



Grassroots

District 3 News

Wisconsin Agriculture Needs You



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

You are probably glad that the calendar finally turned to 2020 after the 2019 challenges. I am looking forward to the new year and hoping that 2020 will be less of a challenge than 2019 was.

We had a very good board meeting in January; the new board members fit right in

and didn't seem to miss a beat. We were able to set top priorities for governmental relations.

In February, we will be deciding the direction of WFBF in several other areas. The board also is working on strategic planning with the help of AFBF staff. Once completed, this document will guide WFBF farther into the future.

The centennial celebration was a success and the board recognized the staff for their work to make it a success. Many commented positively on the Farm Bureau Proud luncheon. We have room for many more at the next WFBF Annual Meeting. Sign up those new members and join the club in 2020.

Wisconsin was able to advance dairy policy at the AFBF Annual Convention in Austin, Texas. There remains some heavy lifting, but we are moving forward in response to Wisconsin policy adopted at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

On the county level, we hope you will take on the challenge of identifying and contacting your county leaders (county board members, township supervisors and others). We absolutely need strong relationships with these local leaders as we move forward with policy advocacy.

We are and will be under pressure to tell our story in a factual and personal way as we navigate the myriad of issues that agriculture is and will be facing. You, the members are the most powerful and effective voice for agriculture. The relationships that you have and will develop with local leaders is vital to us having success in the political arena.

Wisconsin agriculture needs all of us each and every day. If you have questions, comments or concerns, please contact me at 608.606.4319.

As always, stay safe and stay informed.

WFBF Welcomes New Board Members

Several new members were elected to the WFBF Board of Directors during the Annual Meeting in December.

Joe Bragger was elected president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. He succeeds Jim Holte who served as WFBF President since 2012.

Bragger was first elected to the WFBF Board of Directors in 2010 to represent District 4, which includes Buffalo, Trempealeau, La Crosse, Jackson, Monroe and Eau Claire counties.

Bragger farms with his wife Noel, brother Dan Bragger and a team of employees. Bragger Family Dairy maintains a herd of 300 dairy cows, 32,000 pullets and grows 1,400 acres of crops. Bragger and his wife Noel have four children: Rosli, John, Tessa and Allison.

Dave Daniels of Union Grove in Kenosha County was elected Vice President. He succeeds Kevin Krentz of Berlin in Waushara County.

Brian Preder of Weyauwega in Waupaca County was elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 7.

Ryan Klussendorf of Medford in Taylor County was elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 8. He succeeds Don Radtke of Marathon

County who has served on the board since 2003.

Peter Kimball of River Falls in Pierce County was elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 9. He succeeds former WFBF President Jim Holte who retired after serving in this role since 1995.

Nine of the 11 members of the WFBF board of directors are elected in each of Farm Bureau's nine districts. These nine individuals also make up the board of directors for the Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Rounding out the WFBF's board are the chairs of WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Promotion and Education Committees, both of which serve a one-year term on the board.

Darby Sampson of Melrose in Jackson County was elected to a one-year term as the representative from the Promotion and Education Committee on the board. She succeeds Andrea Brossard from Dodge County.

Kelly Oudenhoven of Outagamie County was elected to a one-year term as chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee and will serve as the representative on the board. She succeeds Julie Wadzinski of Barron County as YFA Chair.



Celebrating 100 Years: 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting

The 100th WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 7-9 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

Nearly 250 delegates from around the state established new policy directives for the organization. The adopted policies will guide the legislative agenda for the organization in 2020.

Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Delegates held discussion on various dairy policy items. They supported the research and development of a dairy growth management and other 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 a variety of 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 their 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 the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at the AFBF Annual Convention.

More than 50 YFA members from District 3 were in attendance for the 2019 WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference that is held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting. Members were busy networking, attending breakout sessions and learning more Farm Bureau opportunities, all while enjoying the many amenities of the Kalahari Resorts.

Each year members from around the state participate in the different YFA competitions. Travis and Krista Klinkner of Vernon County were selected as the winners of the 2019 YFA Achievement Award. Andrew Dal Santo (Grant County), Travis Klinkner (Vernon County) and Ryan Studnicka (Grant County) competed against other Farm Bureau members in the YFA Discussion Meet, discussing current issues affecting the agricultural industry.

Mark your calendars for the 101st WFBF Annual Meeting, December 5-7 in Wisconsin Dells.



Crawford County delegates (from left): Jim Meng, Pat Dearth, Lori Brown and Don Brown.



Grant County delegates (from left): Devin Wellnitz, Derek Orth, Kent Jerrett, Peter Winch, Andrew Dal Santo, Richard Johnson and Allen Johnson.



Iowa County delegates (from left): Kyle Levetzow, Adam Heisner, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan and John Meyers.



Lafayette County delegates (from left): Allen Abraham, Amber McComish, Tim Appell, Christina Benson and Mike Harms.



Richland County delegates (from left): Josh Joseph, Dick Hauser and Bill Hying.



Vernon County delegates (from left): Robert Nigh, Lee Nerison, Scott Sherry, Maija Haagith, Alex Bringe, Travis Klinkner and Dave McClurg.



District 3 was well represented at this year's WFBF centennial celebration.

Wisconsin Represents at AFBF Annual Convention

More than 6,000 members from across the nation gathered in Austin, Texas, for the 101st AFBF Annual Convention.

Members attended educational workshops, visited with old and new friends, explored the local culture and heard from many distinguished keynote speakers, including President of the United States Donald Trump and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.

Wisconsin was well represented in the Young Farmers & Ranchers competitions. Vernon County members, Travis and Krista Klinkner, competed for the Achievement Award, while Rachel Leege (Green County) participated in the Discussion Meet and Ben Huber (Green County) vied for the Excellence in Ag Award.

Delegates adopted policies to guide the organization's work in 2020 on key topics ranging from dairy to labor and climate change to conservation compliance.

"Delegates from across the nation came together to look ahead at issues and opportunities facing farms, ranches and rural communities," said AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal. "The 2020 policies ensure we are able to continue producing safe and healthy food, fiber and renewable fuel for our nation and the world."

Delegates updated labor and immigration policies, emphasizing that we must see significant changes to the H-2A program. While AFBF has long had policy in place to ensure an accessible, competitive guest worker program, the updates address problems with the adverse effect wage rate and emphasize the importance of year-round program access to all of agriculture. AFBF looks forward to working with Congress on efforts that align with these policy objectives.

After a year-long process to review ways to modernize Federal Milk

Marketing Orders, AFBF's delegates voted to support giving individual dairy farmers a voice by allowing them to vote independently and confidentially on rules governing milk prices. The opportunity to vote on milk pricing rules, along with other proposed changes to marketing orders will form a strong foundation to guide the organization during future reform efforts to better coordinate milk supply and demand in the U.S. Delegates also voted to support the creation of a flexible, farmer- and industry-led milk management system.

There are significant new policies on conservation compliance. Delegates called on USDA to significantly improve program transparency and due process for farmers. They specifically prioritized changes in USDA's processes for wetland delineations and the appeals process. Delegates also adopted a new policy supporting the repeal of Swampbuster provisions. The changes highlight growing frustration with conservation compliance practices within the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Delegates voted to support allowing a higher THC level in hemp, giving AFBF staff the flexibility to engage in discussions with regulators and lawmakers about the appropriate legal level, and to increase the window of time farmers are allowed to conduct THC testing, acknowledging the many questions about how the testing process will work and the potential for backlogs.

New policies are on the books supporting science-based climate change research and the documentation of agriculture's tremendous advances toward climate-smart practices. Delegates also made it clear that they want federal climate change policy to reflect regional variations, and they oppose a state-by-state patchwork of climate change policies.



Promotion and Education Update



Krista Klinkner

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Hello. I'm Krista Klinkner, a dairy farmer from Vernon County.

I earned degrees in chemistry and Spanish from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a chemist, I worked for the American Institute of Toxicology Labs and Virent, Inc.

My husband Travis, and I own and operate Klinkner Dairy, LLC, which we purchased from my family in 2015.

I'm thankful to be able to raise our four children on our 60-cow organic dairy, watching them grow in their understanding and love for agriculture.

This past year, we were selected as the WFBF Achievement Award winners and are very proud of this accomplishment.

Previously, I assisted in judging the Ag in the Classroom essay contest and Monroe County Fair Learn and Earn activities.

I look forward to working with county leaders across District 3 and assisting with promotion and education activities.



Food and Supply Drive at WFBF Annual Meeting a Success

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee hosted a food and supply drive at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. The items collected were donated to food banks around the state.

The committee collected more than 3,000 items. Some of the most popular donated items were diapers and wipes, peanut butter, toothbrushes and toothpaste and canned fruit and vegetables.

"It was so rewarding to see the committee organize this event and have Farm Bureau members from around the state come together to support families in need this holiday season," said WFBF's Director of Member Relations Mandy Masters.

The donated items were distributed through the following food banks and pantries: Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Feed My People, Feeding America, Waushara County Commodity Food Pantry, Jackson County Food Pantry and New Horizons.

Monetary donations also were collected to support the food and supply drive.



Save the Date

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's



March 27-28

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:



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo

District 3 YFA Committee Representative

WOW 2020.

A new year, a new decade, and A LOT of new

changes...I'm sure both on the farm and in Farm Bureau.

I would like to thank you all for a warm welcome as I start my first year of a three-year term on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee serving as the District 3 representative.

Special thanks to my predecessor, Tammy Wiedenbeck, for the outstanding job she did serving on the committee for the past three years. She put in a lot of hard work and dedication in those three years, and has taught

me a lot and been a great mentor. I know that I have some big shoes to fill.

Throughout the past six years of my Farm Bureau membership, I never once thought that I would be where I am today and have the experiences to look back on, but because of this outstanding grassroots organization I do. The memories that I have and the experiences that I have gained only make me that much more excited to see what the future of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau has in-store for not only myself, but for its current and future members.

I had the opportunity to participate in the WFBF Leadership Institute and graduated in 2018 as part of class 12. If you have ever considered applying for this institute, do it! It will, without a doubt, grow you both personally and as a Farm Bureau member. It has been one of the best experiences of my life.

As a Leadership Institute graduate, I was able to fly to our nation's capital, Washington

D.C., with the WFBF Board of Directors. The time I spent with them proved to me that the Wisconsin Farm Bureau has a group of strong, devoted, and relatable leaders that stand behind their members. Because of them, I came back from that trip with a newfound motivation.

Over the next three years, I look forward to meeting and growing strong relationships with each county in our district. One of my main goals is to collaborate with the Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville to increase their involvement within our district.

Our District has a tremendous amount of bright young minds with a lot of potential. Having their involvement will not only make our district stronger, but make Wisconsin Farm Bureau stronger as a whole.

Again, thank you District 3. I look forward to serving you as your YFA Committee representative.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference Snapshots



Ag in the Classroom Update



Matching Grants

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program is accepting applications for matching grants, up to \$500, that will be awarded to groups conducting activities that promote agricultural literacy in K-12 schools.

Projects that use funds toward an ongoing, sustainable education effort will receive preference over a one-time program. Applicants must have a matching donor for their project equal to the amount of the Ag in the Classroom grant. The application deadline is **March 1**.

Interested groups or schools can get an application on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at wisagclassroom.org, by clicking on the 'Grants & Awards' section.

National Ag Day

National Ag Day is **March 24**. Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau to celebrate all aspects of agriculture that day and throughout the week.

Participate in the fun by volunteering to read books about agriculture to classroom students, nursing home residents, children in daycares or at your local library.

Share agriculture facts on your favorite social media sites using the hashtags #WIReadsAg2020, #WIAgProud and #AgDay2020.

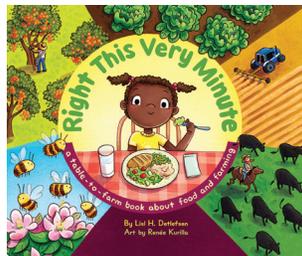
Host a classroom field trip to a local farm or agribusiness. Or bring the farm and ag industry to the classroom to teach students about the many different career choices and opportunities in agriculture.



Essay Contest

Do you know any fourth- or fifth-grade students you can encourage to participate in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest?

The essay topic is, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?' It pairs with the book of the year, "Right This Very Minute," written by Lisl Detlefsen.



Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website. Essays are due to your county coordinator by **April 1**.

District 3 Ag in the Classroom County Coordinators:

- Crawford County - Pat Dearth, 608.279.2417
- Grant County - Charisse Orth, 608.778.8101
- Iowa County - Livia Doyle, 608.574.9253
- Lafayette County - Amber McComish, 608.553.2221
- Richland County - Germaine Hying, 608.739.3367
- Vernon County - Travis Klinkner, 608.633.1981

You may also contact Darlene Arneson, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5644.

FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE



GRANT COUNTY

UP TO \$500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/grant20>
Due: April 25, 2020
Questions: Peter Winch - 608.822.7806



IOWA COUNTY

UP TO \$1000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/iowa20>
Due: April 25, 2020
Questions: Krista Dolan - 608.574.4565



LAFAYETTE COUNTY

UP TO \$2000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/lafayette20>
Due: April 25, 2020
Questions: Amber McComish - 608.553.2221



VERNON COUNTY

UP TO \$500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/vernon20>
Due: April 15, 2020
Questions: Travis Klinkner - 608.633.1981



ANNOUNCEMENT

MAY 2020

All scholarship recipients will be announced in May and recognized at county Farm Bureau annual meetings in September. Scholarship money will be awarded after a first semester transcript and proof of second semester registration is submitted.

Membership Volunteers Recognized at Farm Bureau Proud Club Luncheon



Tim Appell was recognized as one of the top membership workers.

Membership volunteers who signed five or more new members in the 2018-2019 membership year were recognized at the Farm Bureau Proud Club Luncheon during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

They were awarded with jackets and membership pins. Congratulations to the following District 3 members who worked to sign up members:

Crawford County

Don Brown, signed up six members
Pat Death, signed up five members
Jim Meng, signed up six members

Grant County

Katie Roth, signed up five members

Iowa County

Krista Dolan, signed up five members
Justin Doyle, signed up five members
Jackie McCarville, signed up five members
Megan Yager, signed up five members

Lafayette County

Tim Appell, signed up 16 members
Mike Harms, signed up six members

Vernon County

Travis Klinkner, signed up five members
Robert Nigh, signed up six members



Farm Bureau Proud Club members (from left): Jim Meng, Jackie McCarville, Don Brown, Katie Roth, Krista Dolan, Mike Harms, Megan Yager, Justin Doyle, Pat Dearth and Robert Nigh.

Behind the Scenes: Groceries, Trees and Cheese

District 3 Farm Bureau members enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Fennimore's new grocery store, Bender's Foods. Attendees learned about marketing strategies and the role farmers and consumers play, while enjoying free popcorn. Members then traveled to Cook's Woods, a former grain and hog farm that has transitioned into a choose-and-cut Christmas tree farm. A stop at Carr Valley Cheese rounded out the day. Those who attended had a wonderful time learning more about these local agribusinesses.



Crawford County

wfbf.com/about/counties/crawford
CrawfordCountyFarmBureau

Water, Soil, Nutrients and Farming

On February 27, Crawford County Farm Bureau is inviting members of the community to come together and learn more about farming in Crawford County.

The feature guest is Amber Radatz, co-director of Discovery Farms Wisconsin. Amber will provide a presentation that covers water, soil, nutrients and their relationship to farming. After Amber's presentation, questions will be allowed from the audience.

To end the evening, the Crawford County Farm Bureau will host a panel of farmers from the region that will be moderated by Amber Radatz. Panel members will talk about their farming practices and their efforts to be good stewards of the land. Community members

of the audience will be allowed to ask members of the panel questions.

"We hope that this event will be an opportunity for those in Crawford County to come and learn more about farming. We're striving to answer the what, where, when, and more importantly, the why farmers do the things that farmers do," says Don Brown Crawford County Farm Bureau President. "We want to have an open dialogue between farmers and those who work and live in Crawford County because we're all in this together."

The event will take place in the little theater at the Prairie du Chien High School starting at 6 p.m. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the public is encouraged to enter at the front entrance by the flagpole.

PRODUCER-LED WATERSHED GRANT MEETING

FEBRUARY 27 | 1PM | SENECA TOWN HALL

Crawford County Farm Bureau invites farmers to learn more about Producer-Led Watershed Grants. Rachel Rushmann from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will present on the grant process and requirements.

Contact Don Brown at 608.485.1802 for more information.

Farm Bureau: A Voice for Agriculture



Peter Winch
Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello from northern Grant County. It's been a nice winter so far. Spring is just around the corner.

A couple weeks ago, several Grant County members attended Ag Day at the Capitol. It is always nice to see so many come together for

agriculture. A hot topic again this year is water. There is a lot of information coming together from the various counties doing water studies and from the statewide water task force.

I am very glad to see that the results of the water studies have shown that agriculture is not always to blame. We as stewards of the land still need to work on runoff to prevent problems. We all need and want clean water.

Farm Bureau is the voice of agriculture. That is why your membership is so important. Our organization has a solid reputation in the state government and our elected officials listen to what we have to say. It is more powerful when we can show how many people in agriculture we are speaking for.

In December, Grant County delegates and young farmers represented well at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells. This year marked the 100th year anniversary of WFBF. There were many special activities and displays commemorating this event. It was neat to see how it has evolved over the years.

Please feel free to contact me at 608.778.1150 if you are interested in getting more involved in Farm Bureau.

Have a safe and productive spring.

Meet: Kent Jerrett, Director

Occupation: Combine, planter and hay equipment service technician for Sloan Implement in Bloomington.

Agriculture background: I grew up on a farm in beautiful Grant County. During high school, I milked at a couple different farms before and after school. After graduating from technical school, I was employed by a vegetable harvesting company for six years working on harvesting machines, including pea combines, green bean and cucumber harvesters and a carrot/beet digger. I traveled a lot with this outfit and got to see many different ways of farming.

Brief description of family farm: My family farms about 400 acres of crops, including corn, soybeans, hay and oats. We also raise 15 cows, about 20 sows and 40-50 fat cattle. We farrow to finish all of the pigs.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? Mowing hay.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? To be more up to date on current events that impact the farming way of life.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? It's a great way for your voice to be heard and for your values to be represented at the local, state and national levels.

I am Farm Bureau proud because ... Farm Bureau helps inform consumers about the agriculture industry and how farming is more than a job, it's a passion.

Favorite YFA event or activity? YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

Preferred tractor color: Since working for a John Deere dealership I have become fond of them, but nothing will ever replace the finest in farm equipment ... Oliver.

Favorite ice cream flavor: Cedar Crest – Pirate's Bounty.



Grant County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Jackie Seelow, Grant County YFA Committee Chair

In December, many Grant County members attended the YFA Conference to gather ideas and network with others from around the state. Attendees participated in workshops and heard from several keynote speakers. Lots of new ideas and suggestions were exchanged among members to implement in the upcoming year.

In January, we hosted a family bowling day at Fireball Lanes in Lancaster. Those who attended had a great time bowling and socializing.

On February 22, we attended the Battle for the Bluff Rodeo at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque, Iowa.

We are also hoping to make another appearance at the rink for open ice-skating on a Sunday afternoon before spring comes.

Additional events will be announced as they are planned. Please check the Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Facebook page for updates. YFA members are welcome to attend any of our events.

It is a great way to meet and network with many local agriculture enthusiasts in Grant County.

If you have any suggestions for events to have throughout the year, please contact me at 608.632.1714.

I am always looking for new activities that will bring YFA members together.



A Visit From the Governor

By Laura Daniels, Iowa County Farm Bureau Director

We had an inquisitive visitor here at Heartwood Farm in mid-January.

He came with the purpose to learn more about dairy farming. He came with an open mind, actively listening as Jarred and I discussed the challenges and rewards of agriculture. He took notes as we shared our ideas about how state government can help Wisconsin farms thrive.

I wish every farmer had the chance Jarred and I had to speak directly to the Governor of America's Dairyland. What we saw was someone who wants to help create a better future for our farms, and a leader with care and concern in his eyes.

Just days after our visit, the Governor delivered his State-of-the-State address. Recognizing the challenges of agriculture and

responding to the dairy crisis were focal points.

Governor Evers is calling for a special session of the legislature to discuss and adopt a list of proposals that will focus on resources and market development.

First is the Wisconsin Initiative for Dairy Exports designed to build Wisconsin's dairy brand in international markets. They set a goal of increasing Wisconsin's dairy exports to 20 percent of the United States' milk supply by 2024.

There is also proposed funding to expand the Farm Center and increase staffing at UW-Extension. Additional funding for mental health access and flexible planning grants for farmers are also on the list.

Governor Evers is also creating the Office of Rural Prosperity, it will be a one-stop shop to help navigate state programs and resources tailored to rural communities, businesses

and workers. He is convening a Blue Ribbon commission to get this new resource off the ground.

It is important that Farm Bureau members contact our elected representatives. Urge them to support these initiatives that will bring new funding and resources to agriculture at a critical time.

As the Governor said in his State-of-the-State address, "Here's the bottom line folks: We're losing more than two dairy farms a day. And for each day we delay, the challenges will get harder and harder. So, I want to be clear: I am not under the misguided belief that what I'm proposing today is the silver bullet." He went on to say, "We have to start somewhere, and we have to start today."

He is listening and he is trying to help, let's make sure we continue to be part of the conversation about our future.



IOWA COUNTY YOUNG FARMERS & AGRICULTURISTS

BOWLING PARTY

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
AT 11:30AM

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FUN DAY OF BOWLING AT DODGER BOWL LANES IN DODGEVILLE. PIZZA AND SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED. SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER AND BOWL FOR FREE!

PLEASE CONTACT YFA COMMITTEE CHAIR, DAKOTAH HAMMERLY, AT 608.963.7943 IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

AG IN THE CLASSROOM



Mineral Point teacher, Livia Doyle, recently introduced the Ag in the Classroom essay contest topic to her fourth-grade students. Her students are holding up questions that they came up with on their own focusing on how agriculture affects their lives.

President's Message



Mike Harms

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Happy 2020 to all Farm Bureau members and goodbye 2019. The 2019 crop year brought many challenges to farmers. We had a wet spring and delayed planting, with some fields never even getting planted. Fall brought more rain leading to a late harvest and lower commodity prices. It was also hard to make dry hay during the summer. Let's hope for

better weather this year.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau welcomes Casey Lobdell and Allen Abraham to the Board of Directors. If you are interested in becoming a director, please feel free to contact me at 608.574.7807. We are still looking for two more people to join the board.

We've got many exciting activities and events planned for the year. We always welcome more involvement from our members.

Thank you for being a Lafayette County Farm Bureau member.

Members Graduate From WFBF Leadership Institute

Lafayette County Farm Bureau members, Mike Harms and Amber McComish, graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute program. They were recognized for this achievement during the WFBF Annual Meeting Awards Banquet.

The Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. It consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders, and networking with other participants.



"Be a Piece of the Puzzle"

Farm Bureau represents farmers and agriculturists from all walks of life. Pledge your commitment to be a piece of the puzzle. Sign up at least one new Farm Bureau member by March 31.

Meet: Casey Lobdell, YFA Chair

By Casey Lobdell, Lafayette County YFA Committee Chair



Hello. I'm Casey Lobdell, the newly elected YFA committee chair for Lafayette County.

My experience in the agriculture industry stems from an early interest at home. My father being the FFA advisor and agriculture instructor in Darlington led to our small farming operation at home.

My family and I run about 100 purebred registered ewes that we show and sell across the country. I am also a part owner in Lobdell Showpigs, a 30-sow show pig producing operation that aims to sell show pigs to 4-H and FFA members to be exhibited at the local, state and national shows.

I graduated from UW-Platteville in May of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. I am a livestock nutrition consultant for Reddy Ag/Ross Soil Service. I have experience in the dairy, beef, swine, sheep and goat industries, which makes every day of work something new.

My career coupled with Farm Bureau allows me to help farmers and agriculturists, which is what I always wanted to do.

I joined Farm Bureau about six months ago because my girlfriend, Morgan Fitzsimmons, was already a member in Iowa County. Together we have many friends, family ties and peers in the organization and I wanted to get more involved in the community.

In the YFA position, I hope to bring more young farmers and agriculturists together to promote the agriculture industry. I also look forward to working with the other YFA members and chairs in District 3.

Agriculture is in a challenging period of time and young farmers are the next generation to take over and progress just like our parents and grandparents have done. If I can be a part of that group in history and pull my weight, I'd sure like to join others around me and help Farm Bureau remain the organization that is a voice for agriculture. I look forward to working with ya'll.



Be Proactive and Get Involved



Dick Hauser
Richland County Farm
Bureau President

As I write this article, it's just a few days after it has been announced that the EPA has submitted a

replacement for the ill-conceived 2015 WOTUS rule, it is timely that we look at and get involved with the focus on water we have here in southwest Wisconsin.

In December, I attended the Annual Meeting of Discovery Farms. This organization has done more to shed light on the environment and farming practices during its existence than most realize.

Much of the research that they have carried out over the years has shed light on the many good farming practices that are happening in

Wisconsin. Discovery Farms is moving forward with education and field research which will aid farmers in correcting some lingering problems and encouraging farmers to work together to solve existing issues.

At that meeting, a summary of the Southwest Wisconsin (Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties) Groundwater and Geology Study was distributed. It was a fact sheet updated as of August 2019. You may have heard or read some news reports that were less than enlightening.

Here are the facts: We are not seeing brown water or illness outbreaks. Drinking water quality here is a concern, but not a crisis. The soils and bedrock do make this area more vulnerable to groundwater contamination. The SWIGG study is proactively looking at nitrate and microbial contamination to help identify issues and guide potential solutions.

The Governor has declared this the year of clean water. There has been a special study

committee set up to work on water issues. Talking with Representative Todd Novak, he will be introducing some legislation this session based on the information gleaned at the listening sessions that were held around the state.

The remainder of the counties in our Farm Bureau District 3 (Crawford, Richland and Vernon) are heading into a testing project. We as an organization need to get involved and not just watch from the sidelines. Being proactive, showing that this is important to the agriculture community will help assure that we do not get dumped on and then get caught in a defensive position.

Richland County Farm Bureau is interested in this project, however we would like to have members in addition to the Board of Directors involved. If you would like to get involved or would like further information, please call me at 608.585.4808.

Vernon County

Klinkners Win YFA Achievement Award

Vernon County farmers, Travis and Krista Klinkner, were selected as the winners of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Achievement Award.

The Klinkners are organic farmers in rural Viroqua. They have four children Liam, Brad, Hank and Alice. They milk 60 cows, raise youngstock and grow forages and corn. The couple stays busy with chores and their growing family.

Farm Bureau's Achievement Award is a contest that awards farmers between the ages of

18 and 35, who have excelled in their farming career, understand current issues affecting agriculture and have shown leadership and involvement in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

The Klinkners represented Wisconsin at the AFBF Annual Convention in Austin, Texas. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the 2021 YFA trip to Washington, D.C., as well as attend GROWMARK's 2020 annual meeting in Chicago and next year's YFA Conference. In addition, FABICK Equipment,



Inc., provides 40 hours use of a FABICK skid-steer.

The other finalists were Josh Claussen from Brown County and Brian Douglas from Dunn County.

Annual Meeting Snapshots





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