

Grassroots

District 9 News

District Director's Message



Peter Kimball
WFBF District 9 Director

I want to start this by introducing myself as the new District 9 Director and then spend some time telling you about an opportunity that I had to see firsthand what Farm

Bureau is doing for its members.

My name is Peter Kimball. I farm with my wife, Leanne, in Pierce County where we run a herd of 120 dairy cows consisting mostly of Jerseys, crossbreds and a few Holsteins. We also run 250 acres of corn, hay, beans and pasture. In addition to this, Leanne also has a small flock of Hampshire sheep. While farming is a majority of what we do, family and our faith take top priority in our lives.

Last month, I had accompanied Dale Beissel, Andrew Winiarczyk and Mike Robers from Sawyer County and Terry DuSell from Rusk County to the state Capitol as they testified in front of the Assembly Ag Committee on Assembly Bill 695. AB 695 is a bill that adjusts the way the DNR handles wildlife damage to crops, particularly bear damage to corn fields in the northern counties of our district. While at the Capitol, they shared their stories of how the current law was affecting their farms and how the changes would benefit them and their neighbor's farms. I want to thank them for their years of work on this issue. I'm excited to see what will happen in the next few weeks with this bill. Why do I bring this up? It's a great story of what Farm Bureau is about. It is Farm Bureau members taking the lead on real life issues that matter to them and partnering with the Farm Bureau staff and working towards an outcome that benefits members.

As your newly elected board representative, it is my goal to help you as members take the lead on your issues and to walk with you to better our industry and communities. It is my pleasure to serve you in this new roll and I look forward to working with you as well as getting to know more of you in the coming years.

More than 180 Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum

More than 180 high school juniors from across Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on February 21-22.

"It is incredible to see so many young people gathered together with a passion for agriculture and a desire to learn," said WFBF President Joe Bragger. "FFA Farm Forum is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA. We know leadership development through FFA is second to none and we are excited to host this conference for our future agricultural leaders."

During the two-day event at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids, FFA members attended workshops on post-secondary opportunities focusing on learning more about farming and Wisconsin's agricultural community.

Joining WFBF President Bragger as keynote speakers at the event were Mid-West Farm Report broadcaster Reba McClone and Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member Nate Zimdars.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. This year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 48th time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.



(from left): Mitchell Romundstad, Emily Syverson, Sophie Koehler and Michelle Asselin of the Chippewa Falls FFA Chapter.



(from left): Sophia Belisle and Gessanna Morris of the Cumberland FFA Chapter.



(from left): Cullen Schlewitz and Bailey Gilbertson of the Elk Mound FFA Chapter.



(from left): Rose Gillis and Ali Tunniff of the New Richmond FFA Chapter.

See Something, Say Something: How to Help Someone Struggling With Mental Illness

By Brittany Olson, Barron County dairy farmer

Agriculture is commonly noted as being the last industry to make transactions on a handshake and an individual's good word.

Relationships are paramount, and by-and-large, we look out for each other. When tragedy strikes one of our own in the form of death, disability or disease, we're right there with a hot dish, a hug and harvesting equipment depending on the time of year.

When the wounds are a little less visible, such as the scars that tear us apart on the inside, we clam up. Mental health is an uncomfortable topic both in and of itself, and how to address it. It should make us uncomfortable that our profession has a higher suicide rate than that of veterans and one of the highest overall.

It should make us uncomfortable that one in four Americans will experience a major depressive episode at some point in their lifetime. It shouldn't make us uncomfortable, though, to be that person to open the door and get the one who's struggling the help that they need. That is just what we've been doing all along for those more visible wounds.

Think of the farmer stereotype, strong and stoic, but with big hearts. Many hearts, especially with five years of depressed prices and nonexistent margins, are being broken though. Farmers can't provide for their families no matter how many extra hours they work or extra jobs they take, and the weather has been far from cooperative.

These pressures have destroyed marriages, they have broken homes and for some, they have ended lives. A prolonged feeling of failure and being a burden, despite every superhuman effort to do one's best, can be the tipping point into full-blown anxiety and depression, and those strong hearts and broad shoulders are being crushed by the weight of the things they carry, often alone and in silence until it's too late.

Nearly every story about a suicide includes something along the lines of 'we never saw this coming, but looking back, the signs were there. While one of the most obvious signs of suicidal thinking is talking about dying by suicide, what are some of the lesser known signals that someone is drowning in front of our very eyes?

According to an article on the Farm Journal website from last May, some other inklings that someone may be thinking of ending their lives or suffering from major depression at the very least are not limited to, but include:

- Talking about feeling hopeless, trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Talking about or asking if they're a burden to others.
- Increased use of alcohol and/or other controlled substances.
- Drastic changes in behavior.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Changes for the worse in personal appearance and farm appearance.
- Withdrawing from normal activities.
- Feeling isolated.
- Engaging in other risky behaviors.
- Saying goodbye to family and friends.

If you see any of these in someone you know, or if something seems off but you can't quite put a finger on it, trust your gut and take that leap. Ask them how they're really doing aside from the usual shop talk about prices and weather. Ask them pointedly if they're thinking about suicide; it is a myth that talking about suicide with a suicidal individual will drive them to that point.

Open your heart and your ears and take everything they say seriously. Tell a family member or another friend of theirs that they're struggling so you aren't trying to help them by yourself. Give them all the time they need to pour it all out to someone who's giving them the time and space they need to talk about what's hurting them. Keep regular contact with them

and encourage them to lay it all out there with you. Persuade them to seek professional help from a healthcare provider and counselor and offer to accompany them to any appointments.

If the situation becomes extremely dire and you feel that their life is in immediate danger, call 911, particularly if you walk in on them attempting suicide, or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to speak with a trained counselor, and stay with the person until help arrives.

Be prepared for the unexpected and be prepared to not know what to say or do if those broken hearts come undone right in your lap. After all, mental health is not an easy topic to talk about, especially when the other person is in so much pain that they don't see another way out of what's suffocating them.

It's okay to not know exactly what to say or do for the person in that moment, but your time and your compassion are two of the greatest gifts you can give to someone who's hurting. You may feel embarrassed if the person is genuinely fine, but that's a heck of a lot better than wishing you'd said something as you're listening to their eulogy. You may not be able to take the storms of their life away, but you can sit with them during the storms until they pass.

Most importantly, it's okay to not be okay. Just remember that if something is off about someone you know and love, say something. You'll never regret making the ask, but you'll always regret not asking when it's too late.

Barron County Farm Bureau member Brittany Olson is a dairy farmer, writer, photographer and mental health advocate.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: call 800.273.8255, available 24/7

Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741741, available 24/7

Wisconsin Farm Center Hotline: 800.942.2474, available 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Celebrate National Ag Day Tuesday, March 24

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom will be celebrating National Ag Day on March 24 to promote agriculture literacy.

Who can participate? Anyone who has an interest in agriculture, enjoys reading, working with others and has time on Tuesday, March 24, to read, visit and do an activity with an audience. But if March 24 doesn't work for you, any day in March (or anytime) is fine.

Each year Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom hosts a drawing or coloring contest in conjunction with National Ag Day. This year, the coloring contest will feature the theme, 'Food Brings Everyone to the Table.' Entries are due by March 31.

How do you get involved? Identify a group that you want to read to. It

can be in a classroom at a local school, a daycare, 4-H club, nursing home, home school group, a civic club meeting or anywhere that people are interested in learning about agriculture.

Pick a book that you want to read. Take a photo and send it to darneson@wfbf.com. Post on Social Media with: #WiReadsAg2020.

For more information on National Ag Day, visit wisagclassroom.org.



Ag Day at the Capitol Brings Farmers to Madison

On February 4, more than 330 farmers and agriculturists gathered at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees started the day by listening to issue briefings on wildlife damage claims, food labeling and a host of other bills including farmer commercial driver's license exemptions and farmland preservation tax credit.

Governor Tony Evers served as the event's keynote speaker. The Governor shared his focus on water quality and why he declared 2019 the year of clean drinking water.

"Obviously it's going to take more than one year to deal with (clean water)," said Gov. Evers. "I have the utmost faith in the farm community. They are the original stewards of the land, after Native Americans, and there is no reason we can't work together to make clean water a priority."

Gov. Evers also emphasized his three-pronged approach to help rural Wisconsin.

Evers said, "I just want to work together and have some good conversations and do what's right for rural Wisconsin."

He asked farmers and agriculturists to stay engaged and be part of the solution.

"We appreciate Governor Evers taking the time to attend Ag Day at the Capitol this year," said WFBF President Joe Bragger. "Our

farmers and agriculturists want to know that their rural communities are a priority."

Following the Governor's speech, the afternoon session was a legislative panel on water quality. The panel was moderated by Dennis Frame, co-founder of Discovery Farms, and was comprised of Senators Howard Marklein and Patrick Testin and Representatives Todd Novak, Travis Tranel, Tony Kurtz and Katrina Shankland.

The panel discussed:

- Agriculture's role in developing solutions for cleaner water throughout Wisconsin.
- Ways in which water quality can be positively impacted without new regulations.
- How the legislature will support Wisconsin farmers and local communities to identify solutions for cleaner water.

"It was appropriate to focus on water during our afternoon program," said Bragger. "With this topic at the forefront of many discussions throughout the state, farmers and agriculturists need to hear about the latest updates on legislation and how they can be part of the conversation."

The legislators featured on the panel are from the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality and who represent the Central Sands and Southwest Wisconsin areas who are engaged in water legislation and talked in-depth about water issues facing rural Wisconsin.

At the Capitol, at the same time as the

water panel, Wisconsin state Assembly Speaker Robin Vos and other Assembly leadership held a press conference to emphasize their plans to help Wisconsin farmers. Through a combination of existing legislation and new proposals there is an opportunity to put together a comprehensive package to help farmers during these stressful economic times.

"The news today that the assembly leadership is putting a large focus on agriculture is welcomed news," Bragger said. "Wisconsin agriculture is open to all ideas on how we can keep this state's rural economy afloat. How exciting is this to have the attention on the agriculture community? Thank you to Speaker Vos and the Wisconsin Assembly leaders for their work."

The afternoon's program wrapped up with attendees hearing about water-specific bills and then walked to the Capitol to meet with their legislators from their respective areas.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., were major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event, with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, included the Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Hemp Alliance, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.



District 9 Celebrates 100 years of Wisconsin Farm Bureau

District 9 members helped Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation celebrate the 100th WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on December 6-9 at the Kalahari Resorts in the Wisconsin Dells.

To kick off the weekend, more than 450 young farmer members from across the state came together on December 6 for the YFA Conference.

On December 7, Wisconsin Farm Bureau celebrated 100 years at the Annual Meeting. The

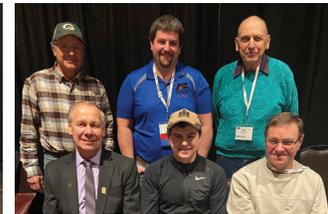
organization hosted a variety of events in honor of the occasion with the main event gathering more than 900 members for the centennial banquet.

On December 9, nearly 250 Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will guide the legislative agenda for the state's largest general farm organization in 2020. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Delegates also voted Pierce County Farm

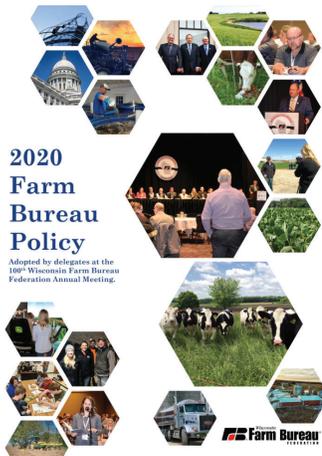
Bureau member, Peter Kimball of River Falls, to a three-year term on the WFBF Board representing District 9 (Superior Shores, Barron, Chippewa, Dunn, Pierce, Polk Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus).

He succeeds former District 9 Director and WFBF President Jim Holte who retired after serving in this role since 1995. Joe Bragger, dairy and poultry farmer from Buffalo County, was elected by the Board to serve as WFBF President.



2020 Policy Book

The 2020 Farm Bureau Policy Book is available online. You can find it at: wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.



Upcoming Events

March

25

St. Croix County Farm Bureau scholarships are due

April

1

Ag in the Classroom essay contest due date
Barron County Farm Bureau scholarships due
Dunn County Farm Bureau scholarships due
Polk Burnett Farm Bureau scholarships due
Rusk County Farm Bureau scholarships due
Superior Shores Farm Bureau scholarships due

15

June

13

Dunn County dairy breakfast
Sawyer County dairy breakfast

27

July

8-12

Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls

15-19

St. Croix County Fair

15-19

Barron County Fair

21-23

Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Eau Claire County

22-26

Dunn County Fair

30-August 2

Polk County Fair

Mark Your
Calendar...

Resources to Grow Your Farming Enterprise

SCORE is collaborating with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the USDA Farmer Service Agency (FSA) to bring free mentoring, training and resources to area farmers, agricultural producers and agribusinesses. This collaboration is part of a national effort to bring the business and entrepreneurial talents and resources of SCORE's nationwide network of volunteer mentors to the agricultural community.

Whether you own a family farm, ranch or another type of agricultural business, we can connect you to free support and resources - including business planning help, financial guidance, growth strategies and other types of business assistance.

- Mentoring provides improved chances for success through one-on-one business coaching, farmers helping farmers, in-person, online or over the phone.
- Workshops offer training and help on a wide range of topics, enabling you

to learn from subject matter experts and cohorts with agribusiness experience.



- Online resources are your playbook, providing step-by-step outlines for successful business strategies.

“A SCORE mentor may just be the resource that will enable you to obtain the training and guidance to start farming if you are a beginning farmer or improve your existing farming operation and take it to the next level”, said Joe Folsom, Branch Manager St. Croix Valley SCORE Branch.

SCORE mentorship is available to current farmers and ranchers. New and beginning farmers and existing agricultural producers may request free confidential mentoring and technical assistance by going to www.score.org. SCORE will match and connect you with a mentor that best reflects your needs and farming enterprise.

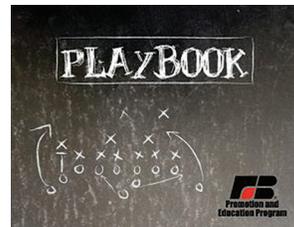
Promotion and Education Playbook

The Playbook provides counties with ideas and resources for planning county activities and events. To create this resource, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee members collected events, programs and activities that happen throughout the state on a local level. Throughout the Playbook, you will find activities and events for all ages, time frames and budgets in each of the following categories:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Consumer outreach
- Education and ag promotion
- Fundraising
- Member development
- Policy and development implementation

Updates to the Playbook are made quarterly. Updates to current plays and new plays need to be received at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau office by the following dates: December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15

For information, visit wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education/playbook.



Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

APPLY TODAY!

Applications for the WFBF Leadership Institute are now available at wfbf.com

WFBF Leadership Institute



President's Message



Karyn Schauf
Barron County Farm Bureau president

Good news to share. I am encouraged and grateful for the recent action WFBF is taking on behalf of our dairy industry. They moved forward the resolution our delegates passed in December to the AFBF Annual Convention in January 2020. Working with other states, language supporting growth management passed.

On February 26, WFBF was a joint sponsor in a listening session for our state legislators reviewing the state of our dairy industry and the results of the Nicholson/Stephenson study. So, now do we just wait and see what happens? "No!" says President Joe Bragger. "I recognize that many Wisconsin Dairy Farmers are struggling with tough economic times and many have exited. This saddens and worries me. Farm Bureau will explore and advance EVERY option to help our farmers. Trade, federal milk market order free-form, labeling, whole milk in schools and absolutely, yes, we will research and develop a growth management system to offer up to our delegates in the future."

Since Farm Bureau does not have the resources and expertise to facilitate the research and development of a growth management system, the Board has supported a grant proposal by Michelle Miller from the UW Center for Integrated Ag Studies along with Mark Stephenson and others in an effort to move quickly forward in continuing this discussion. A first event is planned for **April 24**.

Thank you, WFBF for taking a lead in this important area.

Barron County YFA invites you to **YFA Card Night**

Saturday, March 28
7 p.m.

Clinton Town Hall
940 U.S. Highway 8
Poskin, WI 54812



Details

**Join us for an evening of fun with
Barron County YFA members!**

Join Barron County YFA members for an evening out.

Play cribbage, euchre or bring your favorite card or board game.

Please bring a dish or appetizer to pass and we will provide pop, water and utensils. BYOB.

**To RSVP, please contact Joe Braml at
715.495.5706 (call or text) or jbraml@ymail.com.**

Inter-Seeding Cover Crop Into Row Crops Spring Workshop

The Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds will hold a cover crop inter-seeding spring workshop at 6 p.m. on **Monday, March 16**, at the Barron County Government Center. Room number to be announced.

The meeting will feature TJ Kartes and Tom Cotter. TJ has extensive experience with making inter-seeding work in southeastern Minnesota. He farms around 1,500 acres using no-till, cover

crop and inter-seeding practices in Minnesota as well.

Both TJ and Tom have a great wealth of knowledge on the benefits if inter-seeding cover crops in row crops. Herbicide programs, cover crop seed, timing of seeding, equipment needs and more will be the focus.

Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds group has purchased an inter-seeding planter

with the purpose of conducting test plots and allowing for farmers in Barron County the opportunity to conduct inter-seeding trials on their own acres.

Details of how this can happen will be explained at the meeting on **March 16**.

Hope to see you there.

Important Notice

The New Look of UW-Extension

Christmas 2019 brought Barron County an unexpected surprise, the hiring away of our 'new' Extension agent by Chippewa Valley Technical College.

With the structure change that UW-Extension continues to work through due to reduced financing at the state level, the Barron County Farm Bureau board wondered what would be next for our county.

A letter was written addressing our thoughts as to our county's needs. This resulted in a meeting with Heidi Johnson and Lori Baltruis from UW-Extension, Jeff French Barron County administrator and Tyler Gruetzmacher, Barron County conservationist.

While dairy is still very much a priority in Barron County, a soils and forage expertise has become significant as well. It was pointed out that a good example of the specialist team Extension is striving to create can be seen in Katie Wantoch, Dunn County specializing in ag economics, Jerry Clark, Chippewa County specializing in crops and soils and Eau Claire County with a dairy specialist (Mark Hagedorn who previously served in that position is over all state dairy specialist and has his office in Barron County).

Those three county extension agents work together, directing questions and needs in their counties to appropriate specialists as well as

coordinating educational efforts such as their Chippewa Valley Agricultural Extension Report, a quarterly newsletter. Barron County previously shared our agent 25 percent with Polk County.

It is easy to see how fitting the needs of each county with the needs of surrounding counties makes for a challenging puzzle. While in agriculture will need to adjust what we expect from a local extension educator, our needs can be met through a more regional team. Barron County is very fortunate to have a county board solidly behind maintaining the extension presence in our ag industry. This position may not be filled quickly but, we are confident our concerns have been heard and considered.

President's Message



Marv Prestrud
Dunn County Farm Bureau president

Happy springtime. Soon planting will begin in earnest. It is a happy time for all who grow plants and raise animals. For Farm Bureau members it also is time to think what has developed for policy.

Then find ways to nurture that into legislation that fits what the membership intended.

A daunting task is policy always seems to be a moving target. Then along with that, members must be thinking what the new challenges for policy are for this coming year. But then farmers are famous for never being content.

Too much rain, not enough rain, too hot to cold. Even with the variability, we agriculturists seem to be able to produce more than enough good food, fiber and energy.

It seems that we work hard at trying to develop good policy and we manage to get plenty of that also.

Farm Bureau's grassroots approach works quite well. Just that occasionally we get a little soil and grease on ourselves in the process.

Meet: Tyler Holten, New Rural Mutual Agent



Tyler was born and raised in Barron County and is a graduate from Barron High School.

Growing up, Tyler lived just south of Barron and lived near his grandparent's farm, where he helped out on their small dairy farm.

Tyler earned an associate degree in finance from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-Rice Lake and a bachelor's degree in business management from UW-Stout.

Tyler met his wife, April, through his involvement in the Barron County 4-H program. Over his years as a 4-H member he enjoyed many different projects including showing swine and selling them during the livestock sale. Now as an adult, Tyler, serves as an adult leader and helps his own children with their 4-H projects.

Tyler and April along with their two children, live on a small hobby farm where they raise show pigs and steers. Their family is very involved in Barron County 4-H, their church and their school. Tyler also enjoys coaching basketball, baseball and football.

In November 2019, Tyler signed on with Rural Mutual Insurance Company and is excited to join this Wisconsin-based company. If you want a quote on auto, home, farm, business, work comp, life or annuities, please contact Tyler at 715.949 or tholten@ruralins.com.



Menomonie Public Library Donation

Dunn County Farm Bureau was represented with a wide array of information at the Menomonie Public Library during February.

Dunn County Farm Bureau had a display to provide information about agriculture across Wisconsin and highlight National Ag Day, which will be celebrated on **Tuesday, March 24**. The display featured the Ag in the Classroom essay contest open to fourth- and fifth-grade students and a Wisconsin Agriculture Commodity map.

Take home information was provided for visitors to the library regarding National Ag Day, the Ag in the Classroom essay contest and other agriculture resources.



Bailey and Kay Gilbertson presented the Ag in the Classroom book of the year to Menomonie Public Library representative Tim Fitzgerald.

Farm Family of the Year Recognized

Congratulations to Jeff and Kelley Lake and family who were recognized as the 2019 Farm Family of the Year.



The Menomonie Area Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Center hosted its 81st annual banquet on February 5. This event recognized chamber volunteers, leaders and sponsors.

Menomonie Library Podcast

Kay Gilbertson and District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison talked about agriculture in Dunn County with Ted Stark and Chuck Backus at the Menomonie Public Library.

Listen to the conversation at:
<https://soundcloud.com/menomonielibrary/wisconsin-farm-bureau-federation>.

A Message From the President ...



Laura Benitz
Pierce County Farm Bureau president

Dear Farm Bureau members, I hope this finds you well. I hope that you are as encouraged as I am by the mild winter we have had, weather wise.

As some of you may have noticed, this is not a message from Dean. We are thankful for the years that Dean served as the Pierce County Farm Bureau president and we wish him well as he has retired from this position.

Farm Bureau has undergone several changes in these last few months. With Jim Holte not seeking re-election, Joe Braggar has become Wisconsin's new Farm Bureau President and Peter Kimball has become our District 9 Director.

I know he is excited about this opportunity and if you have a need, please contact him at 715.307.3726.

As we continue to feed the world and as the weight of the last five years continue to affect our bottom line, I ask one thing of you. Do not forget your value. You were created with a purpose. Farming is not just an occupation, it is a calling, it truly is in our blood. We want to support each other, as farmer's always have. If there are ways that we can do that better, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or a fellow board member.

There are some fun activities that are being planned jointly with St. Croix County for the Young Farmers Agriculturist (YFA), which is for any member 35 years and younger. For those who play Euchre, we will be having our annual card party once again at El Paso Barn and Grill on **Friday, March 27**, be sure to come and have a good time.

As the weather turns warmer and spring is in the air, may you and your family be safe. Take joy in the blessings of today.

Thank you for all that you do.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PIERCE & PEPIN COUNTY

2020 SPRING CLEAN SWEEP

**HAZARDOUS WASTE AND
PHARMACEUTICAL COLLECTION EVENT**

Saturday • April 18, 2020

• 8:00 a.m. – 12 (noon)

Pierce County Recycling Center

707 N. Maple St./Hwy 65 • Ellsworth WI

• www.co.pierce.wi.us • Phone: (715) 273-3092



Farmer Card Party Euchre Tournament

\$5
Entry fee
/person

Friday, March 27 @ 7:30 p.m.

El Paso Bar & Grill, W4277 County Road G

Ellsworth, WI 54011

Meal to follow provided by the Pierce County Farm Bureau

Board of Directors.

Hosted by:



ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY & WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION PRESENTS

INGA WITSCHER AROUND THE FARM TABLE



A passionate dairy farmer, Inga owns and operates a small organic dairy farm near Osseo, Wisconsin. Inga collaborates with her team to develop narratives for Around the Farm Table on Wisconsin Public Television. She will facilitate a cooking demonstration and discuss her farm and the show.

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 18
10:30 A.M.**

**ZION COVENANT CHURCH
210 NORTH BEULAH ST.
ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN**

SPONSORED BY:



Craft Brews & Cornhole

MARCH 29 • 1 P.M.

RUSH RIVER BREWERY

990 Antler Ct, River Falls, WI 54022

Join Pierce and St. Croix County YFA members at Rush River Brewery for a tour followed by a cornhole tournament.

APPETIZERS PROVIDED • FRIENDS WELCOME!

RSVP BY MARCH 25 to Rylie Daggett at rylie.e.daggett@gmail.com or Lexi DuSell at .715.415.6701 or dusell.lexi@gmail.com.



Industrial Safety Donates Rescue System

On January 14, Industrial Safety, Inc., a Clear Lake-based supplier of fire and safety equipment donated a Grain Bin Rescue System, known as the Great Wall of Rescue to the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC).

The Rescue System will be used by WITC to train firefighters and other emergency personnel in northwest Wisconsin in grain bin rescue operations. According to Purdue University, 27 people lost their lives in grain bin accidents in 2018 with an additional 15 from August to November 2019.

Industrial Safety's General Manager, Andrea Cress, said "All of us at Industrial Safety grew up in this area and understand the dangers of grain bin accidents. Over the past few years, as we have seen more news stories about grain bin tragedies, we have wanted to find a way to help our rural communities respond to these incidents.

This tool, the Great Wall of Rescue, is growing in popularity and use among the fire departments in our area. This donation to WITC will help ensure that firefighters are properly trained and able to assist in farm accidents. We are proud of our long association with northwestern Wisconsin's fire departments and thrilled to make this donation."

Industrial Safety has been in business in Clear Lake for 30 years. A small family business, it owned and operated by Adam and Barbara Jarchow. Industrial Safety sells and services safety tools and equipment for the fire service, industry and municipalities.

For information, contact 715.263.3330 or visit www.industrialsafetystore.com.



Pictured (from left): Andrea Cress, general manager, Industrial Safety; Craig Fowler, WITC Campus Administrator; Tim Halbur, WITC Fire Services Director; and Adam Jarchow, owner and vice president, Industrial Safety.

Donations for Polk County Grain Bin Rescue Equipment Requested

The fire departments of Polk County have recognized the high potential for a grain bin rescue in their response areas and are being proactive in forming a response team. This dedicated team would stock a technical response trailer that would be dispatched at a moment's notice. Many hours of training will go into forming this team to insure the best positive outcome to the incidents they respond to. Along with the training hours that will need to go into this effort, equipment will be needed to train with and stock the trailer. The tech rescue response team is seeking donations to help purchase equipment.

Your generous donation will help ensure the proper gear and training are obtained. Below is a list and pricing of some of the equipment needed. We ask that donation checks be made out to Frederic Fire Department, who will set aside those funds to purchase the necessary equipment for the rescue team. Thank you from the Polk County rescue team and the people it will save.

Great wall of rescue: \$2,800

Six class three harnesses: \$2,622

Six Pulleys: \$870

Anchor straps and rigging: \$2,500

Trailer for transport: \$6,000

Meter: \$750

For information, please contact Matt Ennis at 612.499.1608 (call or text).

Rusk County



Rusk County and Sawyer County

YFA Bowling And Pizza Party

Saturday, March 21 7 p.m. West Cove Lanes/Pizzas of Eight
1011 Edgewood Avenue E
Ladysmith, WI 54848

Join Young Farmers from Rusk and Sawyer counties at West Cove Lanes for a fun night of networking, bowling and pizza.

Cost: \$5 perperson includes bowling, soda and pizza.

Bring a friend who is not currently a Farm Bureau member and get them signed up for Farm Bureau to receive \$20.

For more information or to RSVP by March 20, please contact John Weinert at 715.415.4842 (call or text) or Andy Winiarczyk at 715.558.2562 (call or text).



Plan to Attend the Rusk County Spring Expo

When: Saturday, March 28
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Ladysmith High School

Cost: Free

Rusk County Farm Bureau will have a booth where members will be available to talk about opportunities in Farm Bureau and help promote Wisconsin's dairy industry by passing out cheese samples.

In addition to a booth, Rusk County Farm Bureau also will host a silent auction to raise funds to support scholarships for high school seniors.

We look forward to seeing you at the spring show.



Wildlife Damage Legislation Update

On January 7, Terry DuSell and Paul Hetke traveled to Madison to testify at the Senate Appropriations Committee meeting on changes to the Wildlife Damage Program. Changes include:

1. Lifting the \$10,000 cap on payments.
2. Paying for damage done destroying crops to place traps in fields.
3. Putting monitors on all traps by 2021.
4. Counties no longer administer the program.
5. Trapping allowed on private land with no payments for damage and does not have to be open to hunting.

On January 29, Dale Beissel, Mike Robers, Andy Winiarczyk and Terry DuSell traveled to Madison to testify at the Assembly Appropriations Committee meeting on changes to the Wildlife Damage Program, which had the same changes as the Senate version.

Farmers across the state deal with this in different ways, but these members specifically have had challenges with crop damage from bears that has impacted their farms and families.

As of February 24, the Assembly passed it and is expected to pass the Senate in March and will hopefully be signed by Governor Tony Evers.

We appreciate the work these members put in to get these measures passed and congratulate them on a job well done.

Thank you to Senator Jerry Petrowski and Representative James Edming for introducing this legislation.



On January 7, Paul Hetke and Terry DuSell, along with Senator Jerry Petrowski and Senator Janet Bewley, testified in support of legislation to reform the state's wildlife damage abatement and wildlife damage claims programs.



WFBF members Dale Beissel, Mike Robers, Andrew Winiarczyk and Terry DuSell were at the Capitol with Representative James Edming on January 29 testifying on the importance of Assembly Bill 695.

SAVE THE DATE: ST. CROIX FARM CITY DAY, AUGUST 8

Meet: New Rural Mutual Insurance Agents, Bobby Mickelson and Deanna Richert



My name is **Bobby Mickelson**. I was born and raised in Eau Claire where I attended Regis High School. After high school, I attended UW-Eau Claire and earned a bachelor's degree in organizational communications and history. During my time at the UW-Eau Claire, I played two years of college football. While finishing up my bachelor's degree, I met the love of my life and wife Koren. Our family also consists of two dogs Roxy (Yorkie) and Phoebe (Shetland Sheepdog).

After college, I worked at the Boys and Girls Club in Chippewa. While I was finishing my degree, I accepted a position at Rural Mutual Insurance. I have been very fortunate to work at Rural Mutual as an insurance agent. I have been working for Rural Mutual for almost three years. Protecting what people love and care about is very important to me. The values of Rural Mutual align with my personal beliefs. I am eager to announce, I accepted a book of business in the St. Croix area. I believe my values align with those in the St. Croix community.

In my free time you will find me watching sports. Don't worry not the Vikings, as I am a die hard Green Bay Packers and Badger's fan. I equally enjoy spending time with my family and taking our dogs on family walks. I am very excited to engage with the St. Croix community and build relationships.



Greetings. My name is **Deanna Richert**. I am excited to have recently joined Rural Mutual Insurance as an agent.

While I will share the Farm Bureau space located in Hammond, I live in New Richmond and will serve clients throughout western Wisconsin.

My husband and I have a small hobby farm in Emerald, where we have grown fruit and vegetables for more than 10 years.

I am proud to be in a business where I can help people protect what is important to them and plan to use my legal and business background to provide a quality insurance experience.

I'm looking forward to building a relationship with Farm Bureau and supporting the important role of agriculture in Wisconsin.

Welcome to Bobby and Deanna. They will have offices at the Rural Mutual Insurance Company and St. Croix County Farm Bureau office building located at 960 Davis Street, Hammond, WI 54015.

Please contact them at 715.796.2237.



President's Message

Leslie Svacina

St. Croix County Farm Bureau president



This is my first newsletter column since being elected as president of the St. Croix County Farm Bureau.

First, I want to thank Dave Kruschke, who retired from the position of president. His 30 plus years in that role have been a great asset to our organization.

Dave will continue to serve on the board of directors.

For those members who I haven't met, I want to share a bit about myself. My husband Scott and I farm with our two young children near Deer Park, in the northeast part of St. Croix County. On our farm, Cylon Rolling Acres, we raise Boer-Kiko cross goats for meat on pasture. We direct market most of our goat meat and also sell to regional wholesalers.

Why Farm Bureau? Our family joined the organization more than 10 years ago as a way to connect with others involved with agriculture in our community and be involved in agricultural

education and outreach work.

Overtime, I've come to recognize the important value our county Farm Bureau plays in our local communities in St. Croix County.

Our voices as farmers matter and should be heard within our community. That is where the organization comes into play, following what is happening as it pertains to our farming community so our members, like you, can keep doing what you're doing, whether you're a farmer or working in a job supporting farmers.

If there is a way Farm Bureau can be of assistance, please contact me at 651.261.3079 (call or text) orleslie.svacina@gmail.com.

Sawyer County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer
SawyerCountyFarmBureau

It's Not Too Early to Think About the Dairy Days of Summer

When: Saturday, June 27, from 6 to 11 a.m.

Where: Sawyer County Fairgrounds in Hayward, on Highway B, two miles east of Highway 27 in Hayward

Cost: \$7 for adults; \$6 ages 4-12; younger than three year old – free

Come to the 2020 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast and enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes, with the option of blueberries or chocolate chips, scrambled eggs, sausage, cheese, ice cream, strawberries and whipped cream, milk, cranberry juice and coffee. You are guaranteed to not leave hungry.

There will be something for the family including

live entertainment, farm animals, kid's activities and farm equipment.

This event is co-sponsored by Sawyer County Farm Bureau with funds supplied by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. A portion of the proceeds from the event go to support the Sawyer County 4-H.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Marty Ewert at 715.558.3524.

Keep up with this event on Facebook: Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast

Thank you to the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and our many area business sponsors.

We look forward to seeing you for breakfast.



Come to the 2020 Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared and served by wonderful volunteers. And don't forget the ice cream.

Superior Shores

wfbf.com/about/counties/superiorshores
SuperiorShoresFarmBureau

Join Farm Bureau at the Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast

The 2020 Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. on Saturday, April 4, at the Ashland Bay Area Civic Center in Ashland, Wisconsin.

The 54-inch frying pan will once again be used to prepare an, 'All Wisconsin Scrambled Omelet' that serves 100 people and weighs about 50 pounds. The omelets will be prepared in the exhibit area. It takes about 15 minutes to prepare each omelet, which contains ½ pound of butter, 6 pounds of cheddar cheese, 6 pounds of ham, 250 eggs, onions, mushrooms and salt and pepper.

In addition to the omelet, 4-H and FFA members will serve fresh ice-cold milk, juice, hot coffee, muffins, donuts and sliced cheese. To

top off the breakfast, everyone will be treated to ice cream with strawberry or chocolate topping.

In addition to the breakfast, participants can visit the Farm and Garden Show where many area agri-businesses will have booths promoting products and services. There is no charge for the show that will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Superior Shores Farm Bureau members and Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents will be available to talk to those in attendance about opportunities in Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual.

They also will be helping promote Wisconsin's agriculture industry by inviting attendees to go 'snacking around Wisconsin' and make a bag of trail mix using Wisconsin agriculture produce.

Proceeds will support Bayfield and Ashland County 4-H and Ashland FFA activities. The Bay Area Farm and Garden Show and Dairy Breakfast are sponsored by the Bayfield and Ashland County 4-H, the Ashland FFA, the Superior Shores Farm Bureau and the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.





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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

- Barron County
- Dunn County
- Pierce County
- Polk Burnett
- Rusk County
- St. Croix County
- Sawyer County
- Superior Shores

Rewarding Wisconsin Farmers



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