



Grassroots

District 8 News

Back in the Milk House



Ryan Klussendorf

WFBF District 8 Director

Farm Bureau's motto is, "A voice for farmers. A vision for agriculture."

Over the years, I have found truth in this statement. I found my voice as a member of Farm Bureau.

Earlier this year, the importance of that statement was driven home as I was sitting in meetings at the AFBF Annual Convention in Austin, Texas.

Over the years, I have been a delegate for Taylor County Farm Bureau. I spoke for our members during the policy portion of the WFBF Annual Meeting, and helped create, voted and implemented policies that help farmers around the state and nation.

As Farm Bureau members, we are constantly preached to that this organization is grass roots. I was skeptical to say the least for years but at the WFBF Annual Meeting and AFBF Annual Convention, I saw that action in person.

Every voting member has the ability to affect and change the policies of our organization. What a delegate says standing at the microphone really can affect how the next delegate votes. I brought forth a policy from Taylor County Farm Bureau on the floor in Wisconsin that was approved in the AFBF Policy Book in 2020, January.

It was awesome to know that a county in Wisconsin could bring forth a policy that was relevant in the eyes of the national delegation. It's proof that there is room at the table for policy to be discussed.

This year, we had a District 8 delegate who served as a delegate for years bring back policy from his county for the first time ever. He didn't know the process to bring back policy, but asked for help. After some guidance he was willing to step out of his comfort zone and bring it forth from the floor.

I'm proud of him and our members. If most people knew our stories and the things we have been through, they would probably wonder why we still do it. So, if you don't hear it from anyone else know that I am proud of you for finding your voice, for telling your story and standing up for yourself and your neighbors.

There is a moment when you will have to choose whether to be silent or speak, have the courage to speak because we want to hear what you have to say.

There are few places I would rather be than in the milk house at the farm. The milk house is my natural habitat, it is the first place I visit each morning and the last light I shut off in the barn each night.

While away from the farm a million things pass my mind each day, most of it revolves around the milk house. Did they put the pipe in the tank, turn on the plate cooler, wash the bottles and plug the tank?

As much as leaving my farm drives me crazy, it took me a long time to develop a voice. Now, that I have a platform and a voice, I'm not going to be silent.

#FarmerTalk 2020

On February 25, Clark County, Marathon County, Portage County and Wood County Farm Bureaus partnered to host #FarmerTalk2020.

For the last few years, Wood County Farm Bureau has hosted this event for area farmers. The idea behind the #FarmerTalk series is to provide educational workshops at a local level so farmers can network with area farmers and leaders on a specific topic. This year, the topic of discussion was on cover crops, no-till farming and farmer-led watersheds.

Do you have a topic you want to hear about? Please contact your county president and let them know.



FarmerTalk 2 Guest speakers and panel members included: Jason Cavadini, agronomist Marshfield Agricultural Research Station; Shane Wucherpfennig, Wood County Land and Conservation Department; and John Eron, Friends of Mill Creek Watershed.

More Than 180 Students Attend 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.



Marshfield FFA members (from left): Mattea Kowalski and Jackson Schmidt. Students were sponsored by Wood County Farm Bureau.



Edgar FFA members (from left): Austin Seubert and Hailey Fahey. Students were sponsored by Marathon County Farm Bureau.



Your Voice, Your Impact

By Laurie Groskopf, Lincoln County Farm Bureau member

Recently, legislation has been introduced to take wolves off of the endangered species list and have regulation of wolves back in our local government's hands.

Currently, there are two bills being introduced. The bills include an additional congressional mandate to remove authority for the wolf delisting to be challenged in court.

U.S. Senate Bill 3140 and HR Bill 6035. These bills support the wolf delisting order U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue in March PLUS add a Congressional mandate to remove authority for the wolf delisting to be challenged in court.

This is the only way we will see Wisconsin and other states manage wolves at the state level. Otherwise, we will face more years of action in court.

For this to work, we need to band together and have thousands of Wisconsin residents call. We need to demonstrate the power of grassroots advocacy at work.

We know from past action by Congress (Idaho, Montana plus parts of surrounding states) that there is a lot of bipartisan support for wolf delisting. Now, this is particularly true when rural people will make their strength known at the ballot box.

I encourage you to call your state senators:

- Senator Ron Johnson at 202.224.5323
- Senator Tammy Baldwin at 202.224.5653

For those of you in the southern part of District 8, you can contact your congressional representative.

- Representative Ron Kind at 202.225.5506

If you want to read either of these bills or to sign up for action alerts, visit www.congress.gov. Create a free account then look up U.S. Senate Bill 3140 and HR Bill 6035, simply click on the bill and the hyper link that states get alerts.

Together we can make a difference.

For more information regarding the impact on unregulated wolves in Wisconsin, I encourage you to visit www.wisconsinwolffacts.com.



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



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.

Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

APPLY TODAY!

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

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
INSTITUTION

Farmers and Agriculturists Travel to Madison For Ag Day at the Capitol

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 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 and Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.



District 8 News

Ag Day at the Capitol Photos



Clark County Farm Bureau members (from left): Walter Schuette, Charlotte Rasmussen, Clark Turner and Bill Elmhorst.



Marathon County Farm Bureau members, back row (from left): Kelly King, Josh Schmidt, Will Litzer, Randy Wokatsch, James Juedes and Dave Hannemann; front row (from left): Rita and Bill Mueller.



Taylor County Farm Bureau members (from left): Steve Suchomel, Gary Kohn, Rob Klussendorf, Cheri Klussendorf and Jack Johnson; not included in the photo is Ryan Klussendorf, he was testifying.



Wood County Farm Bureau members (from left): Ben Tilberg, Josh Calaway, Bruce Pankratz and Dale and Connie Behrend.



County presidents and their spouses from Clark County, Lincoln County, Marathon County, Taylor County and Wood County took part in WFBF's Council of Presidents meeting that is in conjunction with Ag Day at the Capitol. Participants listened to Mark Holley, WSAW News Channel 7 meteorologist. Mark spoke on the three most difficult times to farm in Wisconsin in relation to weather. Mark graciously donated his speaking fee and travel expenses to Wausau East, Wausau West and the DC Everest FFA programs. Thank you, Mark for your support of the agricultural community.

National Farm Medicine Center

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator

Did you know that in our own backyard we hold one of the top facilities when it comes to supporting our rural communities?

Each newsletter in 2020 will focus on various aspects of the National Farm Medicine Center (NFMC) and the resources it provides for rural communities.

What is NFMC?

The National Farm Medicine Center was established in 1981 in response to occupational health problems seen in farm patients coming to Marshfield Clinic.

The center continues to focus its research and outreach on rural populations. Current NFMC priorities include preventing youth injuries and fatalities, injury surveillance, community outreach and education, farm microbiome and human immunology and evaluation research.

NFMC scientists and staff address these issues with special expertise in injury prevention, public health, bioinformatics, nursing, sociology, anthropology, education and communications.

Since 1997, NFMC has been home to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS), one of 11 agricultural centers funded by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The National Children's Center strives to enhance public-private partnerships in order to improve childhood agricultural injury prevention.

Nationwide, the rate of non-fatal injuries to children in agriculture has dropped by 60 percent since the National Children's Center was established.

Farm Medicine also houses the editorial offices of the *Journal of Agromedicine*. The journal is the world's no. 1 source of peer-reviewed agricultural safety and health information.

NFMC is a charter member of the Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America (ASCHA), a national collaborative effort of agricultural producers, NIOSH and researchers to improve translational research in agricultural safety and health.

NFMC leverages all of these assets to help secure the success of every kind of farm.

NFMC's Mapping Program

This project uses digital maps of farming operations to provide emergency responders on-site information about hazards and resources.

The goal is to expedite responses to farm emergencies and protect responders who may be unfamiliar with an individual farm's layout.

It provides a model system for farmers to input data such as locations of chemicals, solvents, fuels and other hazards. It also allows you to indicate locations of power and gas cut-off valves, water sources, as well as where farming operations occur.

The data can be linked to a secure, mobile-friendly website, where emergency responders may study and view the maps in route and on scene.

This will assist in fighting a fire and rescuing victims, while permitting emergency responders to avoid injury from explosions, chemicals, electrical or other farm hazards.

The key to this program working effectively is for you to work with your local fire departments to create your farm map. You also have the option of creating your own farm map and providing your local fire department with a printed copy of it.

For more information on this program or how you can participate in this life saving program, visit nfmcfarmmapper.com.



National Children's Center
for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety



Supporting Our Agricultural Community

Ashleigh Calaway

WFBF District 8 Coordinator

2020 marks the start of a new decade and for many of us a new chapter in life. The beauty of starting something new is that you control the map and can go whatever direction you want to.

Last year as a district, we decided to tackle issues facing our rural communities together. As a grassroots organization our strength comes in the form of you our members and the value each of you brings to your local organization. The seven county Farm Bureaus that make up District 8, banded together to launch #FBCares and the Agricultural Incident guide, for local law enforcement, county emergency coordinators and first responders.

This year, the county Farm Bureaus decided that they want to focus on the health and well-being of our fellow farmers and agriculturists and have launched the District 8 Initiative of Supporting our Agricultural Community, a five prong approach to ensuring that every farmer, agribusiness employee/ employer and ag-vocate knows that Wisconsin's largest general farm organization has his or her back and knows it's ok to not be ok at times.



The first part of this initiative launched on March 11. With Jeff Ditzberger, a Green County Farm Bureau member and mental health advocate, providing a Question. Persuade. Refer. training for the county board leaders and agriculturists throughout the district. What is QPR training?

Key components covered in training

- How to Question, Persuade and Refer someone who may be suicidal.
- How to get help for yourself or learn more about preventing suicide.
- The common causes of suicidal behavior.
- The warning signs of suicide.
- How to get help for someone in crisis.

If you are interested in participating in a QPR training, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member and let them know.

The second part of this initiative is a Quarterly Woman's Luncheon. These will be once a quarter for women to share discuss issues they are facing/potentially topic focused or just getting them off the farm and connected.



If you are interested in participating in these lunches, you can register at <http://bit.ly/D8Lunch>.

The third component is creating a farmer/agriculturist peer group. The idea behind this is to create partnerships with church groups and outside organizations to create a welcome place for farmers and agriculturists to go and talk about life.

If this is something you are interested in participating in or want to know more about it, please contact your county presidents or email me at acalaway@wfbf.com.

The fourth prong of the district initiative is to partner with local hospitals, county mental health groups as well UW-Extension to support our farm-based families/farmers/agriculturists who are dealing with substance abuse.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or know of an organization we should partner with, please contact Hayli Haumschild, committee chair, at haylih23@gmail.com.

The final key component of this initiative is creating a partnership with North Central Technical College, UW-Extension and their Cultivating Beyond the Farm program and local farmers to provide support, resources and recruitment of transitioning farmers. If you are interested in learning more about this initiative or your company is interested in being involved, please contact Ben Tilberg, committee chair at ben@pifers.com.

2020 marks my sixth year as your District 8 Coordinator and I couldn't be more humbled to serve you in this role. You are truly an amazing group of people and I can't express my gratitude enough to your county boards and you the members for what you do. Each of you inspire us to be better as an organization and remind us to not settle or to wait for someone else to draw attention to an issue that affects us. From my farm to yours, I hope 2020 brings you what you hope for.

District 8 members: Please check your county Facebook pages or contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway to see if events are canceled or postponed.

Save the Date
for the
District 8 Policy
Development
Meeting
and
District 8
Discussion Meet

Sunday, July 19

Public Learning
Center
Abbotsford Public
Library

Abbotsford

6:30 p.m.
Discussion Meet

7:30 p.m.
Policy
Development
Meeting



Today is not the day for moderation ...

Join us for
our annual
Breakfast in
the Park

Sunday, August 30
7 a.m. - 12 noon
Westside Park
Loyal



Lincoln County

From the Front Porch



Melissa Yates
Lincoln County president

Hello, Lincoln County Farm Bureau members. I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and hope in the future of agriculture.

As the snow has started to disappear, I want to wish our maple syrup producers a prosperous harvest

this spring. There is nothing better than a plate of warm pancakes with fresh Wisconsin maple syrup. Yum.

With spring on the horizon, along with planting season starting, I have enjoyed some glimpses of warmer weather ahead. My hope for each and everyone of you during the spring rush is that you will take the time to invest in your personal health and well-being.

Our county Farm Bureau continues to thrive and support programs and area youth throughout the county. One of my favorite programs that we do each year is the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Each year our county sponsors a copy of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Book of the year. This year's book is, "Right This Very Minute" by Lisl Detlefsen.

This year, I am proud to share that again we will offer scholarships to students pursuing higher education, four- and two-year programs, thanks to the funds raised through the annual June Dairy Breakfast.

We are putting the final touches on our farmer's night out event. This event was created to provide a positive opportunity for farmers to de-stress and enjoy an evening together.

These are changing times in agriculture, and we want to be your community partner now and into the future. Please contact me or another board member if there is something that you want to see happen in Lincoln County.

Take care and don't bury the tractor.

Lincoln County Farm Tour

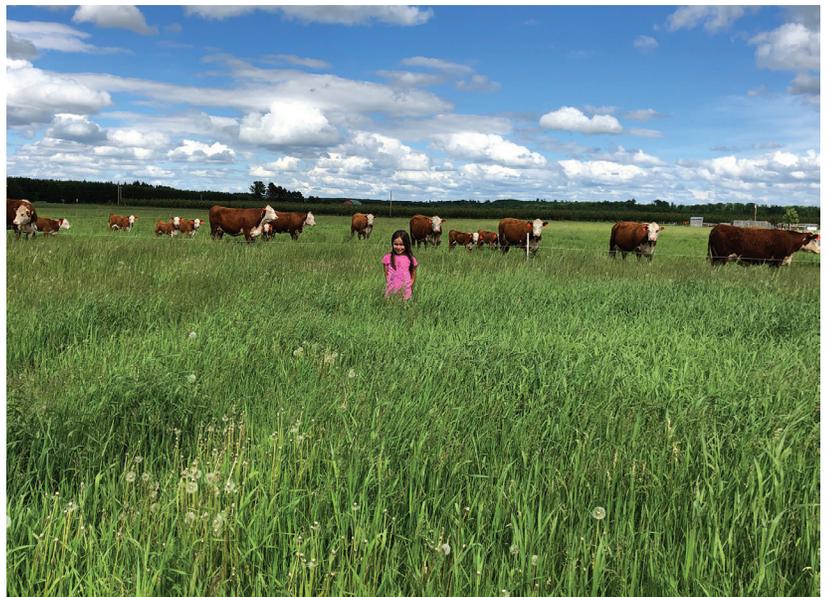
Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 13**. We will host the second Summer Farm Tour. Featured farms will be two rotational cattle grazing operations.

The tour will feature grass-fed cattle at the Jerry and Stephanie Conan and Tom and Linda Daigle farms. Both family farms feature rotational grazing in season, and local forage-based feed for winter. If you are interested in learning the benefits and challenges of starting a small beef operation, or are looking for local sources of animal protein, this tour is for you.

Tickets are available for a suggested donation of \$5 per adult (children are free). Free (yummy) treats at both farms will be available as well. Funds raised from the event will be directly reinstated back into our county's agricultural education programing offered through the Lincoln County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program and our Promotion and Education Committee.

For more information, contact tour organizer Laurie Groskopf at 715.453.5301.

Lincoln County has so much to offer – we encourage you to make a weekend of it and celebrate June Dairy Month with us the next day at the MARC Center on **June 14**.



Meet: Joe Heil, Grower of Ginseng and Hemp

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator

Last summer, I was fortunate enough to tour Heil Ginseng as part of the Ag in the Classroom Summer Bus Tour.

During the presentation Joe Heil, owner of Heil Ginseng and The Village Pharm, shared that his family has been farming the rich, fertile soil of central Wisconsin for four generations.

Through their conscientious farming practices, they grow and harvest high quality Wisconsin-grown American ginseng and hemp.

Recently, the family expanded by adding The Village Pharm, where they provide quality products ranging from CBD smokeables, CBD tinctures and American Wisconsin Ginseng

Products.

Joe added that they are one of the only ginseng farms in Wisconsin that is certified by the Ginseng Board of Wisconsin.

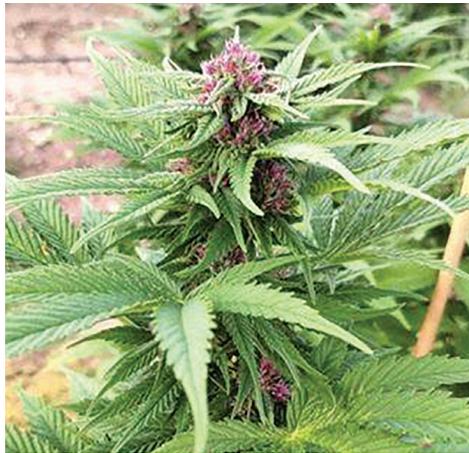
He shared that they use Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) that are applied from field planting preparation to harvesting. This ensures that each field's roots are kept separate and identified with a field number, then cooled, washed, dried, defibered or root hairs removed, barreled/boxed, weighed and labeled on the farm.

For more information about Heil Ginseng, visit heilharvest.com.

For more information about The Village Pharm, follow it on Facebook.



Heil Ginseng, Inc., Heil Ginseng Enterprises, Inc., and The Village Pharm, 1313 South 3rd Avenue, Edgar, WI 54426.



Marathon County Farm Bureau welcomes you to join them for "A meet the candidates for the 7th Congressional District Seat".

JOIN US AND AREA FARMERS & AGRICULTURISTS TO CONNECT, SHARE, AND PARTAKE IN A FARM TOUR.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK TO LEARN MORE DETAILS OF THIS UPCOMING EVENT!

Plan to Meet the Candidates



Portage County Farm Bureau congratulates Zinda Insurance Group on being awarded agency of the year. Jenni has and continues to be a great supporter of Portage County agriculture. Jenni, thank you for what you do.

Meet: The Ehlinger Family

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator

In early March, I talked with Russ Ehlinger of Mission Coffee House. As he shared his story of starting Mission House Coffee. He said something that struck me.

Russ shared that, "Truly amazing things can happen when purpose and passion are aligned and that is what happened for Mission Coffee House."

He noted that the idea of a community minded business came about during the business model planning and adding the practice of roasting their own coffee.

Mission Coffee gives back \$1 for every retailed bag sold back to the community. They give a consumer a 'mission' dollar at the point of sale. Each month they have a series of community-based organizations that customers can pick from to drop their mission dollar in. They want to make a difference and that is what they are doing.

The staff is well trained in the coffee industry. Roasting their own blends with fresh beans that originate from around the globe. Russ added that they source, roast and brew their own coffee in Plover.

For more information about Mission Coffee, visit www.missioncoffeehouse.com.



Meet: Jim and Helen Palmquist

By Ashleigh Calaway, District 8 Coordinator



Meet Jim and Helen Palmquist, owners of Palmquist Farm just north of Highway 8.

Jim and Helen own an 800-acre farm where they raise beef cattle and timber on the farm, but their real passion is sharing their Finnish hospitality that goes back nearly 110 years.

Their family farm's story starts back in 1902, when it was a



40-acre sustainability farm started by Jim's great-grandfather. Since the humble beginnings, many generations have lived and worked on the farm to make it what it is today.

Since 1949, the farm has welcomed guests to partake in cross-country skiing, ice skating, music, biking, wagon rides and more.

My visits to the Palmquist Farm are some of my favorite each year. Taking in the sights, sounds and beauty that only northern Wisconsin can offer. Besides, connecting with nature and hearing Jim share his family's rich history, the best part about having a meeting at the Palmquist farm is Helen's cooking. Jim and Helen are supporters of Price County Farm Bureau as well hosting the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest judging and county annual meeting.

For more information, visit www.palmquistfarm.com or follow it on Facebook 'Palmquistfarm.'



SAVE THE DATE
PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU - DAIRY PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Join us Saturday, August 1, at Brigadoon Winery
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sample delicious wine, along with cheese from across
District 8, and delightful live music.

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU HORSE PULL

Saturday, July 11
Ogema

SAVE THE DATE

Hats, Hats, Hats

By Rob Klussendorf

Like most of us involved in the agricultural industry, we wear multiple hats.

When I was farming, I felt like I was wearing a dozen of them on any given day. The benefit of us wearing different hats is that we get the chance to meet people with different ideas and insight on how to make things better.

As chair of the Taylor County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee, I am always looking for people who wear a variety of hats.

Last year, our committee was involved in the promotion of the county's steak and egg breakfast, held in conjunction with the Beef Preview Show. We supported the county-wide dairy desert contest and were apart of the ag-adventure tent at the Taylor County Fair.

As a part of a county Farm Bureau, we work with other agricultural groups to promote agriculture. This last year, we had county members

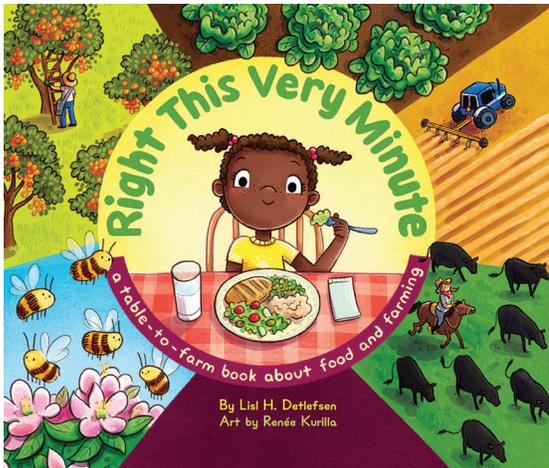
participate in a field day for local emergency personnel on livestock handling. We also partnered with North Central Cattleman, worked with Wisconsin Farmers Union, the local dairy promotion group and FFA.

With less than two percent of the population involved with production agriculture, we need to work together in promoting the industry we love.

From one fellow collector of hats to another, I ask for your help in letting us know what you want to see us focus on along with any additional ideas you have to strengthen community partnerships.

There are no bad ideas just ideas that need a clearer plan. I encourage you to contact me or any of the other directors and let them know what you want them to address.

For a list of our board of directors, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/taylor.



Taylor County Farm Bureau is a proud sponsor of the Ag in the Classroom Program essay contest.

Taylor County Farm Bureau
Steak & Egg Breakfast
SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020 - 7:30-10:30 AM
TAYLOR COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS - MEDFORD,
WI
\$8.00/STEAK AND EGG PLATE
\$5.00/EGG AND TOAST PLATE
DON'T FORGET YOUR APPETITE!

Ag on the Move Update



Elizabeth Bergs and Brad Weber

By Brad Weber, Promotion and Education chair

In the last newsletter, we shared an update on what we are doing as a county Farm Bureau and how we are working on creating a lasting impact on area youth.

To maintain full transparency, we are excited to share that the star of the Ag on the Move program has officially been named.

During the week of October 6-13, the public visited the Wood County Farm Bureau Facebook page and voted

on the following names: Bessie the Bovine, Miss Suzie, Ginger, Greta and Dairyann. With Greta coming out as the top pick.

In December, I presented Elizabeth Bergs, from Edgar, with a prize bag

for having the winning name. Elizabeth shared that "the name just came to her and she was really surprised by her name being selected."

With more than half of the funds for the trailer raised the board gave approval to order the custom trailer for the program.

They also gave Nikkey Johnson, the county's Ag in the Classroom coordinator, the authority to start purchasing items to accompany Greta in the trailer. The committee and the board hope to launch the program in May at the Food for America event at Norm-E Lane Farm, Inc.

If you are interested in being involved in this program or want Greta to make an appearance at your summer event, please contact woodcountyfarmbureau@gmail.com.



Remembering Jane Maciejewski , Wood County Farm Bureau Member and Friend

Wood County Farm Bureau celebrates the life of Jane Maciejewski.

Jane gave so much of herself to Wood County Farm Bureau and will be deeply missed by those who were lucky enough to have worked beside her, learned from her and felt the warmth from one of her smiles.

Jane was a one in a million, a true servant leader and an advocate for agriculture. The impact that Jane had on the agricultural community, especially in Wood County, will not be forgotten.

She left a legacy and will forever be in the hearts of those who knew her.

She was born March 18, 1940, in Stratford, to Anton and Bernice (Kaiser) Stueber. Jane was a 1958 graduate of Stratford High School. She married Raphael A. Maciejewski on July 4, 1961, in Stratford. She worked as a crop insurance adjuster for 28 years, retiring in 2009.

She was an active member of Wood County Farm Bureau, serving on the scholarship committee, Ag in the Classroom committee and as an administrator on the county Facebook

page. This is after years of serving as the county's women's chair, Ag in the Classroom coordinator and the counties secretary and treasurer.

She was a member of the Central Wisconsin Master Gardener's, St. James PCCW and served on the Lester Public Library Board.

She loved traveling, tending her flower gardens and photography.

Jane treasured her family and friends above all else. Her greatest joy came through spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.





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