the board of directors and continuing to serve as committee chair on the county's Little Britches Program. This program has inspired hundreds of livestock exhibitors at the Wisconsin Valley Fair and Athens Fair since its conception six years ago.

Portage County: Jeff Dombrowski, Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair; and Adam Gruna, director.

Taylor County: Steve Suchomel, director.

Wood County: Kevin Horn, director; Bryan Haumschild, director; and Carmen Weber, Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair.

District 8 county Farm Bureaus welcome the following new voting members. Thank you for joining Wisconsin's largest grassroots general farm organization.

Clark County: Steven Turnquist and Isaac Opelt.

Lincoln County: Troy Gruetzmacher, Brian Dewolf and David Sundquist.

Marathon County: Hunter Van Alstyne, Mark Tiffany, Bethany Zellner, Ami Kaiser, Jotham Martin, Jimmy Bloome, Margarete Mota, Richard Davis, Kris Sayre, Randall Butalla, Rob Holcomb and Eli Hess

Portage County: Peter Feltz, Phillip Johnson, Kurt Kostuch, Allan O'Neil, Stanley Biadasz and Raymond Wysocki.

Taylor County: Brett Weber and James Freudenthal.

Wood County: Fritz Miller, Russel Sawyer and Robert Spreeman.

Thank you to Taylor County directors who stepped up for agriculture. Jack Johnson was appointed to a three-year term on the Wisconsin Beef Council, representing the Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association. Taylor County Farm Bureau president Ryan Klussendorf was selected to serve on the Wisconsin Dairy 2.0 Task Force.

If you are interested in getting involved with policy development, connecting with consumers, working with area youth or something else, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com or 715.781.2306.

BQA Certification and Training Opportunity

At 5:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, March 12**, at Abbotsford City Hall, 203 N. 1st Street, in Abbotsford. Class starts promptly at 6 p.m. \$15 per person or farm, payable at the door. Check preferred, payable to Wisconsin Beef Quality Assurance Program.

Please RSVP by **March 7** by calling UW Extension Clark County at 715.743.5121. Please leave name and phone number.

For a calendar of other in-person trainings, visit Wisconsin Beef Information Center at fyi.extensnion.wisc.edu/wbic. Also, free training is available online at www.bqa.org.

Effective January 1, buyers representing some large packers and processors will only purchase from farms that are BQA or FARM certified. Most dairy farms are FARM certified through their milk processor. Ask your dairy plant representative for information about getting proof of your farm's completion of FARM 3.0 or newer.



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

CONTESTS

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and a majority of your income is derived from production agriculture, this award is for you!

EXCELLENCE IN AG

If you are between the ages of 18 and 35 and are an agricultural enthusiast but have not earned a majority of your income from an owned production agriculture enterprise, this award is for you!

Applications & resources can be found at
<http://bit.ly/WIYFAContests>. Deadline to apply is April 8.

The Achievement Award and Excellence in Ag resources are updated. Applications are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, April 8. For more information, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or acalaway@wfbf.com. Please visit wfbf.com/programs/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program/yfa-contests.

Membership Dues Broken Down

Ashleigh Calaway

District 8 Coordinator

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau.

Do you know where your dues go?

Your dues are helping the state and county Farm Bureau to conduct programs and goes towards your membership to the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Check out the listing of your dues amount:

- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation: \$40
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program: \$3
- American Farm Bureau Federation: \$5
- Accidental death policy: \$1
- County Farm Bureau: Remaining amount \$6

If you have questions about your membership dues, how to read your billing statement or if you know someone who wants to join Farm Bureau, please contact me at acalaway@wfbf.com. I look forward to another successful year as we begin the centennial celebration.

Meet: Brad and Kristine Boon, YFA Chairs



Meet Brad and Kristine Boon, Clark County Farm Bureau members and now the District 8 YFA Chairs.

They have been friends since grade school and have been married for more than 12 years. They have three beautiful children ages 7, 5 and 3. Brad is part of a multi-generation family farm and

oversees Boon Farms LLC with his father Duane. They milk close to 300 cows and crop farm 1,400 acres.

Kristine owns Christie Country Quilts LLC, a quilting and fabric business, in Neillsville. She also manages the farm finances and book work. Brad and Kristine are actively involved in agriculture groups. Brad serves as Clark County Farm Bureau vice president.

They are very excited about the opportunity to work with YFA members across District 8 and to design new and fun programs.

Planning is underway for the spring farm tour.

Meet: Katie Zoromski, Promotion and Education Chair



My name is Katie Zoromski and growing up in central Wisconsin gave me many introductions to agriculture.

Starting at a young age, one of the earliest memories I have is at my grandfather's farm, waving a pink fly swatter in the air, attempting to 'help' move hogs in the barn.

Many years later, I was learning my way up the ranks at my aunt and uncle's dairy farm. This is where a love for animal health was sparked, which led to a herdsman position at a few large dairies.

It was during this time that I was approached to participate in Farm

Bureau's YFA Discussion Meet. I've been a Farm Bureau member ever since. Participating in Discussion Meets, attending local Farm Bureau events, serving as county YFA chair, participating in the WFBF Leadership Institute, and now, serving on the state Promotion and Education Committee. I'm grateful for this new opportunity to grow my role in Farm Bureau.

This year, Farm Bureau is celebrating its centennial, and there is much to be excited about. On **March 8-9**, I'm looking forward to the Ag LEAD Summit in Appleton. It will be two days of learning how to lead, engage, advocate and develop agri-business. These workshops will give participants the knowledge and personal leadership skills to promote awareness for the agricultural community.

Following the Ag LEAD Summit is the FUSION Conference, Ag Day at the Capitol, Ag in the Classroom contests along with many more activities throughout the year.

Stay up to date with Farm Bureau's 100th year celebration's by visiting www.wfbf.com and your local county Farm Bureau Facebook page where we will post upcoming events and activities.

Sheriff Training and Resource Guide

Farm Bureau members from Marathon, Taylor and Wood counties have partnered together to create a multi-faceted training and resource guide for law enforcement.

The idea behind this came from multiple conversations with local sheriff departments and seeing a need. As one guess learning how to "wrangle a loose cow" isn't something taught at the police academy.

This resource will cover everything from the state fence law, implements of husbandry (IOH), basic animal husbandry/movement/identification, resources available to assist farmers in need and so much more.

The committee is excited for the potential this resource will have once its completed and the impact it will have in the countryside. The hope is once completed county Farm Bureaus around the state will share it with their local sheriff's departments and will work to set up a field day training at the local level.

With less than two percent of farmers in production agriculture, it is critical that partnerships like this happen to ensure the safety of everyone.



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:



What's the Difference? Ag in the Classroom vs. Promotion and Education

Ashleigh Calaway

District 8 Coordinator

Within Farm Bureau there are many committees that help each county run smoothly. In your county you have numerous committees including Young Farmer and Agriculturist, scholarship, county annual meeting, bylaw, membership, nominating, policy development, Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education. Two committees that members are often confused about are Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education.

The Promotion and Education committee is new to all members throughout the state. In December 2015, the voting delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting approved a bylaw change to rename the women's committee to Promotion and Education Committee at the state level. In the fall of 2016, most of the District 8 counties also changed the name of their women's committee to Promotion and Education committee. While the projects conducted by the Promotion and Education committee are similar, changing the committee's name has helped your county get more members involved, not limiting it to women.

So, what's the different between the Ag in the Classroom and the Promotion and Education committee? Based on the name, they seem like



they might do similar projects.

The Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and students K-12 with an understanding of how their food is produced. Throughout District 8 there are a variety of ways that Farm Bureau volunteers educate students.

Some counties host farm tours, others go into the classrooms and teach about agriculture, some do library programs, other counties donate the book of the year to the schools. The opportunities to educate students are endless.

The Promotion and Education Committee also educates, but the target audience is those making purchasing decisions, not K-12 students. The committee promotes projects



and programs that build an awareness and understanding of agriculture in the community.

Each county in District 8 has a Promotion and Education committee and has done numerous projects that include: grocery store promotion of milk and beef, hosted farmers brunches, partnered with outside organizations to promote commodities and educational opportunities and assisted with June dairy breakfast programs.

Again, the opportunities to educate consumers and those who have the purchasing power is endless.

If you are interested in being involved in your county Farm Bureau, please contact me or a member of your county Farm Bureau board. We are always looking for new faces at the table.

Celebrate National Ag Day

Follow WFBF on Facebook and take part in our upcoming events and promotions for National Ag Day.

- **#WIAgProud:** Download a copy of our #WIAgProud, take a photo with it and share the photo on social media with #WIAgProud. Anyone who participates by sharing a public post will be entered into a drawing to receive a Culver's coupon. Download the sign at wfbf.com/national-ag-day.
- **Farmers on Facebook Live:** We are in the process of selecting three to four Farm Bureau members to serve on a panel talking about agricultural careers. We will be live streaming their discussion on Facebook on National Ag Day. So, be sure to follow us on Facebook and stay tuned to find out who will be on the panel and what time you can watch. We also are sharing this information with teachers around Wisconsin. We encourage you to share this information with your local school and teachers.



Agriculture: Food for Life



Celebrate Ag Day March 14, 2019



For more information on activities or to download resources about National Ag Day, visit www.wisagclassroom.org or www.agday.org.

District 8 News

From the District Managers Desks

Dave Meihak

District Manager for Central and North Central Wisconsin, Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Price and Wood counties

Laurie Peterson

District Manager for Northwest Wisconsin and Taylor County

Greetings Farm Bureau members, With 2018 in the books, and 2019 in full swing, it is our pleasure to again have the opportunity to reach out to you in this newsletter.

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

When we find the right individuals, it also is our responsibility to educate these new agents about the strong relationship we have with WFBF and how important it is to both of our organizations.

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

We will continue to hire and educate agents to work with you to build and strengthen these relationships.

As Rural Mutual begins a year of transition with Peter Pelizza retiring and Dan Merk starting his new role as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, we believe that you will notice little if any change in how we do business.

Consistency is crucial to a healthy relationship. The growth and success we have

had in the past as partners will remain the same. As a company we will continue to support each county Farm Bureau board by helping them to meet their membership goals.

We have been and will continue to be available to assist you with events, activities and general support so that you will continue to make a difference in our schools, communities, counties and state.

As WFBF begins its centennial celebration, we look forward to sharing another successful year of remembrance, growth and celebration. We truly value our partnership and together aim to support the common mission of growing and supporting agriculture at the state and local levels.

Just like in years past, we have a lot of great opportunities ahead of us in 2019 and we look forward to working with you to continue to make great things happen.

As a 'capper' to 2018, Dave wants to thank the individual agents from the Lake and Woods District who attained Leader's Conference trip requirements including:



Jenni Zinda-Mancl
Stella Westfall
Tim Voigt
Leon Woller
Shayne Courneya
Thong Xiong
Jim Wehinger
Matt Rhodes
Stacy Zimmerman (a sub-producing agent for Jenni Zinda-Mancl)

With eight agents and one sub-producing agent, this was by far the most agents to ever attain this high honor out of the district.

Congratulations to each of them.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the agents. They are always available to help.



Clark County

wfbf.com/about/counties/clark
ClarkCountyFarmBureau

Scholarship Applications Due April 1

Do you know a high school senior or a current college student looking for financial assistance?

If so, have them complete the Clark County Farm Bureau 2019 scholarship application.

There are some updates to the scholarship application. Now, you can complete the application online by visiting bit.ly/CCFBScholarship or you can complete the paper application by downloading the application at wfbf.com/about/counties/clark.

You also can mail your completed scholarship application to Clark County Farm Bureau, c/o Keith Miatke, N4530 Sterling Avenue, Neillsville, WI 54456-8056.



Ag in the Classroom Update

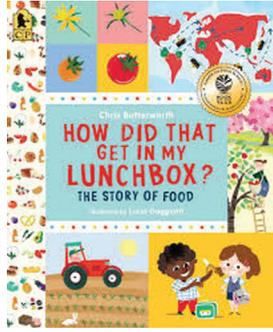
Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to take part in the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Clark County Farm Bureau has sponsored a copy of our county book of the year, "How did that get in my lunchbox? The story of food" to every public and private school in Clark County.

The essay contest topic is very broad. Have students choose their favorite food (apples, carrots, milk, etc.) and write an essay about how it is grown and produced.

As an added incentive for participating in this contest the winning student and classroom could win some awesome prizes. The classroom/school of the first-place essay winner will receive a classroom party, which will be discussed and planned according to the teacher and classroom specifications.

If you have questions or want more information regarding the essay contest, please contact Jodi Erickson at 715.523 or contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com. Please mail essays to Jodi Erickson at W4696 County Road H, Neillsville, WI 54456-8581.



WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Clark County (from left): Tom Shafto Jr., Jim Froeba, Eva Aumann, Max and Rachel Malm, Kelli, Mark, Grace and Madelyn Elmhorst and Walter Schuette; not pictured: Brad and Kristine Boon, Luke Luchterhand, Joe Roth, Justin Schmitz, Kerri Schuette and Amanda VonHaden. Clark County Farm Bureau broke their county record for YFA attendance at the conference. Members and delegates took part in discussions and presentations including hemp, policy discussion and dairy promotion.



Clark County Farm Bureau delegates (from left) Jim Froeba, Walter Schuette, Brad Boon and Tom Shafto Jr.

Save the Date
FOR OUR FIRST
ANNUAL POLICY
DEVELOPMENT
SUMMER PICNIC
Saturday, July 20

Joining the County Farm Bureau Program

In December, the board of directors decided to join the county Farm Bureau services program through Wisconsin Farm Bureau. This includes financial, administrative and newsletter.

With this change, the Lincoln County Dairy Promotion Committee decided to merge with the Lincoln County Farm Bureau. What does this mean? By joining the program, the county gains access to a full-time staff member and team to help with the day-to-day tasks of running an effective county Farm Bureau. Now, members will receive better service.

Now, the Lincoln County Farm Bureau has the means to share details of upcoming events and highlights of events happening in the area. The

board members are excited about this opportunity and look forward to what it entails.

As far as merging the organizations, members will be able to do more and reach more people. The Lincoln County Dairy Promotion Committee and Lincoln County Farm Bureau have been community partners for a long time with many of the board members of each organization serving on both boards.

This will allow both organizations to better use resources and make sure that each are allocating the resources effectively to provide educational resources to area youth.



Farmers' Market Theme for Essay Contest

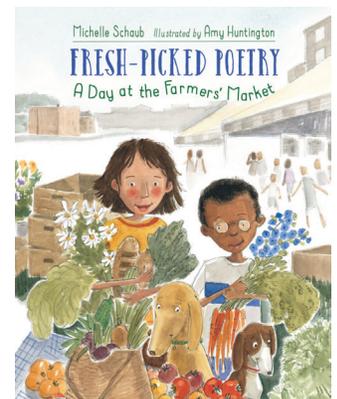
The essay contest topic is, 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.'

The book of the year is "Fresh Picked Poetry" by Michelle Schaub.

The book and essay topic will give you, farmers in District 8, the opportunity to go into classrooms and share your story about farmers markets.

The essay contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students and are due April 1.

For more information, please contact Melissa Yates at m_seefeld@hotmail.com.



Scholarship Applications Due April 1

Do you know a high school senior or a current college student looking for financial assistance?

If so have them complete our 2019 scholarship application.

You can find an electronic copy of the application by visiting wfbf.com/about/counties/lincoln.



Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast

Congratulations to Mary Sosnovske, the new Promotion and Education chair. The board of directors are looking for members for committees and to help insure that the next generation knows where food comes from.

If you are interested, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or acalaway@wfbf.com.



WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Lincoln County (from left): Ben and Jessie Gruetzmacher, Jim and Melissa Yates, Joel Oelke, Geoff Depies and Kyle Kudick. Lincoln County Farm Bureau delegates and attendees were excited to watch Kyle Kudick walk across the stage as he received a plaque for graduating from the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Lincoln County YFA Program Update

Are you 18-35? Looking for a way to grow your ag network? Maybe justify a day or night away from the farm? Or meet new people?

For more information about the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, please contact the Lincoln County Farm Bureau YFA chair Kyle Kudick at 715.966.5172.



Marathon County

WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Ryan and Lindsey Prah, Marissa Graveen, Jamie Marx, Sijmen Stuij, Katie Zoromski, Andy Marx, Mark Zimmermann, Will Litzer, Rita and Bill Mueller and Beth and Matt Schaefer; not pictured: James and Joanne Juedes, Joe and Ami Kaiser, Jill and Mark Niemann, Don and Jilayne Radtke, Randy Wokatsch and Samantha and Matt Solin. Congratulations to Ryan and Lindsey Prah for winning the WFBF Achievement Award. They represented Wisconsin at the 100th AFBF Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana. Although they did not win at the national competition, we are proud to have them represent Wisconsin YFA.

Marathon County Farm Bureau Takes a Stance

By Marathon County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

In January, the board of directors heard about a proposed ordinance that would directly affect farmers across the county. Since then your county Farm Bureau's local affairs/policy development committee compiled a formal stance regarding the proposed ordinance.

In February, the Marathon County Farm Bureau board of directors formally accepted their stance regarding the issue.

"Marathon County Farm Bureau is concerned about water quality. We passed a resolution in support of requiring farmers to meet

conservation standards without cost sharing (exempting capital expenditures such as manure pits).

We also support compliance to nutrient management plans and appropriate, uniform and consistent regulation and fines across the state for farms that do not follow their plans.

We feel farmers having their plans, which specify areas where manure can be winter spread or not spread and fining those who don't follow them is already sufficient oversight. With our proposed policies in place, farmers have options to responsibly apply manure and officials have the means to deal with offenders.

Therefore, we do not support a Marathon County ordinance to ban winter spreading of manure on medium-sized dairies (500-1,000 animal units)."

*Note: We reserve the right to adapt our position as the Environmental Resource Committee's recommendations are released.

If you are interested in learning more regarding this issue or other issues facing Marathon County farmers, please contact Randy Wokatsch, Marathon County Farm Bureau Local Affairs/Policy Development chair, at 715.443.2457.

Ag in the Classroom Update

This year, there was a new approach to the county Ag in the Classroom program.

The focus more was getting the right resources to teachers. Last spring, area teachers were surveyed and asked what they wanted for resources and how volunteers could serve as community partners in connecting students to where their food comes from.

The results were intriguing. By doing this, volunteers found that it was necessary to take a step back and start at ground zero with the county program.

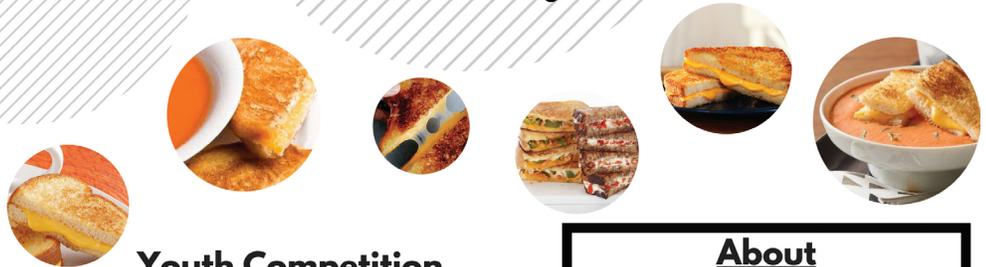
With help from the board of directors, volunteers delivered a folder of material and resources to every fourth grade teacher including public, private and homeschoolers in the county.

Volunteers look forward to the results of the essay contest and the impacts it has on the area youth.

If you are interested in volunteering, learning about the essay contest, helping to deliver items or encourage schools to use the Ag in the Classroom program, please contact Kerry Wokatsch at kwokatsch@gmail.com.



Marathon County Grilled Cheese Competition



Youth Competition

- Young adults 12-17

- Each participant is allowed one parent or guardian to assist
- Cost to enter is \$15.00, includes two fair entry tickets
 - Date/Time: Thursday, August 1st at 5:30 p.M.
 - First place will be awarded
- Competition limited to the first 10 paid competitors

Adult Competition

- Adults 18 years or older

- Cost to enter is \$15.00, includes one fair entry ticket
 - Date/Time: Friday, August 2nd at 5:30 P.M.
 - First place will be awarded
- Competition limited to the first 10 paid competitors

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

About

The Marathon County Grilled Cheese Competition will be held during the 151st Wisconsin Valley Fair. Competitors will have 30 minutes to create 4 delicious grilled cheese sandwiches and are expected to bring all needed ingredients. **Registration and payment due to the U.W. Extension office by July 19th.**



- Youth Competition (Ages 12-17)
- Adult Competition (Ages 18+)
- Cash Check

Mail Entries to: Attn Grilled Cheese
212 River Drive, Suite 3
Wausau, WI 54403

First/Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Please make checks payable to U.W. Extension

Farm Bureau Members Celebrate Christmas Cheer

Greetings Farm Bureau members,
In December, the Portage County Farm Bureau partnered with businesses and organizations to provide 'Christmas Cheer' to 16 families across Portage and Wood County.

Thank you to the sponsors and people who donated items including: Eron's Event Barn, LLC; Portage County Farm Bureau; Wood County Farm Bureau; Zinda Insurance Agency; Del Monte Foods; Feltz Dairy Store; Worzella

& Sons, Inc.; Hamerski Farms; Swiderski Equipment; Roberts Irrigation Company, Inc.; Sand County Equipment; Ultra Cut & Care LLC; Little Bull Falls Soap Works; Kay Cychosz; and Mad Hatter Crochet Creations.



Making Connections for Ag

In the winter, it seems there is time for learning and growing for those in the ag industry. Every weekend is jam-packed with conferences and workshops for all realms of ag. The season for learning, growing and lobbying also is in full-swing for the county Farm Bureau board of directors.

As a board, members have been meeting with local and state entities to ensure they understand how their decisions will impact members.

During the last year, board members have met with members from the drainage district, the county executive and highway department and county supervisors. Board members have heard presentations regarding everything from the wheel tax to water quality ordinances and everything in between.

Board members work hard to make sure your voice is being heard. If there is an issue that you or your farm are facing, please contact one of the board members.

YFA Program Update

Are you 18-35? Or looking for a way to grow your ag network? Justify a day or night away from the farm? If so, please contact Jeff Dombrowski, county YFA chair. He is planning the first event of the year and wants to hear from you at 608.963.6797.

WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Portage County Promotion and Education chair Melissa Eron worked at the county of excellence booth celebrating the Christmas Cheer Program; not pictured: John Eron, John Herman, LeRoy Miller, Nathan and Lynette Wolosek, Jeff Dombrowski, Francis and Beverly Cherney.

Price County

Plan to Attend the Price County Fair

Plan to join in the non-stop fun, carnival rides and games provided by K&M Amusements; delicious food; agricultural displays; exhibits from school children, 4-H, and open class; a competitive horse show; antique displays; the old log school; musical bands; kiddie tractor pull; antique appraisals; lawnmower and ATV pull; and other great entertainment.

The carnival rides are free with each admission ticket, though you can pay a lower admission fee if you're not interested in the rides.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day of fun at the Price County Fair.

Join us on **August 21-25** at the fairgrounds, which are located approximately one mile east of Phillips on County Highway H.



WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



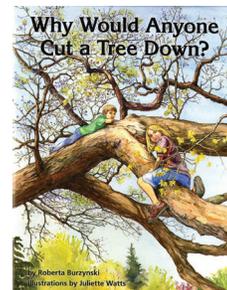
(from left) Dan, Ashley, Ahnalie, Lena Berg and George and Hope Blomberg. Price County was honored to have George join the elite group of Farm Bureau Proud members for his work in membership.

Price County Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year

Fourth and fifth grade students are invited to take part in the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The Price County Farm Bureau has sponsored a copy of our county book of the year, "Why would anyone cut a tree down?" to every public and private school in Price County.

The essay contest topic is on forestry. Students can explore the woods around them and write a 100- to 300-word essay on the importance of forestry in Price County. For participating in this contest the winning student(s) and classroom(s) can win some awesome prizes.

If you have questions or want more information regarding the essay contest, please contact George Blomberg at homesteadacres@centrurytel.net or 715.767.5579. Please mail essays to George Blomberg, N2134 State Highway 13, Ogema, WI 54459-8372.



Scholarship Applications Due April 1

Do you know a high school senior or a current college student looking for financial assistance? If so, have them complete the 2019 Price County Farm Bureau scholarship application.

Price County Farm Bureau made updates to the scholarship application. Now, you can complete the application online by visiting bit.ly/PSCFBScholarship or you can complete the paper application by visiting wfbf.com/about/counties/price.



Taylor County

Taylor County Youth Fair

Taylor County Farm Bureau will be a sponsor for the Dairy Desert contest at the Taylor County Fair. It will be held on **Friday, July 26**.

For more information, please listen to WKEB radio station.

"Lords and Ladies at the Taylor County Fair"

Friday: NTPA Tractor Pull

Saturday: Med-State Pullers
Tractor and Truck Pulls

Sunday: Demo Derby



Ag in the Classroom Update

By Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau is proud to donate a copy of the WFBF book of the year "Fresh Picked Poetry, A Day at the Farmers' Market," to the public and private schools in Taylor County.

This book is part of our state-wide Ag in the Classroom essay contest. It is intended to be used in fourth and fifth grade classrooms.

This county and statewide program comes with some great opportunities for your students as well. The essay topic this year is 'Making it happen at the farmers' market.' The essay needs to be between 100 and 300 words. The first-place student at county level will receive \$40 and second \$20.

The classroom with the highest percentage of essays from their classroom will receive \$75 for classroom supplies. Essays are due to me by **April 1** and the first-place winner moves on to district-wide contest.

Taylor County Farm Bureau also is excited to announce that we will again offer "This Business called Agriculture" activity book for fourth grade students to learn about

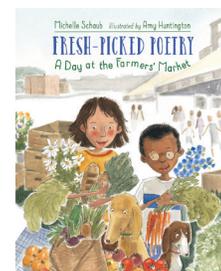
Wisconsin agriculture commodities. If your child's school is interested in receiving free copies of this book, please email me with how many books your classroom/school wants.

The Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors also will volunteer as classroom farmer(s).

We have a dedicated team of farmers or agribusiness leaders who volunteer their time and knowledge with area students. If you want to join the list of farmers or agribusiness leaders, please let me know.

This is a unique program that allows students to meet, ask questions and connect with local farmers or agribusiness leaders and give them an overview of their day-to-day activities.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at rfklussendorf@gmail.com.



North Central Cattleman's Annual Beef Round Up

For more information or to sign up, please visit wfbf.com/about/counties/taylor. There are links to the rules and registration forms.



WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Taylor County Farm Bureau delegates and members (from left): Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf, Brittany and Melvin 'MJ' Zenner and Rob Klussendorf; also pictured future members: Owen and Max Klussendorf and Mason Zenner. Taylor County members celebrated with Rob Klussendorf as he walked across stage as the third Taylor County Member to graduate from the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Steak and Eggs

Ready your bibs for:
THE TAYLOR COUNTY FARM BUREAU STEAK AND EGG BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019 - 7:30-10:30 AM
TAYLOR COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS - MEDFORD, WI

\$8.00/STEAK AND EGG PLATE
\$5.00/EGG AND TOAST PLATE

DON'T FORGET YOUR BIG APPETITE!

Plan to attend ...

Wood County

Ag in the Classroom Update

Fourth or fifth grade students are invited to take part in the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The Wood County Farm Bureau donated a copy of the county Ag in the Classroom book of the year, "How did that get in my lunchbox? The story of food," to every public and private school in Wood County. A copy was donated to the Arpin and Vesper public libraries. Please share the book and resources with fourth and fifth grade teachers at your school.

The essay contest topic is broad. Have students choose their favorite food (apples, carrots, milk, etc) and write an essay about how it is grown and produced. As an added incentive for taking part in this contest a student and their classroom could win some awesome prizes.

- First place essay contest winner will receive a \$100 prize
- Second place essay contest winner will receive a \$50 prize
- Third place essay contest winner will receive a \$25 prize

The classroom/school of the first-place essay winner will receive a tote filled with Ag in the Classroom books, curriculum and a classroom party, which will be discussed/planned according to the teacher/classroom specifications.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com or 715.781.2306 or Brad Weber at bradweber04@gmail.com or 715.650.1542. Please mail essays to: 6923 Jackson Road, Vesper, WI 54489.

Scholarships Offered to Students

Wood County Farm Bureau is offering scholarships to area students.

For application requirements and an application, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/wood or contact a school guidance counselor.

Applications are due to the scholarship committee chair by **April 1**.

Please mail completed application to: Loren Scheunemann, Scholarship Committee chair, 5618 Grant Road, Vesper, WI 54489, or contact loren3155.scheu@yahoo.com or 715.569.4455.



WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights



Wood County (from left): Sierra Frank, Jason Behrend, Jeffrey and Jenna Okonek, Jared and Bri Fox, Hayli and Bryan Haumschild, Brad and Carmen Weber, Josh Calaway, Bruce Pankratz and Charlie Fox; not pictured: Evan Hoffarth, Sarah Jo Pidgeon, Peggy Pankratz, Loren and Barb Scheunemann.

JOIN US FOR THE 6TH ANNUAL
SUMMER PICNIC

SATURDAY, JULY 14
NOON
NORTH WOOD COUNTY PARK

Wood County Farm Bureau



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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

- Clark County
- Lincoln County
- Marathon County
- Portage County
- Price County
- Taylor County
- Wood County

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