



# Grassroots

District 8 News

## From the Desk of the District 8 Director



**Don Radtke**  
WFBF District 8 Director

Greetings from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Even though spring planting has been a struggle to say the least, a lot

has been happening on the legislative side.

As many of you know 2019 has been designated the year of water by Governor Evers. Wisconsin Farm Bureau has had members present at the listening sessions held across the state and in June, we made sure we took the time to meet with the Environmental Protection Agency while in Washington, D.C..

We talked with them about water trading credits and how municipalities can partner with farmers. Marathon County Farm Bureau has been working on a similar idea with Marathon City for a few years. A program like this is a win-win for farmers and municipalities saving taxpayers money and improving water quality. As we met with elected officials we discussed a variety of issues surrounding the dairy crisis as well as ways to aid farmers that have no other choice but to choose preventive plant this spring.

One of the ideas we discussed was allowing farmers to plant a cover crop and/or forage crop on acres they were not able to get to this spring but could harvest yet for forage. This would just be for the 2019 planting season. The Minnesota state legislature recently passed a bill to help cover the cost of joining the Margin Protection Program (MPP). We are working to see if this could happen in Wisconsin.

If you have feedback, please contact me.

As you read in Ashleigh's article, we wrapped up our district-wide #FBCares

program. This program reminded me of days gone by and the many stops we used to make visiting the neighbors and lending a hand if needed. It served as a reminder that some traditions need to make a come-back like taking a break every now and again to visit with our neighbors.

In this fast-paced world, we often get wrapped up in the details of our everyday life and often forget or run out of time to take pause. I encourage each of you to take those moments of pause, visit with your neighbors or even just dropping a dish to pass off to help remind them we are all in this together.

Another way you can stay connected is reaching out to your county directors and letting them know of agricultural issues as you hear them. Many times, they are left being retroactive because they didn't know an issue was on the arise.

The sooner they are made aware of an issue the sooner county Farm Bureaus can call up their local affairs committee and create a strategic approach with Steve Boe, our Director of Local Affairs.

Since the conception of local affairs committees across the state they have been able to effectively address a variety of issues including manure handling, IOH concerns and activist groups.

Finally, I want to personally congratulate Ashleigh Calaway on her five years of service to Wisconsin Farm Bureau and specifically District 8. She is a great asset to our district and it has been a pleasure working with her. She truly cares about each and every member of our organization and strives to make a difference in everything she does.

As a reminder if anybody has different ideas for policy development, let me know and we could possibly receive discussion papers from WFBF to work from. As always if anyone has questions or concerns, please contact me at [djradtke@gmail.com](mailto:djradtke@gmail.com) or 715.573.7208.

## Welcome To Voting Members

Thank you for joining Wisconsin's largest grassroots general farm organization.



**Clark County:** Thomas Silbernagel and Lamar Sauder

**Lincoln County:** Rene Brass, Dave Cronauer, Daniel Tiffany, Joe Barkley, Robert Weinberger, Mark Leder, Thomas Daigle and Benjamin Daigle

**Marathon County:** Julie Knetter, Jared Szews, Jordan Balz, Duane Schuh, Benji Miller, Daniel Tomson, Mitchell Miller, Jeff Osborn, Myron Deaton, Chad Clark, Michael Spindler, Wayne Schultz, Larry Murry, Emerald Lane Angus LLC, Carrie Brzezinski and Lynn Lien

**Portage County:** Joe Kaminski, Ryan Peters, Robert Stuczynski and David Beggs

**Price County:** Lance Meier, James Holiday, Randall Wagner, Thomas Borchardt, Jeremy Pesko, Jordan Blomberg, Jed Hallstrand, Terrence Johnson and Belinga Chizek

**Taylor County:** Angela Blume and Cathy Berry

**Wood County:** Dominic Lewis, Robert Dombrowski, Ron Kremer, Mark Smith, James Knutson, Tammy Kirk, Paul Sturgis, Jeffrey Hartman, Patrick Castleberg, Joe Cepsess, Kenneth Becker, Robert Schubert, John Hilgart and Mathew Lybeck

**District 8 Discussion Meet & Policy Development Meeting**

DATE: Sunday, July 21

TIME: 8:30 a.m. Discussion Meet  
7:30 p.m. Dinner  
8:00 p.m. Policy Development Meeting

LOCATION: Abbotsford Community Center  
203 N. 1st Street

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 and RSVP, contact District 8 VFA Representatives, Brad & Kristine Boon, at 715.429.0792 or [boonferma6834@gmail.com](mailto:boonferma6834@gmail.com) or District 8 Coordinator, Ashleigh Calaway, at 715.761.2306 or [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com).

Young Farmer and Agriculturist

## U.S.-China Trade: What's at Stake for Central Wisconsin's Agriculture?

On June 18, the UW-Madison Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS), in partnership with WIPPS Public Issues Series, hosted a free public forum focusing on U.S.-China trade relations and its impact on agriculture in central Wisconsin and beyond.

Speakers for the evening consisted of: Dr. Ian Coxhead, professor, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, UW-Madison; Will Hsu, president, Hsu's Ginseng Enterprises, Inc.; Brad Pfaff, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary-Designee; and Don Radtke, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation District 8

Director. Pam Jahnke aka the Fabulous Farm Babe of Wisconsin Farm Report Radio served as the moderator for the evening.

Panel members discussed the economic impact that tariffs have on farmers in Wisconsin and across the nation. The panel noted the superior products that Wisconsin produces and how readily the dairy industry is to adapt to change once trade is readily available.

Attendees asked questions and wanted a better understanding of why agriculture is used as leverage in the trade discussion that started over intellectual property rights.

The evening ended with samples from



(from left) Pam Jahnke, the Fabulous Farm Babe; Will Hsu, Secretary-Designee Brad Pfaff, Ian Coxhead and Don Radtke.

sponsors including Mullins Cheese curds; cranberries from Wisconsin Cranberry Association; ginseng tea, candy and daily vitamins from Hsu Ginseng; and ice cream from Babcock Hall.

## Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

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

The program kicked off with a transportation panel comprised of Wisconsin DOT Secretary-Designee Craig Thompson, WFBF President Jim Holte, Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell and Dan Cunningham, Forward Janesville, Inc. The panel members discussed transportation items in the

Governor's budget proposal and what funding possibilities would be viable moving forward.

The featured guest speaker was Wisconsin 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 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."



## Farm Bureau Members Advocate for Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 30 Farm Bureau members and staff were in Washington, D.C., to advocate for Wisconsin farmers. The trip marked the completion of the WFBF Leadership Institute, a year-long leadership training program available to Farm Bureau members.

Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation on June 5. The issues discussed were trade, immigration reform, wolves, WOTUS, Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act and options for delayed planting problems.

"During my time in Washington, D.C., with Farm Bureau, I learned the importance of staying up to date on issues and how to get out of my comfort zone to speak up," said Jackson County Farm Bureau member Erica Olson. "This experience taught me a lot about how our voices matter. It was a unique opportunity to be up close speaking on issues affecting Wisconsin farmers with representatives that can make a difference on Capitol Hill."

The group heard from a variety of experts from American Farm Bureau, several officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and visited the Canadian Embassy.

In addition to meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation, Farm Bureau members also toured George Washington's Mount Vernon and enjoyed a night tour of the national monuments.

"I learned that the legislators really do care about agriculture," said Marinette County Farm Bureau member Corey Kuchta. "They want to work with Farm Bureau to implement policies that will help Wisconsin farmers stay strong and survive the whirlwind of price swings and Mother Nature."

Accompanied by the WFBF Board of Directors, the WFBF Leadership Institute graduates who participated in the trip included: Savannah Brown, Black River Falls; Neil Christianson, Shawano; Andrew Dal Santo, Platteville; Scott Eastwood, Sun Prairie; Jeff Huber, Wisconsin Dells; Rob Klussendorf, Medford; Lauren Kostello, Manitowoc; Corey Kuchta, Coleman; Jamie Marx, Oconto Falls; Erica Olson, Black River Falls; Amanda Volp, Omro; and Nate Zimdars, Ripon.

The WFBF Leadership Institute consists of five multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on issues important to agriculture, development of leadership and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau and governmental leaders and staff at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. The class concludes with a capstone trip with the WFBF Board of Directors to Washington, D.C.

The next WFBF Leadership Institute class will be offered in 2020. Those interested should contact WFBF's Director of Training and Leadership Development, Wendy Kannel, at 608.828.5719 or [wkannel@wfbf.com](mailto:wkannel@wfbf.com).

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization representing farms of every size, commodity and management style.



## COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

### Clark



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20**

Farm Tour begins at 7:15 pm, Meal at 7:45 pm with meal to follow.  
Tom and Cathy Shafto's Farm W3460 Mann Rd  
Loyal WI 54446-8329

### Wood



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

Registration/Check in 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.

### Taylor



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

Registration/Check in 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.

### Price



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

Registration/check in 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.  
Palmquist Farm - N5136 River Rd, Brantwood, WI  
54513

### Marathon



**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

Social begins at 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.  
Rib River Ballroom - 3237 WI-29, Marathon City, WI  
54448

### Lincoln



**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

Registration/Check in begins at 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.  
Corning Town Hall - N1569 State Rd. 64 & 107, WI-64, Merrill, WI 54452

### Portage



**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15**

Registration/Check in begins at 7:00 pm, meal at 7:30 pm with meeting to follow.  
Lincoln Center - 519 Water St, Stevens Point, WI  
54481

## Hey Farm Bureau Members, Let's Celebrate

**Ashleigh Calaway**

District 8 Coordinator

The July issue of the District 8 newsletter is one of celebration. On page 7, you will see a behind the scenes look at how Lincoln County Farm Bureau celebrated June Dairy Month, and on page 10, you will see how Taylor County Farm Bureau celebrated May Beef Month.

With each page of this newsletter, you will see firsthand the difference your county Farm Bureau is having locally, regionally and statewide.

I invite you to contact your county Farm Bureau and share your ideas on what you want to see and how you can be involved, even if you only have an hour or two to spare.

For those of you who follow your county Farm Bureau's on Facebook, you know that May and June were big months for counties in District 8.

The multi-county Sheriff and First Responder Training Committee received two grants;

one thanks to the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days and another through UW-Extension for a grand total of \$7,000 in funds to move forward with their project including creating and implementing an animal handling guidebook and field training for law enforcement and first responders.

The committee is a partnership between Marathon County Farm Bureau, Taylor County Farm Bureau, Wood County Farm Bureau, Clark County Farm Bureau, UW-Madison Extension Marathon County and UW-Madison Extension Taylor County.

Once completed, the guidebook and field training guide will be available for county Farm Bureaus and other agricultural organizations across the state to use with their local law enforcement and first responders.

The most heartwarming celebration was held the last week of May and first part of June. County Promotion and Education chairs, county Farm Bureau board members and Rural Mutual Insurance agents Jennifer Zinda-Mancl,

Ryan Dillenbeck and Tim Voight partnered together to celebrate farmers across District 8 by giving back to those who give so much to us through the #FBCares Program.

The #FBCares Program delivered more than 120 snack packs to area farmers in District 8.

The last week of May, I celebrated five years as your District 8 Coordinator. It's hard to believe that five years have come and gone but, as the saying goes, "time flies when you're having fun" and that's exactly what it has been. I want to thank each and every one of you.

You continue to inspire, motivate and provide a sense of eternal optimism to not only me but your county Farm Bureau board of directors to be the best that we can be.

As Abraham Lincoln once said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."

That is exactly what is happening across District 8.

Below are a few comments that nominators said about their nominees.

*"They are involved in our community; they have been strong advocates for agriculture for many years. Like many farmers across the state, they have dealt with employee turnover and making reductions on everything they can to keep the farm afloat. They have teenage children at home who continue to step up and take on more responsibility than most young adults I know. We are truly blessed to have them in our community and even luckier to call them friends."*



*"He is very hardworking and literally doesn't stop until the sun comes up some days. He cares so much about his cows and crops that he doesn't have time to eat supper most days. Even though times are tough especially when his father passed away, or the milk prices being so low, he keeps a smile on his face and keeps the tradition of a century farm alive."*



*"He works sunup until sundown. Something to make him smile a little extra would be amazing!"*



*"They both put in countless hours on their dairy farm and strive to make it a family affair. The love and passion they have for farming definitely shows if you go and visit their farm. They are both willing to take time out of their busy schedules to help other farmers get things done."*

*"I'm nominating my dad, and for as long as I can remember has dedicated his whole life to two things: his family and his farm. My family and I can't thank my dad enough for all of the sacrifices he has made to provide for us while farming, and I believe he deserves an extra thank-you from someone outside of our family, just to show him that he is cared about and that the work he does is truly valued by his community."*

*"This amazing young dairyman took over his families 40 cow dairy all on his own. He has battled with low prices and labor issues with no family support. He continues to be a great guy, smart and personable."*

## History in the Making

As Wisconsin Farm Bureau makes plans for the centennial celebration at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in December, it's important for us to take time to reflect on the past, where we have been and where we are going.

I want to take time to reflect on the history of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

- In the first year of Farm Bureau, there were about 2,000 families and membership dues were \$2.50.
- **1920:** WFBF organized.
- **1984:** Steve Emmerich, Marathon County, wins the WFBF Young Farmer Discussion Meet.
- **1988:** Dan Kitzhaber, Clark County, wins WFBF Young Farmer Discussion Meet.
- **1989:** Steve and Roxanne Emmerich, Marathon County, win WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.
- **1992:** Ken Tesch, Taylor County, wins the WFBF Young Farmer Discussion Meet.
- **1993:** Ken and Helen Tesch, Taylor County, win the WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.
- **1994:** Kathy Ross, Marathon County, wins the WFBF Young Farmer Discussion Meet.
- **1996:** Robert and Kathy Ross, Marathon County, win the WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.
- **2002:** Chad and Kelly Erickson, Marathon County, win the WFBF Excellence in Agriculture Award.
- **2004:** Don Radtke, Marathon County, served on WFBF Board of Directors, 2004-present.

- **2006:** Kelly Soczka, Marathon County, wins the WFBF Young Farmer Discussion Meet.
- Scott and Leslie Ertl, Wood County, win the WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.
- **2009:** Ben and Jodi Otto, Portage County, win the WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.
- **2011:** Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf, Taylor County, win the WFBF Young Farmer Achievement Award.



Reflecting on the past, you may wonder how old your county Farm Bureau is. Here is a listing of the county Farm Bureau's in District 8 and the years they were established, from oldest to youngest.

- Wood County established in 1923, celebrating its 96<sup>th</sup> year
- Portage County established in 1932, celebrating its 87<sup>th</sup> year
- Lincoln County established in 1944, celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year
- Clark County established in 1945, celebrating its 74<sup>th</sup> year
- Marathon County established in 1946, celebrating its 73<sup>rd</sup> year
- Taylor County established in 1977, celebrating its 42<sup>nd</sup> year
- Price County established in 1982, celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> year

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau.

Stay tuned as we continue to make plans to celebrate Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## District 8 Dairy Meeting

On March 24, close to 40 farmers and agriculturists met in Abbottsford for a discussion on the dairy crisis.

The program kicked off with a presentation by Tom Crosby, co-owner of Crosby's River Valley Dairy, Wisconsin National Farmers, Vice President and a member of the Dairy Task Force 2.0. Tom presented National Farmers: Two Tier - Structure Dairy Pricing Program.

Following Tom, Len Barske, former Audit Manager at USDA-Upper Midwest Marketing Area, presented on understanding the federal milk marketing orders. Len provided attendees an understanding of how the different milk classifications were created and the impacts of them in relation to current milk prices.

Travis Klinkner, a dairy farmer from Genoa presented his formula for supply management including a working document that attendees were able to insert their own inputs to see logistically if it would work on their farm.

Attendees also watched a short video from Wisconsin Farmers Union that Mark Stephenson, dairy economist at UW-Madison and Chuck Nicholson, dairy economists from Cornell University created that shows the results of their economic analysis of selected dairy programs.

After the presentations, attendees participated in a round-table discussion to offer insight on proposed programs, concerns and steps to move forward. Discussion was facilitated by Don Radtke, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) District 8 Director, and included panel Tom Crosby, Len Barske and Karen Gefvert, WFBF Executive Director of Government Relations.

"The real highlight of this event was that attendees left their farm organization hat at the door and discussed items farmer to farmer," said Don Radtke, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation District 8 Director.

This event was a follow up to the multi-county Dairy 1,2,3 series that

was hosted in Neillsville last spring by Farm Bureaus in Buffalo, Clark, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Price, Taylor, Trempealeau, and Wood counties.

Farm Bureau in Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Price, Taylor and Wood counties sponsored the multi-county dairy meeting.



**Clark County Farm Bureau**  
**GOOD TIMES**  
**Summer Picnic**

SATURDAY, JULY 20  
12 NOON TO 2 P.M.

Longwood Park  
Colby Factory Road  
Withee

RSVP to  
Clark County Farm Bureau president  
Clark Turner  
715.897.4027

Clark County Farm Bureau will provide the meat, beverages and tableware.

Members with last names A-M should bring salads or hot dishes and members with last names N-Z should bring desserts.

Today is not the day for 'moderation'

Join us for our annual breakfast!

Sunday, August 25  
7 a.m. to 12 noon  
Westside Park, Loyal



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
2019 CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU HENRY STIEMANN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

Alaina Strey

Cora Luzinski



## County Conservation Update

In early March the Clark County Farm Bureau Board of Directors met with Jim Arch, Clark County conservationist.

The board discussed the manure storage ordinance the county has in place along with why his office no longer designs manure pits but works with an outside engineer.

The board discussed concerns regarding abandoned wells in the area along with the hard winter and the need to move manure. Jim went through the well closure funding options available to those in need.

The directors expressed their views regarding open pits in the county and the idea of preserving a few unused manure pits to assist farmers in the county with winters and springs like this last one.

Jim shared that his office also offers training for those who want to write their own nutrient management program.

Jim also noted that their department handles DATCP's Farm Preservation program in the county. He discussed the county's partnership with UW-Extension regarding the farm recycling program and shared that they have a no-till drill available for rent through his office.



## Resilient Farms, Families, Businesses and Communities: Responding to Stress

The ongoing economic conditions in agriculture are taking a toll on farm families and their rural communities. The associated chronic stress is also impacting mental and physical well-being, relationships and decision-making.

Extension helps farmers, families, businesses and communities remain resilient by learning how to manage stress and use planning tools to make sound decisions and create a road-map for the future. Topics include: How stress affects brain and body, communicating in times of stress, stress management and your farm future.

Other articles include: Farm stress and decision-making during challenging times; Develop a vision for yourself and your farm; Is it time to exit?; Financial troubleshooting, stressed?; Take stock, take care and gain control; Determining your family living needs; Family financing; The importance of communicating during financial hardship; Too good to be true, the dangers of unregulated lenders; Considerations for alternative agriculture production and marketing; Ten things to consider for succession planning; The importance of a good set of financial records; Your work as an ag professional: Helping tame farm stress.

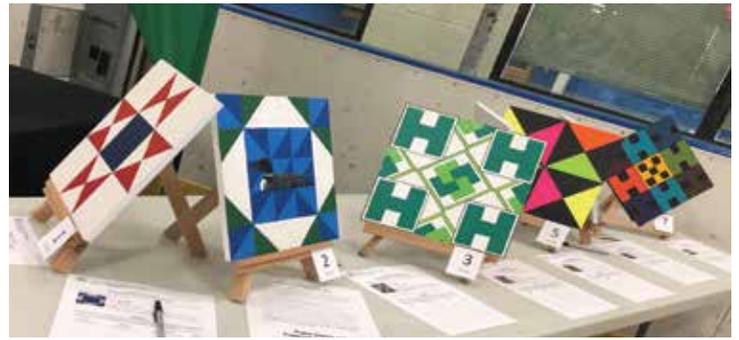
For more information or to see what is available, visit <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/farmstress>.



## Celebrating June Dairy Month

On June 9, Lincoln County Farm Bureau kicked off their June Dairy Month celebration at the MARC with close to 1,100 friends and community members.

# Celebrate!



Lincoln County Farm Bureau and the Merrill FFA Alumni are proud to give out \$2,000 to area students pursuing higher education. Please follow us on Facebook or bookmark our county page for details about the 2020 scholarship program coming this winter.

## #FarmerTalk Update

Watch your mailbox for our annual #FarmerTalk session later this summer.

Last year's topic was, 'How to stay profitable farming.' Members heard from industry leaders ranging from agronomists to industry consultants, from private and public sectors.

County board members are exploring a farmer night out or a panel on how to create/sell value added products from the farm. If you have ideas or suggestions for upcoming programs that you want to participate in or to be considered, please contact Lincoln County Farm Bureau president Melissa Yates at 715.218.6209.

We hope to see you there.

## Marathon County Grilled Cheese Competition

The Marathon County Grilled Cheese Competition will be held during the 151<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Valley Fair. Competitors will have 30 minutes to create four delicious grilled cheese sandwiches and are expected to bring all needed ingredients. Registration and payment are due to the UW-Extension office by **July 19**.

### Youth Competition

Young adults ages 12-17. Each participant is allowed one parent or guardian to assist. Cost to enter is \$15, and includes two fair entry tickets

**Date/Time:** 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 1.

First place will be awarded. Competition limited to the first 10 paid competitors. Please make checks payable to UW-Extension.

### Adult Competition

Adults 18 years or older. Cost to enter is \$15, and includes one fair entry ticket.

**Date/Time:** 5:30 p.m. on Friday, August 2.

First place will be awarded. Competition limited to the first 10 paid competitors. Please make checks payable to UW-Extension.



2019 Marathon County Farm Bureau  
Scholarship Recipients  
Congratulations!

## June Dairy Breakfast



Members and volunteers from Marathon County Farm Bureau served 116 gallons of ice cream at the Marathon County Partnership for Progressive Agriculture June Dairy Breakfast at Northcentral Technical College.



*Marathon County Farm Bureau and  
Marathon County Holstein Breeders  
Little Britches Showmanship*

For a registration form, visit  
wfbf.com/about/counties/marathon



*Please return completed registration to:  
Mike Borchardt  
MCFB Little Britches Committee  
W4370 Wien Drive, Edgar, WI 54426-9605*

\_\_\_\_ Youth Competition (ages 12-17)  
\_\_\_\_ Adult Competition (ages 18 and older)

### Mail entries to:

Attn.: Grilled Cheese, 212 River Drive, Suite 3, Wausau, WI 54403.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

## First Ag LEAD Summit Held

By Lance Wolosek

First, I want to thank the Portage County Farm Bureau board of directors for sponsoring me to go to the 2019 Ag LEAD Summit in Appleton, on March 8-9.

I enjoyed the experience and highly recommend more members to attend. I would greatly enjoy participating again.

My initial thoughts when I walked in door of the main ballroom where the meals and keynote speakers presented was, "Holy cow, I think I'm at the wrong conference!" I was one of maybe 15 men out of 125 plus who attended.

I later learned that the event replaced a Farm Bureau Women in Agriculture Conference that they wanted to open to men, so the first Ag LEAD Summit was formed.

The focus on the conference was to provide tools to advocate for agriculture in our local communities. The reality is less than two percent of the population grows all of the food to feed the rest of the world.

The most impactful presentations to me were done by Donna Moening, a Minnesota beef cattle farmer and Jay Hill, a New Mexico/Texas vegetable and alfalfa producer.

Donna's presentation focused on trust and the importance of trust from the consumer.

"The less the consumers know about something, the least likely they are to trust what we do." It is up to us as producers to educate our consumers on what happens on our operations.

She suggested when we are in conversations, always lead with values and morals. Help the consumers understand that what we do is always centered on our families and our livelihood.

If you are asked, "How big is your farm?" use the response "My farm is just big enough to support my family (or number of families)." Bring the focus to the family and the questioner will change their mentality.

The second most impactful presenter was Jay Hill. Jay is a young farmer who grows vegetables on 10,000+ acres in New Mexico. He had a very inspiring story about his journey to start his farm. He grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico, about an hour from the Mexico border and decided to start farming when he was 16 years old. He has evolved the small 10-acre vegetable farm into a multi-million-dollar enterprise where he focuses on onion production and alfalfa.

Jay is a major agriculture influencer on social



media with multiple Facebook videos with more than one million views.

His message to us was focus. His theory in agriculture is we need to be very focused on the outcomes we want from our agriculture business and be prepared to work. The individuals with the most hustle and stamina are the only ones who will survive.

He emphasized the small investments to efficiency that can pay off 10-fold in the long run. For example, he started his own parts warehouse where he keeps an inventory of all wear items that are used on his balers with an electronic log that will trigger new parts to be ordered whenever the stock on hand gets too low.

Jay stressed that you don't need to be a 10,000-acre farm to incorporate small changes like that.

Overall the conference was a great experience and I was glad to have the opportunity to attend.

## Portage County YFA Program

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

If so, please contact Portage County YFA chair Jeff Dombrowski at 608.963.6797. He is planning the county's first event of the year and wants to hear from you.



## Price County

wfbf.com/about/counties/price  
PriceCountyFarmBureau



## Price County Fair

Join us for non-stop, fun carnival rides and games provided by K&M Amusements; delicious food; agricultural displays; exhibits from school children, 4-H and open classes; 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 are 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.



## Farm Bureau Members Visit Medford Elementary School Classrooms

On May 10, members of Taylor County Farm Bureau went into fourth grade classrooms at Medford Elementary School to speak to students about agriculture and what farmers do on the farm.

During the afternoon, students were divided into small groups of 15 students or C.O.W.S., Celebrating our Wisconsin Specialties, to get a closer look at different areas in agriculture.

Taylor County Farm Bureau is a proud supporter of the Farmer in the Classroom program.

In the spring, each director takes turns sharing their agricultural story in spring with fourth graders across the county.



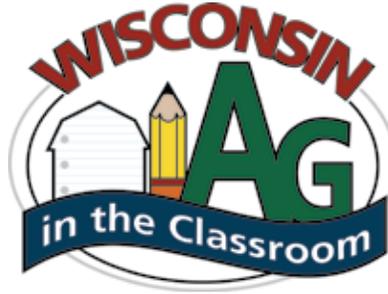
Ryan Klussendorf and MJ Zenner presented in one of the classrooms.



In the classrooms that Cheri Klussendorf visited, she spoke about technology in agriculture.



Jack Johnson talked about beef.



## Steak and Egg Breakfast

On May 18, Taylor County Farm Bureau celebrated May Beef Month with the North Central Cattlemen's Association.



## Taylor County Youth Fair

Taylor County Farm Bureau will again be a sponsor for the Dairy Desert contest to be held at the Taylor County Fair. This year, it will be held on **Friday, July 26.**

For more information, listen to WKEB radio station.

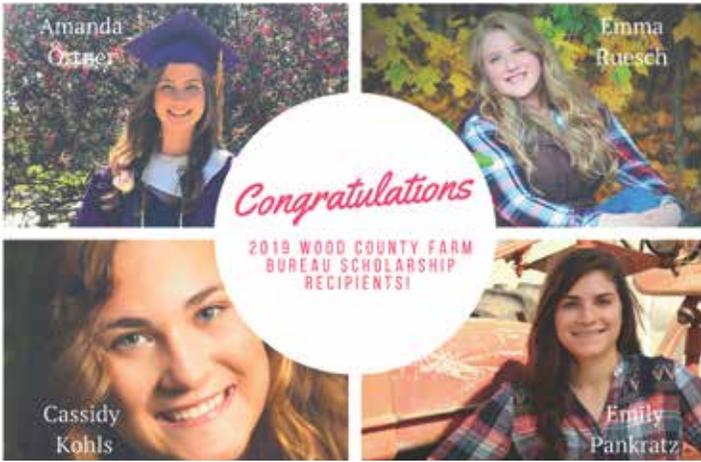
**Event:** Taylor County Youth Fair  
**Dates:** July 25-28  
**Theme:** Lords and Ladies at the Taylor County Fair

**Friday:** NTPA Tractor Pull  
**Saturday:** Med-State Pullers Tractor/Truck Pulls  
**Sunday:** Demo Derby

Cans for a Cause, S&J Carnival, Market Animal Sale, 5K Poker Run and more.

*Celebrating 136 years of fun!*





## Tractor Safety Classes



Tractor safety classes will be held in Wood County from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **July 29-August 1**. The class is open to all Wood County students who need tractor safety courses to work on a farm.

This 24-hour program meets the requirements of Wisconsin Act 455, which requires youth under the age of 16 to hold a certificate of training in order to operate a tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on a public road. It also meets the child labor requirements in agriculture under the Fair Labor Standards Act, pertaining to the employment of youth ages 14-15 on farms not operated by their parents or guardians.

To register for the class, please contact Marshfield High School agriculture teacher Mark Zee at 715.305.9257. Class fee is \$10.



The Wood County Farm Bureau board members issued a state-wide challenge asking county Farm Bureaus around the state to match their \$200 donation to the Nebraska Farm Bureau Disaster Relief Fund. 100 percent of the proceeds raised go directly back to farmers affected by the spring bomb cyclone. We are proud to share that many counties joined our efforts.



While at Wood County's Central Wisconsin State Fair, be sure to stop by and say 'hi' and get a scoop of your favorite ice cream!

# AUGUST 20-25

Do you want to volunteer to work in the ice cream stand?  
Contact Charlie Fox at 715.459.6359





**County Farm Bureaus**  
 PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit  
 Organization  
 US Postage  
**PAID**  
 Platteville, WI 53818  
 Permit No. 124

**This Issue Contains  
 Highlights for:**

- Clark County
- Lincoln County
- Marathon County
- Portage County
- Price County
- Taylor County
- Wood 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](http://RuralMutual.com/farmsafety)

