

Grassroots

District 3 News

Farm Bureau Is Working for YOU



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Greetings from wet and soggy Vernon County.

It's been another challenging spring for all. Grain and milk prices seem to be headed in the right direction though.

The lawn needs mowing about every other day and I almost have time because the fields are unfit to plant. Hay should be mowed, but how does anyone get it put up?

Farm Bureau staff and the board continue to work on the policy you as members adopted. Water quality issues are taking significant time as is the new state budget. We have been busy with the Innovation Hub Proposal and funding for Integrated Research Specialists, along with roads and bridges. We continue to address dairy prices, wildlife damage, road safety, hemp and other issues of importance to our members.

Your state board has met with the new Secretaries of Transportation, DATCP and DNR. We have shared concerns and priorities with each and hope to build strong relationships with each of them and their respective staffs.

In June, I traveled with board members and WFBF staff to Washington, D.C. We met with the Environmental Protection Agency and National Milk and U.S. Dairy Export Council staff, as well as visited Capitol Hill to discuss trade, immigration, WOTUS, and options for delayed planting problems.

On the insurance side, the transition of Dan Merk to CEO has been great. Claims have returned to a more normal amount after significant collapse claims in early spring. Rural Mutual's new hemp insurance is making the company a pioneer in coverage of hemp. We continue to see policy growth and hope to be able to declare a dividend again this year.

Hope to see many of you out and about this summer. Please contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and stay informed.

Orth Selected for National Farm Bureau Program



Derek Orth, a Grant County Farm Bureau member, was chosen to participate in the American Farm Bureau's tenth class of the Partners in Agricultural

Leadership honors program along with nine other young leaders. PAL is designed to help agricultural leaders accelerate their leadership abilities and solidify their roles as advocates for agriculture.

Derek and his wife, Charisse, farm with his parents on their dairy, Orthridge Jerseys, in Grant County. The couple are proud parents to two young daughters, Zeeva and Jaylee. Derek is a former WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair, WFBF Leadership Institute graduate and AFBF Young Farmer & Rancher Committee member.

He serves on the Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors and as chair of the WFBF Dairy Committee.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected for this opportunity," Orth said. "I

am eager to make new connections while learning and refining skills to make me a stronger advocate for the industry I love – agriculture."

"Farm Bureau is equipping young leaders for effective engagement," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "The members of the new PAL class are already elite leaders. We look forward to seeing them progress to the highest levels of agricultural advocacy."

To be eligible for the PAL program, applicants must be between the ages of 30 and 45, with demonstrated leadership skills.

PAL training involves four learning modules designed to develop specific advocacy skills while exploring components of leadership and its theories and philosophies.

The modules build on one another during the two years of the program and include intense, in-person, hands-on training. Graduates emerge with experience and confidence in legislative policy-making, issues management, social media and media relations.

The PAL program is sponsored by AFBF, Farm Credit and Bayer Company.

To find out more about the PAL program, visit www.fb.org.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner



Ag Day on Campus was hosted by the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville on April 16. Collegiate members organized a day full of activities to promote the agriculture industry and share information with other students and faculty. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy delicious Wisconsin made snacks, participate in sheep shearing demonstrations, visit farm animals and learn more about agriculture.

Farm Bureau Members Stress the Importance of Water Quality

Water quality has been a hot topic in the news recently and seems to have everyone talking. Wisconsin Farm Bureau has actively been engaged in these discussions and continues to play a leading role in the conversation.

In April, WFBF President, Jim Holte, testified in front of the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. He stressed the importance of engaging farmers in discussions about water quality because of their continued commitment to implementing practices that protect and preserve natural resources, including water.

President Holte emphasized that farmers' have a longstanding commitment to water quality. He highlighted four main themes revolving around farming and water quality. Those areas included: farmers are stewards of the land and

are continuously improving their methods, farmers support research, farmers are committed to participating in the regulatory process and there is an ongoing need for scientific studies including on-farm data collection.

Holte reminded the task force that, "Wisconsin farmers live on the land that they farm. Arguably, there isn't anyone who cares more about water quality than those who are immediately impacted by it."

The Speaker's Task Force hosted a public hearing on May 8 in Lancaster. Several District 3 Farm Bureau members were in attendance to share their thoughts and support of agriculture. Grant County members, Derek Orth and TJ Roth, and Iowa County members, Laura Daniels and Kyle Levetzow, each prepared

a two-minute testimony. They stressed how important water is to their livelihood and shared the methods and practices they use on their farms to ensure good water quality.

Whether it's representing our members on a water-related committee or testifying, WFBF is engaged in the water conversation and participating in every opportunity possible. This is not a brief discussion, but it will continue to evolve through this year and the future. Farm Bureau members are encouraged to get involved with a local watershed, engage with nearby environmental groups, and attend water-related meetings in your areas.

As farmers and agriculturists, it is essential to be engaged in the topic of water quality.



Derek Orth

"As a husband and father of two young daughters, I know that it is my responsibility to protect the water and always do my

best to prevent anything from hurting the water that me, my wife, my daughters and all of you drink.

A few of the things we are doing on our farm to protect the environment are contour strips and cover crops. Contour strips were created and are still used today to prevent the dirt, seeds and fertilizer, both commercial and manure, on these fields from flowing down the hill. We also have terraces and waterways to prevent erosion and keep what we put in the fields, in the fields. More and more farmers are using cover crops to protect the environment and improve sustainability and profitability. By planting seeds in the fall to hold the soil in place we are preventing erosion and also have more feed to feed our livestock in the spring."



Laura Daniels

"Farmers want to be part of the solution. We are just as concerned about the quality of our water as our neighbors. Our families and herds are dependent on

the clean bountiful water resource here in southwestern Wisconsin.

At our farm we have continually invested in water quality and conservation projects. It is the right thing to do. But we don't have all the solutions or the answers. We need continued research to help discover new ways to do better. I am especially supportive of practical programs like the Discovery Farms and farmer-led water shed groups. Farmers want to see research tested in real-world situations.

Also, we need help with cost sharing projects to improve our practices, like additional waterways and grass filter buffer strips, among others. It's no secret all of agriculture is suffering now. It's hard to think green when your business is in the red."



TJ Roth

"We can all agree that no one wants to be the cause of a problem. It was mentioned several times in the public testimony that once an aquifer is polluted, it cannot be fixed. Also stated was that in the previous well study of 1986, there was less than one or two percent change. To me, that states that in the last 23 years our stewardship has drastically improved. If there is a solution that won't regulate farms out of business, I'm all for it. But if we're going to just throw money at a problem caused 20 years ago to satisfy a certain group of people, I'm not for that."



Kyle Levetzow

"As a dairy farmer, my farms water must be tested for quality on a regular basis to maintain our Grade A license. Water quality is extremely important to me for feeding our livestock and growing our crops. Milk is 80 percent water after all."

Ag LEAD Summit Brings Members Together to Talk about Advocating

On March 8 and 9, more than 120 farmers and agriculture advocates joined together at the first-ever Ag LEAD Summit in Appleton. District 3 members Alex Bringe, Lori Brown, Deanne Hromadka, Janice Johnsrud, Mary Jo Johnsrude, Katie Roth, Tammy Wiedenbeck and Megan Yager were in attendance.

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 life on the farm.

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 great insight to our members to better connect with food 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 in Wisconsin, our attendees are well-equipped to be better advocates for our industry."

Ag LEAD stands for leadership, engagement,



advocacy and development. The summit gives 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 is co-sponsor of the Ag LEAD Summit, which takes place on a biennial basis.

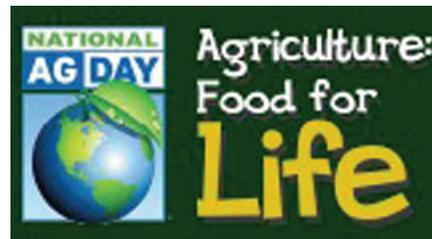
Members Celebrate National Ag Day

On March 14, farmers and agriculturists joined WFBF and Ag in the Classroom Program in celebrating National Ag Day. The theme was, 'Agriculture: Food for Life.'

WFBF hosted a #WIAgProud campaign on social media. Members shared photos holding a #WIAgProud sign on social media and why they are proud to be a farmer or proud of the work that farmers do.

A live agricultural career panel was held on Facebook to target high school and college students who want to learn more about careers in agriculture. The panel consisted of Justin Doyle, an agriculture teacher, beef farmer and auctioneer; Christina Meylor, a pig farmer; and Tory Lobdell, an agriculture teacher.

Livia Doyle, a fourth-grade teacher at Mineral Point Elementary School, read the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's book of the year "Right This Very Minute" on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's Facebook page. Classrooms, home school groups, day care centers and others with young learners were encouraged to listen and ask questions via livestream.



District 3 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. Members from all District 3 counties attended.

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 Forward Janesville, Inc., Vice President of Government Relations and Education 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," WFBF President Jim 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 DACTP help farmers in whatever way it can.

After legislative issue briefings by various 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."



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 YFA Committee Representative

Since February, many YFA members had the opportunity to attend some great Farm Bureau events.

On March 8-9, the Ag LEAD Summit was held in Appleton. Thank you to the county Farm Bureaus that sponsored members to attend this great learning experience. The

speakers covered topics such as: Advocating for agriculture, the grocery industry, mental health, GMOs, consumer education and legislation.

Some statistics I found interesting were:

- Nearly two out of every three people have a positive impression of agriculture.
- Only 30 percent of people strongly agree that farmers take good care of the environment.
- 65 percent of people are interested in knowing more about where their food comes from.
- 'Free from' labels will grow 15 to 20 percent in the next year.

One of the keynote speakers, Donna Moenning, left us with a quote that said, "Where there is an abundance of food, there are always issues. Where there is no food, there is just one question, "When do I get to eat?"

A week later, Wisconsin was very fortunate to host the nationwide AFBF FUSION Conference on March 15-18 in Milwaukee. I am very grateful to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for sponsoring the WFBF YFA Committee to attend. The session tracks included: Business and rural development, consumer engagement, member engagement, on the farm, public policy and advocacy, technology and young professionals. I enjoyed learning more details on tax law, writing agriculture-based books, farm transition, financial tools and Amazon.

Some of the helpful tools that were presented for farm businesses were: QuickBooks Online, Excel on Google Drive, Receipt Bank, Expensify, Mile IQ, Scan to Drive, Slack and T Sheets. I also found the session about Amazon Go and Amazon Fresh very interesting. Amazon Fresh had \$2.4 billion in sales in 2019 and expects to grow to \$100 billion by 2025. Amazon online will eliminate 70 percent of its staffing needs.

Other activities at the FUSION Conference were the Collegiate Discussion Meet, keynote speakers like Jim Morris (his story is told in the blockbuster film from Walt Disney, The Rookie, starring Dennis Quaid) and Redmond Remos (a combat medic from the U.S. Marines who lost his left leg) and 21 tours (I toured the new Wisconsin Discovery Center).

On March 23, we held the third annual Southwest Shindig. The event included a DJ, karaoke, bean bag tournament, euchre, giant connect four, food, drinks and plenty of door prizes to be given away. I want to thank everyone who donated prizes and helped plan or volunteer their time. It could not have been done without everyone's support.

Make sure to save the date for this year's District 3 Night on the Farm and YFA Discussion Meet on **Sunday, July 28**, at Majestic View Dairy in Lancaster. Join us for an evening of fun on the farm, socializing with your fellow Farm Bureau members. The whole family is welcome. There will be a tour and hayride at 6 p.m., followed by a potluck supper at 7 p.m. and Discussion Meet at 7:30 p.m.

I hope to see you at some of our upcoming events and wish everyone the best with this year's planting season.



District 3 Night on the Farm & YFA Discussion Meet

DATE: Sunday, July 28

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Tour & Hayride
7:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Discussion Meet

LOCATION: Majestic View Dairy
5532 Commercial Road
Lancaster

Question to be discussed:

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?

For questions, to participate or RSVP, contact District 3 YFA Representative, Tammy Wiedenbeck, at 608.732.7431 or wiede51@hotmail.com or District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle, at 608.574.9884 or mdoyle@wfbf.com.



Promotion and Education Update



Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Summer is finally here. A time for dairy breakfasts, steak suppers and appreciation dinners. It feels good to converse

with those who understand agriculture; however, I challenge you while out and about to thank those who buy your products or support your business.

As a dairy farmer, I make it a habit to thank at least one person at the supermarket for buying dairy products. At first it feels awkward I will admit, but people love to be appreciated and thanked. It means something to a consumer.

Thank you to the counties in District 3 for participating in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The theme was 'Making it Happen at the Farmers' Market' and we had a record breaking 187 essays. Lilly Houtakker, a fourth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary School, was honored as the district winner. The breakdown of essays received from each county is as follows: Grant - 16, Iowa - 57, Lafayette - 26, Crawford - 57, Richland - 17 and Vernon - 14. The state winner is from District 1.

Summer is a great time to refresh and relax while learning about agriculture. In July, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is hosting its annual bus tour and two, one-day trainings for teachers and volunteers. Attendees will learn to incorporate agricultural concepts into their curricula, network with fellow educators and obtain free resources for students and classrooms. Teachers of all grade levels and subject areas including home school parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

For more information on any of these training opportunities, contact the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or darneson@wfbf.com or visit wisagclassroom.org and click on the 'What's New' icon.

The District 3 Promotion and Education event, Behind the Scenes: Groceries, Trees, and Cheese, has been tentatively rescheduled for **Saturday, November 2**. Join us for a tour of Fennimore's new grocery store, Bender's Foods, to learn about marketing strategies and the role farmers and consumers play in the retail chain. Next travel to Cook's Woods, a former grain and hog farm that has transitioned into a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm. A stop at Carr Valley Cheese will round out the day for those wishing to do some sampling and visit the gift shop. Stay tuned for more details.

Wishing everyone a safe and bright summer.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners Selected

The county Ag in the Classroom essay contest winners, included:

Crawford: Robbie Dowd, Seneca Area Schools

Grant: Walker Klein, Cassville Elementary School

Iowa: Lilly Houtakker, Mineral Point Elementary School

Lafayette: Marta Roelli, Holy Rosary School

Richland: Age Bosworth, Jefferson Elementary School

Vernon: Jaycee Sandry, Prairie View Elementary School



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.'

Lilly Houtakker, a fourth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary School, also was selected as the District 3 Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner.

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. This contest is open to students across the state. A total of 2,064 students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and We Energies.

The finalist from each of Farm Bureau's nine districts received a certificate, educational resources for their teacher and a presentation about Wisconsin agriculture for their class.



Lilly Houtakker's winning essay.

What's at a Farmers' Market

Beep, beep, beep, beep. Wake up! It's time to go. The farmers' market is on a roll. You're up and ready in the car. Are you ready? Because we are!

In my community our local farmers' market is located at Water Tower Park every Saturday. When we arrive to the park, we see our favorite vegetable farmer, Farmer Charles. His table is filled with many produce items, all the colors of the rainbow! Tomatoes, carrots, corn, cucumbers, blueberries, beets and so much more decorate his display.

Next, we visit our favorite mushroom farmer, Farmer Bill, who always tells us what each type of mushroom is called. "That's right!" he'll say, "Those are called morel mushrooms. My favorite! Would you like to try one?" I try one and think they are awesome. He smiles. I read the labels on the other baskets. We see oyster mushrooms, chanterelles, lobster mushrooms, giant puffball mushrooms and maitakes.

Once we leave Farmer Bill, we find fruit farmer Ally. We see so many delicious fruits like, apples, plums, pears, kiwi, watermelon, blueberries, blackberries, cherries and raspberries. I talk with her, buy some produce and thank her for her hard work!

Next, we visit Baker Abby. Her pastries are the best in the world! She always has the most mouthwatering pastries every time I visit her. She always has brownies, muffins, Kringles, donuts, cheesecake, pies and cinnamon rolls. I buy a Kringle from Baker Abby and then move on to purchase honey straws for everyone in my family.

Now, we have everything we need from the Farmers' Market. I head back to the car, hop in and we drive home. I hope you take the time to visit your local farmers' markets just like I did!

Chapters Attend FFA Farm Forum

More than 225 high school juniors from around Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 15-16. FFA chapters from District 3 that were represented included: Cuba City, La Farge, River Ridge, River Valley and Viroqua.

"This event is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA," said WFBF President Jim Holte. "Young ag leaders who attend this event participate in professional development activities, explore ag careers and learn about current issues facing agriculture while networking with their peers and Farm Bureau staff."

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended workshops on post-secondary agricultural opportunities, social media, agricultural advocacy and leadership. Other keynote speakers were Alison Wedig, Lafayette County Farm Bureau member and marketing specialist for 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. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 47th time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.



Congratulations

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

GRANT COUNTY

BLAKE CRUBEL | RIVER RIDGE
BLAKE WEGMULLER | RIVER RIDGE
BRANDON WEIGEL | PLATTEVILLE

IOWA COUNTY

NATHAN DANIELS | IOWA GRANT
ZACKARY EATON | PECATONICA
BREE GAFFNEY | BARNEVELD
REBECCA GILBERTSON | RIVER VALLEY
MCKENNA REICHLING | MINERAL POINT
CADE STEFFES | MINERAL POINT

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

ZACH WIEGEL | SHULLSBURG

VERNON COUNTY

MARTHA HAUGEN | WESTBY
LEXI WAGEMESTER | VIROQUA



2019 DISTRICT 3 COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

RILEY BROTHERS ANGUS
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: MIKE HARMS
608.574.7807

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

VERNON COUNTY

LOCATION TBD
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: ROBERT NIGH
608.606.4319

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

IOWA COUNTY

HI POINT STEAKHOUSE
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN
608.574.4565

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

CRAWFORD COUNTY

SENECA TOWN HALL
7:30PM DINNER | 8PM MEETING
RSVP: DON BROWN
608.872.2331

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

GRANT COUNTY

YOUTH & AG CENTER
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: PETER WINCH
608.822.7806

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

RICHLAND COUNTY

WHITE HOUSE RAMADA
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: GERMAINE HYING
608.739.3367



ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THEIR
RESPECTIVE COUNTY MEETING.

Dairy Breakfast Kicks Off June Dairy Month

On July 1, about 2,300 people attended the Crawford County Dairy Breakfast at the Riley Family Farm near Mount Zion.

Breakfast included all you can eat pancakes, sausage links, applesauce, cheese, pudding, ice cream and more. Attendees kicked off June Dairy Month with great food,

entertainment, games and door prizes all while enjoying the atmosphere of a Wisconsin dairy farm.

Several Crawford County Farm Bureau members volunteered at the event, while neighboring county Farm Bureau members showed their support and enjoyed a hearty breakfast.



County Leaders Attend Council of Presidents



In March, District 3 county presidents and vice presidents were invited to the 2019 Council of Presidents meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Those in attendance met with county leaders from around the state to network, generate new ideas and discuss WFBF business. Pictured (from left): Vernon County President, Robert Nigh; Grant County President, Allen Johnson; Grant County Vice President, Peter Winch; Iowa County President, Krista Dolan; and Crawford County President, Don Brown.


CRAWFORD COUNTY
FARM BUREAU
SUMMER
PICNIC
THURSDAY, JULY 18
EASTMAN PARK | 7:30PM
JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT FULL OF FOOD, FRIENDS, AND FARM BUREAU UPDATES. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS AND TABLE SERVICE.

CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR
DAIRY
BAR
AUGUST 22ND - 25TH
While you're at the Crawford County Fair, be sure to stop by the Farm Bureau Dairy Bar for an ice cream treat and a slice of pie! If you'd like to donate a pie, please contact a Crawford County Farm Bureau board member or simply drop it off at the fair.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR WEBSITE AT CRAWFORDCOUNTYWISCONSINFAIR.COM.

Farm Bureau: Make Your Voice Heard



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Greetings from northeastern Grant County.

Our kids are busy with their 4-H projects and getting their animals ready for the fair.

Since we are talking about the fair, I want to remind you that Grant County Farm Bureau has a food stand at the Grant

County Fair, August 15-18. The food stand committee works hard to provide a quality meal for a reasonable price. We offer burgers, brat patties, pork chop sandwiches, hot dogs, pie, bars, milk, lemonade and ice cream.

We are looking for help from our members at the food stand. If we all put in a little time, it makes it easier for everyone. If interested in helping, please contact me at 608.822.7806 or sign up online at bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand.

Even if you are only available to help for a couple hours, it is still very helpful. You even get a free meal. Money raised from our food stand helps support local Farm Bureau activities and other events in the area that we sponsor. We have contributed to the Grant County Rural Safety Day for many years. This event teaches young kids about hazards on farms and proper safety practices.

Make sure to save the date for the Grant County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Tuesday, September 24, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. You will receive a postcard with more details in September. The meal will start at 7 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

During the annual meeting, we will start the grassroots process of voting on resolutions to be forwarded to the state to help the directors, staff and lobbyist provide a clear statement of what Farm Bureau stands for. The Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 5**, at the Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. All members are welcome to attend.

Again, all Farm Bureau policy starts locally. If passed it is forwarded to the state and possibly on to the American Farm Bureau Federation. It really goes to show you that we can have a voice in what's going on. If you have any topics that you want to discuss regarding policy development, I encourage you to attend these upcoming meetings and make your voice heard. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Being a Farm Bureau member not only makes your voice about agriculture stronger, it gives you lots of money saving benefits. Through our partnerships with many companies you can save on parts, hotels, office products, tractors, equipment, ATVs, UTVs, lawn mowers and other items.

Not only do you save money, but WFBF receives benefits based on how much members use the discounts. It's a win-win. With the use of a few benefits, you'll receive the cost of your membership back many times over.

The 'voice' of Farm Bureau is very strong at the state capitol. There is a lot of talk about water quality in the state and our county. We have a seat at the table for discussions, which is very important. There is a lot of testing and discussions that are taking place that may change our farming practices. We need to be sure that agriculture is not blamed for water issues and that a science-based approach is taken. There will be a lot of discussion on what should be done in the next year as the tri-county water study is finished.

Have a safe summer.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

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

We hope everyone is having a good spring despite all this rain we've been getting. The Grant County YFA planned some fun events this winter. The annual Dubuque Fighting Saints hockey game was a blast. This year, we did things a little different and got reserved seats. It was fun being right up next to the ice. We will continue to do this for future games.

In March, the third annual Southwest Shindig was held at Vesperman Farms. Guests enjoyed a bags tournament, trivia game, a DJ and door prizes. It was a great night.

Mark your calendars. The Grant County Fair is **August 15-18**. The YFA will continue to run the Youth Ag Tent. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, tear down and overseeing the tent during the fair. Do you know of any college students that are pursuing degrees in agriculture or anyone else that enjoys educating people about the agriculture industry? This is a great opportunity to do so.

To volunteer, contact Jackie Seelow at jackie.seelow@gmail.com or Paige Hampton at paige.hampton1358@gmail.com. All help will be greatly appreciated.

If you have questions about YFA or any of the events, please contact us. We hope you have a fun and safe summer.



GRANT COUNTY FAIR
AUGUST 15-18

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the Grant County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Daily shifts are:
10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm,
and 6pm-10pm.

If interested in helping, contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806 or sign up online at bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand.

Promotion and Education Update

By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Even though the wet weather has kept spring planting progress at a crawl, it has been a busy spring for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee.

The 4-H Farm Gard event was held on May 17 at the Leix Dairy Farm. More than 100 fourth-grade students from Mineral Point and Iowa Grant schools attended. Iowa County Farm Bureau led an activity



called, 'Snacking Around Wisconsin.' Students learned about products made in Wisconsin while making a snack mix to take home. It was well received.



On May 24, District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Doyle, and myself visited Mrs. Doyle's fourth-grade classroom at Mineral Point Elementary School. In honor of May Beef Month, we handed out beef snack sticks to the students and talked about beef farming.



This year, Iowa County Farm Bureau awarded six \$250 scholarships to high school seniors. The recipients were: Nathan Daniels, Zackary Eaton, Bree Gaffney, Rebecca Gilbertson, McKenna Reichling and Cade Steffes. Best of luck to them as they continue their education.

Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 34th consecutive year on **July 13-14** in Dodgeville. A variety of activities are being planned for the weekend. On Saturday night, we are teaming up with Upland Hills Health for their annual Sip & Savor event at Harris Park. The night will feature tasty food and drinks from the best restaurants, bakeries, breweries and wineries in southwest Wisconsin.

Music will be provided by Shekinah King and the Alpha Romeos will provide a fun and social atmosphere before the spectacular City of Dodgeville fireworks show. Sunday will kick off with a parade through Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, activities and food at Harris Park. Again this year, members of the UW Marching Band will be participating in the parade and performing at the Ley Memorial Pavilion during the afternoon festivities.

We hope you will join us for this event to show your appreciation for our hard-working farmers and agriculture community.



For more information, visit www.farmersappreciationday.com. Be safe and have a wonderful summer.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Jackie McCarville, Iowa County YFA Committee Chair

The Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members have had a busy spring and are gearing up for a fun summer ahead.



Many members attended the third annual Southwest Shindig in March at Vesperman Farms. Music, games, food and beverages made for an entertaining night.

At the end of June, we are trying something new. We are partnering with Grant and Lafayette counties to attend the America's River Festival in Dubuque. The lineup includes: Elizabeth Mary, BlackHawk and Clint Black. It should be a great night full of music and socializing with YFA members.

Thank you to those who have attended our events. We hope to see more new faces with each activity we do. YFA events are a great time to meet new people with shared interests in agriculture. All event and activity details will be shared on the Iowa County Farm Bureau Facebook page. Please check the page regularly for updates.

Have an enjoyable summer.

Join the Grassroots Process

Mark your calendars for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, August 19**.

The event will be held in the Community Room at the Health and Human Services Building in Dodgeville. A meal will be provided.

This meeting gives members an opportunity to make their voice heard and develop resolutions to be voted on at the county annual meeting.

To learn more about the grassroots policy development process and issues of interest, visit www.wfbf.com and click on the 'Policy' tab.

FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY
JULY 13-14
DODGEVILLE | HARRIS PARK
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A DETAILED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS VISIT WWW.FARMERSAPPRECIATIONDAY.COM.

Thank You For Your Membership



Mike Harms

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Lafayette County Farm Bureau has made great strides during the past few years in regard to membership. Again this year, we made the early bird membership goal and are working towards a membership gain. We welcome our new members and thank you for your continued commitment to Farm Bureau.

This spring has been rough on farmers with the weather and the commodity prices. We are finally getting a weather break and crops are being planted.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau was proud to sponsor Day at the Dairy this year. The event was held at Darlington Ridge Farms on May 9. Fourth-grade students and teachers participated in a mock milking station, learned about nutrition and careers in agriculture, and saw what life is like on a Wisconsin dairy farm.

We have several activities happening this summer. Stop by or volunteer to help at our food stand at the Lafayette County Fair on July 10-14. We also invite you to attend the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Golf Outing on July 26 and the annual meeting on September 10.

Have a safe and fun summer.

Ag in the Classroom in Action



Marta Roelli, a fourth-grade student from Holy Rosary School, was selected as the Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner. She received several special rewards, as well as an ice cream party for her class. Congratulations Marta.



Shullsburg FFA Chapter was selected as one of the recipients of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Food for America Jump Start Grant. The chapter received \$400 to use towards an upcoming project that will help other students learn about agriculture. Pictured (from left): Shullsburg FFA Advisor Jennifer Russell and Madison Russell.



LAFAYETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

GOLF OUTING

WHEN: FRIDAY, JULY 26

WHERE: DARLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB

WHY: ALL PROCEEDS HELP FUND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS.

**SCHEDULE: 9AM REGISTRATION
10AM MORNING SHOTGUN START
12PM LUNCH & DOOR PRIZES
1PM AFTERNOON SHOTGUN START**

FOR REGISTRATION & HOLE SPONSOR INFORMATION, CONTACT: TIM APPELL AT 608.778.6062.

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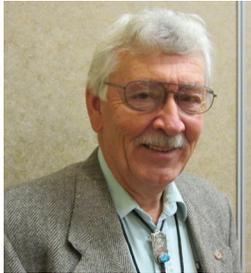


LAFAYETTE COUNTY FAIR
JULY 10-14 | DARLINGTON

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Sign up online at bit.ly/lafayettecountyfoodstand or contact Christina Benson at 815.275.4400.

Celebrating the Past and Looking Forward to the Future



Dick Hauser
Richland County Farm
Bureau President

Many of us tend to complain about the weather from time to time. For those who have your crops in, great, and for the rest, all I can say is I understand as I have never been so far behind. It is easy to feel down and hopefully time will eventually make things better.

On a brighter note Wisconsin Farm Bureau

is celebrating 100 years of service and is looking forward to the next 100. I do not have access to the history of Richland County Farm Bureau (make note to self to find) for the purpose of review, so I will confine my remarks to looking forward.

With some newer, younger members on the board of directors comes a fresh perspective. Additional activity and involvement will make the organization more vibrant and relevant to the members in Richland County. Progress will take time.

With the start of the second 100 years of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau it will be a great time for the Richland County Farm Bureau to renew

its commitment to representing the needs of our farmers. To carry the concerns of regulations to our political representatives and to present needs and opportunities as well. Farm Bureau has in the past always been a grassroots organization and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future.

The Richland County board of directors is extending an invitation to each and every member to contact us with your thoughts and concerns. We are looking for a fresh start for the next 100 years and now is the time to get in on the ground floor. Look us up at the Richland County Fair or join us at the annual meeting. We'd love to connect with you.

Vernon County

Promotion and Education Update

By Travis Klinkner, Vernon County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

This spring Vernon County Farm Bureau purchased Ag in the Classroom books for our county schools. We also created a Dairy Toolkit with donations from Nelson Agri-Center that contains items for show-and-tell when we visit classrooms.

Our first visit was to the Viroqua fourth-grade classes. The students saw tools and feedstuffs used on dairy farms and also participated in an activity outlining the process it takes to get milk from cows to their glass. We look forward to organizing more school visits next year.

Congratulations to Jaycee Sandry of Prairie View Elementary in Desoto for winning the Vernon County Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Her essay was submitted to the state level where it competed with other counties. Thank you to Jaycee's teacher, Mrs. Connelly, for having her class participate in the essay contest.

Vernon County Farm Bureau also wants to congratulate scholarship recipients Martha Haugen and Lexi Wagemaster.

It has been a fun and busy spring and we look forward to more fun as we make more plans to get involved with educating students about the world of agriculture.

Also, thank you to Nelson Agri-Center for participating in our membership drive this year by working with us to offer a \$20 in-store coupon to new members. This helped make our membership drive a success and we look forward to working with and serving all the members of Vernon County Farm Bureau.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Maija Haagith, Vernon County YFA Committee Chair

What happens when you take young farmers to a brewery? It's certainly a night to remember and new friendships are made.

In March, the Juneau and Vernon County YFA members partook in a tour and tasting at Hillsboro Brewing Company. We learned how beer is made and toured their new facility. After the learning portion, we headed to the restaurant location and enjoyed pizza and socializing.

An event that is happening this summer is the District 3 YFA Night on the Farm and YFA Discussion Meet. It will be held at Majestic View Dairies in Lancaster. It should be a fun event, and I encourage all Vernon County YFA members to attend.

These are the first of many events to be held this year. Be on the look out for more joint county events in the near future.





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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Crawford County

Grant County

Iowa County

Lafayette County

Richland County

Vernon 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

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