



Grassroots

District 8 News

From the Desk of the District 8 Director



Don Radtke

WFBF District 8 Director

Greetings from the WFBF Board of Directors. First, I want to recognize the seven county Farm Bureaus that make up District 8 for their efforts this last year.

Your county leadership, though outside of the box thinking, focused on ways to support the agricultural community outside

of grassroots policy development and lobbying.

Earlier this spring, the counties rallied together for a district dairy meeting bringing in agricultural organizations, guest speakers and dairy farmers to identify key strategies to support farmers.

This summer, the counties rallied with the support of Rural Mutual Insurance agents to show area farmers that they are there and that they care about each of them by launching the #FBCares program.

They delivered 140 care packages across the district to brighten the recipient's day and celebrate 100 years of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

This fall, they partnered with Marathon County and Taylor County Extensions and the Marshfield Research Farm to create a livestock handling guide for law enforcement, county emergency coordinators and first responders.

The event was well attended, and feedback received will be used to improve the training.

This event has gained momentum and excitement around the state with other county Farm Bureaus and farm organizations looking at how they can host workshops locally.

Outstanding work District 8, this is a great example of how grassroots efforts impact your community and local affairs.

When reflecting on the past year, it has been one for the record books. Farmers around the state have been fighting Mother Nature, a tough farm economy and a summer of advocating for the agriculture industry at public hearings. Thank you to those who participated in the testimonies.

Your voice is needed, appreciated and heard. We will continue to contact members asking them to testify.

If you are interested in a certain topic, please let me know. District 8 continues to have great discussions on policy both at the district and county levels.

As a district, we continue to submit the most resolutions to the WFBF Policy Development Committee.

Thank you to Ashleigh Calaway, our district coordinator, for her dedication, outlook and passion that she brings to District 8.

Welcome To Voting Members

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

Clark County: James Hidde, Richard Rinehart and Joseph Peters

Lincoln County: Steven Roets, Raymond Zastrow and James Harman

Marathon County: Bradley Zettler, Lionel Maier, Jason Stencil, Daniel Clark, Troy Helman, Ariel Graveen, William Hannemann, John Sheahan, James Kavanagh, Stephanie Stencil, Matthew Lueck, Brook Roeske, Benjamin Krenz, Cedric Lechleitner, Matthew Soczka and William Byrd

Portage County: Adam Cisweski, Anita Berry, Jerald Knuth and Dalton Beggs

Price County: Brad Cummings and Takoda Schreck

Wood County: John Hilgart, Nikole Johnson, Ronald Skow, Benjamin Tilberg, Edward Worlund, Nikos Linardakis and Mathew Lybeck



Save the Date

March 27-28  **2020 Ignite**
Innovate. Grow. Network. Inform. Train. Engage.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Marriott Madison West, Madison

Registration

Early Bird Registration through March 4, 2020: \$140

After March 4, 2020: \$175

A hotel room is not included with the registration fee, please make your reservation at:

Hotel Information

Marriott Madison West
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI 53562

Hotel Room Rate: \$139 + tax. Request the WFBF room block by March 4, 2020, to receive this rate.

Presented by:



Ag in the Classroom Announces the Cranberry STEAM Learning Project

By Pam Verhulst and Heidi Slinkman, Cranberry STEAM Learning Project Steering Committee collaborators

A new teaching resource about food and farming was added to the Ag in the Classroom program.

Cranberry STEAM Learning Project is a newly formed Steering Committee representing Wisconsin's cranberry industry and youth education.

Using a grant awarded from the proceeds from the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days, numerous educational kits and classroom lesson plans have been designed to teach traditional and non-traditional students about Wisconsin's state fruit, the cranberry.

Cranberry-themed lesson plans have been developed to engage students in science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

Educators will find some cranberry STEAM lesson plans have been derived from existing plans that have been enhanced to include ag literacy components, while others are newly created.

In the pilot year, these lesson plans will be trial tested and polished with state standard alignments. Now, educators will be able to fulfill learning standards in a new and exciting way.

In August at the Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield, the

Cranberry STEAM Learning Project joined Ag in the Classroom's booth in the WOW Tent.

Families and educators learned how the classroom lesson plans will be distributed and used. A variety of cranberry lesson plan components were featured and on display, such as the sink or float experiment, cranberry stamping, berry building and engineering with toothpicks lesson, counting with cranberries lesson, etc.

This fall, a few classrooms volunteered to incorporate the cranberry STEAM lesson plans into their learning schedule.

Fourth-grade teacher Mary Pat Erdmann and Woodside fifth-grade student and cranberry grower, Lili Arendt, helped launch one of the first cranberry lesson plans. Thank you for your support, Woodside Elementary.

To follow the Cranberry STEAM Learning Project, visit www.facebook.com/CranberrySTEAMLearningProject, contact cranberrysteamlearningproject@gmail.com or contact us at 715.572.0166 (Pam) or 715.213.4828 (Heidi).

We look forward to expanding Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom with the Cranberry STEAM Learning Project's lesson plans and look forward to working with Wisconsin classrooms.

Be sure to watch for more announcements as the program grows.



#FarmNeighborsCare Makes a Difference

Earlier this year, the district launched its own #FBCares program. It was met with a lot of positive feedback and energy.

During the summer, agricultural groups around the state joined forces to launch the #FarmNeighborsCare Program. This is a state-wide initiative to check on friends, neighbors and family.

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, the center had received more than 1,000 calls. Farm Center staff said most of the 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 'goodie bag,' snack or meal and take a photo to share on Facebook with #FarmNeighborsCare. Deliver the items 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.

The groups partnering on the



#FarmNeighborsCare

#FarmNeighborsCare campaign include: AgrAbility of Wisconsin, Dairy Business Association, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, National Farm Medicine Center, Professional Dairy Producers, Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, Wisconsin Farm Center, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

February 4, 2020

Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, Madison

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

If you want to attend Ag Day at the Capitol, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 (call or text) or acalaway@wfbf.com.

Presented by:



Thank You to Our Sponsors:



AFBF Women's Communication Boot Camp Offers Quality Training

By Beth Schaefer

As my family grows, and work never seems to slow, I have found it more and more difficult to find time for me.

I'm not talking about time to indulge in a good book or go to the grocery store without a small child clinging to me, but time for my brain, my soul and my mind. Time for me to be challenged, to learn, to be inspired, to grow.

Sound familiar ladies?

So, when I read that applications were being accepted for the AFBF Women's Communication Boot Camp being held on October 22-25 in Washington, D.C., I knew I needed to apply.

I was very lucky to be selected as one of

15 women to participate in this conference. Fourteen different states were represented by some amazing women who are making their mark in agriculture. Before I even packed my bags, I participated in several conference calls and had to prepare a three-minute speech on an issue facing animal agriculture.

Our time in Washington, D.C., was short, but the AFBF training staff made every moment count.

I received training on how to be an influential advocate for agriculture across multiple media platforms including social media, radio, television and face-to-face conversations.

The training was intense, and I felt that I was able to grow my communication skills through mock live television and radio interviews. I

received honest feedback from conference facilitators as well as real advice and tactics on how to grow my strengths and address my weaknesses.

One of the best parts of this conference was that it was small, and I was with several women who also work with volunteers and agriculture promotion. I really believe that I made some great connections that I can lean on as a support network for grassroots ideas and best practices.

As a Farm Bureau member, I am really proud of the amazing resources we have through Farm Bureau. I encourage any woman who wants to become a stronger voice for agriculture to apply for this conference and take advantage of the incredible training opportunities available through your Farm Bureau membership.



From the Field



Ashleigh Calaway
District 8 Coordinator

Greetings. I want to thank you for reading this newsletter. You are the heartbeat of this organization. We couldn't do what we do

without you.

I am aware that this year, like the last few, has been filled with challenges. My family isn't immune to these challenges.

On July 8, my father-in-law walked to the sheep pasture to check on the flock, the same way he has for more than 20 years. It was a beautiful summer morning, feeling much cooler after a spell of heat and humidity, but only one

ewe greeted him. It was by the grace of God that she alive. This was the second attack in two years that left us with heartbreak. I wish I could say these two incidents, as horrible as they were, are the last of them.

Shortly after, our new breeding bull was found three miles north on a neighboring dairy farm. Luckily, we live in a wonderful agricultural community. The neighbors kept him contained until we could get him.

Fast forward to this fall. Our new breeding ram was attacked. The ram, like the bull have been noted as inconclusive with the USDA-Wildlife Department. The key statement here is that they are noted or recorded.

If you are facing animal harassment issues, please contact Wolf Concerns with the USDA-Wildlife Services at 715.369.5221.

One of the most impactful things we can do as we wait to hear from the latest public hearing period, is to call with any wolf concerns.

Each recorded event allows staff to build a case and allows them to better serve us and hopefully, prevent what happened to our family from happening to yours.

The last thing I want provide you with is the phone number for the Wisconsin Farm Center. The staff members are an amazing group of people ready and willing to help you a if you need help.

They offer assistance in financial planning, mediation and arbitration, farmer outreach, veteran farmer assistance and outreach and herd-based diagnostics.

To contact the Wisconsin Farm Center, call 800.942.2474.

Livestock Handling Field Day Hosted by Several Counties

Local emergency personnel learn to handle livestock in emergency situations.

On September 25, firefighters, sheriff deputies and emergency coordinators gathered to partake in the first-of-its-kind livestock handling program hosted by Clark County, Marathon County, Taylor County and Wood County Farm Bureaus along with Marathon County and Taylor County UW-Division of Extension.

The training took place at the Marshfield Area Research Station in Stratford. This facility allowed attendees to gain hands-on experience in moving cattle, catching loose cattle and building temporary fencing and housing for

horses and livestock.

Attendees also were given information about the requirements for implements of husbandry to be on the road.

“This event demonstrated what Farm Bureau and UW-Extension are about. Developing relationships and programs to address gaps and issues that arise in the agricultural community in hopes to find solutions for all parties,” said WFBF District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway. “The event wouldn’t have been possible without the support and buy-in of the Clark County, Marathon County, Taylor County and

Wood County Sheriff’s Departments.”

Presenters included: Cheryl Skjolaas, UW-Extension health and safety specialist; Heather Schlessler, UW-Extension Marathon County dairy agent; Dr. Sandy Stuttgen, UW-Extension Taylor County agriculture agent; Maria Bendixan, owner of Cowculations Consulting; and Danny Meyer, farmer and industry leader.

This program was funded through grants obtained by the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days Show and the UW-Extension Safety Grant programs.



Annual Meeting Celebrates Success and Triumph

2019 was a year of struggle for almost all of us. It also was a year of success and triumph in a lot of ways. The county Farm Bureau annual meeting hosted by Tom and Cathy Shafto was one of the many successes.

The shed was full of members to listen to Senior Vice President of Marketing and Industry Relations Patrick Geoghegan for Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. He provided a behind-the-scenes look at how and where our dairy checkoff dollars are spent.

Members also toured the Shafto Farm's new dairy facility, had a great discussion on policy that directly impacts members and had great conversation.

Thank you to Bob's Dairy, Froeba Construction and Josh Rakovec construction for sponsoring the meal.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



Recognizing Bill Elmhorst

"Giving is not just about making a donation, it is about making a difference." - Kathy Calvin

On behalf of the Clark County Farm Bureau board of directors, thank you to Bill Elmhorst for his years of service to the board of directors.

We will miss your energy regarding issues affecting our farm families.



Dairy'rific Pancakes in the Park

Thank you to those who joined members of the Clark County Farm Bureau for breakfast on August 25.

The proceeds from the breakfast go to the scholarship fund for Clark County students who are pursuing higher education.



Celebrating 73 Years of Advocacy

At the end of September, Lincoln County Farm Bureau celebrated 73 years of advocating for agriculture.

Guests listened to Dan Merk, the Chief Executive Officer for Rural Mutual Insurance Company, as he joined in the celebration.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



Lincoln County Fair Highlights

Bedtime books in the barn. If you had a chance to walk around the county fair, you noticed that a few more things were added. There was a display booth and bedtime stories in the barn.

This was the first year hosting the event and based on feedback, it will be a yearly tradition.



Thank You for Your Service

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart.” -Elizabeth Andrew

The Lincoln County Farm Bureau board of directors want to thank Amanda Samuelson and Mark and Amy Duley for their service to the board.

We will miss your expertise, and can-do-attitude.

Mark: Thank you for dedicating more than 20 years to the board of directors and for advocating for Lincoln County farm families.

A thank you is not enough to express the sincerest thanks for what the three of you have done for our organization. Thank you.



Promotion and Education Committee Hosts Grilled Cheese Competition

2019 has been an exciting year for the Marathon County Promotion and Education committee.

In August, the committee hosted the inaugural grilled cheese competition. We had judges from the local television stations, and youth and adult contestants. Each contestant was required to make four sandwiches. Youth members were allowed the assistance of an adult. Adult

participants were required to make their sandwiches without assistance.

Sandwiches were critiqued by judges to determine the winner.

Audience members were given samples of the sandwiches.

Members of the Promotion and Education committee thank those who participated.

Look for a save the date for the 2020 grilled cheese competition.



County Annual Meeting Highlights

Thank you to the 80 members, guests, ice cream scoopers and Rural Mutual Insurance agents who joined in celebrating the county Farm Bureau's accomplishments.

Highlights of the county annual meeting included:

1. Rural Mutual Insurance agent Leon Woller was awarded the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award.
2. Tom Mueller, Beth Schaefer and Amber Cordes were recognized as outgoing directors for their time and dedication.
3. We welcomed three new directors including: Josh Schmidt, Dwight Tolk and Duane Schuh.
4. The historical committee had a display highlighting the county's history.
5. Jeff Johnson with Burnett Cooperative shared his story of living in Ecuador and his travels across the west coast. He talked about Burnett Cooperative's history and what the co-op is doing to bring value to Wisconsin agriculture.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



Recognized for Service and Dedication

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead



Thank you to Amber Cordes, Beth Schaefer and Tom Mueller for their service and dedication to the board of directors. The energy and insight that you brought to the board is appreciated.

Rub a Dub, Dub, Soap for the Tub

In November, Katie Mattison, the District 9 Coordinator taught a class on how to make soap. There were 12 people who attended.

Everyone had a great time. Nine people indicated that they planned to make soap in the future. Three people indicated that they may make soap in the future.

This program was well received, and we will look to host another class in the future.



Portage County

Annual Meeting Highlights

In mid-October, members celebrated 73 years of advocating for Portage County Farm Bureau.

The guest speaker was WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations Karen Gefvert. Gefvert addressed questions from members and reviewed the latest issues facing Wisconsin farmers.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



Isherwood Recognized for Service

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." - Author unknown

Portage County Farm Bureau and its board of directors want to thank Jim Isherwood for his years of service to the board of directors.

After numerous years on the board, Jim has chosen to retire and spend more time at home with his wife Elsie.

Thank you, Jim, for all that you have done for Portage County Farm Bureau.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program Activities

In mid-October, YFA members gathered at Whitetail Lanes to blow off some steam and partake in shop talk.

If you are interested in participating in our next event, please contact Jeff Dombrowski at 608.963.6797 or follow our county Facebook page for updates.



County Annual Meeting Highlights

In September, members celebrated 37 years of Price County Farm Bureau. The meal was provided by Jim and Helen Palmquist owners of Palmquist Farm. There were many attendees and they discussed issues facing farmers.



If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.

Annual Beef Cookout and Horse Pull

Thank you to those who joined county Farm Bureau members for the annual beef cookout and horse pull. This year, the menu changed a bit with providing a steak sandwich meal.



There were great reviews from attendees and the same meal will be offered next year.

Remembering Ken Denzine, Board Director

On November 8, Kenneth Gene Denzine died surrounded by his loving family. Ken was a long-time member of Price County Farm Bureau, serving on the board of directors for many years.



Ken was born and raised in the Phillips area and was a U.S. Army Veteran. Ken and Sally ran Denzine Dairy together for 34 years raising their family and building memories to last a lifetime.

Ken believed that farming, despite hardships and disappointments, was the most honest and honorable way a man could spend his days on earth. Ken is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sally; his sons: Todd and Greg (Karen) Denzine of Phillips; his four grandchildren: Tanner, Abbigail, Alexis and Wyatt, who were his pride and joy. He also is survived by his brothers: David (Susan) of Alaska and Tim (Carla) of Phillips; his sisters: Connie (Jerry) Heim and Shirley (Mike) Bungert, both of Wausau; his sister-in-laws: Joan Denzine, Carol (Bob) Trampf, Shirley Lund (Bruce Miller) and Marc (Rob) Jamo; and many nieces and nephews.

The members of the Price County Farm Bureau thank Ken and his family for his years of service and dedication to the Price County Farm Bureau. Their thoughts and prayers are with the Denzine family.

Taylor County

Farm Bureau, Worth the Investment

By Rob Klussendorf

I have been a Farm Bureau member for more than 50 years. Looking back over those 50 years, I have come to realize that I have gained back more than I have ever paid in.

Through Farm Bureau I have made many lifelong friends, gained leadership skills through county board workshops and state workshops.

It has provided me with the tools to work with community leaders, consumers, youth and fellow agricultural leaders.

Thanks to Farm Bureau, I have the confidence to believe if we work together, we can improve the rural communities we live in.

Thanks to Farm Bureau, I played a key role in the state policy and lobbying efforts regarding use-value, eminent domain, livestock siting and the right to farm.

My first experience was meeting different Young Farmers and Agriculturist (YFA) in the county who had the same objective of making the farming community a better place to live.

During the 1977 WFBF Annual Meeting, I was appointed to the WFBF YFA Committee. Serving on the WFBF YFA committee laid the foundation for working together with Farm Bureau members on the policy making process.

We can make a difference in our agricultural community and what affects us as farmers again.

In 1988, I was appointed to the WFBF Tax and Education Committee to work on education. Because of the time I spent on that committee, I developed a lifelong passion to advocate for agriculture.

As chair of the committee, I had the unique ability to work with other agricultural education groups. Regarding the tax or legislative side of the committee, I got my feet wet and gained a better understanding of how the legislative process works. I met some of the best movers and shakers at the state Capitol.

Looking back, it serves as a reminder that if we work together, we can have the power to change or enact new laws to improve rural life.

Through the years, I also served on the Joint Legislative Council on Farmland Preservation. This allowed me to share my perspective on how we can preserve farmland in Wisconsin.

These are a few of my favorite memories that I have with Farm Bureau. The best parts of this journey are the non-tangible things.

For instance, thanks to Farm Bureau, I have made lifelong friends, traveled, it helped me grow and to give back to the agricultural industry and my voice was heard at historical events in Wisconsin's agricultural history.

The best part is now, I can ensure that the next generation of farmers have that same opportunity and share these experiences with today's youth as a volunteer with our Ag in the Classroom program.

Thank You

“The heart of a volunteer is not measured in size but by the depth of his or her commitment to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Thank you to John Zuleger for his service to the Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors.

The insight that you brought to the board is appreciated.



County Celebrates Advocacy Work

County Farm Bureau members celebrated 43 years of advocating for agriculture.

The guest speaker was Medford High School agri-science teacher Lisa Kopp. Kopp shared a behind-the-scenes look at what it took to bring the barn to the school.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



4-H Key Awards Presented

In November, Ryan Klussendorf presented Jack Krause and Elaine Schumacher of Liberty 4-H Club with the 4-H Key Award. The Wisconsin 4-H Key Award program recognizes a select group of 4-H participants who have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of their 4-H club and community.

To be eligible, candidates for this award must be at least in ninth grade or older and must have completed at least three years of 4-H and one year of youth leadership. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and its affiliate, Rural Mutual Insurance Companies, have sponsored the Wisconsin 4-H Key Awards since 1974. Congratulations Jack and Elaine.

From the Milk House

By Ryan Klussendorf, County Farm Bureau president

As the year winds down, the Taylor County Farm Bureau board of directors looked back at what we accomplished.

We had another great Steak and Egg Breakfast, we connected with 500 plus students during Ag in the Classroom presentations, there was a bigger and better Ag Venture Tent at the county fair and we tried all of the desserts at the Dairy Dessert Contest that we sponsored.

Along with those highlights, we did other great things, but for me the one element that contributed to our success was the ability to work with multiple organizations to get things done.

Thank you to those Farm Bureau volunteers during these events, along with the North Central Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association; Taylor County MASS Committee; Medford School District; Taylor County Fair; K99 Radio Station; K&B Refrigeration; Marathon Cheese Corporation; Grassland Dairy Products, Inc.; and Taylor County Farmers Union.

Without your hard work, none of these great programs would be available to our residents. We have created a winning team. I look forward to continuing our common goal of supporting agriculture in our community.

During the last few years, I have spent a lot of time sitting on the bleachers watching my sons in soccer, basketball, football, track and baseball. Although it seems to take forever for 90 minutes in a soccer game, or nine innings in baseball, it is such a short time in their lives and I hope the lesson they take from it is: it doesn't matter who scores the points, it matters the points are scored by your team.

Unfortunately, as I watched the confirmation hearing for the appointed Secretary of Agriculture, I didn't see our senators working together for the common good of agriculture.

As Farm Bureau members, I challenge you to hold the people of leadership at the state and federal government levels accountable.

It's time to stop playing politics. We need to work together for all of agriculture no matter how big or small the farms are or what they grow. Nothing will change if we don't sit at the table and negotiate, we are going to win some and lose some, but in the end, we will come out stronger.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization. We need to show the state the boots we have on the ground. It's time to put the members first, leaders are not handpicked, they are raised from the ground up.

A Celebration at the County Annual Meeting

2019 marked 95 years for Wood County Farm Bureau.

More than 50 members and guests listened to Stephanie Hughes, co-owner of Sunsett Dairy.

She provided an perspective of her family farm, farming and life philosophy and how her and her husband divide and conquer with three boys and with Alan serving as crew chief for the 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

If you are interested in reviewing the resolutions that were passed at the county annual meeting, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.



Central Wisconsin State Fair



From the President's Cab



By Josh Calaway, County Farm Bureau president

Like many of you, finding the time to sit and reflect or even plan is difficult. It takes determination to make it happen.

Lucky for me, I had some windshield time this fall, traveling for work. It's during that time, I find myself reflecting, making plans or thinking

about the future.

Looking back at everything that 2019 threw at the agricultural community, it is no wonder that I have noticed a spike in calls from you, the members. Please, don't take that as criticism.

We are a grassroots organization, meaning leadership comes from the ground up, along with our vision and mission.

It is thanks to members like you, that we know we are on the right track in Wood County.

The top 10 things that we accomplished this year includes:

1. Ended our year with a voting membership gain.
2. Recorded a record high number of resolutions that were passed on to the WFBF Policy Development Committee.
3. Gained three new directors.
4. Were awarded a \$10,000 grant to grow our Ag in the Classroom program.
5. Partook in the sheriff's first responder training.
6. Received a record high number of scholarship applicants.
7. Had a great year selling ice cream at the Wood County Fair.
8. Hosted our third #FarmerTalk session.
9. Celebrated area farmers with the #FBCares Program.
10. Had great attendance at our county annual meeting.

I want to thank you for being a part of our organization and I look forward to hearing from you. It is thanks to you, our hard working and dedicated members, that we can do what we do.

Hopefully 2020 will be the year of change, with less challenges, more happiness and time to enjoy what this life has to give us.

Members Recognized for Service

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
- Winston Churchill

Board members want to thank Clarence Boerboom for his years of service to the Wood County Farm Bureau board of directors.

For many years, Clarence has served as staple on the board and worked hard to ensure our county annual meeting was a success.

The board members also want to recognize Jason Behrend for his years of service. Jason has and continues to be a shining star, helping however and wherever he can.

Thank you for your years of service, Clarence and Jason.



What's Next for Wood County Farm Bureau?

Most of you met the prize bovine 'Greta' at the Central Wisconsin Fair in the WOW Tent. In the months that have passed since, the members of the committee and board have been hard at work, identifying ways to bring the dream to life. Earlier this fall, letters were mailed to area agribusinesses asking for support for this program.

Please take a moment to read the hope and vision for the program. If you find yourself interested in being a part of this program, please let one of the committee members know. The committee members are not just looking for financial contributions but also people who are willing to volunteer time and talent with the committee.

"For nearly 100 years, Wood County Farm Bureau has been an advocate for farmers and agriculturists in the county. Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that allows individuals to have a unified voice regarding issues impacting their livelihood. Wood County Farm Bureau aims to educate youth and connect consumers with where their food comes from. In partnership with both Wisconsin and American Farm Bureaus, they have led the charge in providing agriculturally based education for students across the county, state and nation.

For years, Wood County Farm Bureau has partnered with teachers and classrooms across the county for their annual essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students. They have actively grown the program in recent years and hope to reach even more area youth and parents through the mobile Ag in the Classroom program.

Imagine an agricultural classroom on wheels. A classroom that can go anywhere to tell our rich agricultural story. Wood County's diverse agriculture industry provides the perfect platform to help inform students and consumers about the industry that provides more than \$900 million in economic activity to the county.

We are working hard to create a portable agriculture trailer highlighting various commodities including dairy, beef, cranberries, corn, wheat and soybeans. The trailer will feature ag stands loaded with educational videos, like the ones created for Wood County Farm Technology Days and interactive games from My American Farm for young learners to explore and discover food, fiber and energy.

The trailer will also feature Greta, the 'incredible milking cow,' which will give participants a hands-on opportunity to milk a cow. In late May, Wood County Farm Bureau was awarded a \$10,000 grant on behalf of the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days.

To complete our Ag on the Move program we are looking to fundraise \$20,000. We have already started purchasing educational materials for the trailer including a portable milking cow.

One of the committee's goals is to provide educational opportunities where they might not have been possible before, along with partnering with agricultural groups. The trailer will be made available to FFA chapters, library programs, dairy breakfasts and more.

We can't reach our vision without your financial support. Please consider making a financial contribution to the Wood County Farm Bureau Ag on the Move Program. With your generous contribution, we can make a lasting impact on central Wisconsin. If you have any questions regarding the program, please email us at woodcountymfbureau@gmail.com or call one of the directors listed.

Sincerely,

Wood County Farm Bureau board of directors and Ag on the Move Committee

Josh Calaway: 715.781.1220

Charlie Fox: 715.459.6359

Brad Weber: 715.650.1542

Bruce Pankratz: 715.383.0576

Carmen Weber: 715.650.1963

Loren Scheunemann: 715.213.1579

Checks can be made out to Wood County Farm Bureau and mailed to:
Loren Scheunemann, 5618 Grant Road, Vesper, WI 54489.



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

Learn From The Experts

Insurance can be confusing. We created our Learning Center as a resource, to guide you through common insurance questions and money-saving tips.



Farm Insurance



Business Insurance



Personal Insurance



Insurance Questions

Visit RuralMutual.com/learning-center to learn more!

