



# Grassroots

District 7 News

## District 7 Director Report



**Brian Preder**  
WFBF District 7 Director

Hello, District 7. As we start the new year, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

I want to introduce myself to those I have not had the opportunity to meet yet. I grew up on a dairy farm in Weyauwega in Waupaca County.

After returning home from college and farming with my parents, I eventually found myself in my role as production site manager for PEAK in Shawano.

I'm excited to be serving as the WFBF Board Director for District 7. During the next couple months, I will travel to each of the District 7 county Farm Bureau board meetings to meet the membership.

Farm Bureau has a rich and diverse history that has made it 100 years old. To continue that history, it will take each of the six counties membership to help take those first steps towards the next 100 years.

## District 7 YFA Report



**Kelly and Keith Oudenhoven**  
District 7 YFA Committee Representative

Hello all. We hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and celebrated the fresh start of the New Year.

I (Kelly) officially began my role as the WFBF YFA Committee Chair on December 9 at the Policy Meeting. As such, I am a member of the WFBF Board of Directors.

I am very excited to represent the Young Farmer and Agriculturalist members around Wisconsin by making sure our voices and concerns are heard at the WFBF Board of Directors meetings and WFBF programs and events.

This year, Keith and I have many exciting things planned and hope YFA members take a chance by attending and having a great time. The first event will be the Green Bay Gambler hockey game, which will be held on **Friday, February 7**. We will enjoy pizza and soda after the game at the Green Bay Distillery. Please watch for more information.

If you want to see a certain event or have questions or concerns regarding the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, please contact me.

## District 7 Membership Power Up

By Wes Raddatz, WFBF District 7 Coordinator

In keeping with last year's WFBF membership theme of 'Racing to the Centennial,' the District 7 membership incentive was a gathering to assemble race car parts earned by members for each new member they signed up or past due member they renewed. The race car wasn't full size, however. In order to qualify for the race car assembly event, members had to sign or renew at least two members.



In November, Power Up event qualifiers and their guests were invited to attend the dinner held at Luigi's Pizza and Pasta Restaurant in Shawano.

There were nine individuals who qualified including: Tom Houdek, Langlade County; Cindi Wautier and Corey Kuchta, Marinette County; Walter Taylor and Ken Harter, Oconto County; Dave Daniels and Mike Salter, Outagamie County; and Scott Breitrack and Neil Christianson, Shawano County.

Each of them and their guest were invited to dinner at the race car assembly event.

Scott Breitrack was the top qualifier, so he got the honor of selecting the location for the

assembly event and served as the head mechanic in the assembly process.

At the end of the evening the race cars were raffled off. The lucky winner was Dave Daniel's guest, Tom Daniels.

I want to extend a hearty thank you to the qualifiers as well as those who tried but didn't quite make it.

Your efforts are what keeps Farm Bureau strong and effective.



Scott and Kerry Breitrack assembled the race cars at the District 7 Power Up event.



The assembled race cars were raffled off to the qualifiers for the Power Up event.

## WFBF Leadership Institute Graduation



By Kellie Zahn

As I stood behind the stage at the WFBF Annual Meeting, waiting to be one of the newest graduates of the WFBF Leadership Institute, I couldn't help but reminisce about how the WFBF

Leadership Institute helped me grow during the past year.

Last January, my classmates and I started as strangers at the WFBF office in Madison, but in December, we stood side by side as a group of friends who will be bonded always as members of WFBF Leadership Institute Class 13.

I remember being nervous when I started my journey through the WFBF Leadership Institute, but I am so glad I took an opportunity to be part of this group. I enjoyed learning more about myself and who I am as a leader. The institute really helped me reflect on the things that are most important to me when I am working as part of a group.

It also gave me tools to help me work with others who might have different leadership styles than I do. One of our class projects involved writing a leadership plan. I believe this plan will help me be a better team member and leader at work, within Farm Bureau and in the other organizations that I'm involved with.

I also appreciated the opportunity to learn more about Farm Bureau, especially how our policy is formed. I served as a county delegate to

the WFBF Annual Meeting before, but I didn't understand the whole picture of how policy ideas and proposals moves from the county, to the state and within the delegate session at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Having a better understanding of how it works helped give me the confidence to share my thoughts during the delegate session this year.

I also was surprised with how fun the WFBF Leadership Institute was. I enjoyed getting to know my classmates and the Farm Bureau staff. We also went on some great tours of farms and agribusinesses in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota.

I encourage anyone who is thinking about applying for the WFBF Leadership Institute to do so. It is a great experience to learn more about yourself and Farm Bureau.

## Promotion and Education Committee Update

By Wes Raddatz, WFBF District 7 Coordinator

Brittney Muenster is the new District 7 Representative on the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.

She began her three-year term on the committee at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Brittney is a graduate of the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course and fifth-generation farmer on her family's 150-cow dairy in Seymour.

In addition to farming, she also is an independent insurance agent specializing in farm property and casualty insurance with the Family Insurance Center.

The highlights of her seven-year Farm Bureau membership include attending the 2018 Washington, D.C., YFA Fly-In and participating in the Discussion Meet.

In her free time, she enjoys writing guest blog columns for WFBF and local media as well as hiking with her Blue Heeler, McCoy, and boyfriend, Matt.

Katelin Steege has retired after serving two and a half terms on the committee.

Thank you, Katelin for your years of dedicated service to the Promotion and Education Committee and to Farm Bureau.



Retiring Promotion and Education District 7 Representative Katelin Steege is recognized at the WFBF Annual Meeting for her years of service on the committee.

## District 7 and the WFBF Centennial

By Wes Raddatz, WFBF District 7 Coordinator

During the WFBF Annual Meeting, members were recognized for their donations to the WFB Foundation in honor of the WFBF centennial. Kristi and Brian Fiedler, Shawano County, received recognition for their 'Agriculturist' centennial donation.

Those who donate between \$5,000 and \$9,999 during a three-year period are recognized in the 'Agriculturist' level of giving.

Thank you Kristi, Brian and family for your commitment to ag literacy, promotion and education and leadership development through the WFB Foundation.



Kristi Fiedler (center) received her centennial farm sign in recognition of her 'Agriculturist' centennial donation to the WFB Foundation.

## Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



If you set a goal but don't have a plan for how to achieve it, you're really just making a wish.

You know you've reached middle age when you realize that your narrow waist and your broad mind are changing places.

## County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Hosts Several Guest Speakers

By Tom Houdek, president

The annual meeting was called to order after a chicken dinner provided by Insight FS. There were 26 members and guests present. After our affiliate company and committee reports we had three guest speakers:

- Land Conservation Department administrator, Molly McKay, spoke about LCC conservation and nutrient management programs.
- Langlade County UW-Extension agent, Dan Marzu, talked about UW- Extension programs available in the county.
- WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Dale Beaty, addressed the WFBF centennial celebration as well as programs, services and personnel changes at WFBF.

Next on the agenda was the election of several board members and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Those elected were included:

**District 1 Director #1 (three-year term):** Dale Fronck

**District 1 Director #2 (one-year remaining of a three-year term):**  
Ken Mach

**District 2 Director #1 (three-year term):** Tom Houdek

**Director at Large #1 (three-year term):** Jake Bula

**Promotion and Education Committee chair (one-year term):**

Bev Brecklin

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair (one-year term):**

Joe Markgraf

**Delegates elected for the WFBF Annual Meeting:** Tom Houdek, Dick Bolen and Ken Mach

Lastly there were three resolutions presented and passed.

1. For biosecurity reasons we support requiring inspectors to contact the farmer/farm manager a minimum of 24 hours prior to arrival, and inspectors should be required to present proper credentials/ identification before entering the premises.
2. We support criminal prosecution by the judicial system when animal activists enter a premises under false pretense to commit fraud.
3. LP gas, natural gas and electric powered cars and trucks should pay a fuel user fee to help finance roads.

After the annual meeting adjourned, the new board elected new officers for 2020. They are: President: Tom Houdek; vice president: Jake Bula; and secretary/treasurer: Christy Sveda-Schreiber.



**President, Tom Houdek, opened the meeting for business.**



**Rural Insurance agency manager, Dave Meihak, told about changes and success at Rural Mutual Insurance.**



**Insight FS Northern region manager, Joel Zalewski, reported about the ups and downs of the 2019 season at FS.**



**Retiring District Promotion and Education Committee Representative, Katelin Steege, gave an update about the committee's activities.**



**District 8 WFBF Board Member, Don Radke, talked about legislative issues that the Board of Directors have dealt with this past year.**



**Molly McKay from the Land and Water Conservation Department gave an update about dates and programs.**



**Dan Marzu presented a update on the UW-Extension program.**



**WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Dale Beaty, updated those in attendance about the many programs WFBF has worked on in 2019.**

## Music in the Park Fundraiser Is Successful

By Tom Houdek, president

Music in the Park was held on August 1. It was a beautiful evening for Langlade County Farm Bureau to host its third Music in the Park fundraiser.

Barbecues, chips, milk, soda, cheese and pies were served. There was a good turnout for the event and the money raised selling food will help fund our Langlade County Farm Bureau youth and Ag in the Classroom projects.

Thank you to those who helped and donated pies, meat for the barbecues, chips and milk.



**The Music in the Park meal provided by the Langlade County Farm Bureau attracted a lot of folks. The WFBF centennial was promoted with a display.**



## Farm Bureau Succession Planning Workshop

By Darlene Eckerman, board member

The Langlade County Farm Bureau sponsored an estate and succession planning workshop on November 13. The workshop featured Paul Glasheen from Rural Mutual Insurance, who outlined ways of passing on assets; attorney Carissa Geibel spoke on trusts; and Frank Friar from the Wisconsin Farm Center spoke on transitions and estate planning. The workshop was held at the Antigo Public Library.

Paul Glasheen is with Farm Bureau Life of Iowa and works with Rural



Langlade County Farm Bureau board member Darlene Eckerman welcomed participants to the estate and succession planning workshop.



Paul Glasheen (second from left) helped attendees with succession planning issues.



Attorney Carissa Geibel explained the functions trusts can have in estate planning.



Frank Friar answered questions about equitably passing farm assets to heirs.

Mutual Insurance agents to help clients with estate planning and farm succession issues.

Attorney Geibel along with her fellow attorneys are from the Legacy Law Group of Appleton, with an office in Clintonville. One of her specialties is trusts and estate planning.

Friar is the economic specialist of financial consulting and farm succession planning with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

# Marinette County

## Chuck Rabitz Is New Marinette County Farm Bureau President

By Chuck Rabitz, president

I hope this holiday season found you well.

My name is Chuck Rabitz and I'm your new county Farm Bureau president.

I've been active in agriculture all my life. I grew up on an 80-cow dairy in northern Manitowoc County. I attended UW-Madison and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture journalism and dairy science.

After college, I returned to the family farm and was in partnership until a barn fire destroyed the facility. The last 12 years, I've worked as an agricultural lender for two financial institutions. We recently relocated from Manitowoc County.

Currently our farm consists of growing hemp and producing our own CBD products and maple syrup. I've been active in Farm Bureau in a variety of ways.

I've served on the county board of directors for 11 years and I was the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau YFA chair. My wife and I served on the WFBF YFA Committee. In addition, I also am a graduate of the WFBF Leadership Institute Class 5. My family includes my wife Nicole and three daughters, Audrey, Olivia and Emily.

I look forward to serving as president. If you have concerns, please contact me.

## County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held in Peshtigo

By Chuck Rabitz, president

The meeting was called to order by President Ryan Staidl after a buffet-style beef tips dinner at Peppino's Pizza in Peshtigo. There were 24 members and guests present. Following the committee and affiliate reports, guest speaker WFBF Vice President, Kevin Krentz, talked about the WFBF centennial and efforts to support the farm community. Next was the election of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Directors elected to one-year terms were: Corey Kuchta, Aaron Pape, Chuck Rabitz, Monica Schwittay, Wayne Staidl and Cindi Wautier. Bill Kempka was elected as Promotion and Education committee chair. Trevor Van Drisse and Emily Cudnohosky were elected as co-chairs of the YFA committee. Delegates elected were Corey Kuchta and Wayne Staidl. Policy Development chair, Corey Kuchta conducted the resolutions session.

### The resolutions approved were:

1. We oppose the changes to ATCP 51 Livestock Siting regulations.
2. Change WFBF policy page 20, line 7 from "fuel tax" to "fuel user fee."

3. Replace WFBF policy page 15, line 51 with: We support that DATCP should have a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed once water samples have proven negative for atrazine.
4. Replace WFBF policy page 1, line 12 with: For biosecurity reasons we support requiring inspectors to contact the farmer/farm manager a minimum of 24 hours prior to arrival, and inspectors should be required to present proper credentials/identification before entering the premises.
5. We oppose the use of the term "meat" to label and describe food products derived from vegetative, plant, tree or bio-engineering sources.
6. We support criminal prosecution by the judicial system when animal activists enter a premises under false pretense to commit fraud.

Ryan and Amanda Staidl retired from the board. Ryan served as president and Amanda served as the women's committee chair and as the Promotion and Education committee chair. Thank you for your leadership and dedication. We look forward to working with them on Marinette County Farm Bureau projects and programs in the years to come.

## Meet: New Board Member Aaron Pape

Aaron and his wife, Erin, run Pape Family Pastures, producing 100 percent grass-fed beef, pastured pigs and pastured broiler chickens. He is passionate about grazing and supporting family agriculture. Aaron also works off farm as a farm business instructor for Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

The Farm Business Program provides continuing education for farmers through winter classes and year-round on-farm support.



## Meet: Bill Kempka, New Board Member

I'm a fourth generation farmer. I work on my grandparents centennial dairy farm.

When I'm not tending the land, I'm milking cows.

I'm also a member of our local FFA Alumni, which has helped to broaden the horizons of students.



## Ag Venture Day's Focus Is Everything Leads to Ag

By Cindi Wautier, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

Ag Venture Day took place again this year at Coleman School on October 3 with the help of Coleman FFA and Marinette County Farm Bureau.

The focus of the Ag Venture Day was 'Everything Leads to Ag.' The major topics where soil science, bee keeping, ATVs and UTV safety, farm to table and a petting zoo.

Taylor Rosner, Emily Kostrava, Dakota Birr, Reese Darga and Abby Charapata served as tour guides for the event. Devin Bort, Owen

Messenger and Evan Stank talked about ATV safety. In the greenhouse, Cahl Szabo and Autumn Elliot taught the students about soil and different plant nutrients.

Corrin Liptak, Bruce Podoski, Hannah Soletske, Magee Darga, Rachel Terp and Zachary Marquardt worked the petting zoo station. The petting zoo had bunnies, goats, chickens, a baby calf and a horse. Alex Prestine served as facilitator. The bell ringer and logistics manager was Tayler Rosner. Audrey Rabitz served as the event photographer.

The weather was wet and chilly but the Ag

Venture Day taught more than 200 students.

The event was moved from May 2020 to October 2019 because of the planned construction that will disrupt the parking lot and ag department rooms in the area needed to hold the event.

The intention is to go back to holding it in the spring when the building projects are completed.

Special thanks to WFBF District 7 coordinator Wes Raddatz, Jodi Rennie, Tina Behling and Bill Kempka for helping to make this event a success.



Students played a card game to match farms with food items.



Everyone got a chance to milk a cow at this udder demonstration.



Calf care was another thing the students learned about in the petting zoo exhibit.



The beef calf came dressed for the season in the Farm-to-Table exhibit.



The kids and the goat kids got along great in the petting zoo.



The horse was a popular subject in the petting zoo.



FFA leaders demonstrated the honey gathering process from the hive to the container they buy at the store or market.



The rain provided a break as Ms. Wautier reviewed the final plans with FFA leaders.



The horse was a popular subject in the petting zoo.



The students learned to safely use some fun machinery like UTVs.



The bunnies and chickens were a big hit in the petting zoo.

## Attending the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

By Walter Taylor, YFA chair

The annual YFA conference was held at the Kalahari Resorts with more than 450 members in attendance.

One of my favorite activities was the Discussion Meet, not because I have a passion for talking, but talking and sharing ideas that prove purpose and advocacy.

The two topics that I had the pleasure of discussing were about cell-based meat production and how we can market new advancements in an era of abundant agricultural commodity growth.

Throughout the conference, YFA members were rejuvenated and empowered by the



**Ken Harter (left) and Walter Taylor represented Oconto County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells last December.**

Fundamism of Paul Long, inspirational dialog among panels of past WFBF presidents and political allies.

Why was this such an exciting conference?



**Walter Taylor participated in the quarterfinal round of the YFA Discussion Meet.**

Because it honored our past and propelled our growth mindset and optimism into the next 100 years of Farm Bureau.

Please consider joining us next year.

## Members Attend County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

By Dennis Jahnke, president

The meeting was called to order after a family-style chicken and beef tips dinner at Romy's Holiday Inn in Kelly Lake. Thirty members and guests attended.

The key note speaker was Marinette County UW-Extension agent, Scott Reuss, who gave a presentation about water quality issues in northeast Wisconsin.

After committee, district representative's and affiliates company reports were given, the next item on the agenda was the election of directors and delegates.

Dennis Jahnke and Fred Timm were elected to two-year terms on the board representing District 1; Jamie Marx was elected to the second year of a two-year term as the at-large director; Kayla Zahn was elected to a one-year term as the Promotion and Education committee chair; and Walter Taylor was elected to a one-year term as Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee chair; Dennis Jahnke and Walter Taylor were elected as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

### Resolutions were discussed and the resolutions that passed were:

1. Replace WFBF policy page 20, line 1 under "Fuel Tax" with: We oppose the state agricultural fuel tax exemption at point of purchase but support allowing farmers to file for the fuel tax exemption on their state income tax returns.
2. Change WFBF policy page 20, line 7 from "fuel tax" to "fuel user fee."
3. We support a state funded grant for a voluntary program to reimburse farmers to purchase and install Roll Over Protection Structures with seat belts on farm tractors.
4. We support requiring ag cooperatives to revolve patron's stock equity every 30 years or at age 70 of the patron.
5. We support maintaining county budget funding to support the county portion of a full-time ag agent position with UW-Extension and immediately beginning the process to fill the currently vacant ag agent position.
6. Replace WFBF policy page 2, lines 55-56 with: We support the orderly phase out and elimination of the school voucher and independent charter school programs.



**President, Dennis Jahnke, welcomed members to the county annual meeting at Romy's Holiday Inn in Kelly Lake.**



**Rural Mutual Insurance controller, Troy Jeske, reported the personnel changes and new policies and programs.**



**Marinette UW-Extension agent, Scott Reuss, talked about area water quality issues.**



**WFBF Board Vice President, Kevin Krentz, from Waushara County discussed legislative issues.**



**Retiring Promotion and Education Committee Representative, Katelin Steege, talked about programs.**



**YFA Committee Representatives talked about YFA opportunities.**



**Policy Development chair, Ken Harter, conducted the resolutions session.**

## A Message from the President ...

By Mike Salter, president

The Outagamie County delegation to the WFBF Annual Meeting returned home in a rainstorm after a successful meeting. One of the goals for District 7 was to elect a new representative to the WFBF Board of Directors and that was Brian Preder who will serve a three-year term.

Outagamie also has a representative on the WFBF Board of Directors with Kelly Oudenhoven as the Representative of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. We spent a lot of time on resolutions fine-tuning them and correcting some wording of main resolutions. A lot of time was spent on milk supply and demand but in the end, there was no change from our original policy.



**District 7 delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting met to elect Brian Preder as District 7 Board Member on the WFBF Board of Directors.**

This year, I elected to attend the new presidents training. For me it will be a refresher course where we will review how to run a meeting, conduct interviews and we will meet with the head of each department of Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance.



**Outagamie County Farm Bureau members met with Senator Rob Cowles at last year's Ag Day at the Capitol.**

Ag Day at the Capitol is on February 4. We will review topics that we can talk about with our representatives. It is available to anyone who has an interest in attending.

For more information, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.

## County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held in Shiocton

By Mike Salter, president



**Bruce Long (right) was recognized for 25 years of continuous Outagamie County Farm Bureau membership.**

The meeting was called to order after a family-style chicken and fish dinner at the River Rail Restaurant in Shiocton. Twenty-seven members and guests attended. Bruce Long was recognized for 25 years of continuous Outagamie County Farm Bureau membership.

Guest speaker WFBF President, Jim Holte, talked about the Farm Bureau/Rural Mutual Insurance relationship and Farm Bureau state and national

issues. Next on the agenda was the policy development session.

### Resolutions that passed were:

1. Change WFBF policy page 20, line 7 from "fuel tax" to "fuel user fee."
2. We support a state funded grant for a voluntary program to reimburse farmers to purchase and install Roll Over Protection Structures with seat belts on farm tractors.
3. LP gas, natural gas and electric powered cars and trucks should pay a fuel user fee to help finance roads.
4. We support requiring inspectors to present proper credentials/identification before entering the premises.

5. We support criminal prosecution by the judicial system when animal activists enter a premises under false pretense to commit fraud.
6. We support amnesty for illegal immigrants who have been working for 10 years at one location.

Next was the election of county board members and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Directors elected to two-year terms from District 1 were: Ron Nelson and Dave Daniels. Director elected to fill the second year of a two-year term from District 2 was Kelly Oudenhoven. Directors elected to a two-year term from District 3 were: Randy Dorow and Steve Jentz. Elected to a two-year term as a director-at-large was: Dan Birling. Elected as Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee chair was: Bret Long. Elected as delegates were: Bob Fox, Mike Salter, Darrin Stingle and Bernie Vander Heiden. Dave Daniels was elected as an alternate.



**WFBF President, Jim Holte, was the guest speaker.**



**Rural Mutual Insurance vice president and general counsel, Ariella Schreiber, talked about Rural Mutual's community support, new policies and programs.**

## YFA Event Update

By Bret Long, YFA chair

I haven't brought up many new events as I am still thinking of ideas for events that young farmers and agriculturists could enjoy. That being said, if anyone has ideas, please contact me at [bfinefishman99@gmail.com](mailto:bfinefishman99@gmail.com).

There is an event on **February 20** at 7 p.m. at New London Lanes in New London.

The event is a joint effort of the Outagamie County and Waupaca County YFA groups. Members and non-members are invited.

If you're a member the bowling and the drinks (yes, also beer) and pizza is included.

If you are not a member you may have to rent your own shoes. Feel free to come and bowl or eat and drink.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact me.



**Join the Outagamie County and Waupaca County YFA for some bowling, food and fun on February 20.**

## Promotion and Education Media Boot Camp

By Bob Fox, Legislative and Local Affairs committee chair

On November 16, I attended the Promotion and Education Boot Camp at the Wisconsin Farm Discovery Center.

The topic was AFBF Media Training. Subjects that we covered were:

Bridging Language with phrases that we use, so the public can better identify the issues farmers are dealing with. Some examples of this would be: "I've heard that, but the facts are ...", "Our goal is ...", "From my perspective ..."

In 'Flagging Words and Phrases' examples would be: "The real issue is ...", "The bottom line is ...", "What people need to realize is ..."

Avoid Jargon, instead of saying, "producers" use "farmers, ranchers, growers," "anhydrous ammonia," use "fertilizer," "livestock" use "animals."

Lifeline phrases, these point out common ground. "We care about the quality of our water and environment because our families work in that environment, we drink the water, we live here."



After covering these, we did mock interviews with the Promotion and Education group.

I was very pleased with the job the Promotion and Education group did.

## Families Enjoy Milk and Cookies with Santa

By Kelly Oudenhoven, board member

The fifth annual Milk and Cookies with Santa was held on December 10 at Tryba's Simply Country Barn in Freedom. There were 150 attendees that braved the frigid temperature and wind to come and tell Santa their wishes for Christmas. Everyone in attendance received a carton of milk, a homemade cookie and of course candy canes. Santa took his time listening to the children and even asked a couple questions making sure they behaved all year long. A great time was had.

Thank you to the Outagamie County Dairy Promotion, Tryba's Simply Country Barn and Kyle Lange Agency sponsoring the event.



Why waste time explaining? Just show Santa what you want on your iPhone.



After visiting Santa, the next stop was the delicious milk.

## Tri-County Centennial Picnic and Farm Tour Held

By Kellie Zahn, centennial committee chair

We celebrated 100 years of WFBF at the Centennial Picnic and Farm Tour hosted by Outagamie, Waupaca and Shawano counties. This celebration was held on August 18 with a picnic at the Bear Creek Town Hall and continued after the meal at nearby Clinton Farms with a tour of their new rotary milking parlor and farm.

Thank you to the Rural Mutual Insurance agents in each of the three counties for their monetary support and help during the event. Thank you to volunteers who helped with preparations, food service and clean up.



Guests on the tour saw the milking parlor in operation.

## Octoberfest Cream Puff Fundraiser Is Successful

By Bernie Vander Heiden, vice president

Linda and I want to thank those who helped in any way in the cream puff booth to make it a very successful fundraiser. This year we made

a profit of \$2,600, which will be used to fund programs like 4-H scholarships, FFA Farm Forum, the Adventure in Dairyland program and Rural Health Initiative programs.

Without your help and support for this

fundraiser, Farm Bureau would not be able to donate to and operate these wonderful programs as this is the only fundraiser we had this year.

Again, thank you for your help and support.



September 28 was a busy day on College Avenue selling Outagamie County Farm Bureau cream puffs.



The cream puff construction crew had fun keeping up with the demand.



The cream whipping crew kept that delicious filling coming.



The fame of the Outagamie County Farm Bureau cream puffs had people stopping for photo opportunities.

## President's Report

By Neil Christianson, president

Happy new year. Another successful year has gone by and what a busy year it was for Shawano County Farm Bureau. We had another outstanding annual meeting in October at the Gathering in Shawano with 65 in attendance.

### Some of the accomplishments were:

- Sponsored six \$500 scholarship for students continuing their education post high school.
- Sent FFA students to Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.
- Brunch 2019 at Goer's Family Farm was a success.
- Donated string cheese for the Bike the Barn Quilts event the last week in September.
- Donated two, \$100 scholarships for 4-H members.
- Donated \$1,000 towards Bonduel High School greenhouse.
- Donated 500 pounds of cheese curds to Ag Ambassadors to hand out at local parades last summer.
- Donated \$200 to the Nebraska flood relief fund.
- Donated \$5,000 to the Shawano Ag Society towards a new sign at the fairgrounds.
- Donated \$1,000 towards the FRESH project.

I want to thank those who volunteered with the projects we were involved with and I look forward for another successful year ahead.

Now, it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage. Why did Ole wear two jackets while painting? Because the directions on the can said, "Put on two coats."

## Farm Bureau Proud Club

By Wes Raddatz, WFBF District 7 Coordinator

To be a part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club a member needs to sign up at least five new Farm Bureau members the previous year.

In 2019, WFBF had 43 Farm Bureau Proud Club members from 23 counties. Together they signed a total of 308 new members.

There were an additional 119 volunteers who signed another 180 new members for a total of 162 volunteers signing 488 new Farm Bureau members. Congratulations to Scott Breitrack for being part of this group.



Farm Bureau Proud Club member Scott Breitrack (right), Shawano County, his wife Kerry and District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz attended the Proud Club luncheon at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

## County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Is Held

By Neil Christianson, president

The meeting was called to order after a buffet-style Sunday Brunch at The Gathering in Shawano. Fifty-four members and guests attended.

The guest speakers were Dennis Jahnke and Christa Hoffman, who talked about Genex's efforts to improve the Dominican Republic's livestock farms.

Richard Britzke, Richard Pahlow, Kenneth Mueller and Ted Kupsky were recognized for 50 years or more of consecutive membership.

Dawn Dingeldein, Rural Health Initiative nurse, gave a presentation explaining the Rural Health Initiative program and promoted health maintenance.

The members elected several board positions. Directors at-large elected to three-year terms were: Kristi Fiedler, Christa Hoffman, Ashley Schugel and Jeff Styczynski. Skye Breitrack and Deanna Zernicke were elected as co-chairs of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee. Angie Schultz was elected as women's committee chair.

Delegates elected to represent Shawano County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting were: Scott Breitrack, Neil Christianson, Kristi Fiedler, Christa Hoffman and Kellie Zahn.

Next, Policy Development committee chair, Bob Krause, conducted the policy portion of the meeting.

### The resolutions that passed were:

1. We oppose the use of the term "meat" to label and describe food products derived from vegetative, plant, tree or bio-engineering sources.
2. We support requiring inspectors to present proper credentials/identification before entering the premises.
3. LP gas, natural gas, and electric powered cars and trucks should pay a fuel user fee to help finance roads.
4. We oppose the National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) publishing reports based on estimates.

Senator Rob Cowles and Representative Gary Tauchen reported about activities at the state Capitol in Madison.



Dennis Jahnke and Christa Hoffman from Genex talked about efforts to promote artificial insemination in the Dominican Republic.



State Senator Rob Cowles talked about some of his initiatives this year.



State Representative Gary Tauchen reported on what is happening at the state Capitol.



Rural insurance agent, Ben Albrecht, gave an update on Rural Mutual's policies, programs and personnel changes.



Richard Britzke, Richard Pahlow, Kenneth Mueller and Ted Kupsky were recognized for 50 years or more of consecutive membership.

## President's Report

By Wayne Steingraber, president

Another successful year has gone by. I want to thank the board of directors for making this a pleasant experience for me again this year.

### Some of the accomplishments this year have been:

1. To start out the year, Arnie Heise attended the 4-H Awards night and handed out Key Awards to three qualified recipients, along with the \$100 scholarships from the Waupaca County Farm Bureau that is part of it. They were: Elisha Riley, Casey Lake 4-H; Alison Acker, Wolf River Rascals 4-H; and Grace Petersen, Dayton 4-H.
2. This past year, we assisted six FFA members from three schools in Waupaca County to attend the FFA Farm Forum held in Wisconsin Rapids.
3. In January, members attended Ag Day at the Capitol and met with Senator Luther Olsen and Representative Kevin Petersen to discuss ag

issues that they were concerned about. I encourage you to join us at Ag Day at the Capitol and become a lobbyist for a day. It is through this effort that we can put a local face on the issues when our WFBF staff talk with our Senator and Representative on our behalf. And believe me, it does make a difference. They do remember you and recognize you throughout the year.

4. This year there have been some changes in the Rural Health Initiative personnel. Dawn Dingeldein is the health coordinator in Waupaca County. Be sure to call her to set up an appointment for a free health assessment.
5. The women's committee, Young Farmers and Agriculturists, Ag in the Classroom and Fair Food Stand were active. You can read the reports about the programs in other articles.

We had an enjoyable year. I thank you for your participation and I look forward to an even better year ahead.

## County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Celebrates Centennial

By Wayne Steingraber, president

The meeting was called to order after a buffet-style chicken and beef tips dinner at the Bear Lake Dance Hall in Manawa. Sixty-five members and guests attended. The resolutions session was conducted by county vice president, Meredith Bowers.

### The resolutions that passed were:

1. We support a voluntary program to reimburse farmers for 70 percent of the cost of tractor Roll Over Protection Structure installations.
2. Replace WFBF policy page 15, line 51 with: We support that DATCP should have a process by which atrazine restricted areas can be repealed once water samples have proven negative for atrazine.
3. Replace WFBF policy page 18, lines 40-41 with: We support Discovery Farm research and recommendations for phosphate, nitrogen and potash levels for NMP planning due to higher yields and the ability of hybrids to better utilize these nutrients.
4. Replace WFBF policy page 1, line 12 with: For biosecurity reasons we support requiring inspectors to contact the farmer/farm manager a minimum of 24 hours prior to arrival.

Next on the agenda was the election of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Directors elected to three-year terms were: Don Lutz representing District 1; Dan Hintz and Tim Bowers representing District 2; and Mike Nash as a director-at-large.

Directors elected to one-year terms were Emily Huettl, Promotion and Education committee chair; Jake Hoewisch, YFA committee chair; and Kari Riley, Ag in the Classroom coordinator.

The delegates elected were: Meredith Bowers, Jake Hoewisch, Brian Preder and Wayne Steingraber.

Members approved a bylaw change changing the Waupaca Farm Bureau women's committee to the Waupaca Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee.

As a special celebration of the WFBF centennial, president, Wayne Steingraber, and vice president, Meredith Bowers, presented membership anniversary certificates to Waupaca County Farm Bureau members: Don Faldet: 50 years; Ivan Gruetzmacher: 50 years; Robert Bonikowske: 51 years; Marvin Pethke: 52 years; Dave Lindsay: 52 years; Daniel Gruetzmacher: 53 years; and Raymond Arndt: 70 years.



Special guest Ray Arndt celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> Farm Bureau membership anniversary.



Rural Health Initiative nurse, Dawn Dingeldein, promoted health maintenance.



WFBF Vice President, Kevin Krentz, talked about legislative issues and the WFBF centennial celebration.



WFBF Executive Director of Public Relations, Amy Eckelberg, gave a program update.



Don Faldet: 50 years; Ivan Gruetzmacher : 50 years; Robert Bonikowske, 51 years; Marvin Pethke, 52 years; Dave Lindsay: 52 years; and Daniel Gruetzmacher, 53 years.

## Meet: Mike Nash, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board Member



Hello Farm Bureau members. My name is Mike Nash and I am serving as the member-at-large position for the Waupaca County Farm Bureau board of directors.

I work at CHS Larsen Cooperative as a quality assurance

manager at the Weyauwega feed mill location. I started working at the cooperative as a part-time employee bagging and delivering feed. Through

the years, I have advanced within the company. I handle our food safety program, HACCP certification and FISMA compliance. I work with employees to ensure they receive proper training and follow our policies and procedure to deliver a safe quality product for our customers. I also am involved in the purchasing and inventory management of our location, along with jumping into other positions as needed like delivering bulk feed.

I live in the Town of Union outside of Manawa with my wife Kaisha and a few pets including a dog, a cat and a couple of chickens. We moved from New London to our new home in June, got married in July and have been

enjoying our home and the area so far. We are excited to have some property and want to raise some livestock.

I got my start in agriculture in my hometown of Grafton through a 4-H club. I spent 13 years involved with 4-H showing dairy and beef cattle along with taking on roles within the club and county levels. I attended Fox Valley Technical College and studied agri-business and science technology. After school, I started at the cooperative. I serve as firefighter with Manawa Rural Fire Department and enjoy getting to know people in the area.

I look forward to serving on the board and getting to know everyone.

## YFA Report: Looking Forward to 2020

By Jake Hoewisch, chair

I hope this finds you taking a breath after a long and testing year in agriculture, with the crops harvested, manure pumped and the cattle bedded.

I had the pleasure of attending the centennial celebration at the WFBF Annual meeting at the Kalahari Resorts in December. I arrived at the YFA Conference on Friday evening. Unfortunately, I missed dinner and the Farm Bureau centennial birthday cake but made it in time to enjoy the evening entertainment at the indoor adventure park.

Saturday morning, I participated in the Discussion Meet. I made it through two rounds but was eliminated at the elite eight round. The Discussion Meet questions were very interesting to me and sparked great conversations.

After brunch there was a 'FUN' keynote speaker, Paul Long. He had a very inspiring message about life and how to implement fun into it or Fundamism, as he calls it. The one thing I took away from his message is instead

of asking "How's it going?" ask "What's good today?"

There were many silent auction items to bid on and lots of milk and cheese donated by one of our sponsors, Kwik Trip.

After dinner there were two panels, one of staff and legislative partners and one of past WFBF Presidents hosted by Max Armstrong. It was so humbling to see where this organization has come from and what it is today. I took a few great things home from the wealth of knowledge that was shared.

In 1960, there were about 100,000 dairy farms in Wisconsin. We had about 4,000 farmers actively advocating for agriculture. Today, there are about 8,000 dairy farms in Wisconsin so one out of every two farmers need to advocate for agriculture to be the same as 60 years ago.

On Sunday morning, there was the YFA Discussion Meet final. The finalists were Kallie Jo Coates, Jenny Leahy, Rachel Leege and Julie Sweney. Rachel Leege won the Discussion Meet.

On Monday, we finished up with the business



Members attended the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

meeting where Wayne Steingraber, Meredith Bowers, Kyle Much and I served as voting delegates. Overall it was a great centennial celebration.

YFA bowling event will be held at New London Lanes on **February 20**. Outagamie County and Waupaca County YFA members are invited to join. It will be a night of bowling, free pizza, beverages and of course, great conversation. I hope to see you there. If you have questions, please contact me at 920.810.5640.

I hope you had a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

## Ag in the Classroom Helps Prepare Food

By Helen Heise, Ag in the Classroom volunteer

In October, I joined two FACE classes of Sandy Cordes at Little Wolf High School. I presented and worked with the students to use and enjoy the fall harvest of apples and pumpkins.

The students baked and enjoyed apple cookies, baked apples and sliced apples with a cream cheese dip. They also enjoyed a pumpkin torte. Each student left the classroom with recipes in hand and were eager to make the recipes for his or her family.



Students enjoyed the results of their efforts.

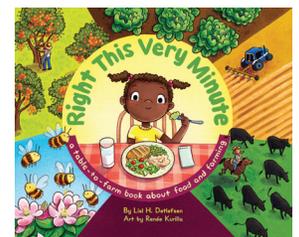
## Ag in the Classroom Book Donations

By Kari Riley, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

Dear Kari,

Many thanks to you and the Waupaca County Farm Bureau for your donation of the book, "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl H. Detlefsen. This book will make a terrific addition to Weyauwega Public Library children's book collection.

Warmest regards,  
Margo A. Lambert, children's librarian  
Weyauwega Public Library





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- Outagamie County
- Shawano County
- Waupaca County

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