

Grassroots

District 7 News

District 7 YFA Report

Kelly and Keith Oudenhoven

District 7 YFA Committee Representatives



Who would of thought at the time of our last newsletter, we would be in the state of craziness that we are. Even inn early February, District 6 and 7 YFAs had a successful district hockey game event.

While things were cruising right along on the YFA side of Farm Bureau with the county YFA chairs planning upcoming events and a District meeting planned, that came to a screeching halt before it took flight.

While things are uncertain, there is one thing that we must keep on doing, and that is looking to the future and knowing that we are in this together.

With that being said, the applications for the Excellence in Ag Awards are available. For more information, visit the WFBF website and search under the 'YFA' tab. The Excellence in Ag Award is for those who earn 50 percent of their income from non-production agriculture, for example, veterinarian, herd manager or ag lending agent. Applications are due on **June 15**.

AFBF is reviewing and making changes with the Achievement Award.

When we can make definite plans, we will schedule the District 7 Discussion Meet. This year, we want to have at least six participants. Please let me know if you are interested in participating or if you know of someone who wants to participate.

We hope you are doing well during this time of uncertainty. Please contact your neighbors and friends. Everyone has a battle to fight, but we are stronger when we work together.

Sending many blessings to you and your family.



About 100 District 6 and 7 YFA members got together for a Green Bay Gamblers hockey game followed by a social gathering at the Green Bay Distillery.

National Agriculture Day Nomination

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

As part of the National Agriculture Day celebration on March 24, the WFBF staff invited members to nominate a farmer who embodies the National Ag Day theme, 'Food Brings Everyone to the Table.'

One of those nominated was Shawano County Farm Bureau President Neil Christianson, who owns a 200-cow dairy farm near Shiocton.

Neil has served on the Shawano County Farm Bureau board for eight years and as president for last three years. He is a strong supporter of dairy promotion efforts and many agricultural promotion efforts through the Shawano County Farm Bureau.

Neil was selected by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee as one of the four finalists. Members were asked to 'vote' for their favorite nominee by 'liking' the individual's photo and biography. The other finalists were: Shane Goplin, a cash grain and forage farmer from Trempealeau County; Katie Roth, a dairy farmer from Grant County; and Bruce Pankratz, a dairy farmer from Wood County.

Each of the four finalists received a Culver's gift certificate and the winner, Shane Goplin, received a \$50 gift card from Blain's Farm and Fleet.

Pandemic and Policy Development

By Ken Harter, WFBF Policy Development Committee District 7 Representative

The pandemic is having a devastating impact on agriculture. Wisconsin Farm Bureau officers and staff are working diligently to stay current on information to update members, ensure that government decision-makers and the media are aware of how agriculture is being affected and lobbying on behalf of members for support to address issues.

President Joe Bragger is encouraging you to share how the pandemic is affecting your farm or business and if you have suggestions, please contact him or WFBF staff. Visit wfbf.com for an electronic response form, click on the COVID-19 Updates and Resources then scroll down to the COVID-19 online form.

Information shared will help the governmental relations staff update government program managers and decision-makers on the situation in the country. I also encourage members to check the WFBF website regularly for helpful information, updates on the COVID-19 situation and WFBF support activities.

Soon, the WFBF Policy Development Committee will begin work on policy recommendations. Given the uncertainty around the COVID-19 situation and when it will abate, whether the process will go forward as it has in the past is unknown.

Please watch for information later this summer on the policy development process in the counties.

WFBF Leadership Institute Applications Available



By Kellie Zahn, Institute graduate

If you enjoy being an advocate for agriculture and want to be an even more effective advocate and leader, I encourage you to apply for the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute.

Being a member of the Institute has provided me with opportunities to better serve my county Farm Bureau as well as be an advocate for our farm to our elected officials amid the COVID-19 pandemic. I have found myself being more willing to step out and step up to be a stronger voice for agriculture since participating in the Institute.

WFBF Leadership Institute sessions are typically two- to three-day workshops held around the state. Session topics range from

personality assessment, to media training, to government relations. I was able to use information from every session to help me be a better leader with Farm Bureau, at my job or on the farm. WFBF Leadership Institute is the best leadership training I have ever participated in and I strongly encourage you to apply to participate.

Applications for the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute are due **August 17**.

For more information, visit wfbf.com.

Ag in the Classroom Matching Grant Awarded in District 7

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

The Ag in the Classroom Program awarded 18 matching grants for a total of \$6,749 to schools and organizations to expand agricultural literacy.

One of the 18 matching grant recipients is the Bonduel Elementary School garden project.

Bonduel Elementary Garden Committee, Elementary School Garden: \$500, Bonduel

The Bonduel Elementary School is excited to create a green garden space. The goal is to do the kick-off on the first annual Wisconsin School Garden Day. A contest was given to each class to think of a name for their garden.

The garden will include a fenced-in-area with raised beds for vegetables and flowers, a garden shed constructed by the tech ed students, along with picnic tables for outside classroom activities. Wood chips will provide a base for the walkways.

This will be a natural, calming, learning oasis for the students and staff.



Promotion and Education Committee Update



By Brittney Muenster, District 7 Representative

So far 2020 has been anything but boring.

This March was my first Promotion and Education event. The IGNITE Conference was scheduled in Madison from March 27 to 28 but was unfortunately canceled due to COVID-19.

As many upcoming events with the purpose of promotion and education of agriculture are canceled or postponed, I invite you to use social media and online resources available to continue to promote our great industry.

Please feel free to encompass the idea that farmers and agriculture are still operating every day despite the current situation if you need a post idea. The hashtag #StillFarming can be added to these posts if you want to. Now, it's more vital than ever that we exercise our voice for agriculture.

The WFBF Facebook page, Snapchat and website are great resources with ideas and information on social media and promotion and education. If you want guidance on promotion and education, please contact me via Facebook messenger or brittneymuenster@yahoo.com.

Going forward as the uncertainty of the pandemic leaves a lot of us feeling like we're hanging in the balance, please contact fellow agriculturists if able and provide support where needed.

We're pillars of the ag community and working together, we can ensure a strong future even through these trying times.

As we get further into the year, I hope to provide updates on future programs that members of the Promotion and Education Committee are working on as well as an update from our summer meeting.

I wish you well and safety as we work into planting season and through these challenging times.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



In order to stay safe and healthy, I was working at home at my desk when I was knocked out of my chair by a cascade of falling books! It made me angry, but I have no one but my shelf to blame.

Ag in the Classroom volunteer: "How many sheep does it take to make a sweater?"

Little Susie: "I don't know. I didn't think sheep could knit!"

An optimist is someone who looks forward to great scenery on a detour.

The bad thing about having a good idea is that it won't work unless you do.

Why doesn't anyone attach their watch to their belt? Because it's a waist of time.

Safe at home Mom: "I hear that exercise kills germs."
Safe at home Dad: "That's silly. How do you get a germ to exercise?"

A smile is the light in the window of your face that tells people that your heart is at home.

District 7 High School Juniors Attend FFA Farm Forum

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

During the two-day event, 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 marked the 48th time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.



Lilly Wisnfske of the Bowler FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. The student was sponsored by the Shawano County Farm Bureau.



Autumn Elliott of the Coleman FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. She and her FFA Chapter Advisor, Ms. Wautier were sponsored by the Marinette County Farm Bureau.



(from left): Ryan Vosters and Joe Schuh of the Freedom FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. The students were sponsored by Outagamie County Farm Bureau.



Kaelyn Sumner of the Pulaski FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. The student was sponsored by Shawano County Farm Bureau.



(from left): Mattelyn Koehler, Morgan Weinig, John Rhode and Kyle Krueger of the Shawano FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. The students were sponsored by the Shawano County Farm Bureau.



Hannah Timm and Ashley Johnson of the Weyauwega Fremont FFA Chapter attended FFA Farm Forum. The students were sponsored by Waupaca County Farm Bureau.

Meals in the Field Promotion for Farmers

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

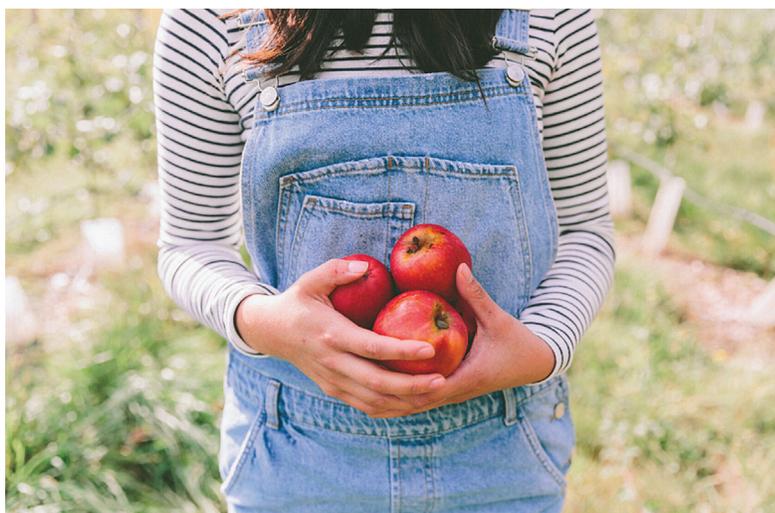
FROG Country Radio is doing the Meals in the Field promotion during April and May like they did last fall.

Outagamie County, Shawano County and Brown County Farm Bureaus co-sponsored ads promoting the event and provided meals in the field to farmers busy planting this spring.

This program fit well with the Farm Neighbors Care initiative promoted by WFBF and a number of other ag organizations.

The program asks members to support their neighbors with something as simple as a phone call or text, or better yet, a visit with coffee, a snack or meal to give them a break and to let them know they are appreciated.

For more information, please visit wfbf.com/farm-bureau-news/wisconsin-ag-groups-launch-farm-neighbors-care-campaign.



County Farm Bureaus Lend Helping Hands

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

There are efforts in District 7 to help with farm prices and relieve the temporary over-supply situations created by the COVID-19 crisis. Because of the safer-at-home order, many events, programs or promotions that the county Farm Bureaus intended to fund or co-sponsor have been canceled. The county Farm Bureaus are using those funds in the best way they can to serve their farmer members. County Farm Bureaus have made local product purchases, donations or are in the planning stages to do so.

- The Langlade County Farm Bureau is contacting the Antigo Food Pantry to donate some local products in a way they can best be used.
- The Oconto County Farm Bureau is making a donation to the Oconto County Dairy Promotions committee's 'Cheese Bucks' program that distributes dollar-off coupons for locally produced cheese purchases.
- The Shawano County Farm Bureau is establishing a fund to support organizations in need of milk and other dairy products. They are contacting schools and food pantries that could use milk for students and clients with the plan to donate local product to fill those needs.
- The Waupaca County Farm Bureau is purchasing \$1,000 of locally produced dairy products for distribution to the 10 food pantries



Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

APPLY TODAY!

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



APPLICATIONS DUE BY AUGUST 17!

Langlade County

wfbf.com/about/counties/langlade
LangladeCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



By Tom Houdek

Staying at home: With the 'stay at home' order we are learning how to approach things in a new way. Many of us are using technology in new ways to stay connected. Me included.

For the first time ever, we conducted a Langlade County board meeting through teleconference. On April 23, we had our first video conference, using Microsoft Teams, for the District 7 president's conference. Only four of us got Microsoft Teams up and running, the rest of the members called in to join the meeting.

If you have a millennial or high school student living in your household, these times are less tricky. It is like having tech support on call. But when you have to do it on your own, something that sounds so simple can become difficult.

Even though the meetings did not seem quite as productive as they are when we meet in person, we discussed the possibility of using video or teleconferences in the future during busy seasons. Maybe we should stick to teleconferences, that way we don't have to put on a nice shirt with our pajama pants.

Fair trophy sponsorship: The Langlade County Farm Bureau has sponsored four fair trophies again for this year. In the current situation, it's not certain whether the fair will happen this summer or not. We will hope for the best.

Congratulations to last year's Langlade County Farm Bureau trophy winners.

Lily Nagel, Reserve Champion market beef

Madeline Gottschalk, Reserved Champion beef breeding crossbred

Allison Peters, Champion market beef

Local dairy product donation plans: Langlade County Farm Bureau also is planning to use the funds we normally would have used to support farm tours and promotion efforts with to donate locally sourced dairy and food products to the local food pantry, as we know they are especially in need now.

Dick Bolen is making contacts to see what products can be used by the food pantries effectively and how to best provide products to them.

Farm Bureau Farm Tours Disrupted

By Christy Sveda-Schreiber, Ag in the Classroom chair

Well, hello spring. What a spring it has been. Life on the farm really hasn't changed much for us, business as usual here.

Since school has shut down for the remaining semester, our planned farm visits will not happen. I have intentions to extend invitations for later this year after school begins again.

We had two classes that were interested in a visit before the safer-at-home order began so our hope is to resume our dairy promotion efforts by hosting the tours for them this fall.

I will leave off here wishing you a safe planting and harvesting season.



Autumn leaves might be in the photo for the 2020 Sveda Farm Tour, but we're going to try to make it happen.

Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Bev Brecklin, Promotion and Education Committee chair

Greetings to you.

Here it is, the spring season and we just had Easter with a snowfall of about six inches where I am. Normally, that would be the big news, but it isn't.

Our country is in the middle of a pandemic and Wisconsin is on lock down. This COVID-19 is one for the record books, but some of us knew a bad disease would hit this world sometime. AND ... it may be on the rebound come fall. Who knows?

We can't plan for anything with this going on and that includes the annual beef promotion that I do in July. Most events are canceled, and social distancing is the new norm.

People are driving less but clearing off the grocery store shelves. Yet, it has affected farming

in more ways than one.

Milk is being dumped and crop farmers are plowing under many crops. Commodity prices are falling, despite the grocery stores having high demand. Restaurants that are open only offer food to-go and schools are closed. Non-essential businesses are closed.

Yet, farming goes on regardless of the markets, weather or a pandemic. There have been more farm bankruptcies lately and in reality, it hits smaller- to medium-sized farmers and businesses the hardest.

Maybe, I am wrong, but there may be a famine in our future. Just mix bad weather with poor prices and people will stop and think where their food will come from. It may not happen right away, but it could in a few years.

This coronavirus has affected the entire world and I think life will be much different for us



I won't be doing a beef promotion event this summer, but we'll be back at it next year.

in so many ways. We will get through this somehow, but the old-fashioned handshake will be out of style.

For now, the beef promotion that I usually do in the summer is canceled, unless something changes for the better. Try to have a good spring and summer regardless.

Please stay well and stay tuned.

Langlade County Music in the Park Fundraiser

By Dick Bolen, Music in the Park fundraiser chair

The folks who organize the Music in the Park series have officially let us know that summer concerts are canceled for this year due to the COVID-19 virus concerns.

We were going to provide food and beverages for the event planned for June 25. It has been rescheduled for June of 2021. This was our fundraiser for 2020 so it looks like we will have to get creative and figure out something new for this year.

By the way, as your Langlade County Farm Bureau membership chair, I might suggest that getting 20 new members would be a start. If you know of a possible new member, please contact one of the board members. Thank you.



Last August, the Langlade County Farm Bureau members served a delicious picnic meal at the Music in the Park.

Marinette County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marinette
MarinetteCountyFarmBureau

Ag Day at the Capitol



On February 4, Chuck Rabitz attended Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. He lobbied for bills beneficial for agriculture with Representative Jeff Mursau and Senator Tom Tiffany.

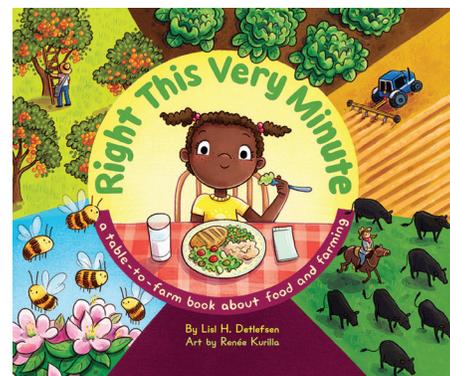
Ag in the Classroom Book Distribution

By Cindi Wautier, Ag in the Classroom coordinator

There isn't much news to report. With the disruption caused by the safer-at-home order, there were no submissions for the essay contest.

Marinette County Farm Bureau did donate the new Ag in the Classroom resource book of the year, "Right This Very Minute," to 15 schools in the county.

Thank you to members of the Marinette County Farm Bureau board of directors for helping with the deliveries of the books and the essay contest information.



Breakfast on the Farm Update

By Corey Kuchta, county board member

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation, the Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm committee and the Hartwig family have made the difficult decision to postpone the annual breakfast until June 2021.

The Hartwig Family will be our host family on June 27, 2021. For more information and updates, please 'like' our Facebook page.

Wisconsin dairy farmers need our support now more than ever. We encourage you to grab an extra gallon of milk or tub of ice cream at the grocery store. We will get through this pandemic together, as a team.

As always, thank you for your continued support.



The Hartwig Family will host Breakfast on the Farm in 2021.

Marinette YFA Report

By Emily Cudnohosky and Trevor VanDrise, YFA committee co-chairs

Greetings from the Marinette County YFA committee. We hope you are reading this in good health.

During the winter, we planned the first-ever Spring Fling Social co-event with Oconto County YFA, set tentatively for April 9.

The highlights of the night were to be free drinks, snacks, games and developing fellowship among our young farmers and agriculturists.

Unfortunately, due to the recent safer-at-home order, we made the decision to postpone the event until further notice.

At this time, we have not set a reschedule date, however, we will be working closely with the Oconto County YFA to reschedule as soon as possible.

We cannot wait to set the new date for this special event and have the chance to meet everyone and have a great time.



Oconto County

YFA Members Make Donation for Purchases of Local Cheese

By Walter Taylor, YFA chair

We had an event planned for you, a joint effort between Marinette County and Oconto County, that was supposed to be in April, but due to COVID-19, we are rescheduling it.

As soon as the restrictions lift, we will be rescheduling a fun night for all.

As I hear more about the craziness in the agricultural markets, I have tried to tailor my food science lessons to include the commodities under high stress.

If you visit my Facebook page, you will see a delicious dairy and egg-based custard recipe from my grandma and my mom's famous poppy seed torte recipe.

An easy and fun thing to do is bake and cook. Our friends and neighbors are trolling social media every minute, and looking for fun recipes.

If you or your family have a delicious dairy dessert or main dish, feel free to create a quick video on how to make it, or post a recipe. The poppy seed torte recipe went viral, with several students making it with their families.

What a great way to use milk and eggs, and to make lasting memories.

With the COVID-19 canceling events and disrupting the food chain, the question of how do we support these farmers producing milk and families enjoying dairy products in our communities.

A portion of the YFA committee's budget has been allocated to dairy product support with businesses selling cheese.

The Oconto County Dairy Promotions committee is working on a 'Cheese Bucks' program that Oconto County Farm Bureau supports. Cheese Bucks will be distributed to families in our communities and are accepted at local businesses that sell cheese.

The Cheese Bucks are dollar-off coupons and list locations where they can be redeemed. The Cheese Bucks are being distributed through the senior meals programs and school lunches.

With about 90 percent of Wisconsin milk being made into cheese, this money will support the purchase of an agricultural product that directly impacts dairy farms in our county and the retail outlets that supply cheese to consumers. Increasing demand for products is more crucial than ever right now.

Ag Educator's Front with Classes: On the home front for our agricultural education

programs, our teachers have been working to provide instruction virtually and in paper copies that are sent home to students.

I know students do not enroll in my classes so that they can sit on a computer to learn, but in these times, inspiration and innovation with delivery of agricultural content has been rewarding.

I dug out my old video recorder, and discovered that my tablet takes decent video, and have been shooting 'on location' video tutorials for laboratory exercises that would normally happen at school.

Sample videos include: Making a loaf of bread from scratch, poppy seed torte, grilling, biscuits and gravy, landscape design, aquaponic tours, planting a tree/shrub/perennials, seeding a lawn, measuring trees in the forest, soil texture science and so much more.

Thinking outside the box is essential for students to engage them in the magnitude of opportunities that agriculture has to offer.

Given the restrictions, FFA has postponed and canceled several events.

For more information, please contact your local agricultural educator.

President's Report



By Dennis Jahnke

Just a few thoughts. I have told people I am a bit bored being retired. These days I am glad I am on a fixed income.

Be thankful for Farm Bureau and state politicians who are fighting to help maintain some stability for farmers in these crazy times. Do not watch the daily news briefings from Washington, D.C. Public radio and public TV have a more thorough and less agitating coverage of the situation.

I really hate wearing a mask but considering that I am, you know, OLD, I believe it is the least I can do. I think wearing a mask will become mandatory as the economy opens. After what we have been through so far, I cannot imagine what a reinfection would be like.

On a lighter note, my daffodils are blooming and seeds are going in the ground. Best of all my sump pump in the basement has not kicked in for almost three weeks.

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Kayla Zahn, Ag in the Classroom chair

This year, things are quiet on the safer-at-home quarantine front, which also has caused things to be quiet on the Ag in the Classroom front.

There were arrangements made to have classes do the Ag in the Classroom essay contest, but with the drastic changes taking place in schools, they weren't able to make it happen.

We will look forward to a bigger and better 2021 response.



Member Email Address Requested

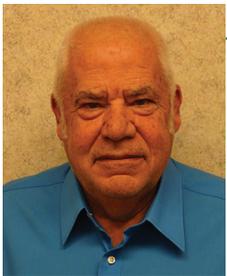
By Ken Harter, legislative and local affairs committee chair

There have been several instances in recent years where the ability to communicate quickly and inexpensively with the Oconto County Farm Bureau membership would have been helpful. Your board of directors is interested in developing a member email list to facilitate sharing information. This will be especially helpful for the duration of the pandemic as WFBF President Joe Bragger is distributing regular updates to county Farm Bureau leaders that we want to share with membership.

You can be added to our email membership list by sending an email message to Ken Harter at kharter@plbb.us. Please add Oconto County Farm Bureau on the subject line.

Outagamie County

A Message from the President ...



By Mike Salter, president

While I am preparing this article, we are in a doom and gloom situation of weather and a safer-at-home order (I call quarantine) and request to stay six feet

away from other people.

This creates a new experience for people now because many Farm Bureau activities are done

on the internet instead of in person.

District 7 had a county Farm Bureau president's video get together last night on Microsoft TEAMS.

Outagamie County Farm Bureau held our April county Farm Bureau board meeting by conference call and it did work out ok.

This is a trying time for many activities, like the Outagamie County Fair is not for sure, but if it is held, we want to have centennial farm owners fill out the form and be awarded at the fair for their perseverance. The award is for

anyone, not only Farm Bureau members, and if you need a form, please contact me.

With these challenging financial times, WFBF has staff working with government agencies making sure farmers get as much from the COVID-19 aid programs as possible.

There are planned call-in programs where you can talk to Steve Boe, Director of Local Affairs, to tell your story and suggest things that Farm Bureau should look into that could help us to make it through this pandemic.

Keep the faith.

Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



(from left): Bernie Vander Heiden, Mike Salter, Bob Fox and Darrin Stingle lobbied for agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison.



Outagamie County Farm Bureau members met with Representative Dave Murphy. They saw Representative Jim Steineke and Senator Rob Cowles to discuss water quality initiatives, ag product marketing and dairy product research funding bills.

YFA Event Update

By Bret Long, YFA chair

The Outagamie/Waupaca YFA bowling party was one of the few events held before the safer-at-home order went into effect. There were about 20 people who attended the bowling party to have some bowling fun, eat pizza and socialize

We will wait and see how this situation works out before planning more events.



Outagamie and Waupaca YFA members got together for some bowling, food, and fun February 20.

Octoberfest Cream Puffs Help Wanted

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Octoberfest cream puff fundraiser chair

This year, Outagamie Farm Bureau will again have a booth on College Avenue in Appleton on September 26 selling cream puffs and coffee.

This is our only fundraiser for the year and the money earned is used to support the Adventures in Dairyland classroom ag education program, 4-H scholarships, FFA programs, Rural Health Initiative and other programs benefiting the farm community.

With all that said, we will again need volunteers starting at 6 a.m. to set up the booth, cut cream puff shells, whip cream, fill puffs with cream and sell cream puffs and coffee until 6 p.m. when the event ends.

If you can help, please contact Linda or Bernie Vander Heiden at 920.766.9377 to let us know when you want to help and what you want to help us with.



Be a part of the action and fun in the Outagamie County Farm Bureau's cream puff booth at Appleton Octoberfest 2020.

Adventures in Dairyland Program Update

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Ag in the Classroom chair

The Adventures in Dairyland Program hit the ground running when it was unfortunately cut short by the COVID-19.

We are heartbroken that many children won't be able to experience the on-farm tour that for many would be the first time visiting a dairy farm.

Currently, we are making some changes so the schools that started the program may be able to finish an online version.

While we are saddened by the recent events, everyone's safety is our top priority for this program.

Please remember to support your local dairy farmers by stocking up on dairy products.



The Adventures in Dairyland was off to a good start with their volunteers kickoff meeting in January.

2020 Breakfast on the Farm is Canceled

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Ag in the Classroom chair

The Outagamie County Dairy Promotion announced the cancellation of the 2020 Breakfast on the Farm on their Facebook page.

"It is with heavy hearts that we, the Outagamie County Dairy Promotion along with the Van Rossum Dairy Farm, announce the cancellation of the 2020 Breakfast on the Farm.

We take the highest priority when it comes to the health and safety of our host farm, board

members, volunteers and most importantly the visitors to the Breakfast on the Farm.

With COVID-19 and so much uncertainty that surrounds it, we don't want to take any chances and felt it was best to cancel this year's event.

We are truly saddened by this, but we will be back in 2021 with the best breakfast to offer.

Please take a moment to also say a prayer for those affected by COVID-19. While it may be scary when grocery shelves are empty,

please know that farmers are still working hard to bring you the safest and most healthy dairy products to your table every single day.

Please support your local dairy farmers by purchasing more milk, cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese, cream cheese and more.

Please continue to watch our social media pages for more dairy goodness.

We hope to see you next year at Van Rossum Dairy Farm for the 2021 Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm."

Shawano County

Essay Contest Winner Named

By Renee Schmidt, women's committee member

Despite the turmoil created by the closing of schools for social distancing, the Shawano County Farm Bureau women's committee received 13 essay contest entries from Mrs. Hinz's fourth-grade class at St. James Lutheran School in Shawano.

Mason Fosheim's essay was selected as the winner. Congratulations, Mason.

We will figure out how and when to deliver prizes and the class ice cream social.

Mason's winning essay:

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE

Right this very minute people are eating things that come from a farm. I ate toast for breakfast today. The bread is made of wheat, which means it came from a wheat farmer. The peanut butter is made of peanuts at a peanut factory, but the peanuts came from a peanut farmer. I also had some milk for a drink. Milk comes from a cow, which means it came from a dairy farmer. For lunch I had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, banana, yogurt, and graham crackers. The bread came from a wheat farmer, the peanut butter came from a peanut farmer, the jelly came from a strawberry patch, the yogurt came from a dairy farmer, and the graham crackers came from a wheat farmer. For dinner I had salmon, noodles, milk, and apples. The salmon came from a fish farm, the noodles came from a wheat farmer, the milk came from a dairy farmer, and the apples came from an apple orchard.

Farmers also help us because they produce products that make our clothes. For instance, I have socks made of wool, and shirts made of cotton. I am very thankful that farmers produce all these things. Today people use a lot of things that are made on a farm to make their lives better. This proves that farmers are very important, which is why I appreciate farmers.

President's Report



By Neil Christianson

Last year at this time we were talking about the April snowstorm and sturgeon running.

Well, this year is a whole lot different. Lately, COVID-19

has taken up all of the press.

You can be assured that Farm Bureau has been trying to address farmers' concerns, I've had conference calls as have other county board members with elected officials in Washington, D.C., to brief them with how COVID-19 has been affecting us.

COVID-19 will affect upcoming Farm Bureau events that have been planned, including the Brunch on the Farm. There is more information about the brunch in this newsletter.

Make sure to check on one another; call your neighbors to say hello, and stay safe.

Now, it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage. Ole says, "Never tell people your troubles. Half of dem don't care ... and da odder half is glad it happened to you."

And, here is another piece of humor that came to mind with the Summer Olympics being canceled.

I've heard a suggestion for 'Corralling the Cows' as a new Olympic competition category to make the event much more exciting.

This team event, again designed primarily to test physical stamina, would require participation of an entire family, up to a maximum of two adults and four children of various ages.

At 2 a.m., a herd of 60 cows plus young stock would be released onto a major highway dissecting the 160-acre contest farm. The event would start when the sheriff knocked on the door, announcing, "Your cows are in the road."

The entire family – including a love-struck teenage son who had just come home at 1:45 a.m. would then be roused and set about the task at hand as quickly as possible.

In this first-alert phase, points would be awarded for both volume and urgency in the father's voice.

The 160 acres would include at least 80 acres of corn standing seven or more feet tall, growing in a primarily clay soil that has received at least two inches of rain within the past six hours.

The first requirement is to move the herd off the road into the standing corn.

Heavy clouds will block any potential moonlight; the only artificial lights allowed will be flashers used to warn oncoming motorists of cattle in the road.

Points will be deducted for each motorist forced off the road prior to successful removal of animals from the thoroughfare.

Severity of penalty will depend on the amount of damage to vehicles or occupants.

A direct collision between any animal and a vehicle will result in disqualification.

Upon successfully completing the first step, the team must then find and chase the cattle now in the cornfield and adjacent areas back into the barnyard.

Trained cow dogs will not be allowed; over-eager, half-grown mongrel pups are okay.

The time limit is three and a half hours. All cattle must be penned in time for the 5:30 a.m. milking.

Husbands and wives must speak to each other in normal tones during this event.

Tired, love-struck teen-aged sons who sneak back to bed under cover of darkness will be cause for immediate disqualification.

Dairy Committee Report

By Christa Hoffman, dairy committee co-chair

The Shawano Farm Bureau made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Brunch on the Farm that was set for Nischke Back 40 Acres in Pulaski.

Unfortunately, we had little confidence in being able to host a large-scale event safely by the end of June.

The event typically draws more than 4,000 people and highlights June Dairy Month.

Despite this cancellation, the Shawano Farm Bureau is planning to spearhead two additional initiatives as alternatives to reach out to our members and community. These include:

Milk Donation Fund: We have established a fund to support organizations in need of obtaining milk and other dairy products. We will work with schools and food pantries that could use more milk for their students and clients.

If you know of organizations in need, please let us know.

Farmer Recognition: We are going to focus our efforts in a campaign to support our farmer Farm Bureau members. We are working to make connections with local businesses to provide a thank you for our members.

Please stay tuned in June for more details.

Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

By Bob Krause, legislative and local affairs committee chair

February 4 was a bright sunny day for this event. A group of Farm Bureau members made the trip to the Capitol to discuss issues and meet with our Representatives.

A special thank you goes out to members Kristi Fiedler, Christa Hoffman, Kellie Zahn, Neil Christianson, Ken Matsche and Bob Krause.

After a nice lunch at the Monroe Terrace Community and Convention Center, we listened to several of our Farm Bureau Staff explain some of our talking points and goals for the visits with our representatives. Such as funding for cover crops, nitrate program, well contamination, truth in labeling and dairy exports just to name a few. We also listened to Governor Tony Evers, who talked about the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin. He also discussed his proposed budget and funding for agriculture.

Our group walked to the Capitol to meet with our representatives or their aids. They were very attentive and listened as we explained what was happening in Shawano County and how we needed their support during these trying times in agriculture. We believe that it was a day well spent and look forward to working with our representatives.



Shawano Farm Bureau members met with Representative Gary Tauchen at Ag Day at the Capitol to discuss issues to benefit farmers.



Shawano members talked with administrative staff in Representative Jeff Mursau's office. They also discussed issues with Senator Rob Cowles and Senator Tom Tiffany.

Shawano County Farm Bureau Brunch on the Farm Scholarships Awarded

By Kristi Fiedler, donations committee chair

The Shawano County Farm Bureau has a mission to lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations and leader development.

As part of this goal, the Shawano County Farm Bureau strives to promote agricultural education for the students of Shawano County by awarding annual scholarships through our funds generated by the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm.

All applicants have volunteered at Shawano County Brunch on the Farm, they are leaders in their schools and communities and must earn a GPA above 2.0 at the university, technical college or short course program.

Since 2014 Shawano County Farm Bureau has awarded these \$500 scholarships and we are proud to announce the 2020 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm Scholarship recipients.

The Shawano County Farm Bureau congratulates and thanks them for their leadership, volunteer time at Brunch on the Farm and wishes them the best in their careers.



Adam Strassburg, son of Kevin and Renae Strassburg of Pulaski, will start his second year at UW-River Falls and is pursuing a degree in ag education. Adam has been an active leader in FFA, Ag Ambassadors and Nation Honor Society.



Alena Strassburg, daughter of Kevin and Renae Strassburg of Pulaski, will be a freshman at UW-River Falls. Her goal is to be a hippotherapist, a physical and occupational therapist for special needs clients using horses. She plans to earn a degree in occupational therapy with a minor in equine science. Alena has been an active leader of 4-H, FFA and Ag Ambassadors.



Alyssa Strassburg, daughter of Jeff and Jeni Strassburg of Wittenburg, will be in her first year at Fox Valley Technical College earning a degree in agribusiness/science-technology-animal science and accounting. Alyssa plans to be the sixth generation to operate the family dairy. She has been a leader in her school government, FFA, Ag Ambassador and a National Honor Society member as well as active in sports and music.



Cassy Bonnie, daughter of Kevin and Shawn Bonnin of Bonduel, will be in her fifth and final semester at UW-Platteville and Madison Area Technical College earning a degree in

animal science with a veterinary technician emphasis. She aspires to own and operate a hog farrowing farm or work as a veterinarian technician.

Cassy has been in leadership roles in FFA, 4-H, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America and is a member of National Honor Society member.



Kaitlin Pescinski, daughter of Roger and Cathryn Pescinski of Shawano, will be in her third year at UW-River Falls working towards a degree in food science and technology with a minor in horticulture. Kaitlin's goal is to have a career in food science working in research and development of dairy products. She is an active leader in FFA, Sigma Alpha Beta Zeta and UW-River Falls Food Science Club.



Taylor Dillenburg, daughter of Steve and Lori Dillenburg of Shawano, will be a freshman at UW-River Falls working towards a degree in animal science: pre-veterinarian medicine. She then plans to attend UW-Madison to earn a doctorate in veterinarian medicine at UW-Madison. Taylor is active in FFA and 4-H and an honor student.

Look Into the 'Future'

By Kevin Bonnin, Little Red Barn rental coordinator

The Shawano County Farm Bureau Little Red Barn is available to rent for events and promotions.

Are you or your group planning a get together or event in the near 'future' and want to serve or sell a dairy product? Now, is the time to reserve your spot.

Our barn features electric hookup, a freezer and a refrigerator to accommodate all of your needs. It has been used for fundraisers, parades, Brunch on the Farm, church events and could be used for countless other things as well. Some ideas might be: Weddings, anniversary parties, birthday parties and large family gatherings ... think outside the box.

Rent includes delivery, set up and pick up. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Bonnin at 715.853.3416.



The Little Red Barn is available to rent for events and promotions.

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PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS PROMOTING AGRICULTURE IN SHAWANO COUNTY

President's Report



By Wayne Steingraber

What a wild ride we are on this year.

Last year's wet weather that lasted well into the fall and beginning of winter, causing a late harvest if it happened at all.

A moderating of prices with a glimmer of hope for the future.

Then COVID-19, falling prices, social

distancing, quarantines, non-essential businesses being closed, unsure markets. Through all of this, farmers have remained focused on the job at hand. Providing a safe and abundant food supply.

Through all of this, you can rest assured that your local, district, state and national Farm Bureau organizations have been working diligently to be sure agriculture had a voice in the decisions that were being made.

With phone conferences, video conferencing, emails, text messaging, we have stayed

connected, sharing our experiences and ideas on what is needed for us to get through this.

With your continued support, we will continue being the voice of agriculture.

Together we will get through this. Together we will remain strong. Together we will overcome and rebuild.

Until next time, stay safe out there, stay connected with others. Please reach out to lend a helping hand or to look for help when needed.

And may God watch over you and bless your family.

Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

By Meredith Bowers, legislative and local affairs committee chair

Four Waupaca County Farm Bureau members traveled to Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol.

President Wayne Steingraber and wife Lori, Meredith Bowers and new District Director Brian Preder shared their thoughts and visions for the future of agriculture in Wisconsin.

During the water quality panel, it was great to hear the voice of Rep. Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) in support of product-led watersheds and he gave great feedback on the success of previous groups in Wisconsin.

A visit from Governor Tony Evers also gave the Farm Bureau advocates a push to keep sharing our priorities so we can work together on important topics.

While at the Capitol, we visited with Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca) and Rep. Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) to talk about water quality issues, truth in labeling, nutrient trading and CDL mileage exemptions for farmers.

Then we talked with a group of District 7

members and Sen. Robert Cowles (R-Green Bay) and his staff and Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) expressing more support of teaching hours for UW state specialists along with dairy processor grants and the Governor's export initiative to get to 20 percent of our U.S. dairy products exported by 2024.

It was fun to see fellow agricultural enthusiasts and advocates from around the state join together to promote a positive outlook on Wisconsin's agriculture.

Meeting our representatives in Madison and



Representative Petersen (right) visited with the Waupaca Farm Bureau delegation at Ag Day at the Capitol in February.



Waupaca County Farm Bureau members discussed ag issues with Senator Luther Olsen at the Capitol in Madison.

sharing our personal stories with them helps them understand our daily life and the impact their decisions have on our livelihoods around the state.

There truly is strength in numbers, being there as a Farm Bureau member makes me feel proud to be a part of this great grassroots organization.

Waupaca County and Outagamie County YFA Members Enjoy a Bowling Event

By Jake Hoewisch, YFA chair

Happy spring.

I hope this finds you healthy and in a positive state of mind amongst all the negative things going on in this world.

On February 20, the Waupaca County and Outagamie County YFAs got together at New London Lanes. We had 20 people who enjoyed bowling, eating pizza and of course socializing.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau also had about 30 members attend the District 7 YFA Green Bay Gamblers hockey game event on February 7 at the Resch Center in Green Bay followed by a social gathering for pizza at the Green Bay Distillery.

We as farmers will get through these difficult times. I hope that by my next report, everything will be back to the OLD norm.

Have a safe and sunny spring.



Waupaca and Outagamie YFA members enjoyed a social event in February.



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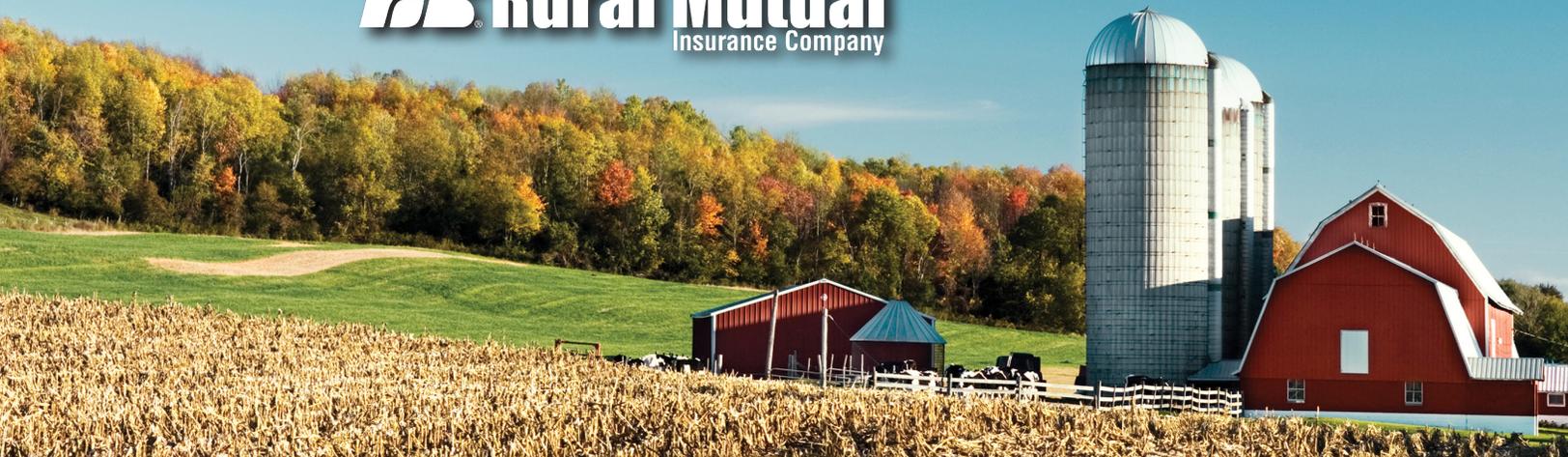
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