

Grassroots

District 3 News

Farm Bureau Needs Your Voice



Robert Nigh

WBFB District 3 Director

During this hectic and challenging fall, I hope you can find a few minutes each day to enjoy the fall colors.

I wish you a safe and successful harvest season, most will be glad when the process is over, and we

can turn our thoughts to 2020.

The challenges of 2019 have been numerous not only on the farm, but also with Farm Bureau. The year of water, animal siting, United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, trade wars, tariffs, dairy and other commodity prices have kept Farm Bureau busy.

Your state board has made two trips to Washington, D.C., in June and September, to lobby our representatives and to meet with federal agencies. We believe we were successful, but there is a lot more work to do.

Thanks to those who have helped along the way to get our message and concerns heard by state and federal officials. We need everyone's voice.

Thank you to each county for hosting a great annual meeting. Each was an enjoyable time and a great opportunity for me to get to know more members.

Your policy proposals will keep the Policy Development Committee busy.

Remember that if your policy proposal doesn't get recommended by the Policy Development Committee, you can still propose it from the floor.

We are planning a pre-caucus district meeting, look for an announcement of time and place.

I look forward to a great WBFB Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. It will be an extra special meeting as we celebrate our centennial year. You're invited to join us in the festivities.

If you have comments, concerns or question, please contact me at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and stay informed.

Instituting Initiative

By Amber McComish, WBFB Leadership Institute Class XIII

2019 has been a whirlwind of a year. When I walked into my first WBFB Leadership Institute session, I had intentions of learning leadership, professionalism, speaking skills and knowledge of our government; however, I received much more, including a dose of confidence and self-assurance that lead me to put more of myself out there.

Around starting Institute, I also started toying with the idea of starting a business. As a family farm, we have always wanted to add a value-added component to our farm. I had researched products and markets for years. If you know me, you know my love and knowledge of cheese is great. But we didn't think we could swing making it into a business. It wasn't until this year that I found something that lit myself and my husband on fire ... GELATO.



Gelato is a milk-based product that I like to describe as being between ice cream and custard. It has less fat than ice cream and it doesn't have egg yolks like custard. I started making gelato in March using our milk by pasteurizing it in an

Instapot. It was amazing.

My husband Joe is my official taste tester. I remember him taking a bite of the first batch and his eyes going wide. This was it. Now what?

Well, the WBFB Leadership Institute helped teach me what I am good at, what my strengths are. I'm good at problem solving and brainstorming ideas and let me tell you, I



had to do a lot in this process. It was not easy, and we're not finished yet.

Today, we have 10 flavors and sell our product in seven plus businesses and counting. We make it in a certified kitchen with store bought milk but are working on making it on our farm with the milk from our cows. I am so glad I choose to participate in the WBFB Leadership Institute for way more reasons than I mentioned. The experience I have had with my fellow classmates and what I have learned in return has been super beneficial during a time I really needed it.

My Institute Class will graduate at the upcoming WBFB Annual Meeting, and I look forward to walking across the stage in December essentially a different person than I was a year before.



Members Advocate for Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 30 Farm Bureau members and staff traveled to Washington, D.C., in June to advocate for Wisconsin farmers. Among the attendees were District 3 Director Robert Nigh and Grant County Farm Bureau member Andrew DalSanto. 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 in Washington, D.C. The issues discussed were trade, immigration reform, wolves, WOTUS, Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act and options for delayed planting problems.

The group heard from a variety of experts from American Farm Bureau, met with several officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and visited the Canadian Embassy to talk about the importance of trade between the U.S. and Canada.

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



Holte Announces Retirement

WFBF President Jim Holte recently announced his retirement from the WFBF Board of Directors effective December 9.

A Dunn County Farm Bureau member and past county president, Holte was elected to the WFBF Board of Directors in 1995. He was selected as president on December 2, 2012. Holte represents WFBF District 9, which consists of Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, Sawyer and St. Croix counties as well as the Superior Shores Farm Bureau made up of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties.

"I will forever be grateful for the people I have met who have guided me through my Farm Bureau journey and the experiences this organization has provided," Holte said.

In addition to serving as President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company Boards, he also will be retiring from his role on the AFBF Board of Directors.

Holte's term will wrap up at the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting in December. During a reorganization meeting of the WFBF Board of Directors, a new president will be selected.

"I look forward to doing more reflecting in the next few months as my service winds down," Holte added. "It is bittersweet to see this moment on the horizon, but I look forward to more family time, especially with my wife and our grandchildren."



County Leaders Discuss Importance of Trade for Agriculture

Farm Bureau leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., on September 11-13, to meet with Wisconsin's Congressional delegation to encourage swift approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement and emphasize the overall importance of trade for agriculture.

Each of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's nine district directors brought two members from their part of the state as part of the WFBF Leaders Fly-In.

District 3 was represented by WFBF Director, Robert Nigh, Laura Daniels of Iowa County and Travis Klinkner of Vernon County.

In addition to trade, members talked about the need for labor reform, challenges with gray wolf population management, rural broadband coverage, the repeal of the Waters of the United States rule and the need to fund infrastructure improvements to locks and dams on the Mississippi River.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members also met with officials from the U.S. Trade Representative's office, the Senate Agriculture Committee and the Australian Embassy.



Iowa County Hosts On-Farm Nutrient Stewardship Field Day

Wisconsin legislators, state agency representatives and local officials attended an on-farm field day on August 16 to learn about sustainable farming practices through the Sustainable 4RWI partnership.

Sustainable 4RWI focuses on the 4R approach to nutrient stewardship – using the right nutrient source, at the right rate, at the right time, in the right place – that allows for the achievement of cropping system goals including enhanced environmental protection, increased farmer profitability and improved sustainability. The project showcases how farmers and ag retailers can work together to sustainably manage crop nutrients using the 4R method.

The field day was hosted by Kyle Levetzow of Model Dairy Farms in Dodgeville as a partnership between Iowa County Farm Bureau and Insight FS. The event provided the opportunity for discussion on nutrient management plans and precision farming technologies with Insight FS, on-farm research

with Discovery Farms, and conservation programming and groundwater studies from the Iowa County Land Conservation Department.

“We are proud to partner with farmers like Kyle Levetzow who live and breathe sustainable farming every day,” said Craig Sander, nutrient management specialist at Insight FS. “We look for the latest technologies to ensure we are good stewards of the land. No one can tell that story to policymakers better than those who do the work, day in and day out.”

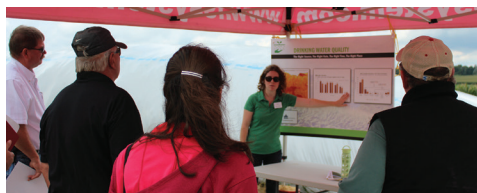
Model Dairy Farms uses no-till farming practices to improve soil health and reduce the risk of soil erosion. Iowa County Land Conservation provided a demonstration of how this conservation practice protects soil structure and water quality through a rainfall simulator. Insight FS staff shared how they work with



The field day was organized and hosted by Iowa County Farm Bureau and Insight FS. Iowa County Farm Bureau members that served on the planning committee included (from left): Kyle Levetzow, Jackie McCarville, Don Ley, Laura Daniels, Adam Heisner, Krista Dolan and Justin Doyle.

farmers like Kyle to use 4R nutrient stewardship principles and technology to meet crop needs and environmental objectives.

“This event has been a great opportunity to highlight the conversations being had around nutrient stewardship between farmers and their advisors every day. We are glad we could invite policy makers to be a part of that conversation and to understand how we work together to meet production, conservation and water quality goals,” said Krista Dolan, Iowa County Farm Bureau president.



Katie Abbott, Iowa County Conservationist, discussed local conservation programming and groundwater studies.



Discovery Farms co-director Amber Radatz shared on-farm research regarding water quality monitoring and nitrogen use efficiency.



Many elected official and community leaders attended the event held at Model Dairy Farms.

Orth Attends Partners in Advocacy Leadership Program in D.C.



In early October, Derek Orth spent a few days in Washington, D.C., with the AFBF Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) program. PAL is designed to help agricultural leaders accelerate leadership abilities and solidify roles as advocates for agriculture. To be eligible applicants must be 30 to 45 years old, with demonstrated leadership skills. The group learned about working with legislators, practiced speeches and interviews and met with congressional staff on Capitol Hill. They also had time to sightsee and visit a couple of the well-known museums in Washington, D.C.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 4, 2020

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison

Early Registration Deadline: March 14

Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline.
\$60 after deadline and at the door.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Opening Program
11:45 a.m. Lunch
12:45 p.m. Legislative Briefing
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Rural Mutual Insurance Company **FS GROWMARK**

Promotion and Education Update



Katie Roth

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Fall is upon us. A time for pumpkin recipes, preparing for the holidays, and cooler days ahead.

This will be my final newsletter article as the WFBF District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative. I've really enjoyed the past three years serving in this role and meeting Farm Bureau members throughout the district.

On November 2, District 3 hosted a fall event, Behind the Scenes: Groceries, Trees and Cheese. Members toured Fennimore's

new grocery store, Bender's Foods, where they learned about marketing strategies and the role farmers and consumers play in the retail chain.

Next, we traveled to Cook's Woods, a former grain and hog farm, that has transitioned into a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm.

A quick stop at Carr Valley Cheese rounded out the day to do some cheese sampling and visit the gift shop. It was a fun day and I thank those who attended.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee is preparing for the Leadership Boot Camp. The event is scheduled for **Saturday, November 16**, at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center in Manitowoc.

The camp will give attendees the opportunity to practice interacting with the media, improve their interview skills and garner tips in using social media. Participants also will receive lunch

and a tour of the center.

Know a fourth- or fifth-grade student? Encourage them to participate in this year's essay contest, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?' It is a great pairing with the 2020 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year "Right This Very Minute."

The book and essay contest allow students to explore how agriculture affects us each day as we eat, choose the clothes we will wear and explore the career choices around us.

As you meet with friends and family in the upcoming months, I challenge you to discuss how agriculture has shaped your life.

Thank you for letting me serve as your District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative. I hope to see many of you at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

Farm Neighbors Care Campaign Launch

The Wisconsin Farm Center, a free and confidential resource available to farmers in the state, reported more than 2,300 calls from farmers in 2018. As of May 30, 2019, the center had received more than 1,000. Farm Center staff said most of these calls are related to finances and levels of distress.

As farmers face some of the most challenging economic times in decades, Wisconsin agricultural groups are banding together to talk about farm stress and encourage farm neighbors to look after one another.

#FarmNeighborsCare is a social media campaign that asks rural residents to have face-to-face conversations with farmers and agribusiness owners. For some, this conversation and check-in may be the dose of positivity needed to make it through a tough day.

To participate, farm neighbors can put together a small 'goodie bag', snack or meal and take a picture to share on Facebook with #FarmNeighborsCare. Deliver that item to a farmer and stay for a few minutes of conversation. This is meant as a time to check in and see how the person or family is doing. Ideally, this will not stop at one conversation, but will become a regular habit.

FARM NEIGHBORS CARE

LEND A LISTENING EAR



GRAB A SNACK OR MEAL

This doesn't need to be overly complicated. Grab coffee and donuts, make extra helpings of a meal or milk and cookies.



SNAP A PICTURE

Take a picture of the snack or meal you put together and share it on Facebook with #FarmNeighborsCare.



ENJOY CONVERSATION

Stop by a neighbor/friend's farm and share the snack/meal you prepared and lend a listening ear. Really check in on how this person or family is doing.



#FarmNeighborsCare



Help celebrate the WFBF Centennial while giving back to those in need

Our Goal:

10,000 items

100 items for every year of Farm Bureau!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS

FOOD

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit or Vegetables
- Canned Tuna
- Dry or Canned Beans

NO GLASS JARS

NON FOOD

- Diapers and Wipes
- Laundry Detergent
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Bring non perishable food and supply items to the WFBF Annual Meeting on Dec. 7 - 8 at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. Donations will be collected in the Trade Show area (Africa East Ballroom).



In 2018, Wisconsin Farm Bureau kicked off a fundraising campaign in honor of the organization's centennial celebration. The campaign aims to raise \$100,000 for the WFB Foundation by December 2020. Rural Mutual Insurance committed to matching all donations (\$1-10,000) up to the \$100,000. To learn more or give to WFBF's centennial fundraising campaign, visit wfbf.com/centennial/centennial-fundraising.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 YFA Committee Representative

We have so much to be grateful for as the holiday season will soon be underway. Many Farm Bureau members enjoyed some great events that took place this summer.

Early in July, we had our YFA Committee meeting in Hudson, where we focused on team building and worked on planning the YFA Conference. We also split off into groups and took a day to drop off cookies and milk to area farmers and Farm Bureau members. Although many of the recipients were surprised at such a gesture, it was a great feeling to thank fellow farmers and brighten the day of those who work so hard to provide food for our tables.

Throughout the summer, many counties had food stands at their county fairs or booths with educational materials and games about agriculture. Thank you to those who attended a dairy breakfast, county fair or county annual meeting to show your support of farmers, youth in agriculture and other Farm Bureau members.

The next event will be the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells on December 6-8 as we celebrate 100 years of Farm Bureau. On Friday night, there will be a birthday party and the Tom Foolery Adventure Park will be open for you to enjoy. On Saturday morning, you will hear from Paul Long on Fundamism. I heard him speak at the FUSION Conference in March and some of my favorite quotes were: "One thing we don't get enough of in this world is appreciation," and "Without the N in Fun, it's just FU!" The workshops also will be longer this year and there is always plenty of networking opportunities.

I was told that my three years serving as the WFBF District 3 YFA Committee Representative would go fast, and it is so true. I know you will be in good hands as Andrew DalSanto takes over after the YFA Conference, but it will be difficult knowing I won't be able to attend the regular YFA committee reunions throughout the year. Fellow committee members really do become some of the best friends you can make.

When I think back to the first activity I did in Farm Bureau, it was attending the AFBF Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. I was blown away by the number of amazing people I met who had a story to share in agriculture and came back telling myself that I would take part in every opportunity that the Farm Bureau presented to me.

Recently, a friend of mine sent me a message that she was selected to be in the AFBF Women's Communication Boot Camp, just as I had done last year in Washington, D.C. She thanked me for all that I do in agriculture. And although I appreciated her kind words, I personally don't think that what I do is anything great and feel I could always be doing more.

I got to thinking about farmers and how sometimes we don't always feel like what we do is that great. The negativity of consumers and the media can really get us down, but then I met an older gentleman who really changed my perspective with just a few words. He said, "Find three things in life ... someone you want to be with, somewhere you want to be and something you want to do. Most people don't have those three things. But once you find them, don't let anyone change your attitude."

I know that promoting agriculture is something I love doing. As I think about the conferences and events that I've attended throughout the state and nationally, it's not about what I've learned or the traveling. It's the people I've met that have made those memories most special to me.

So, as I say my farewell from my role as the WFBF District 3 YFA Committee Representative, I want to say thank you to those I've gotten to know and for the work you do in Farm Bureau. You're making an impact on those around you, whether you realize it or not. Agriculture needs you, and I hope you continue to stay involved in this amazing organization.

Majestic View Dairies Hosts Night on the Farm and YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 28 at Majestic View Dairies in Lancaster. The Discussion Meet gives YFA members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

The district topic was: 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?

There were five participants including: Andrew DalSanto, Grant County; Megan Yager Iowa County; Travis Klinkner, Vernon County; Kent Jerrett, Grant County; and Ryan Studnicka, Grant County.

Andrew, Ryan and Travis will participate at the YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

In conjunction with the Discussion Meet, District 3 held their annual Night on the Farm. YFA members in attendance enjoyed a potluck dinner, wagon ride and tour of Majestic View Dairies. Special thanks to Amanda and Josh Buschor for hosting the event.



Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic Announced

"Right This Very Minute," written by Lisl Detlefson, has been announced as the 2020 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?'

Detlefson's book is the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Book of the Year and has an educator's guide developed for it. Accompanying lessons aligned to educational standards and various Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

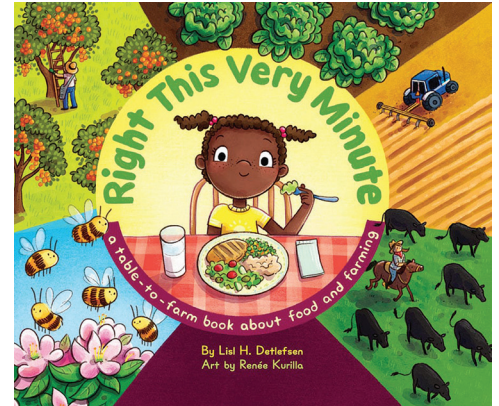
"We are thrilled to have our book be written

by a Wisconsin author who lives agriculture each day," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "The book looks at how agriculture affects a young child during various parts of the day. It offers ideas for students to think about their day and how agriculture affects them during mealtime, impacts the clothes they wear and the jobs around them."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are at www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due **April 1, 2020**.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.



Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class.

Last year, more than 2,000 students participated in the contest.

New Ag in the Classroom Website Unveiled

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program is pleased to announce the launch of a newly-redesigned website. The updated website was launched in early September and can be viewed at www.wisagclassroom.com.

Highlights of the redesigned website include:

Online store: Anyone can easily browse all the materials available from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom or filter by categories such as books, Ag Mags and free resources. The website allows you to easily pay by credit card. Older book and resource order forms will be discontinued as orders can now be placed online.

Agriculture lessons and facts: Teachers can find lesson plans appropriate for their students based on grade level as well as fun facts about Wisconsin agriculture. The new website also offers colorful commodity sheets that highlight Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry.

Events calendar: Teachers and volunteers can browse upcoming events on the new calendar, which will be updated regularly to provide a broad overview of upcoming meetings, workshops and other activities.



Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has had a busy fall semester.

The students participated in the annual homecoming parade, enjoyed an outing to Vesperman Farms and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau. The officer team includes: President, Zack Wysocki; vice president, Vinny Reiter; secretary, Ben Bruss; treasurer, Katie Lux; Ag in the Classroom co-chairs, Brittany Rennhack and Olivia Kepner; Ag Day On Campus co-chairs, Ally Biroschik and Catherine Austin; Brag About Ag co-chairs, Christopher Fuchs and Kristen Felton; and historian, Sam Bauman.



SOIL HEALTH & DIVERSITY EVENT

KEEPING FARMS ECONOMICALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE

FEBRUARY 22, 2020

SOUTHWEST TECHNICAL COLLEGE

1:00PM - 4:00PM

SCOTT MERICKA, A PARTNER IN GRASS DAIRY, LLC, DODGEVILLE, AND MIKE MILES FROM ANATHOTH COMMUNITY FARM, LUCK, WILL DISCUSS THE ROLE DIVERSITY PLAYS IN OPERATIONS AND THE PRACTICES THAT ENSURE GOOD SOIL HEALTH ALLOWING THEM TO MANAGE SMALLER SCALE FARMS. ALL FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 19 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a potluck meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Derek Orth, dairy farmer and agriculture advocate, shared his Farm Bureau story. He discussed the many opportunities he has had at the county, state and national levels, and talked more in depth about his most recent endeavor as a member of the AFBF Partners in Advocacy Leadership (PAL) program.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting,

elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed nine resolutions.

Don Brown, Lori Brown, Pat Dearth and Jim Meng will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Don Brown, President; Jim Meng, Vice President; Mary Jo Johnsrude, Secretary/Treasurer; Lori Brown; Pat Dearth; Ron Ellefson; Craig Hromadka; Janice Johnsrud; Steve Johnsrude; Cindy Meng; and Leroy Peterson.



Each year, Farm Bureau sponsors the prestigious 4-H Key Award, the highest honor a 4-H member can receive. Youth receiving this award have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their club and their community. Crawford County Farm Bureau director Pat Dearth had the honor of presenting the award to this year's winner, Regan Kramer.



In June, Crawford, Richland and Vernon County board members gathered for the District 3 Northern Tri-County Meeting. At the meeting, members heard from WFBF staff, committee representatives and county conservationists. The annual gathering also serves as an opportunity for the three counties to network, share ideas and discuss Farm Bureau business.

Ford Discount Added to Member Benefit Line Up

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is excited to announce a new partnership with Ford to offer members a special discount.

Farm Bureau members are now able to receive \$500 bonus cash toward the purchase or lease of eligible Ford vehicles or \$750 bonus cash toward eligible Lincoln vehicles.

"We are excited about the addition of



Ford to our lineup of money saving member benefits," Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Jim Holte said. "Farm

Bureau members have been asking for this partnership and we're proud to have worked out a great agreement."

Members can get more information about this benefit or learn more about other discounts and incentives by visiting wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.



Former Alice in Dairyland, Kaitlyn Riley, recently took advantage of the discount to purchase her new Ford Edge.

Your Membership Matters



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

What a crazy and wet weather year we've had. I was re-elected by your county board to serve as President for another year. I believe this will be my fifth year serving as Grant County Farm Bureau President.

In September, we had our county annual meeting and voted on policy to be sent to the state to be considered at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. This truly shows you how this is a grassroots organization with policy coming up through the channels starting with the counties.

2019 is considered to be the year of water in many ways. With the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study going on, Farm Bureau has kept a close eye on how the tests are being taken and how the results are being released. It is very disappointing when the media twists the results around so much and publishes misleading information. Farm Bureau needs to be sure that the true story is told about farming and all aspects of agriculture.

This year really shows how important your membership is. Elected officials and lawmakers listen to and respect what Farm Bureau says and the policy we make. Growing and maintaining membership numbers has always been a challenge, but without a united voice we lose the strength in what we say.

Keep in mind in February members will have the opportunity to let their voices be heard at Ag Day at the Capitol. Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor up to 10 members to attend. The event is very informative, and we get to meet with our representatives. If you want to attend or want more information, please contact me at 608.778.1150.

Thank you for your help in making Grant County Farm Bureau a success. I'm looking forward to another great year.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 24 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Lynda Schweikert of the Grant County Conservation, Sanitation and Zoning Department shared an update regarding the Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study. She discussed the results of the study so far and mentioned that she has learned a lot about dealing with the media. She thanked Farm Bureau for its continued support of the study and other programs.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year, and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 14 resolutions.

Andrew DalSanto, Allen Johnson, Richard Johnson, Derek Orth, Devin Wellnitz, Christina Winch and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Peter Winch, President; Allen Johnson, Vice President; Katie Roth, Secretary/Treasurer; Josh Bailie; Andrew DalSanto; Jason Heberlein; Larry Jerrett; Richard Johnson; Charisse Orth; Derek Orth; and Jackie Seelow.



Success at Grant County Fair

The Farm Bureau Food Stand proved to be a great success at the Grant County Fair again this year. Thank you to those who volunteered time to work at the stand. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.

The Ag Tent also was a hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry. Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit the animals, color the large farm mural and win prizes. Thank you to those who helped and stopped in to learn something new.



The Grant County YFA Golf Outing was held on August 23 at the Lancaster Country Club. Attendees enjoyed a round of golf, followed by a delicious meal and socializing with fellow YFA members. A fun evening was had by all.

Harvest Season: A Time for Crock-Pot Recipes



Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Water seems to be a hot topic in the news lately. Water is something we can't live without, but it's also something we can't seem to live with anymore either. All the water coming in rain form has put a damper on the fall harvest season and has affected the daily lives of farmers.

Farmers are struggling to get the crops harvested in a timely fashion. On a good weather day,

farmers are putting in long hours to get harvest completed. As they are working to put food on the table for others, they are missing meals at their own table.

I try to make it a priority to eat as a family, even if it's not at the dinner table. During the harvest season you will find my Crock-Pot getting a workout, because let's face it, cold sandwiches get old after a while. I load up a basket with the necessities and we eat in the field together. Here is one of our favorite go to meals. I hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Root Beer BBQ Chicken

Ingredients

- 3 lbs. of chicken breasts
- 1 ½ cups of your favorite barbecue sauce
- 1 cup of root beer (not diet)

Directions

Place a Crock-Pot liner in your Crock-Pot. Place chicken on the bottom. Pour root beer and barbecue sauce over the top, making sure to coat the chicken evenly. Cook on high for 3 to 4 hours. When ready, shred chicken with two forks, cover and cook on low for an additional 20 minutes. Serve on a bun, mashed potatoes or rice. Enjoy.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 18 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a delicious meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed 15 resolutions.

Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow and John Meyers will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan, President; Justin Doyle, Vice President; Dan Adams, Secretary/Treasurer; Bob Daentl; Laura Daniels; Ryan Dolan; Dakota Hammerly; Adam Heisner; Kyle Levetzow; Don Ley; Matt Limmex; Jackie McCarville; John Meyers; and Megan Yager.



Meet: Dakota Hammerly, YFA Chair

Hello, I'm Dakota Hammerly, and I will be serving as the new Iowa County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair.

My involvement in Farm Bureau started at the collegiate level at UW-Platteville where I was a member for three years participating in different events such as Brag About Ag and Ag Day on Campus. I also held an officer position my senior years as secretary. I graduated from UW-Platteville in the fall

of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural education.

After graduation, I accepted a full-time position at Biddick, Inc., as the field and crop production supervisor.

I've been an Iowa County Farm Bureau board member for the past three years and am looking forward to my new role as the YFA Committee chair. My goal is to get more young farmers involved and introduce them to the opportunities Farm Bureau has to offer.



Farmers Appreciation Day Celebrated

Iowa County Farm Bureau members played an integral role in organizing Farmers Appreciation Day. The event was held during July and celebrated for its 34th year.

Saturday night featured the Sip and Savor event and a spectacular fireworks show. Sunday kicked off with a parade through downtown Dodgeville, followed by entertainment, a live auction, displays and food at Harris Park.

Farm Bureau members could be seen handing out string cheese in the parade, parking cars, helping in the kids' activity area, emceeing the awards program and conducting the live auction. Thank you to those who attended and showed support for the event. Mark your calendar for next year's event, **July 11-12, 2020**, and be sure to 'Like' the Farmers Appreciation Day Facebook page for more updates.



Iowa County Farm Bureau was a proud sponsor of the 2019 Iowa County Fair Master Showman Contest. The contest featured the top two showmen from each of the five large animal species. Contestants competed against one another in showing five species and were evaluated on their showing ability, species knowledge and attitude and sportsmanship in the show ring. The contest proved to be a great success, drawing in a large crowd and providing a fun and educational experience for youth exhibitors.

A Successful Year for Lafayette County Farm Bureau



Mike Harms

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Harvest has begun, and farmers are hitting the fields in Lafayette County. It is a challenge with the fields being saturated and wet spots everywhere.

I am proud to say that Lafayette County has reached a voting and total gain in membership this year. We exceeded our voting member goal by 21 and total voting by 50. This is accomplished by board members reaching out and signing up new members.

Our fair food stand and golf outing both achieved success this summer. At the fair, we sold steak sandwiches, brats, milk, soda and Gatorade.

The annual Lafayette County Farm Bureau Golf Outing on July 26 had more than 20 sponsors and several teams golfing.

We appreciate those who helped to make these events successful. If you are interested in helping next year, please contact a Lafayette County Farm Bureau board member. Any help is greatly appreciated.

We also had a nice annual meeting at Riley Brothers Angus in September. Mary Monson catered the event and the food was outstanding. If you couldn't make it this year, please try to attend next year.

The live auction raised close to \$700 for scholarships, promotional activities, Ag in the Classroom programs and YFA events.

If you want to get more involved in promoting agriculture and supporting a grassroots organization, please consider joining the Lafayette County Farm Bureau board of directors. We have a couple seats open and would love to get new members involved.



Farm Bureau members helped serve up delicious food at the Lafayette County Fair. The steak sandwiches are always a fairgoer favorite and happen to be one of the best deals at the fair. Thank you to those members who donated time to work a shift or two at the food stand.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 10 at the Riley Brothers Angus in Darlington. The evening began with a catered meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Steve Boe, WFBF Director of Local Affairs, discussed how members can make an impact at the local level and shared examples of local issues county Farm Bureaus have gotten involved in throughout the state.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Lafayette County members passed one resolution.

Allen Abraham, Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Mike Harms and Amber McComish will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Mike Harms, President; Christina Benson, Vice President; Amber McComish, Secretary/Treasurer; Allen Abraham; Tim Appell; Casey Lobdell; Joe Riechers; Mitchell Wedig; and Leon Wolfe.



The annual Lafayette County Farm Bureau Golf Outing was held on July 26 at the Darlington Country Club. Golfers enjoyed a fun day on the course raising funds for scholarships and other agricultural education programs. A special thank you to the generous sponsors for their contributions and continued support.

President's Message



Dick Hauser
Richland County
Farm Bureau
President

Hello,
Farm
Bureau

members. I usually spend most of my article talking about membership and the hope that more of you would consider getting involved in the activities of your county organization.

Membership and involvement are still very important, but I hope that I can prick your interest with some information that I received at the Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee. NRCS is still operating on an extended resolution because Congress has not passed the Farm Bill that was put together many months ago. As soon as they can get the go ahead from the national office, hopefully by the end of October, they will get the new Equip rules out.

Some of the things that we might expect are focus on beneficial resources, soil health and more help with action

to offset weather volatility.

If all goes as projected there will be a CRP sign up in December. There also is some work being done on a grassland program contract. There are eighteen Local Work Groups in Wisconsin and during their last round of meetings they were asked to prioritize the top 10 funding practices that should be considered for 90 percent cost share.

The top practice suggested was nutrient management. As more emphasis is placed on possible pollution from agriculture, having a nutrient management plan and following it will be a good insurance policy for our operations. Some of the other practices to receive attention are field border, grassed waterway, residue management, no-till, brush management and prescribed grazing.

Wisconsin has a history of getting good participation in most conservation programs and our share of government funding to aid farmers in doing what is right.

Keep up the good work and if you have not been involved in using Equip consider stopping into your local conservation office and find out what might work for you.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on October 9 at the White House Ramada in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Senator Howard Marklein discussed the significant role and powerful reputation Farm Bureau has at the state level. He shared information regarding the milk, meat and dairy product labeling bills he is sponsoring.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed four resolutions. Dick Hauser, Bill Hying and Josh Joseph will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting. Members of the board of directors include: Dick Hauser, Byron Hillberry, Bill Hying, Germaine Hying, Josh Joseph and Bekka Martin.



Vernon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/vernon
VernonCountyFarmBureau

Klinkners Named Achievement Award Finalists

The Achievement Award recognizes Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members who excel in farming, leadership ability and involvement in Farm Bureau and other organizations. Achievement Award applicants must have derived a majority of their income from on-farm production during the past three years.

Vernon County members, Travis and Krista Klinkner, dairy farm organically between Viroqua and Genoa. They milk 60 cows, raise their youngstock, and grow their forages and corn. The couple stays busy with chores and their growing family that enjoys everything farming. They are the proud parents of four children: Liam, Brad, Hank and Alice. When not working, they enjoy playing farm in house or sandbox and taking ranger rides after chores to scout crops and wildlife and visit neighbors.

The Klinkners will compete for the top award at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 17 at the Old Towne Inn in Westby. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions.

Vernon County members passed 12 resolutions. Alex Bringe, Travis Klinkner, Dave McClurg, Lee Nerison and Scott Sherry will serve as delegates to the 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Robert Nigh, President; Alex Bringe, Vice President; Scott Sherry, Secretary/Treasurer; Maija Haggith; Travis Klinkner; Dave McClurg; and Steve Wagemester.





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