

Grassroots

District 7 News

District 7 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days Bus Trip



Kelly Oudenhoven
District 7 YFA Committee Representative

Want to go to Wisconsin Farm Technology Days but not looking forward to the drive? Well look no further. Come and join

us on a comfortable coach bus for the trip to Farm Technology Days on **Wednesday, July 24.**

There will be two pick up stops before traveling to Jefferson County. The first pick up stop will be at 6 a.m. in Bonduel at the Kwik Trip by the Highway 29 exit. The bus will depart at 6:15 a.m.

The second pick up stop will be at the park and ride located at 2316 Mill Street in New London at 7 a.m. The bus will depart at 7:15 a.m. to Johnson Creek and will arrive shortly after 9 a.m.

The Farm Technology grounds open at 9 a.m. and the cost for admission will be on your own (\$8).

The plan is to load the bus to come home at 4:30 p.m. and depart the Farm Technology grounds by 5 p.m.

Keith and I will provide light refreshments on the bus to and from Johnson Creek and then sub sandwiches, chips and a dessert on our way home.

The cost for the bus is \$30. To reserve your spot, please contact me at 920.378.4744 or Kelly.oudenhoven@gmail.com. Payment is required to hold your spot. We hope you will join us for a fun and relaxing trip.



Farm Bureau Rural Road Safety Day Held in District 7

Kelly Oudenhoven

District 7 YFA Committee Representative

On April 26, we were honored to be selected as the host farm for Farm Bureau's Rural Road Safety Day.

It was a gorgeous sunny day to have the local media outlets at the farm. We demonstrated ways in which it is dangerous to pass farm

equipment and the dangers of not paying attention when farmers are making left-hand turns into driveways.

There were two television reporters along with a newspaper reporter who got first-hand experience by riding in the vehicle following the tractor as well as riding in the tractor and seeing it first-hand. The message that was being relayed was to slow down, be patient and most of all be

observant.

Thanks to Amy Eckelberg, Sarah Hetke, Steve Boe, Wes Raddatz, Stan Krazmarczk and Kathy Duescher from Farm Bureau; Wisconsin DOT; Outagamie County Sheriffs Department; Country Visions for contributing a sprayer and drone; and Cheryl Skjolaas from UW-Extension. Overall it was a very successful event.



Road Safety Day host Kelly Oudenhoven gave an on-camera interview for news media.



Outagamie County Road E was closed to traffic for road safety demonstrations for the news media.



District 6 and 7 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Gamblers Hockey Event

Kelly Oudenhoven

District 7 YFA Representative

On February 16, District 7 YFA members enjoyed a night at a Green Bay Gambler Hockey Game.

There were 28 District 7 YFA members in attendance. The famous wiener dog race took place and was very entertaining. Even though the Gamblers lost in overtime, fun was definitely had by all.

After the game, members enjoyed pizza at D2 Sports Bar and mingled with YFA members from District 6.



YFA members from Districts 6 and 7 attended the Green Bay Gambler hockey game in February and took time for refreshments afterward.

District 6 and 7 County Farm Bureaus Collaborate on Eminent Domain Issue

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

On April 15, 12 county Farm Bureaus and the Wisconsin Farmers Union collaborated to show the movie, "The Little Pink House" at the Student Center Auditorium at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay.

The movie is based on the true story of the 2004 Connecticut eminent domain issue that took a case against the eminent domain law to the U.S. Supreme Court.

It lost in a 5/4 decision that has prompted major law changes in many states around the country.

The decision upheld allowing government entities to use eminent domain to take private property and provide that property to another private entity (like FoxConn in Wisconsin) that would produce a higher tax revenue.

Thus being considered 'for the public good' as stated as a condition for the use of the eminent domain law.



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.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Katelin Steege

District 7 Promotion and Education Representative

As we head into the spring and summer months, the Promotion and Education Committee is making plans for the rest of the year.

At the end of June, we will meet for the annual summer meeting and this year, District 7 is hosting. The committee will meet at CRI, doing some team building at Badger Sports Park and

volunteering our time at Mosquito Hill Nature Center.

Another event that has been scheduled is our annual Leadership Boot Camp Series. This is our third annual. The boot camp is on Saturday, November 16 and will be at the Farm Discovery Center in Manitowoc.

It will focus on media training with Farm Bureau staff members. The boot camp series was developed to provide one-day training opportunities on various topics to our members.

The event moves to a different part of the state each year. The two previous boot camps focused on policy development and running for election. More information will be shared as the event gets closer.

Finally, I want to thank those who attended the Ag LEAD Summit in Appleton in March. We were very excited with how the event turned out in our inaugural year.

Ag LEAD Summit will be held again in 2021.



Ag LEAD Summit Is Successful

By Brian Preder

On March 8-9, about 150 members and advocates from around the state gathered in Appleton for the Ag LEAD Summit. The LEAD stood for Leadership, Engagement, Advocacy and Development, and those aspects of leadership were involved in the conference.

The opening speaker was Donna Moenning from the Center for Food Integrity who shared how to best engage consumers on farm topics. The closing speaker was Jay Hill, a farmer from New Mexico, who provided tips about how to tell our stories about farming to the public.

In between were numerous breakout sessions dealing with topics such as consumer engagement, political advocacy, mental health, understanding grocery distribution, personal growth and others.

It was great to reconnect with friends from around the state and district. It also was a great learning opportunity.



Meredith Bowers (right) from Waupaca County Farm Bureau made a connection at the Ag LEAD Summit.



Farm Bureau members from Outagamie, Shawano and Waupaca County Farm Bureaus honed their leadership skills at the Ag LEAD Summit.

FFA Members Attend WFBF's FFA Farm Forum

Sarah Hetke

WFBF Director of Public Relations

FFA members from several District 7 counties were among the more than 225 high school students who attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 15-16.

"This event is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA,"

said Jim Holte, WFBF President. "Young ag leaders who attend this event participate in professional development activities and are able to network with their peers and Farm Bureau staff."

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended workshops that covered topics including post-high school agricultural opportunities, social media, agriculture advocacy and leadership.

Joining Holte as keynote speakers at the event were Alison Wedig, marketing specialist with Culver Franchising System, LLC; and Chris Pollack, co-owner of Pollack-Vu Dairy.

The WFB Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. The FFA Farm Forum marks the 47th time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.



Marinette County



Oconto County



Shawano County



Waupaca County



Waupaca County



Waupaca County

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



What kind of milk comes from a forgetful cow?

Milk of Amnesia.

Why don't cows remember anything you tell them?

Because everything goes in one ear and out the udder.

Why do cows wear bells?

Because their horns don't work.

What do you call cattle that tell jokes?

Laughing Stock.

What do you call a cow that doesn't give milk?

An udder failure.

What do you get when you cross a chicken with a cow?

Roost Beef.

What do you call a cow with no legs?

Ground Beef.

District 7 Annual Meeting Dates: Save the Date

Langlade	Wednesday, October 9, Insight FS Fertilizer Plant Office, Antigo
Marinette	Tuesday, October 8, Peppino's Restaurant, Peshtigo
Oconto	Tuesday, September 17, Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake
Outagamie	Thursday, October 10, River Rail Restaurant, Shiocton
Shawano	Sunday, October 13, The Gathering, Shawano
Waupaca	Tuesday, October 1, Bear Lake Dance Hall, Manawa



Mark
Your Calendar ...

Milwaukee Hosts American Farm Bureau FUSION Conference

By Jake Hoewisch, Waupaca County YFA chair

Last March, the AFBF FUSION conference was held in Milwaukee at the Wisconsin Center. Jennifer, Adalynn and I had the pleasure of attending.

We arrived late on Friday night for registration and a good night's sleep, so we were ready on Saturday. We started with an inspirational message from Jim Morris, who the "The Rookie" is based on.

Morris talked about how a bet with his high school baseball team landed him on the mound striking out All-Star Royce Clayton in his first major league appearance. He told us to eliminate the dream breakers in our lives and draw close to the dream makers, and they will come true.

Many great breakout sessions followed. Afterward, we went out on the town for dinner. The evening entertainment was a tour of the Harley Davidson Museum. Unfortunately, we were unable to attend because Adalynn didn't feel good.

We started Sunday morning with keynote speaker Redmond Ramos, a combat medic with the Marines. He served in Afghanistan and while he was there he stepped on an improvised explosive device resulting in losing his left leg.

Redmond did not let the absence of his leg stop him from accomplishing anything he wanted or set out to do. His motto was that struggles are opportunities to grow. He competed on the USA Olympic swimming team and the "Amazing Race."

During the rest of the day, we attended breakout sessions. That evening we attended the Young Farmers and Ranchers dinner banquet. At the dinner they revealed that the next conference will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Monday morning started with another inspirational message from Paul Long. American Farm Bureau president, Zippy Duvall, was scheduled to speak, but had a family emergency and was unable to attend. Paul talked about how he and his friend started showing up to baseball games wearing cat singlets and ended up becoming an internet sensation. This

unexpected fame lead to him meeting a young boy fighting a rare cancer, who wanted nothing more than to meet the man behind the cat singlet.

The young boy, Noah, has his one special story because after one of his many blood draws he asked for a fun bandage instead of the boring brown one. The hospital didn't have one so he started asking people to bring fun bandages and that is what inspired Paul to start Noah's Bandage Project.

It went viral and collected more than 2 million fun bandages for children in need. Noah has since passed away, but Paul continues his bandage project and has raised more than \$1 million for pediatric cancer.

We broke out into groups and boarded the buses for our day tours. We toured the Sassy Cow Creamery in Madison and Nehls Brothers Farms in Juneau. Over all, it was a great weekend off the farm. We want to thank the Waupaca Farm Bureau for the sponsorship so we could attend.

YFA Bowling Event

By Jake Hoewisch, Waupaca County YFA chair

On February 28, the Waupaca and Outagamie County YFAs gathered at New London Lanes.

We had approximately 25 members and four next generation members. The night was filled with lots of bowling, pizza, drinks and good conversation. It was great to connect with farmers who don't live that far away.



YFA bowlers start young.



The Waupaca and Outagamie YFA bowling night was a fun family event.



YFA bowlers had a great time meeting friends and making new ones.



Waupaca and Outagamie YFA members gathered at New London Lanes last February.

Reserve Your Seat NOW!

FARM TECHNOLOGY DAYS BUS TRIP

Wednesday, July 24
Cost \$30, includes meal and beverages on the bus.

Call Kelly at 920.378.4744

A Message From the President ...

Tom Houdek

Langlade County Farm Bureau president

As you can see our newsletter covers the entire district with pages devoted to each county. I thought I would do a short note to let you know what is going on with your local Farm Bureau.

In February, we donated to the Noboken School Forest Environmental Education Center.

Also, we will donate to help with the costs of the Antigo FFA Food for America on the Farm program, which brings elementary school students to the farm to show them where food comes from.

In another event, Christy Sveda-Schreiber will host students at her farm.

Bev Brecklin will be doing a beef promotion at a local market.

We are sponsoring four beef trophies at the Langlade County Fair again this summer.

For a fund raiser we are selling food at Antigo's Music in the Park on **Thursday, August 1.**

Our county annual meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 9.**

I hope that you have a great summer.



Mike Werdeo (left) accepted a donation from Langlade County Farm Bureau president Tom Houdek (right) for the Noboken School Forest Environmental Education Center.

Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Bev Brecklin, Promotion and Education chair

Greetings to everyone this spring season.

I hope everyone survived the winter, especially the end of January with the sub-zero temperatures and February with the record snow fall.

As I write this, it is raining to beat the band with snow still left on the ground after the 12 inches of snow and heavy sleet we received April 11. When you read this, it should be warmer and drier. Let's hope so anyway.

Meteorologists can't predict the weather with accuracy, and we know who is really in charge. It can change from wet to extra dry in no time, so be careful what you wish for.

Also, we don't need severe storms or flooding. It is April when I am writing this and I am hoping to believe it is actually spring.

I am sure nicer weather will arrive, so I plan to do another beef promotion at the

Antigo Pick 'n Save store sometime in the first half of July. May is really National Beef Month, but I prefer to stick to July. Again, I will order beef promo materials from the Wisconsin Beef Council, of which Angie Horkan is the contact person.

July is a good month because there are more tourists passing through that need to get educated on the importance of beef in the diet and the value it has. Like dairy, we need to keep promoting the many commodities that we produce in our state and nation.

Nowadays, there are many generations between separating from what perhaps, the grandparents or great grandparents did.

No matter who you are or where you came from, everyone is affected by farming. We all eat, right? Let's hope for good weather for planting this spring with a decent summer growing season. Take care and be safe.

Until next time.

Farm Tours Planned

By Christy Sveda-Schreiber, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

I hope everyone is enjoying the greening of the grass and blossoming of the trees. It sure is good to see.

It is that time of year when I invite young students to tour our Farm. We extended an invitation to the Pleasant View Elementary kindergarten class and the Antigo Independently Motivated Students (AIMS). The date is set for June 6. I hope we will have everything planted, fingers crossed.

We will take the students through the barn to visit our cows and there should be a new baby or two for them to meet. Then I will take them through a day on the farm from what the cows eat, when they are milking and how I care for them if they are not feeling well.

After that they will take a look at the equipment we use to work, plant, harvest and store the forages, hay and grains our cattle consume throughout the upcoming year.

Finally, to finish we will treat them to cheese, ice cream, milk and homemade chocolate chip cookies along with a goodie bag that the Langlade County Farm Bureau board kindly helped to purchase with their donation.

Thank you for taking the time to read and have a safe and productive summer.

Summer Music in the Park Fundraiser Planned

By Dick Bolen

Greetings to everyone this spring season.

Please mark the evening of **Thursday, August 1**, on your calendar to attend Music in the Park in Antigo.

The Langlade County Farm Bureau will serve barbeque sandwiches, potato chips, pie, ice cream and beverages.

The music for the evening will be provided by The Second Edition polka band so put on your dancing shoes and join us for a fun evening.

Remember this is our annual fundraiser, so if you can join us we will be happy to see you there.

The funds raised at the event will give extra support to our Ag in the Classroom efforts, FFA and 4-H support, and many other ag product promotions in the area.

If you are willing to help at the booth or to donate a pie or two, please contact Tom Houdek at 715.627.2156 or Dick Bolen at 715.623.6974.

Thank you for taking the time to read and have a safe and productive summer.



Marinette County Ag Venture Day

By Cindi Wautier, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

Ag Venture Day 2019 took place at Coleman School on May 8 with the help of Coleman FFA.

The focus of the Ag Venture Day 2019 followed the theme of the Ag in the Classroom's book of the year, "Fresh Picked Poetry," which promotes the produce and the fun things to do at farmers' markets. Several focal points were on local farming and green houses, raising vegetables and flowers, small animals, chickens and pets.

Though the day was a bit chilly, in the end Ag Venture Day was a success and more than 300 elementary school students learned a lot of information they might not have had access to otherwise.



A chocolate colored calf was a big hit with the kids.



Students gathered around to learn about chickens in the classroom.



The goats were another student favorite.



All of the students got a hands-on planting lesson.



A great group of FFA leaders and their animals and equipment created another successful Ag Venture Day.



The FFA green house was full of colorful plants and flowers to study.



Machinery safety and maintenance were stressed.



Beaver Machine in Coleman supplied some of the equipment for the stations at the Ag Venture Day.

Marinette County YFA invites you to **YFA Pizza and Bowling**

**Friday, June 21
6 p.m.**

**Center Bowl
290 French Street
Peshtigo, WI 54157**



**Join us for a night
of bowling, fun and
fellowship for Young
Farmers and
Agriculturists.**

**Pizza and soda will be
served.**



Please RSVP by **June 1** to Trevor at 920.591.0582 or Emily at 715.923.8639.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Results

By Cindi Wautier, Ag in the Classroom coordinator



The essay contest winners include: Carrigan Bulin, first place (center); Pearl Reiswitz, second place (left); and Dominic Baxter, third place.

Kim Wozniak's class at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Peshtigo participated in the essay contest. The topic, was 'Making it Happen at the Farmers' Market.'

The winning essays were selected by the Marinette County Farm Bureau board of directors during the April meeting. The top three winners received cash prizes and the class was treated to a pizza party on May 3. Ryan and Amanda Staidl put on the party for the class.

The winners and their prizes are:
First place: \$25, Carrigan Bulin
Second place: \$15 Pearl, Reiswitz
Third place: \$10, Dominic Baxter



Kim Wozniak's class at St. Thomas Aquinas in Peshtigo won a pizza party for participating in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the class for participating in the contest.

Oconto County

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Results

By Kayla Zahn, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

We have a district winner this year for the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The District 7 winner is Abigale Johnson, who attends St. Anthony School in Oconto Falls.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Darlene Arneson and I gave an Ag in the Classroom presentation on May 23 at St. Anthony's School. I did a 'plant your own sunflowers' project with the students. The whole school (about 50 students) attended.

The Farmers' Market

Off to the farmers' market,
oh, how fun it will be.
There are so many things to see,
I will not flee.
Honey, flowers, veggies and fruit
are all fresh, local and a treat.
The food vendors and the live
music
Make for a great place to meet.
The farmers' market is a fun
place to stay.
I'll be there all day.
I will spend the whole day
through,
Looking at what the farmers
grew.
It's time for lunch.
Let's find something to munch.
Look at all the henna and tattoos;
So many things to choose!
Let's not make a big fuss,
But it's time to get on the bus.
It's been so much fun,
I'm sad it's done.
Off to home;
I'm going to groan!

Brat Fry Fundraiser Scheduled

By Walter Taylor

Hey Farm Bureau members. Your local organization is hosting two brat fry events to help raise funds that promote agricultural producer programs and visit with you about trending agricultural topics.

Our menu includes Old Wisconsin brats and hot dogs, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and more.

We are serving between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on **Friday, May 31**, and **Friday, June 28**, at Witt's Piggly Wiggly in Oconto Falls. Thank you for your continued support.



Pollinator Habitat Restoration Available

By Walter Taylor, YFA Chair

The Agricultural Education Program at Oconto Falls High School was one of 12 Wisconsin schools awarded habitat restoration grants to establish habitat for imperiled insect pollinators and monarch butterflies.

The Ag Education Department received seedlings of five varieties of perennial wildflowers, a training webinar, consultation and a \$1,000 grant to offset expenses of the project.

FFA members will prepare sites, plant the seedlings and monitor sites during the summer and next year. The project provides an opportunity for supervised agricultural experiences for students studying ecological restoration.

Pollinators are essential for crop pollination and ecological diversity, but the numbers of wild bees and monarch butterflies have dropped, partly because of the loss of native wildflower habitat near farmland, according to Craig Ficenc, Sand County Foundation program director.

In addition to the Sand County Foundation, sponsors include: We Energies Foundation, Syngenta, Bayer Crop Science, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Dairyland Power Cooperative.

For more information, please contact me at Walter.taylor@of-ps.org.

Dairy Revenue Protection Plan Available

By Walter Taylor

American Farm Bureau Insurance Services, Inc. (AFBIS), has a Dairy Revenue Protection (Dairy RP) insurance policy available. This federal crop insurance product was made available for purchase nationwide on October 9, 2018.

AFBIS has worked in collaboration with the American

Farm Bureau Federation since 2016 to bring this risk management tool to the dairy farming community. If you are a dairy farmer, I suggest you take a close look at this program to see if its protection could work for your farm.

For more information, use the QR code or go to www.farmbureauinsuranceservices.com/insurance-plans/livestock-policies/dairy-revenue-protection.



Use this QR code.

Outagamie County

wfbf.com/about/counties/outagamie
OutagamieCountyFarmBureau

A Message from the President ...



Mike Salter
Outagamie County Farm
Bureau president

Ag Day at the Capitol also involves two days for the president and vice president of the county Farm Bureaus to attend the Council

of Presidents. The first half-day was learning from WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Dale Beaty and others about activities that Wisconsin Farm Bureau is doing and also touched on the centennial committee activity.

The second half-day was spent with communication teams, what they do for you, and the success of the county programs. The next morning after breakfast the session dealt with the question of how much should WFBF subsidize state events.

Then we had an update from staff with Rural Mutual Insurance. Another of the interesting things we do is have a closed-door session where

the presidents and vice president can have open door discussion with WFBF President Jim Holte, former Chief Executive Officer of Rural Mutual Insurance Peter Pelizza, and WFBF CAO Dale Beaty. After that, we walked to the Capitol.

Before we went to the Capitol, we had dinner and a legislative briefing session to get us on the same page for action on the hill. One of the top discussions was transportation and increasing the gas tax and eliminating the minimum markup law.

There were talks about agriculture, the budget for the dairy export initiative, the veterinary school and the UW dairy innovation hub proposal. We did discuss \$39.3 million in funding for broadband for rural areas and money for research specialists at UW-Extension.

The county had seven people who attended the event and one of our visits was Senator Robert Cowles office. Our Senator was supportive of our proposals. Next, we visited with Representative Jim Steineke's aid and we got his agreement with our proposals as well.

We concluded that Ag Day at the Capitol



Outagamie County Farm Bureau members discussed ideas with Senator Rob Cowles at Ag Day at the Capitol.

was a great day. It covered a lot of topics and let our legislators know our positions on a lot of different issues. That is the best way to let them know what farmers want accomplished.

I also traveled to Washington, D.C., a week later and talked to our representatives and senators. Most of the discussion was about trade.

The number one issue was with Mexico and Canada, then China. It seems as though anything out there is a stalemate. One won't give in to the other one.

We had a pleasant visit with Senator Baldwin. She was holding a coffee hour and was very talkative and friendly to our needs.

Octoberfest Cream Puffs

By Bernie Vander Heiden

Outagamie Farm Bureau will have a booth on College Avenue in Appleton selling cream puffs and coffee on **Saturday, September 28**. This is our largest fundraiser for the year. Money



Please plan to help with the cream puff fundraiser.

earned helps support the Adventures in Dairyland educational program, 4-H scholarships, FFA programs and the Rural Health Initiative in Outagamie County.

Again this year, we will need volunteers starting at 6 a.m. to set up the booth, cut the puffs, whip cream, fill puffs with cream and sell cream puffs and coffee until 6 p.m. when the event ends.

If you can help, please contact Linda or Bernie Vander Heiden at 920.766.9377 to let us know when you can help and if you have a preference about what you want to do.

Adventures in Dairyland Program

By Kelly Oudenhoven

The Outagamie County Adventures in Dairyland program is starting to wrap up after another successful year.

This past year, we had 25 schools and 1,650 students participate in the program. Some schools are still finishing up their program and will have their farm tours towards the end of May.

We want to thank the volunteer instructors and host farms who take time to teach the program and open their farms to tours. We greatly appreciate it.



In January, Adventures in Dairyland program instructors met for an orientation to the classroom instruction materials.

Breakfast on the Farm

By Kelly Oudenhoven

On **Sunday, June 9**, come to the 33rd annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm at Steffens Family Dairy Farm at N5220 Mullen Road in Seymour.

Attendees will enjoy a hearty egg omelet with cheese and ham, hashbrowns, Wisconsin breakfast ham, a variety of Wisconsin cheeses, a

hearty Manderfields cinnamon roll along with Culver's famous frozen custard.

Families will enjoy a fun morning with farm tours, children's tent, petting zoo, inflatables, entertainment by the local band, 'The Natural Talent (TNT)' and much more.

Advance tickets can be purchased at Don's Quality Market in Seymour, Smith Pharmacy in Little Chute, Freedom Mini-Mart in Freedom,

Simon's Specialty Cheese (the week prior to the breakfast) and Fox Communities Credit Union locations.

For more information or if you want to volunteer, please contact Kelly Oudenhoven at 920.378.4744. Hope to see you there.



Shawano County

wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano
ShawanoCountyFarmBureau

A Message from the President ...

Neil Christianson

Shawano County Farm Bureau president

As I write this president's report, the weatherman is talking about more snow, what in the world is Mother Nature thinking?

The walleye and sturgeon are running looking out my back door and the game wardens are running, so spring should be close.

Shawano County Farm Bureau is busy preparing for the Brunch on the Farm and I want to thank the Goers Family for hosting the event. This year marks the Goers Family Farm sesquicentennial celebration.

We also are planning a trip to the Farm



Goers Farm in Gresham will host Brunch on the Farm on Sunday, June 23.

Technology Days on **Wednesday, July 24**. We will take a coach bus to the event. Specific details about the trip are in this newsletter. I hope you can attend and join in the fun.

Now, it's time to pick on my Norwegian



The Brunch on the Farm committee members visited the farm to plan the lay out of the 2019 event.

heritage. Ole started a farm implement business and proudly advertised in the local paper, "We stand behind all our implements – with the exception of the manure spreaders."

Shawano County 62nd Agricultural Awards Banquet

By Tammy Styczynski

Jeff Styczynski emceed the Agricultural Awards Banquet that was held on April 12 at The Main Event in Cecil. Thankfully the bad weather ended before the event. Guests and former participants were introduced.

The Tree Farmer of the Year was awarded to Kathi Polzin who owns and maintains 151 acres of woodlands.

The Second Miler was awarded to Gary Retzlaff for his years of dedicated service to the Shawano County Fair Board and the 4-H

Livestock Committee.

Soil and Conservation award recipient went to Arnold Peterson who has implemented many practices on their families 223-acre farm in the township of Belle Plaine.

Caroline Bartz, a 4-H youth, presented three farm related poems that were very meaningful.

Scholarships were presented to area youth. Receiving Farm Bureau scholarships were: Noah Bestul, Cassy Bonnin, Brooke Breitricke, Eli Magee, Kaitlin Pescinski, Ashlyn Schnell and Shantell Shoopke.

The Forage Council presented scholarships to

Shantell Shoopke and Adam Strassburg.

The Farm Progress Days Scholarship recipients were Cassy Bonnin, Eli Magee and Ashlyn Schnell.

Eli Magee talked about the Discussion Meet. He placed first during the FFA sectional rounds and will compete at state in June.

The Friend of Ag was awarded to Olmsted Trucking, Don and Charlotte and their staff for their continued service, support and friendship to the farming community and their patrons.

Lastly, the Outstanding Young Farmer recipient was Matt Goers of Goers Family Dairy. Matt farms with his brother, Jeff, and parents David and Marilyn Goers in the township of Richmond. Their farm is celebrating 150 years.

His passion for the dairy industry shined through as he addressed the crowd on his story of being 'just a farmer.' Matt purchased his first registered Holstein heifer calf in 2007. They milk 220 Holsteins and crop 550 acres.

He and his family invite everyone to their farm as they host Shawano County Brunch on the Farm on June 23.



2019 Shawano Ag Awards winners.



Shawano scholarship recipients.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Results

By Renee Schmidt

There were 56 essays submitted from three different classes in two Shawano County schools.

The essay topic this year was, 'Making it Happen at the Farmers' Market.'

The Shawano County Farm Bureau Women's Committee had a difficult

time selecting the top three winners from the wonderful entries.

The first place was awarded to Austin Heling, a fourth-grade student at St. James School in Shawano.

Second place went to Carson Kolaske, a fourth-grade student at St. Paul Lutheran School in Bonduel.

Third Place was awarded to Jeffrey Jagodzinski, a fifth-grade student at St.

Paul Lutheran School in Bonduel.

Austin received a plant starter kit and his class received an ice cream social on April 26, put on by the Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to the students who entered the contest.



Austin Heling is the Shawano County essay contest winner.



Renee Schmidt of the Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee talked about agriculture and farmers' markets with Mrs. Hinz's class at St. James School in Shawano.



Students could make their own ice cream sundae with a buffet of toppings to choose from.



All the students in Mrs. Hinz's class at St. James School submitted an essay this year, earning the class an ice cream social.



Essay contestants enjoy their ice cream social sponsored by the Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee.

Farm Bureau Women's Committee Report

By Angie Schultz, Women's Committee chair

Last January, the Shawano women's committee put on several sessions for the Shawano County 4-H Super Saturday event.

The favorite was the pizza project where the kids made their own personal pizza. They learned about the farm origin of each ingredient as they made their pizza and came away with an appreciation of where their food comes from and how important farmers are in their lives.

At our April committee meeting, along with selecting the top three county essay contest winners, we collected items to donate to the Ronald McDonald House in Milwaukee.

Along with the many needed household essentials we collected, we decided to donate a couple of the Ag in the Classroom resource books.

Many of the families using the facility have children who may be able to learn about agriculture as they read for entertainment.



At the April meeting, the Shawano County Farm Bureau Women's Committee collected items and books to donate to the Ronald McDonald House.

Road Maintenance Issue Update

By Casey H. Beyersdorf, Waupaca County Highway Commissioner

Welcome back Farm Bureau readers. The Waupaca County Highway Department takes great pride as a Public Works Service Department for our residents, visitors and those just passing through.

February's weather gave us lots of snow and lots of cold icy mornings.

This year in particular, I received a lot of thanks from many people. We owe lots of thanks our snow plow drivers, mechanics and staff. But let's talk summer and try to get the winter behind us.

2019 Construction Projects

County Trunk Highway W – U.S. Highway 45 to State Highway 96

This project will receive its second mat of asphalt, shouldering and striping. This will conclude a big project in the southeast corner of Waupaca County.

County Trunk Highway T – Collier Road to County Highway N

Located more central-east Waupaca County, we're finishing a big project by placing the second mat of asphalt, shouldering and striping.

County Trunk Highway Q – Round Lake to State Highway 54

Moving to the southwest portion of the county, west of the City of Waupaca. This again is finishing up a project by placing the second mat of asphalt, shouldering and striping.

New Highway Facility Construction

County crews are the main earthwork and paving contractors at this site. November's freeze halted earthwork construction, but now when the weather breaks, we'll be back at it. Contractors throughout the winter made tremendous progress in getting much of the buildings erected. Both the county and contractors on-site still have work ahead of them. We want to occupy it in November of 2019.

Waupaca County's fine paving crew will be busy until the end of the 2019 construction season. The roadway in front of the facility also will

be reconstructed to add turn lanes and help increase vision at driveway entrances.

County Highway P – State Highway 49 to Shawano County Line

Now we're at the northwest corner of the County. Asphalt prices and budgets are going to limit our department to finish this all in one entire year, but for sure we're going to pulverize and repave a section of the five miles of road. Depending on the location of the asphalt source, we'll decide which section to do first. We'd like to minimize construction equipment traveling in 2020 over any new asphalt placed this year in 2019.

County Trunk I – U.S. Highway 45 to Kluth Road

Our largest road construction project of the year. The existing roadway will be widened and repaved. A detour is planned using County Highway Y and State Highway 156 around the north side of Clintonville. This project is going to take off after we're done with the new highway facility project.

We've got loads of washouts, tree branches to be cut up, potholes, painting and ditching on our existing system that will fill in the time voids from our big projects. We are the state's prime maintenance contractor and will be doing some crack filling on State Highway 54. In addition, our crews will be working on U.S. 10 sealing the bridge decks.

There are things that we're doing to plan for our future that ties up dollars in the same budget we use to fix our roads. Those projects are more geared around Engineering Services for Roadway and Bridge Design.

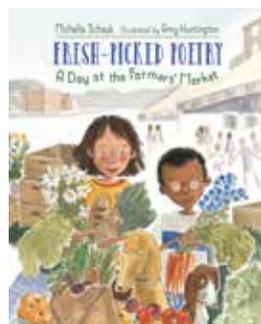
Plans are in the works for County Highway N going east out of Manawa.

The County Highway B Bridge in Scandinavia is being designed this year and so is County Highway BB Bridge northwest of Royalton. Construction for those bridges will be in 2022.

Let's keep the road workers safety in mind when passing through our construction zones.

Ag in the Classroom Report

By Kari Riley, Ag in the Classroom coordinator



The Waupaca County Farm Bureau purchased and donated 10 copies of the latest Wisconsin Ag In the Classroom Book of the Year entitled, "Fresh

Picked Poetry," to the public libraries in the Outagamie Waupaca Library System.

I received some very uplifting thank you notes from some of the library staff. Sue Abrahamson, the youth services liaison wrote, "Thank you so much for your continued support toward literacy, especially as it relates to agriculture. The Waupaca County public libraries are proud to add

"Fresh Picked Poetry" to their collections.

Your annual gift is much appreciated. It's great to know our rural neighbors are building advocacy for libraries and literacy."

I also received a note from Katherine Freund, the youth librarian. She wrote, "Thank you so much for donating the adorable children's book, "Fresh Picked Poetry." Our patrons are going to love it!"

I'm looking forward to seeing what the next Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year will be. We'll find out later this summer.

Earlier this year, the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture selected a book titled, "Right This Very Minute" as their Book of the Year.

The book takes children through their daily breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner and shows them how, "right this very minute" there is a farmer growing, harvesting or storing that food item that is on their plate.

Centennial Celebrations

By Meredith Bowers, vice president

I have taken on the task of highlighting 2019 as the WFBF centennial year with some displays and activities in the county.

At this point, we have a number of ideas, but we have not made any plans yet.

One thing I think will be part of the festivities will be a recognition of some of our members who have been with us the longest at our county annual meeting this fall.

It's interesting to note that in 1921, Waupaca County Farm Bureau was one of 10 new county Farm Bureau organizations to join with the original 15 counties that had formed the Wisconsin Farm Bureau the year before. Our local roots go a long way back.

I'd say that is something worth recognizing and celebrating.





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- Shawano County
- Waupaca County

Growing Farm Safety Traditions in Wisconsin



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

Review farm safety tips and resources at
RuralMutual.com/farmsafety

