



Grassroots

District 2 News

District 2 Director Report



By Arch Morton Jr.

WFBF District 2 Director

I hope that you are doing well during these trying times. The coronavirus has certainly made for many changes in our lives, in agriculture and in Farm Bureau.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I hope that things are closer to the 'normal' that we knew a few months ago. I am

writing this on May 21.

Since March 17, all of our county, district and state meetings have been held by video conferences or conference calls. Our staff has been working diligently from home. The COVID-19 situation has presented them with more obstacles and challenges, as they continue to find ways to help our members.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Joe Bragger, with the help of our staff, has been sending email messages to each county Farm Bureau board of director one-to-three times per week. These updates have contained information from WFBF, AFBF, Wisconsin DATCP, USDA and legislative updates.

The governmental relations division has been working with commodity groups across the state to determine the economic impact of COVID-19 on each commodity. They have arranged conference calls with U.S. Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin; and many of our legislators in the House of Representatives.

These calls gave many of our members a chance to tell them how the coronavirus was affecting their farms, and to see what the federal government could do to help. Also, WFBF has been in contact with DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski to ask about federal dollars coming to Wisconsin farmers for COVID-19 related relief and expenses. As of May 20, Governor Tony Evers announced that \$50 million in direct aid will be coming to Wisconsin farmers.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company have partnered with Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and DATCP to help people in need. Rural Mutual will focus on collecting funds for Feeding Wisconsin, an organization that provides food for the needy.

DATCP and DFA will work with processors to receive donations. WFBF will collect funds for Harvest of Hope to provide financial help to Wisconsin farm families in need.

The impact of the COVID-19 situation has been very hard on all of us. I am very proud of the way that our staff and our members have stepped up to help us all get through this.

I can't predict the future, but I'm sure that there will be lingering effects for quite a while. Hang in there.

There are better days ahead.

WFBF Leadership Institute: Take Advantage of This Opportunity

By Scott Timm, 2019 Leadership Institute graduate and Green County Farm Bureau board director

The WFBF Leadership Institute class was an experience that teaches many very important things, no matter what your path in life is. Many great things came out of our class. We built relationships that will continue to grow for the rest of our lives inside and outside of agriculture. I am a better person because of the class.

At first, I was hesitant for a few different reasons and was uncertain if the value was worth my time. The class is setup to have time to get close with the majority of the class. By the end I had the most balance I have ever felt in my life. The WFBF Leadership Institute class prepares you for whatever changes we will have to overcome as an industry and will help you thrive.

Our class spent some time with successful entrepreneurs like Craig Culver and many other great people. Hearing many leaders' stories was very moving. We left each session more confident to ask and talk about the hard questions, such as succession planning. I can't write in words the amount of positive takeaways and self awareness the Institute brought to me. I am a stronger person because of the time I gave to myself to participate.

The country is going to look toward farmers and agriculturists to be leaders, keep them safe and continue to provide nutrition to live happy lives. It is now as important as ever to empower our leaders with the education to represent agriculture for the future.

If you want to do something for yourself, your community and your future, I highly recommend applying and encourage others to do so.

Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

APPLY TODAY!

Applications are due August 17

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

Cambria Student Wins District 2 Essay Contest



Briella Brusveen, a fifth-grade student from Cambria, is the Farm Bureau District 2 winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Briella is the daughter of Chad and Billie-Jo Brusveen.

Her teacher is Jeanette Mendoza at Cambria-Friesland Schools.

Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-grade students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?'

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. This contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students around the state.

In Farm Bureau District 2, a total of 301

students wrote essays for the competition.

The district consists of the following counties: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk.

This year, Columbia County Farm Bureau received 26 essays to be judged and had the winning District 2 essay.

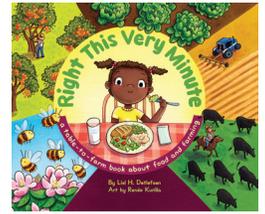
Dane County Farm Bureau received three essays to be judged. William Wentzel, a student from Waunakee Intermediate School in Waunakee, was selected as the Dane County Farm Bureau essay contest winner.

Green County Farm Bureau received seven essays to be judged. Heidi Olsen, a student from Monticello Schools in Monticello, was selected as the Green County Farm Bureau essay contest winner.

Rock County Farm Bureau received 52 essays to be judged. Addilyn Hodgson, daughter of Savanna Jacobson and a fourth-grade student from Roosevelt School in Janesville, was selected

as the Rock County Farm Bureau essay contest winner.

Sauk County Farm Bureau received 213 essays to be judged. Madeline Meyer, daughter of Liz and Jason Meyer, a fifth-grade student and a student at Prairie Ridge School in Reedsburg was selected as the Sauk County Farm Bureau essay contest winner.



Dana Westedt, essay contest coach, presented a gift card, balloons and magnet to Madeline Meyer, Sauk County Farm Bureau essay contest winner.

"Wisconsin Agriculture is Part of my Day-to-Day Life"



With more than 68,700 farms in Wisconsin, agriculture is part of my life. Right this very minute, I am learning hard work, teamwork, determination, and technology while working on our family farm. As a third-generation farmer's daughter, life on the farm is enjoyable and thrilling.



Work Ethic

I have watched the farm process all my life and now that I am old enough to help. I assist in cooking meals, picking stones, and mowing the grass. There are farm jobs that are difficult, but I always try my best. This has taught me to work hard in everything I do, on and off the farm.



Teamwork

Teamwork makes farming possible because one person cannot handle all the work. Farms would not survive if there were not team members. On our farm, I am in charge of cleaning the house, writing thank you notes, and transporting people to equipment.



Technology

My grandmother told stories of picking stones on her family farm with a bucket. My mom, brother and I pick rocks to, but instead, we use a John Deere Gator. My grandpa uses a combine with auto-steer and yield mapping for harvesting while my Amish neighbors collect their crops by hand. Working smarter with technology makes jobs on the farm easier.



Determination

With farming, there is no choice with the weather. If it rains all summer, the fields will flood. If there is a drought, the crops would be scorched to death. When things do not go your way, you need to think about things you can control. In our fields, we have irrigation to water the crops and drainage tile if it gets too wet.



Right this very minute, I am a generational farmer!



Wanted: Board Directors and Delegates

Calling those interested in becoming a board member or being selected as a voting delegate. Board member expectations include attendance at county Farm Bureau's monthly meeting and assistance in leading committee work. Monthly board meetings are as follows:

- Dane County Farm Bureau meets the second Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Madison
- Green County Farm Bureau meets the third Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Monroe
- Rock County Farm Bureau meets the fourth Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Janesville
- Sauk County Farm Bureau meets the first Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Baraboo

Voting delegate expectations include attendance at the annual Policy Development meeting and vote as a county Farm Bureau delegate on Monday of the WFBF Annual Meeting held December 7 at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

If you are interested, please contact the following board member by county:

- Dane County: Dennis Jesberger at djes48@outlook.com, 608.658.0151
- Green County: Dustin Williams at dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu, 608.391.0238
- Rock County: Mary Hookham at mmhookham@gmail.com, 608.751.4720
- Sauk County: Craig Sandmire at craigsandmire@gmail.com, 608.963.6645

Policy Development Meeting Set For July 23

Date: Thursday, July 23

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Virtually through Microsoft Teams

Please join us for the District 2 Policy Development meeting, which will be held virtually this year.

We look forward to a meaningful discussion.

To join the meeting virtually through your computer or phone with video and audio options, please RSVP to District 2 Policy Development Representative Josh Schenk at joshuaschenk1@gmail.com or 608.558.4292. He will provide you with the link.

Discussion Meet Scheduled

The Discussion Meet is open to any Farm Bureau member ages 18 to 35 and it gives members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics.

Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues. The District 2 Discussion Meet contest details are below. Three finalists from the district contest will advance to the YFA Conference on **December 4-6** at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

Date: Monday, August 3

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Due to COVID-19, the Discussion Meet will be held virtually.

Topic question: The decline in rural populations is accelerated by a poor farm economy. What solutions would enhance the vibrancy and economic sustainability of agriculture and rural communities?

If you are interested in participating in the Discussion Meet, please contact District 2 YFA Representative Emily Johnson at ejohnson@sbcpc.bank or 608.490.1081.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center is Here to Help

Have you ever wondered if there is a place you can call with questions about understanding Medicare, learning about classes that can teach you how to prevent falls or even someplace to call to get support in caring for your loved one?

The Aging and Disability Resource Center is sometimes known as a well-kept Wisconsin secret. Our offices are here to help people navigate the questions about aging and planning retirement.

What some don't know is there is an ADRC office that represents every county in Wisconsin. Our services are free and confidential. You can call us about questions you have about planning your own future, or you can call us to learn about resources to help a friend, family member or neighbor.

Our goal is to help people stay in their own homes, as long as it is safe, using resources from your own community. We have staff who are available to assist in making informed choices about long-term care, as well as providing options for those who are looking to transition out of a nursing home. We also have staff who can help in accessing both private and public programs and benefits and provide information about consumer rights regarding those programs.

ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin
Green County
Toll-Free Phone: 800.514.0066
Local Phone: 608.328.9499
Email: resourcecenter@gchsd.org

ADRC of **Dane County**
Toll-Free Phone: 855.417.6892
Local Phone: 608.240.7400
Email: adrc@countyofdane.com

ADRC of **Dodge County**
Toll-Free Phone: 800.924.6407
Local Phone: 920.386.3580
Email: hsagingunit@co.dodge.wi.us

ADRC of **Columbia County**
Phone: 888.742.9233
Email: adrc@co.columbia.wi.us

ADRC of **Rock County**
Phone: 855.741.3600
Email: ADRC@co.rock.wi.us

ADRC of Eagle Country
Sauk County
Phone: 877.794.2372
Email: drabaraboo@saukcountywi.gov

They can provide information and advocacy on a wide range of issues and assist with the application or appeal process for public and private benefits including: Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, Disability, Senior Care, Supplemental Security Income and Medigap Insurance.

ADRCs also have Dementia Care Specialists on staff who are ready to help anyone looking for more information or education surrounding dementia. The DCS is dedicated to helping families care for loved ones at home or even across the country. The DCS also is determined to better educate our communities in order to help keep our loved ones at home as long as possible.

We want you to know we are available to answer your questions about services and resources in your community to keep you and your loved ones safe and happy in your homes. We can be reached by phone or online. Above are the counties for District 2 but you can find other counties at: dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc.

24th Annual County Farm Bureau Golf Outing



Brought to you by: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk County Farm Bureaus

Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | the Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove
Support WI Farm Bureau District 2 County Farm Bureau programs on one of the finest public courses in the area! Enjoy 18 holes of golf, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and more!

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:45 a.m. Ball Toss
- 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Box Lunch provided

Awards, 50/50 Raffle and Auction to follow

Cost: \$95/individual or \$380/foursome

***If we are unable to host our golf outing fundraiser due to COVID-19, you will have the option of all cash or items donated to be refunded or put toward next year's activities.*

For more information and registration, see our website or contact a committee member:
eventregisterpro.com/d2countyfarmbureau

Dane (Chair) Sam Skemp | 608.444.9537 | sskemp1@charter.net | **Columbia** Cal Dalton
608.444.1571 | **Dodge** Roger Hildebrandt 920.285.2197 | **Green** Ben Huber 608.323.0061 |
Rock Jill Uhe 608.370.9672 | **Sauk** Tommy Brennan 608.963.8559

**Several Hole in One Prizes
plus Hole Prizes, Putting
Contest and Ball Toss!!**

Join us RAIN or SHINE!

Name/Business _____

Address: _____

Phone | E-mail: _____

Farm Bureau Member: Yes No

SPONSOR:

____ I would like to sponsor a hole \$100

____ I wish to support the District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser with a silent auction item.

REGISTER YOUR TEAM (Names):

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

_____ Number of Golfers _____ \$ Amount Enclosed

Make check payable to Dane County Farm Bureau

Mail completed form and check to Sam Skemp | 2950 Grandview Cir | Sun Prairie WI 53590

*Non-Farm Bureau Members welcome! Don't have a foursome? Don't worry! We will match you up with one!

A Message From the President ...



Tom Jelinek

Dane County Farm Bureau president

During these uncertain times, we need to reflect on what is really important, our families, our faith and helping others.

We know that this pandemic will end and that hopefully, life will get back to normal. In the

meantime, stay safe and healthy.

There is not much to report from Dane County. Like other counties, our fair has been canceled. I feel sad for the youth of our county, as they have spent numerous hours preparing to show their exhibits. My hope is that there will be a fair next year.

Our board has been meeting via teleconference, which has proven to be very interesting at times. Hopefully, we can meet face to face soon. Meanwhile, we do have events planned like the golf outing. We hope to see many golfers to help support the youth of our Farm Bureau district.

Remember, help your neighbors, talk to one another and pray. We are in this together, and we want to see everyone come out okay on the other side of this pandemic.

Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

Date: Wednesday, July 1

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: The Oaks Golf Course, 4740 Pierceville Road, Cottage Grove

**If we are unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, we will host a virtual meeting. We will keep those who RSVP updated as we get closer to the meeting date.*

You are invited to participate in a Policy Development meeting at 6 p.m. on **Wednesday, July 1**. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau policy is established by farmer and agriculturist members to guide the organization's position on specific legislation and rules.

Each year, Dane County Farm Bureau members develop, discuss and vote on resolutions addressing local, state and national issues facing agriculture. State and national resolutions are discussed and voted on by delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) and American Farm Bureau Federation annual meetings, respectively.

With more than 47,000 members representing all aspects of agriculture, WFBF is a respected voice for agriculture with legislators, the Governor, state agencies, the media and other ag organizations.

This is an opportunity for you to express your ideas about policies that would be beneficial to agriculture not only in Dane County but around the state.

Dinner will be provided. We appreciate your participation in this important event.

Please RSVP by **Sunday, June 28**, by contacting Sam Skemp at 608.444.9537 or sskemp1@charter.net.



Student Scholarship Deadline Is July 1

Are you a Dane County Farm Bureau member currently attending college and looking for a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to help with your fall courses?

Please review application criteria and deadline date below:

1. Applicants or their parent(s)/ guardians(s) must be a member of Dane County Farm Bureau.
2. Applicants must have completed one year of advanced education after high school before they apply. High school seniors are not eligible.
3. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in an agriculture program.
4. Applications must be completed in full and submitted by **July 1**.
 1. Incomplete or applications submitted after **July 1**, may be disqualified. Scholarship presentations will take place at the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **September 10**.
5. Applicants will need to submit proof of fall registration with this scholarship application.
6. Previous scholarship recipients cannot apply again for the scholarship.
7. Judges will use the following criteria for evaluation: Academics 50 percent; activities and awards 30 percent; and need 20 percent.
8. \$1,000 scholarship.



Please return completed form by **July 1** to:

Nicole Hibbard
W3249 Blazer Road, Apartment A
Belleville, WI 53508
Email: hibbardnm@gmail.com

For more information and the Dane County Farm Bureau scholarship application, please visit wfbf.com/about/counties/dane.

Annual Meeting Set for September 10

Date: Thursday, September 10

Time: 5:45 p.m. - Social and silent auction

6:30 p.m. - Dinner

7:15 p.m. - Meeting

Location: Rex's Innkeeper, 301 N. Century Avenue, Waunakee

Cost: FREE

Members are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item or money to donate to a local food pantry.

Join us to elect new board directors and delegates to represent us at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Make your voice heard as we discuss and vote on policy resolutions.

Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman and president of Holstein USA, is scheduled to be our keynote speaker.

Formal postcard invitation to follow.



If you are unable to attend the annual meeting but are interested in supporting agriculture and youth, please consider donating an item for the silent auction. The silent auction is one way that Dane County Farm Bureau raises funds to support agriculture and youth within Dane County communities.

Farm Safety with Stateline Farm Rescue

By Mike Duerst, farm safety co-chair

Dane County Farm Bureau had its annual safety class for first responders at Cross Plains Fire Department on March 14. I want to thank the six fire departments who participated including Cross Plains, Dane, Maple Bluff, Mount Horeb, Waunakee and Sun Prairie.

For the last two departments listed, it was the first time coming to the class. There were 19 first responders who participated with a total of 25 people at the class.

I want to thank those who attended and the businesses that made this class such a great success.

- Darlene Cathman, from Lancaster, for donating the hammermill mixer for the class to use in the equipment entanglement. Stateline Farm Rescue says this is the ideal machine since it has so many different places where people can become entangled.
- Kalscheur Implement for the use of their forklift for three days and letting us keep it Saturday and part of Sunday.
- Miller and Sons Supermarket in Verona for donating donuts for the day. I think these are the best donuts in Dane County.

- Rural Mutual Insurance agents Jared Nelson, Randy Adler and Brad Damon for donating money to help fund this class.

In the morning, we had a short class to teach the first responders how and what to watch out for in removing somebody from these pieces of equipment. In the afternoon, we tore apart machines to get people out. You can look at the pictures to see the different things we did.

This is a very good learning tool for first responders given very few have ever been on a farm. Hands-on experience took place in the afternoon. There were four hours of class training with every group getting four rounds on tearing the equipment apart.

Each year Dane County Farm Bureau holds a farm safety day for the local fire departments and EMS responders in Dane County. This is a very intense training and helps our local fire departments and EMS responders to understand the farming community and the accidents that can occur on the farm. This training also helps fire fighters and EMS volunteers to maintain their certification. We want to see more local fire departments participate in our training.

As a member of Dane County Farm Bureau,



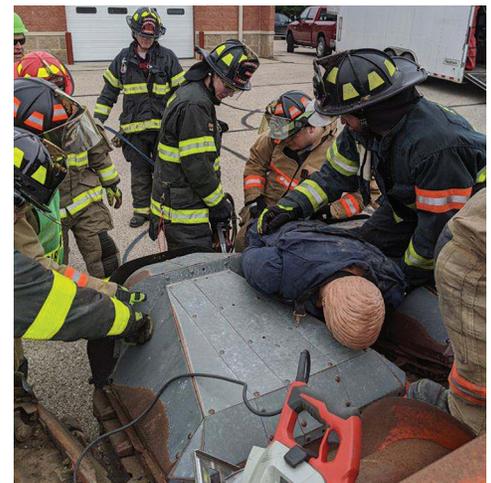
you can make a difference. We encourage you to contact your local fire department and EMS volunteers to take advantage of this training Dane County Farm Bureau provides. We will send out more information about next year's class in future newsletters.

Often times we see that when a local member from the community contacts their local fire department or EMS volunteers about the importance of this safety training, it makes a difference.

This training comes at a cost, but Dane County Farm Bureau picks up the majority of the cost. The next time you see that we are holding this training session, reach out to your local departments and encourage them to participate.

The last thing I want to do is to ask any farmer who has some old piece of machinery laying around your farm to donate for future trainings. The equipment will be used to help teach more first responders how to save a farmer's life if they should become entangled.

If you have something, please contact Mike Duerst at 608.445.7935.



A Message from the President ...



Ben Huber

Green County Farm Bureau president

"Crisis doesn't create character, it reveals it."
— Denis Leary

As a society we have experienced a lot of generational firsts during the past few months.

I also think many people will re-define the words 'essential workers' to now include farmers and healthcare workers, first responders and grocery store clerks, agricultural businesses and food processors and many other business sectors

that honestly have been taken for granted for some time.

As farmers and agriculturists, we have always known that farmers are essential to the food supply chain, but the impact of agriculture on consumers has never been more apparent in my life. While many are facing uncertainty and financial strife because of the demand destruction caused in part by COVID-19, there are many examples of people pulling together during others time of need.

From anonymous donors covering food bills at restaurants and grocery stores to FFA chapters providing milk and meat products to school food programs, to businesses providing personal

protective equipment to essential workers, there are examples of individual kindness everywhere.

We have seen a renewed focus on buying food items from local processors and many people expressing appreciation for farmers not seen for a generation. While many are under stress and worried about uncertainty, let us all remember to focus on the bright spots and not forget the important lessons learned as society adapts to a new normal post COVID-19.

As we enter the summer season, let us continue to focus on what we can control and continue to help others as we pull together to overcome the challenges in front of us. Remember, YOU are essential.

Policy Meeting Rescheduled for August 6

By Josh Schenk, Policy Development committee chair

Date: Thursday, August 6

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location to be determined. If we are unable to meet in person due to COVID-19, we will host a virtual Policy Development meeting.

I invite members to attend our annual policy development meeting. The time will be used to discuss issues affecting our farm businesses and rural communities.

Intent of the meeting is to form or change Farm Bureau policy to best reflect our needs and values. Wisconsin and American Farm Bureau lobbyists use these policy directives when working with legislators.

Join and share in this important role of Farm Bureau.



Save the Date: County Annual Meeting

Join us for food, fun and comradery starting at 6:30 p.m. on **September 9** at T & D Bar & Grill in Monticello.

The annual meeting is a great way to connect with people from across the county and enjoy an evening talking about agriculture.

We will discuss several agricultural policy items with keynote speaker Debi Towns. Debi is a member of the WFBF Governmental Relations team and will share insights and perspective on the key issues facing Wisconsin farmers.

She also will describe how important and impactful the grassroots policy process is when influencing decisions at the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Hope to see you there.



Helping Families Through COVID-19

By Ben Huber, Green County Farm Bureau president

With COVID-19 putting strain on people, there are many examples of people helping people and pulling together for a greater good.

One of the most shocking revelations to me was the amount of families in our area on free or reduced-price lunch programs.

The Brodhead FFA and many others have been working to provide free dairy products to those food programs and families since March.

Led by Skylar Stanley, a senior with the Brodhead FFA, they delivered more than 80 gallons of milk per week and several hundred pounds of cheese to families in need.

We are thankful for the opportunity to help the Brodhead FFA provide locally produced milk and cheese to families in our community. While it's unfortunate so many are impacted by food insecurity, it's refreshing to see communities and organizations working together to help those in need.



Day 1 Winner Ag Week Photo Contest



Kristin Luchsinger

Day 2 Photo Contest Winner



Samantha Bauman

Day 3 Winner Ag Week Photo Contest



Allison Quick

National Ag Day Contest

By Amy Silver, communication chair

In celebration of National Agriculture Week, Green County Farm Bureau hosted a daily photo contest on the Facebook page throughout the week of March 23. People entered a photo each day and the one with the most 'Likes' won. Winners were awarded gift certificates supporting local Green County businesses and events. Thank you to those who participated and Chelsey Simler for organizing.

Day 4 Winner Ag Week Photo Contest



Shauna Bergemann

Day 5 Winner Ag week Photo Contest



Darcy Ertmer

Rock County

Farm Bureau Offers \$500 Scholarships

The Rock County Farm Bureau will offer student scholarship applications for members and member's children who are in their second year of college or technical school.



Scholarship funds are raised through sales at the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair.

Scholarship applications will be available on the web page at wfbf.com/countyfarmbureaus/rock. Applications must be submitted by **Saturday, August 15**.

For more information, questions or to request an application, please contact Sheila Everhart at sheilageverhart@gmail.com.



Policy Meeting Scheduled for August 18

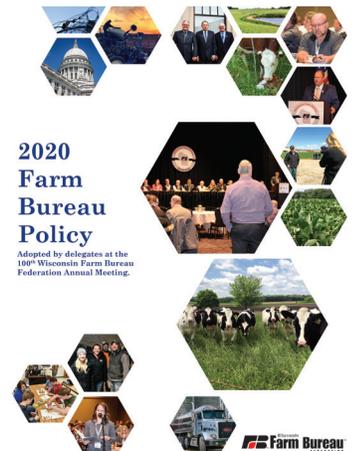
By Kirk Leach, Rock County Farm Bureau policy development chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau policy development committee will meet at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, August 18**, at the LaPrairie Grange Hall, 3610 S. LaPrairie Townhall Road, Janesville.

The purpose of the meeting will be to propose and discuss additions and changes to Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau policy books.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy books are available by hard copy through me or at wfbf.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Policy-Book_web.pdf.

There will be a limited number of copies available at the meeting.



2020 Farm Bureau Policy

Adopted by delegates at the 100th Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting.



A Message From the President ...



Jill Uhe
Rock County Farm Bureau
president

Hello Rock County Farm Bureau members, In my last report I talked about not losing sight of what is important to you and

your farm. Little did I know at the time how quickly we would need to determine what was most important. Much like you and your farms, our board also has had to look at what is important, face challenges, adapt to change and navigate what could be the 'new normal.'

As we move forward, we want to hear from you, our members. What is important to you and your farm? Are you finding challenges that Farm Bureau may be able to help with?

I encourage you to share with one of our board members.

Annual Meeting Set for September 28

Date: Monday, September 28

Time: 6 p.m. - Mixer and Registration

7 p.m. - Dinner

7:45 p.m. - Call to order

Location: Elks Lodge, 2100 N. Washington Street, Janesville

Members will enjoy an evening with Kim Fons, president of Blue Wysteria Coaching and Consulting in Milton. Kim uses her education, expertise and experience to motivate and inspire people worldwide to create positive change in their communities. She will share her story and engage Rock County Farm Bureau members in an exciting activity.

WFBF President Joe Bragger also will energize members to keeping moving forward in these times. Joe's leadership throughout his first year as president has encouraged members to remain hopeful in the agriculture industry.

The meeting will include board of directors' election, WFBF Annual Meeting delegate selection, affiliate reports, policy development discussion and other items of business.

In addition to the regular items of business coming before the members at the annual meeting, the board of directors will submit for approval by members a bylaw change to decrease the board director size from 20 to 14 Directors in a three-year process.

For specific changes, please see the proposed bylaw changes on our web page at wfbf.com/about/counties/rock.

A formal postcard invitation to come in August.

Thousands Learn About and Celebrate National Ag Day

By Sheila Everhart, chair

National Ag Day Events held on March 11 featured Rock County native, farmer and author Lisl Hornig Detlefsen. Lisl, a Parker High School graduate, is the author of "Right This Very Minute."

She is the recipient of the American Farm Bureau Federation Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year award.

Her book celebrates food and farming and inspires readers of all ages to learn more about where their food comes from, right this very minute.

Farmers are unsung heroes. They go about their business of producing commodities that students and consumers have no idea how much work goes into products of the fully stocked aisles of the grocery store.

Detlefsen's presentations focused on where our food comes from and the career opportunities in agriculture. National Ag Day events are made possible through a partnership with Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, the Arrowhead Library System, Local School Districts, the Park City Chapter of American Business Women and the Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program.

Through partners generous support, thousands of southern Wisconsin residents learned about and celebrated National Ag Day via multiple

media outlets and presentations. National Ag Day activities included 16 classroom presentations, seven library programs with resources, a six-county 30-minute talk radio program and podcast with reach of 53,000 listeners, a live-stream author reading with 325 views, 18 social media posts and videos with a reach of 16,995 viewers.

Rock County Ag in the Classroom volunteers logged 72 hours of volunteer time.

The Ag in the Classroom program is coordinated nationally by the United States Department of Agriculture to help students understand the importance of agriculture.

Wisconsin and Rock County Farm Bureau works with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, other agriculture organizations and businesses to use a network of volunteers and educators to help provide classroom presentations.



Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom chair Sheila Everhart and author Lisl Hornig Detlefsen celebrated National Ag Day.



Park City Chapter of American Business Women provided matching grant funding, supporting Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom National Ag Day author visit.



Author Lisl Hornig Detlefsen celebrates National Ag Day by reading to students.



County Farm Bureau Steps Up to Help

By Mary Hookham, Rock County Farm Bureau executive director

Rock County Farm Bureau has partnered with Country Quality Dairy to help local food banks with increased demand. During the dairy drive held in early May, Rock County Farm Bureau provided 420 half-gallons of milk to eight Rock County food banks.

“The dairy drive is our way to support those in need within our communities and also support our members who have been affected by the recent market changes,” said Jill Uhe, president of Rock County Farm Bureau.

Lauren McCann, a member of the dairy drive organizational committee, is proud to promote local dairy products and help make a connection with consumers about the importance of dairy products in their diets.

“This opportunity benefits our members by not only highlighting local products but also by making a connection to consumers who may not reach for dairy products typically or are steered away from milk to alternative

options,” McCann said.

But it goes deeper than the dairy drive. She hopes to help bridge the gap between producers and consumers, and help consumers understand why farmers do what they do.

“It is also my hope that as an organization, we have helped the families of Rock County that need it most by providing a nutritious and delicious product,” she said.

Uhe and McCann are grateful to help area families and farmers through their involvement in Rock County Farm Bureau. McCann works hard to promote the dairy industry, the health benefits of dairy consumption and the good work local farmers continue to do while Uhe takes a bigger picture approach to the dairy drive.

“In addition to lobbying efforts, Rock County Farm Bureau has been very supportive of the youth in agriculture across our county for years,” she said. “The dairy drive is an example of our purpose and what we value as an organization.”



Lauren McCann posed for a photo with Alex Armstrong of Country Quality Dairy at Gifts Men's Shelter in Janesville during a delivery for Rock County Farm Bureau's dairy drive.

Sauk County

A Message From the President ...



Mike Turner
Sauk County Farm Bureau president

Hello Sauk County Farm Bureau.

I hope you are doing well and healthy during this unprecedented time. I have been dragging my feet at writing this article trying to come up with something other

than just talking about the pandemic. Today finally has, even though it in part has to do with it.

Usually every summer after crops are planted and first crop hay is done, I look forward to the tractor pulling season. This year a lot of them have been canceled, giving me time to reflect. I will admit I am, you can say, always in a hurry to get to the next event like a pull, fair or festival.

This year after planting, I had time to slow down and spend more time with my wife and kids at home or the home away from home fishing with the kids and not having a worry in the world for a little while. With things tight on the farm right now and all of the uncertainty, it is nice to just get away for a while and clear the mind.

This summer remember to take a little time to just maybe have a little get away, even if it's to a lake for a day to just reflect and clear your mind. I know a lot of kids are disappointed that they won't have the local fair or other activities, but this is an opportunity as well to get them out and about doing things that they haven't and to spend time with family.

Like I said, I am just trying to find a bright side to the current situation. I hope you have a healthy summer and try to have a little fun.

Scholarship Recipients Announced



Tiffany Neuheisel of Spring Green, daughter of Tysen and Debra Neuheisel, will attend UW-Platteville with a dual course study in agricultural business and dairy science. Tiffany grew up on a 110-cow dairy farm owned by her father and grandfather. Throughout her high school career, she was active in duties on the farm and conducted her Youth Apprenticeship program through the dairy. She also was involved in the River Valley FFA chapter holding the positions of vice president and president, serving on committees in her chapter and organizing many facets of the annual River Valley School Fair. Tiffany is thankful to have had many opportunities for success through her agricultural experiences.



Rachel Lichte is a freshman at UW-Madison and is majoring in genetics and genomics in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Rachel grew up in Baraboo, and her dad is Dan Lichte, a farmer in the Reedsburg area. She is honored to receive this scholarship to help fund her education at UW-Madison.



Olivia Davis is the daughter of Scott and Rita Davis. She will attend UW-Platteville with plans to study agribusiness. She wants to return to the community to help others better their businesses through operations management. Olivia was very active in the FFA program during high school. Her advisor said she has lived every aspect of the National FFA motto that states, "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve."

Ag in the Classroom Celebrates Agriculture

By Nancy Liegel, Ag in the Classroom chair

When school was still open, before National Ag Day celebrated on March 24 and before scheduled spring break, I read to Mrs. Markley's second graders at Tower Rock School in the Sauk Prairie School District. "Hooray for Dairy Farming," written by Bobbie Kalman, is the book I

chose to read. It contains a banana milkshake recipe. We made milkshakes as a class and added some strawberries. What a simple thing to do, but such a hit with the students. As we're experiencing COVID-19 and no school, Ag in the Classroom didn't happen for Earth Day and cheese sampling. I miss the students and teachers. Thanks for letting me be part of your classroom. Hope everyone stays safe.



Hooray for Dairy Farming, written by Bobbie Kalman, is the book I chose to read.



We made milkshakes and added strawberries. What a simple thing to do but such a hit.

Annual Meeting Set For August 27

By Ken Nolden and Tommy Brennan, county annual meeting co-chairs

Date: Thursday, August 27

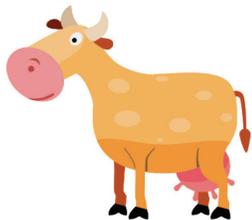
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: White Mound County Park, S7995
Whitemound Drive, Hill Point

Please join us in conducting our Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting. There will be a free catered meal.

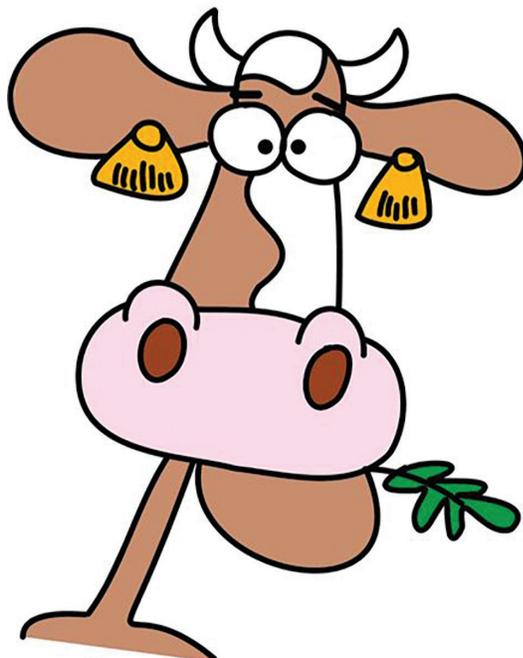
Sid Cook, owner of Carr Valley Cheese, has graciously accepted our invitation to be our guest speaker.

Remember to get your reservation in promptly when you receive your postcard invitation in July.



**CELEBRATE JUNE
DAIRY MONTH!**

Can you spot the 10 differences?





County Farm Bureaus
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

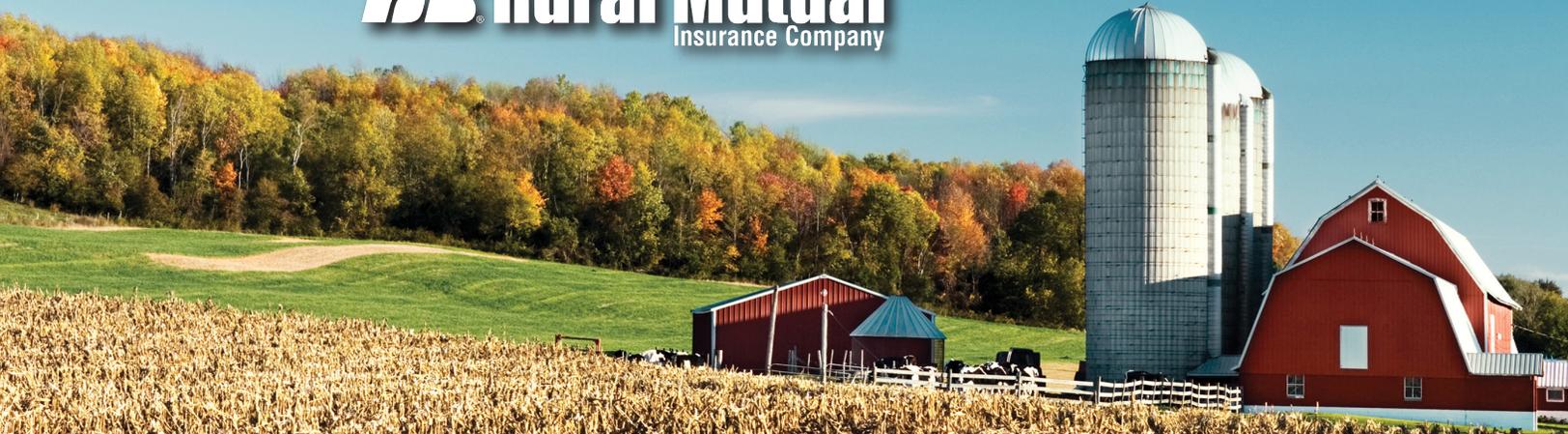
Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124

**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

**Dane County
Green County
Rock County
Sauk County**

#1 Farm Insurer in Wisconsin



As leaders in the field, we understand your unique needs and are here when you need us most. It's our promise to protect and rebuild Wisconsin.

WISCONSIN STRONG

Visit RuralMutual.com to learn how we are keeping our Wisconsin communities strong.