



Grassroots

District 5 News

District Director Report



Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Director

As we turn a new decade some of the same questions remain from consumers.

Questions regarding, “Where does my food comes from? Is my food safe? or How do I know?”

Recently, I sat through a session learning about blockchain.

Blockchain simply put, is a way to share and protect information throughout the supply chain. What is unique about blockchain, information can be shared or locked within the system. Allowing information to be seen throughout the supply chain by only individuals granted access to that info. This helps build trust and transparency in the system while giving retailers more traceability and farmers the privacy they require.

Producing food requires natural resources. We need to continue to protect those resources and be as efficient as possible utilizing those resources around us.

Moving forward, consumers will demand the knowledge that this is being done. Consumers want to know that we are sustainable and protecting our water and caring for our animals. Blockchain is the way to transfer knowledge throughout the chain, from field to fork.

Online purchasing trends also will continue. Currently 3 percent of total food is purchased online. That percentage will increase as the ability to move fresh food continues to improve. Consumers may even have the ability to watch their food move similarly as you watch an Uber car move toward you after your order. With such a system, consumers will want as much information as possible to help make decisions for their families.

Blockchain is not only a one-way street. Retailers and farmers can learn about who is buying their products. Learning about the purchasers helps us produce food people want and helps in promotion of those products. Even beyond that, there will be systems that will prompt people to submit a 23andMe type DNA profile and it will suggest food types best for that genetic profile.

Moving into a new decade we will have many new technologies to help with many old questions. We as farmers have had several challenging years, but U.S. agriculture is built to produce the safest, highest quality, consistency food in the world. Add to that the ability to adapt to new technology and we are here for the long haul.

God bless and happy new year.

District Coordinator Report



Becky Hibicki
District 5 Coordinator

Greetings Farm Bureau members!

I hope you enjoy reading this district newsletter. It's a great way to keep up to date in everything that is happening in your county as well as all the other counties in District 5. As you read this newsletter, you will see many photos from the WFBF Annual Meeting that was held in December. 2019 was the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's centennial

year. At the WFBF Annual Meeting our organization celebrated our history by remembering our past. It was exciting to see members talking about how they first got involved in Farm Bureau and looking at old photos, newsletters and other memorabilia.

The WFBF Annual Meeting is behind us and it's 2020. Now, it's time to look toward our future. For our organization to continue to be successful in the future we need to continue to maintain and grow our membership. This past year, we celebrated 12 years of continued membership growth in the state, and your county Farm Bureau is working hard to reach their 2020 membership goals so we can continue successful membership growth.

If you know of family members, neighbors or friends who would benefit from a Farm Bureau membership, I encourage you to invite them to join, or simply contact someone on your county board of directors and he or she will be happy to help. We have many volunteers who dedicate a lot of time and effort into membership.

By being a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member, you qualify for benefits and services that provide a range of options that respond to the needs of farmers, families and businesses in Wisconsin. For more information on Farm Bureau member benefits, visit wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.

As your district coordinator, a major part of my job is working with county Farm Bureaus in membership efforts. If you have a question about your Farm Bureau membership, benefits or want to get more involved, please contact me at 920.517.2445 or bhibicki@wfbf.com.

Plan to Attend the WPS Farm Show

Plan to attend the 59th annual WPS Farm Show on **March 31-April 2** at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh.

The Farm Bureau will have Booth #6571 in Hanger D. The booth is sponsored by the Farm Bureaus in Fond du Lac, Outagamie, Waushara, Winnebago and Green Lake counties.

For more than five decades, the WPS Farm Show has provided an opportunity for the agricultural community to check out the latest farming equipment, machinery, tools and services.



District YFA Report



Sally Turpin

District 5 YFA Representative

This year, the YFA Conference was a little unique as we celebrated 100 years of Wisconsin Farm Bureau with approximately 450 YFA members in attendance and even more for the centennial celebration on Saturday night.

Ag broadcaster Max Armstrong hosted two panels with several former WFBF presidents and

political figures.

With a great line up of speakers and breakout sessions ranging from the inspirational Paul Long to breakouts on hiring employees, auctioneering, and line dancing, there was something for everyone.

District 5 was well represented in the YFA contests with Natasha Paris from Green Lake County competing in the Excellence in Ag finals, as well as Fond du Lac members Jenny Leahy, Nate Zimdars and Derek Pluim in the Discussion Meet. Leahy was one of four contestants to make finals.

If you haven't attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference but are interested in attending next year, please talk to me or your county YFA chair. Every year, Rural Mutual generously covers registration and lodging for 50 first-time attendees.

Hope to see you at our District 5 tubing event on **February 16** at Nordic Mountain. As always, please let me know if you have any suggestions for district events.



Close to 60 District 5 YFA members attended the WFBF YFA Conference held on December 6-8 in Wisconsin Dells.

District 5 YFA Snow Tubing
Sunday, February 16 @ 1 pm
Nordic Mountain, W5806 County Rd W, Wild Rose, WI 54984
Pizza to follow after tubing
Cost of tubing is \$16 for 2 hours.
The district will cover the cost of and pizza
Contact YFA Chair Sally Turpin 608.462.3387 for more info

District Promotion and Education Report



Lynn Leahy

District 5 Promotion and Education Representative

Greetings, District 5 Farm Bureau members.

I hope everyone had a joyous time at the WFBF Annual Meeting and a great holiday

season. Spring will be here in a few short months.

It has been a busy time for the Promotion and Education Committee. In November, we held our third annual Leadership Boot Camp at the Wisconsin Farm Discovery Center in Manitowoc. The topic of our event was working with the media and using social media to advocate for agriculture.

WFBF staff members Amy Eckelberg and Sarah Hetke co-taught this very important boot camp topic.

During the event, we learned how to prepare for media interviews and practiced with an impromptu mock TV interview.

Attendees were able to watch their recorded interviews and personalized feedback to help them in the future.

During the second half, we learned how to use social media to share our agriculture story.

Soon, the committee will begin planning the fourth annual Leadership Boot Camp. Please let me know if there is a specific topic you would like us to consider for 2020. Look for details of the date, location and topic in the next newsletter.

During the WFBF Annual Meeting, we held a centennial food and supply drive. Our goal was to collect 100 items for every year of Wisconsin Farm Bureau's existence—10,000 items. We had tremendous support and collected more than 3,000 items that were donated to food pantries around the state.



Lynn Leahy (right) and her husband Mike delivered food from the centennial food drive to Marti Lee (left), director of the Wautoma Area Food Pantry.

Thank you to everyone who contributed food or supply items or made monetary donations to the drive. We greatly appreciate your generosity.

During the next couple of months, we will hold our yearly planning and goal setting meeting as well as helping WFBF staff member Darlene Arneson with Ag in the Classroom activities and contests.

I look forward to receiving your county winning essays for the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Essays are due **April 1** and the topic is 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?' This topic is paired with the 2020 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book, "Right This Very Minute," by Lisl Detlefsen.

For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest.

I encourage you to contact the schools in your county and to any Wisconsin fourth or fifth grade student who you know, home schooled kids, too, and encourage them to participate.

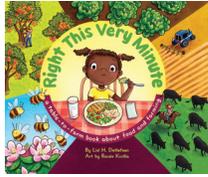
The topic is a great one and will allow students to learn how much Wisconsin agriculture is present in their everyday lives.

If you have Ag in the Classroom or promotion and education questions, please contact me.

I look forward to working with you for the next three years.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

The essay contest topic is, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?' This essay topic is a natural tie with the 2020 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "Right This Very Minute" by Lis Detlefsen.



The book and essay contest allows students to explore how agriculture affects us each day as we eat, choose the clothes we wear and the careers around us. Entry deadline: Entries must be postmarked by **Wednesday, April 1**.

For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest.

District 5 Ag in the Classroom county contacts:

Adams County: Kay Olson Martz, 608.572.1429
Fond du Lac County: Mary Runge, 920.477.4804
Green Lake County: Yolanda Woloszyn, 920.229.3962
Juneau County: Tonra Degner, 608.553.1256
Marquette County: Ashley Henke, 608.369.0261
Waushara County: Bonnie Jarvis, 920.572.6188
Winnebago County: Rebecca Poppy, 920.312.0970

Calendar of Events

February

- 1 Stompin' at the Shed, Oshkosh
- 4 Ag Day the Capitol
- 16 District YFA Tubing at Nordic Mountain
- 21-22 FFA Farm Forum, Wisconsin Rapids
- 22 Waushara YFA Vineyard and Winery Tour, Lunch Creek Winery, Neshkoro
- 29 Fond du Lac YFA Pizza Fundraiser

March

- 1 Scholarship application deadline for Green Lake County Farm Bureau
- 24 National Ag Day
- 27-28 IGNITE Conference, Middleton
- 31 Early-bird membership deadline
- 31 Scholarship application deadline for Fond du Lac, Juneau, Marquette and Waushara County Farm Bureaus
- 31-Apr. 2 WPS Farm Show, EAA Grounds, Oshkosh



Save the Date

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's

March 27-28

Marriott Madison West, Madison



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2020

Delegates at the 100th WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells established new policy directives for the organization. Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that are included in the organization's policy book in 2020. Resolutions were submitted as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on dairy policy items. They supported the research and development of systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Regarding energy, delegates supported requiring regular gasoline to contain 15 percent ethanol year-round.

Delegates discussed ag tourism topics. They supported the opportunity for farmers to diversify and market agricultural experiences including agricultural event venues.

Delegates supported allowing meat, fruit, vegetable and dairy farms to direct market products to the end consumer without making the process too burdensome in state, county and local regulations.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also voted to support:

- Requiring disclosure of the Wisconsin Fence Law on real estate purchase agreements, so buyers are informed of the law.
- A cost-share program for farmers who experience wolf conflict.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- FDA updating their standards of identity to recognize current technology in milk processing.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to AFBF for consideration at its annual convention.

District 5 delegates included:

- Adams County:** Richard Grabarski, Kay Olson-Martz and Jeff Huber
- Fond du Lac County:** Reuben Hopp, Janet Clark, Tim Haack, Chris Pollack, Jim Kelroy, Dale Theel, John Ruedinger, Steve Sabel and Earl Sippel
- Green Lake County:** Pete Badtke, Joe Wollinger and Jim Hebbe
- Juneau County:** Carl Degner and Richard Santas
- Marquette County:** Al Klapoetke and Aaron Wachholz
- Waushara County:** Adam Jones and Ryan Nowak
- Winnebago County:** Dan Carpenter, Charlie Knigge and Brian Poppy



Nearly 250 voting delegates discussed and voted on policy directives for Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

A Message From the President ...



Kay Olson-Martz

Adams County Farm Bureau president

We are a few months into our Farm Bureau year, and it has been a busy one for Ag in the Classroom.

We kicked the year off with introducing our Book of the Year, "Right this Very Minute" to each of schools and classrooms. We introduced our essay contest for the year. The essay contest

is due on **March 20** and the topic is, 'How does agriculture affect what you eat, wear or job you choose?' The essay must be between 100 and 300 words and can either be handwritten or typed. There are first, second and third place awards for each classroom.

We encourage teachers, parents/guardians, older siblings, aunts, uncles or grandparents to help and are providing internet sites to help the students research and write their essay. We encourage any of our home-schooled students who are in third through sixth grades to participate. If you are home schooled and want to participate in our essay contest, please contact me.

We go into schools and classrooms once a month to teach including: Grand Marsh Elementary, fourth grade; Adams-Friendship Elementary, third grade; and Coloma Elementary, grades third through sixth. The students have learned about cranberries, apples and conifers. In January they learned about soybeans and learn how to make hand lotion.

Each month we choose a different agriculture product that is produced in Wisconsin to focus on. Check out our monthly activities on the Adams County Farm Bureau Facebook page.

The board of directors are busy working on membership. Last year, we set our goal of getting 20 new members and retained other membership goals that allowed us to get \$1,800 as a bonus from WFBF. For 2020, we need to acquire 20 new members and other goals set for us. Since we do not do fundraisers, we rely on getting this bonus money for the programs that we support.

If you know of someone who will benefit from being a Farm Bureau member, please contact a board member--membership dues are only \$50 per year. When you get your renewal notice, please send your dues in right away because it helps us retain our membership and avoids having to collect delinquent dues. Membership dues are due every year on the date that you first signed up. I, along with the board of directors want to thank you for your continued support as members.

Our Young Farmers and Agriculturist members also are working on activities with our neighboring counties and will be contacting members via email, texts or on the Facebook page. When we say YFA, they really mean farmers who are young at heart and would like to join in on the activity.

I know many farmers and ranchers had a difficult year. Too much rain, too much water or not being able to get crops in or out of fields placed a heavy burden on many. This hardship also went beyond farmers, ranchers and their families, it carried over to everyone in the agriculture industry.

We had an excellent speaker at our county annual meeting who would enjoy connecting with some of us for coffee, tea or lunch just to chat. If you are interested in having small-group discussions, please contact me. You can find an article from Jennifer elsewhere in our newsletter.

In closing, I want to wish everyone good health and a better new year.

Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



(from left): Richard Grabarski, Kay Olson-Martz and Jeff Huber served as Adams County delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. The delegate session was held on December 9.



Adams County YFA members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 6-8 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells included, front row (from left): Michelle Huber and Emma Huber, back row (from left): Nate Bula and Jeff Huber.



Ag in the Classroom Program Update

The Adams County Ag in the Classroom committee is made up of a few dedicated volunteers who faithfully travel to many area elementary schools each month to conduct Ag in the Classroom educational programs that incorporate hands-on learning.



Ag 'Out' of the Classroom: New Haven Helping Hands 4-H Club learned about conifers and making a wreath.



The Grand Marsh Elementary fourth grade students made a wreath and learned about conifers. They each made a swag to take home.

Complete Health for Agricultural and Farm Families: My Journey Back to the Farm

By Jennifer Kowalkowski

Farming is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done in my life. It was hard work, but it taught me a lot about life and has made me the person I am today. We lost our farm many years ago, not because of the economy, but because of my parents' divorce. The day we sold our cows nearly broke me – I was lost. It took me years to find my path in life, but it led me back to farming.

Now, I've been a registered nurse for more than 15 years. I have an ethical responsibility to patients – to understand their needs and support them in ways that make sense with their lives and their situations. Caring for people at their most vulnerable times is truly a privilege, and one I don't take lightly. I've shared tears of sadness and tears of joy with many families and feel truly honored to have been able to do the work I've done. I've also had days when I came home frustrated – riled up because someone was treated poorly because the doctors or nurses didn't understand their lives. These things drove me every day to do better by people. And then one day, it happened – the patient who was treated poorly was a farmer – and in that moment my life changed.

I decided to become an ag nurse, yes, there is such a thing, and I dedicate my career to CHAFF, and not the kind that gets in your eyes.

The focus of my nursing practice is complete health for agricultural and farm families (CHAFF) – working with farmers and their families to protect and promote their health and well-being. That means making sure that doctors and nurses understand your life and work and offer choices to stay healthy and promote well-being that make sense for you as farmers.

Unfortunately, most doctors and nurses don't understand the life of farmers. They aren't aware of the many things that farmers deal with every day that can lead to illness or fatigue or that can increase the likelihood of a farm-related injury or death. So when a farmer does see a doctor (most farmers are like my dad, they're too busy taking care of the farm to take care of themselves), they don't get asked about things like weather, market prices, disease, finances, equipment failure and long work hours, or think about how these things affect a farmer's health and well-being. Trust me, these kinds of things are really important to know about.

CHAFF will, undoubtedly, be my life's work but I'm already doing a number of things to reach this goal. The first is making sure that nurses and other health care providers learn about farming as part of their schooling – learning about the types of injuries, exposures or illnesses that are unique to farmers; the kind of work that different kinds of farmers do; and the things that farmers may consider before deciding to go to a doctor. The second is building partnerships between rural hospitals/clinics and schools of nursing – making sure that nursing students who have clinical experiences in rural areas get out into the local community and understand what is important to people living there; and designing clinical experiences that showcase the great work that our rural nurses are doing.

My third project should get underway in a few months and will focus on farmers in Adams County and the surrounding areas. For this project, I need your help.

There are many things that farmers deal with every day that weigh heavy on their minds and can have negative

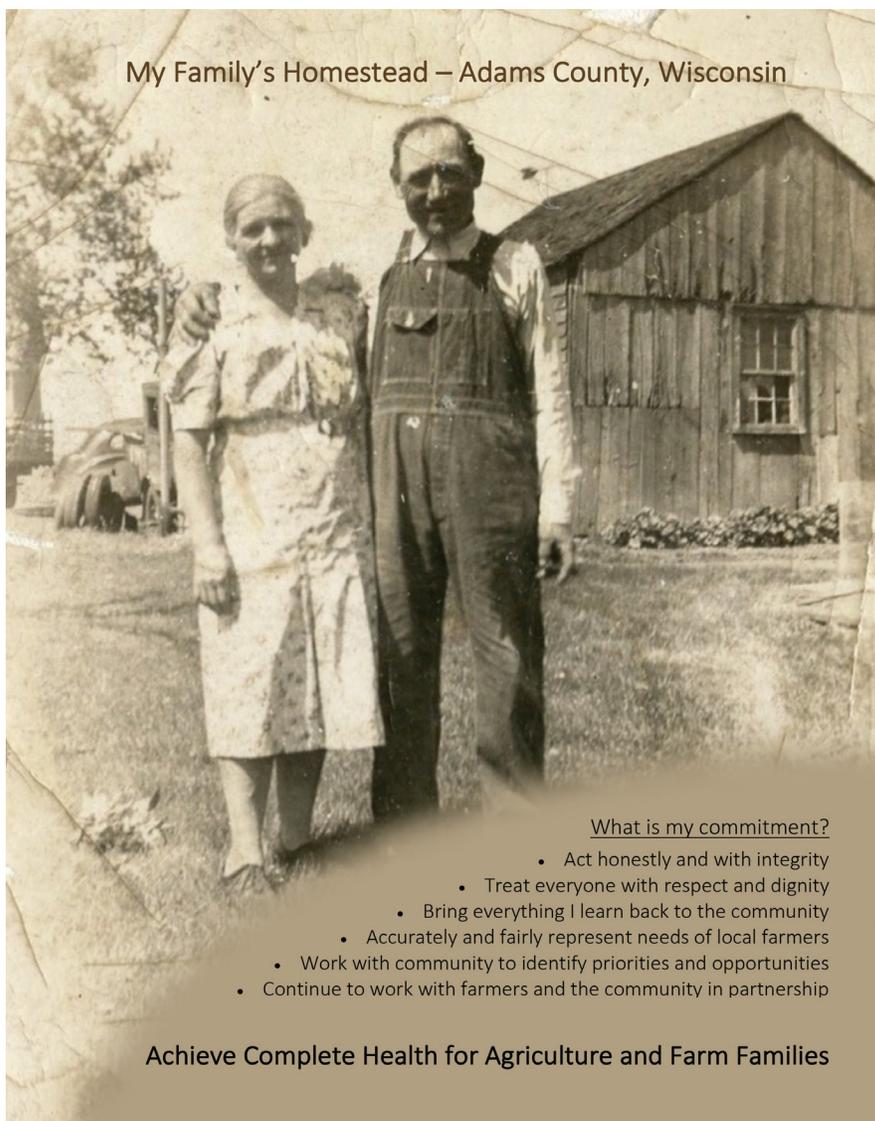
effects on their health, the majority of these they have no control over.

This year the weather really made it hard to get crops in, and that sort of thing can wear on your mind and your body.

I'd like to know from farmers, when these sorts of things are weighing on your mind, where you go to get information to help you make sense of things or who you vent your frustrations to. The purpose is to understand all of the people, places or things that farmers consider important resources in their everyday lives and figure out what resources farmers want to have but don't. Just knowing what resources are in your community even if you don't use them goes a long-way toward good health and well-being.

That is where I want to start, learning what is important to you. From there, I will share what I learn and ask that you tell me how I can work with you to take the next step forward. I have many reasons why I want to work with farmers in the Adams County area. My family's homestead was there, their property is public land now and I go at least once a year to scout out the house and barn foundations. It only makes sense to me to start my work as an ag nurse in the place where my family first started farming in the U.S., I couldn't imagine doing this anywhere else.

If you have questions, please contact me at 608.279.2958 (call or text) or jkwalko@wisc.edu. I look forward to talking with you.



My Family's Homestead – Adams County, Wisconsin

What is my commitment?

- Act honestly and with integrity
- Treat everyone with respect and dignity
- Bring everything I learn back to the community
- Accurately and fairly represent needs of local farmers
- Work with community to identify priorities and opportunities
- Continue to work with farmers and the community in partnership

Achieve Complete Health for Agriculture and Farm Families

A Message From the President ...



Reuben Hopp
Fond du Lac County Farm
Bureau president

2019 has come to a closure and 2020 has arrived.

The farm economy has faced many challenges in the past

few years. Also, we were challenged with some unfavorable weather for 2019.

So, as we enter the year of 2020, we are looking positively that the days going forward will be better for our agriculture community.

As far as Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau, we could not be more proud of the YFA program. There were three members who participated in the Discussion Meet during the YFA Conference in December. Congratulations to Jenny Leahy, Drew Plum and Nate Zimdars for a job well done.

Leahy advanced to the final round and did a great job but was not the winner; however, we

are proud of her accomplishments. Thank you to the three of you for making Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau proud.

In 2019, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation celebrated their centennial.

This year, the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau will celebrate its centennial.

As we have just concluded our Christmas season, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and now, we look forward to a more positive new year in 2020 for our agriculture community.

God bless you in 2020.

County Membership Work Recognized



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President Reuben Hopp (right) and long-time county membership chair Trayton Greenfield (left) were recognized as Farm Bureau Proud Club members for their success in membership. They were recognized during the membership luncheon held on Saturday during the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. Greenfield once again received top membership worker honors for signing 20 new voting members during the 2018-2019 membership year.

Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarships

Once again the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau will offer several scholarships for graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in a post-secondary education program.

The application deadline is **Tuesday, March 31.**

To request an application for the scholarships, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com.



Delegates Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau members served as delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting; back row (from left): Tim Haack, Reuben Hopp, Jim Kelroy, Earl Sippel and John Ruedinger; front row (from left): Chris Pollack, Janet Clark, Steve Sabel and Dale Theel.



Delegate Janet Clark addressed delegates during the resolution session held during the WFBF Annual Meeting.



John Ruedinger discussed dairy policy during the delegate session.

Fond du Lac Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Jenny Leahy, YFA chair

In December, Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau was well represented at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

Several county members attended and Nicole Petrie received the Rural Mutual Insurance

sponsorship for first-time attendees. Derek Pluim, Nate Zimdars and I participated in the Discussion Meet.

The WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference is an awesome networking opportunity and a great way to recharge your spark for agriculture.

Again, we will conduct our pizza fundraiser.

Pizzas will be made on **Friday, February 28**, and pick-up is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. on **Saturday, February 29**. If you can't make it to pick-up your pizzas, please contact a YFA member to set-up a time to collect your pizzas.

Watch Facebook for other YFA events and you can contact a YFA member if you want to become involved.



Fond du Lac County YFA members at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held December 6-9 in Wisconsin Dells. Front row (from left): Sara Menard, Derek Pluim, Nicole Petrie, Emily Franke and Hailey Dusheck; back row (from left): Grant Bwalda, Tony Schmitz, Sara Bertram, Kevin Geibel, Jenny Leahy, Christine and Joe Duscheck.



Jenny Leahy gave her opening statement during the final four round of the YFA Discussion Meet.



Derek Pluim during the semifinal round of the YFA Discussion Meet.

Pizza Sale

Back by popular demand, Fond du Lac County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members will be selling pizzas! They are made fresh with the finest ingredients from a local cheese company. Order extras to keep on hand for a fast meal, snack, or unexpected guests. Thank you for supporting the YFA program! For more information please contact Jenny Leahy at leahyj87@gmail.com or (920) 979-3213. Please return order by February 6.

This copy is for your records

Combo _____ Sausage _____ Pepperoni _____ Cheese _____ Supreme _____

Please make checks payable to Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA

Mail this portion with your check to Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau YFA Chair
Jenny Leahy 820 Eureka St. Ripon, WI 54971

Quantity	Pizza	Price/Pizza	Total Price
	12" Combo (Cheese, Sausage, & Pepperoni)	\$6	
	12" Sausage	\$6	
	12" Pepperoni	\$6	
	12" Cheese	\$6	

Order any 4 pizzas from above for \$20!

Also offering Supreme Pizza for \$7 or 3 for \$20
(Pepperoni, sausage, onions, and mushrooms)

Quantity _____ Price _____

Name: _____ Phone number _____

Total #pizzas _____ Amount _____



Nate Zimdars delivers his closing statement during the quarter final round of the YFA Discussion Meet.



Pick Up Date for Pizza Orders

Saturday, February 29

N6593 Fisher Road
Eldorado, WI 54932

1 pm - 3 pm

If you have questions or to
schedule a pick up time,
contact Kevin Giebel at
920.979.7957



A Message from the President ...



Peter Badtke
County Farm Bureau president

Welcome to 2020 Green Lake County Farm Bureau members. I want to thank the members who attended the WFBF Annual Meeting, YFA Conference and centennial celebration held in Wisconsin Dells.

This year, we were one of five counties selected to have a booth in the County Award of Excellence contest. Thank you to Irene Kutz and Denise Mayne for putting together a wonderful display of our county's photos from 50 or more years and other memorabilia. Also, congratulations to Natasha Paris who did a great job competing in the Excellence in Ag contest.

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on **Tuesday, February 4**, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison. This is an opportunity for members to hear about the latest ag issues from state leaders and walk to the Capitol to meet your representatives face-to-face. Last year we had a nice group attend from Green Lake County. Thanks for your membership and I hope to see many of you at Ag Day at the Capitol.

Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



(from left): Joe Wollinger, Jim Hebbe and Pete Badtke served as delegates.



The county was recognized as one of five County Award of Excellence winners. (from left): Steve Kutz, Dave Wilke, Irene Kutz and Pete Badtke were at the booth that was on display during the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Natasha Paris was named a top four finalist in the YFA Excellence in Ag contest and competed during the YFA Conference.



YFA members Emily Strahota (left) and Natasha Paris enjoyed the YFA Conference. Strahota received the Rural Mutual sponsorship to attend for first-time attendees.

County Women's Committee Offers Scholarship

The Green Lake County Women's Committee will offer two \$500 scholarships for graduating high school seniors. Parents or applicant must be a current Green Lake County Farm Bureau member. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing an agricultural-related field of study.

The application deadline is **Sunday, March 1**.

For more information or to request a copy of the application, please contact Yolanda Woloszyn at 920.229.3962.



Juneau County

Turpin Appointed to AFBF Committee



Sally Turpin, the Juneau County YFA chair and District 5 YFA Committee Representative was recently appointed to the AFBF Young Farmer and Ranchers committee.

AFBF president Zippy Duvall announced the members of the YF&R Committee for the 2020-2022 term beginning in March.

The YF&R Committee is comprised of 16 positions representing regions of the U.S.

An individual or couple may hold each committee appointment. Committee members are responsible for program planning, which includes the coordination of the YF&R competitive events during the AFBF Annual Convention and the Harvest for All program.

County Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

Once again the Juneau County Farm Bureau will offer a \$250 scholarship for a graduating high school senior.

Qualifications for the scholarship include:

- Applicant must be a 2019 high school graduate.
- Applicant or applicant's family must be current Farm Bureau member(s).
- Preference will be given to applicants pursuing an agricultural field of study.

The application includes a 50-word summary of educational goals and future career plans. The application deadline is **Tuesday, March 31**.

To request an application, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or bhibicki@wfbf.com.



Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



(from left): YFA members Sally Turpin, Candace Edwards, Brian Bires and Mitch Giebel attended the YFA Conference. Turpin serves as the District 5 YFA Chair. Edwards, Bires and Giebel received the Rural Mutual sponsorship for first-time attendees.



Juneau County board members Carl Degner (left) and Richard Santas (Right) served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Tonra Degner worked the county's booth at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The county was recognized as a County Centennial Award winner.



Tonra and Carl Degner attended one of the evening banquets during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Ag in the Classroom

The Juneau County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom committee purchased several copies of the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "Right This Very Minute."

The books will be given to area classrooms throughout the county. The committee also conducts the Ag in the Classroom essay contest each year and is looking for volunteers to read books in classrooms and help judge essays.

If you want to volunteer, please contact Tonra Degner at 608.553.1256.



County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Tonra Degner read the book "Right This Very Minute" to students as part of the county's Ag in the Classroom program.

Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



County Farm Bureau President Aaron Wachholz (left) and board member Al Klapoetke (right) served as delegates.



County YFA members, board members and past county presidents attended the centennial celebration.



YFA members who attended included, front row (from left): Matt Mateske, Kaycee Bittelman with Jaycee, Victoria Wachholz with Anna, Amanda Knoch with Oliver and Henry Knoch; back row (from left): Jordan Bittelman, Victoria Smith, Aaron Wachholz and Josh Knoch.



Henry Knoch, son of Josh and Amanda Knoch, celebrated the WFBF centennial.

Scholarship Available

The Marquette County Farm Bureau is offering a \$250 scholarship. The application must be postmarked on or before **Tuesday, March 31.**

Selection criteria is:

- The applicant's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must be a current member of Marquette County Farm Bureau. Due to financial operations of our organization, it is thought that a person should have membership involvement with Farm Bureau prior to applying for education funds.
- Although pursuing a career in agriculture is not a requirement, preference will be given to a student applicant whose course of study is agriculture related.
- This scholarship also is available to home schooled students.

For more information or to request an application, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445.



A Message from the President ...

Aaron Wachholz

Marquette County Farm Bureau president

Happy 2020. As we enter this new year and a new decade, let's pause to reflect on 2019 and focus on what is ahead in 2020.

2019 was truly a year of many challenges, wet, wet conditions tested our patience during spring planting, made hay harvest difficult in summer, prolonged the harvest and gave us wetter grain than we would have liked. Most commodity prices were low, making it extremely hard to turn a profit. But, despite the harshness of the weather, a struggling ag economy and hum-drum morale among most farmers, 2019 also was a year of blessings. We still grew crops and reaped a harvest. Perhaps it was less than we aspired to, but we got something.

The diversity of Wisconsin also is a blessing. When one part of the state struggles, other parts do better, so Wisconsin agriculture still grows and thrives. Another great blessing was the centennial celebration at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, 100 years of being the unified voice of Wisconsin agriculture, 100 years leading Wisconsin to be one of the most respected states in American agriculture, 100 years of unbelievable success in an industry that has been continually battered by economic, weather and financial challenges.

What a feat. I was pleased and humbled to join many of our county's past presidents and



Marquette County Farm Bureau president Aaron Wachholz with his wife Victoria and daughter Anna.

board members to be a part of this centennial celebration. WFBF is a special organization with men and women at its heart, who have a deep love and passion for the soil, for livestock and for the livelihood of farming. WFBF's influence has kept Wisconsin agriculture strong with past victories like Right to Farm legislation, use value assessment and implements of husbandry.

AFBF's influence aided with prevent-plant acres adjusting the ruling on harvested cover crops so that livestock farmers could harvest much needed forage. These victories did not come easily but required many hours from our leaders deliberating, advocating and lobbying to see these laws passed. Years after, farmers still benefit from the effects of these laws.

The next 100 years will present many controversial and difficult issues. The Farm Bureau delegates discussed and deliberated the

idea of a dairy growth management system, on labeling and on immigrant labor, not easy, but necessary topics to discuss thoroughly so that Farm Bureau moves boldly forward, making decisions that will continue to unify our voice and keep Wisconsin ag strong.

Let your voice be heard. No other organization has the power to let a single voice be heard so strongly as Farm Bureau. From the floor of our county annual meeting, to the WFBF Annual Meeting, to the AFBF Annual Convention, a resolution from just one person can be heard and make an impact.

Ag Day at the Capitol is **Tuesday, February**

4. I want to invite you to come to Madison and join me to talk with our representatives and advocating and lobbying for agriculture. Your voice can be heard and will be appreciated by those who sit in Madison on our behalf. It is crucial that we in the industry keep our representatives informed of what we farmers are doing and the challenges we face so they are not misled or misinformed. Farmers are 2 percent or less of the population and so many people and special interest groups assume they know what is best for us, even though they have little contact with farmers and little experience on a farm.

It is up to us to speak for agriculture. Please join me at Ag Day at the Capitol. If you believe that there are ag issues in Marquette County that need to be addressed, please contact me.

God bless and keep you all.

Marquette County Dairy Breakfast – Make Plans to Attend

Plan to attend the annual Marquette County Dairy Breakfast on **Sunday, June 14**. For more information, please watch for your next newsletter or contact Bob Blum at 608.369.1436 or Brooks Buchholz at 608.369.0366.



Farm Bureau Offers Gordon Krentz and Jim and Charlotte Bleskey Memorial Scholarships

The Waushara County Farm Bureau will offer two scholarships. The applications must be postmarked or emailed by **Tuesday, March 31**. To request a copy of the scholarship application, please contact District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at 920.517.2445 or bhicki@wfbf.com.

Gordon Krentz Memorial Scholarship

The qualifications for this scholarship include:

- Current Waushara County Farm Bureau member or a son/daughter of a current Waushara County Farm Bureau member.
- Post-secondary education commitment.
- Current cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (B average). This B average must be maintained through your post-secondary education first semester or the scholarship money will be forfeited.

Jim and Charlotte Bleskey Memorial Scholarship This \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually. Qualifications include:

- Applicants must be a resident of Waushara County.
- Applicants must be pursuing a degree in an agricultural-related field.
- The scholarship is available to anyone pursuing higher education.
- An applicant can only receive the scholarship once.
- Scholarship payment will be made directly to school once a current transcript and proof of enrollment in second semester is received.
- Applicants are not required to be Farm Bureau members, but a priority will be given to applicants or their parents who are members.



Waushara County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara
 WausharaCountyFarmBureau

Members At WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



(from left): Adam Jones and Ryan Nowak served as delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Waushara County YFA members who attended the YFA conference include, front row (from left): Sam Nowak, Ryan Nowak, Peter Jarvis, Coraline Biely, Cory Biely, Claire Biely and Chloe Biely; back row (from left): Jon Deppe, Jesy Deppe, Erica Jarvis, Mike Leahy and Lynn Leahy.



LUNCH CREEK VINEYARD AND WINERY
 W1845 COUNTY ROAD E, NESHKORO WI 54960



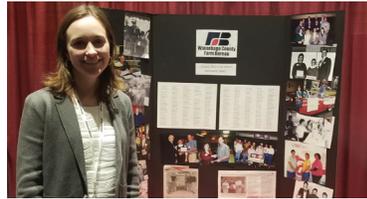
Winnebago County

wfbf.com/about/counties/winnebago
 WinnebagoCountyFarmBureau

Members At WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



Members at the WFBF Annual Meeting (from left): Brian Poppy, Rebecca Poppy, Charlie Knigge, Jennifer Carpenter and Dan Carpenter.



Jaime Sawle at the county's centennial booth display.



(from left): Brian Poppy, Charlie Knigge and Dan Carpenter served as delegates.

Sawle Graduates From WFBF Leadership Institute

Winnebago County Farm Bureau board member Jaime Sawle graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute program.

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.



Jaime Sawle graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute program during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Dairy Promotion Committee Update

By Dan Hinz, dairy promotion committee chair

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual Winnebago County dairy breakfast on **Saturday, June 13**, at the Mike Pamer farm near Winnebago. For more details, watch the next newsletter.



On December 8, Amanda Volp (left) and Dan Hinz (right) did a dairy promotion with milk and cookies with Santa at the Celebration of Lights in Oshkosh. On December 9, Jaime Sawle joined Dan Hinz for a night of milk and cookies with Santa. The dairy promotion committee enjoys adding dairy cheer to everyone's holidays and encourages everyone to keep milk and dairy in their recipes.



Santa took a break to enjoy milk and cookies donated by the dairy promotion committee during the Celebration of Lights in Oshkosh.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020

7:30 P.M. BRIGHTON ACRES
 4057 Fisk Avenue • Oshkosh

TICKETS:

\$15 includes admission, food and beverage tickets.

For more information, visit us on Facebook.
 @Winnebago County Farm Bureau

FEATURED BAND:



Hosted By: Winnebago County Farm Bureau YFA

 **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:**

- Adams County
- Fond du Lac County
- Green Lake County
- Juneau County
- Marquette County
- Waushara County
- Winnebago County

Rewarding Wisconsin Farmers



Our financial success allows us to reward our farm policyholders for their loyalty to Rural Mutual and commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

To learn how to qualify for up to 5% back, contact your local agent or visit RuralMutual.com/farmdividend

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company