



# Grassroots

District 7 News

## District 7 Directors Report

By Brian Preder, WFBF Board Member



As I watch the corn grow, what seems like feet, each day, I find myself in disbelief that we're already more than half way through 2020.

The first part of the year has seen the impacts of COVID-19, from commodity price volatility and cancellation of dairy breakfasts to county fairs.

During the COVID-19 shutdown it was clear that we needed to better understand

the impact to our members.

WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe held the 'In Your Neck of the Woods' calls around the state. This was an opportunity to hear directly from members about what is impacting their farms and help with lobbying efforts at the Capitol.

Following the passage of the Federal CARES ACT, WFBF worked with the state, to help guide how Wisconsin's portion would benefit farmers. There also were conference calls held with Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson; as well as our Federal Representatives, allowing for feedback and input on the CARES ACT.

Thank you to the District 7 farmers who were able to have their concerns heard throughout the local, state and national conference calls.

While the state staff has been adapting and doing a great job continuing the operations on the state level, District 7 has been doing the same. Counties have found creative ways to promote Farm Bureau and be active in their communities even with canceled June dairy breakfasts, summer fundraising events and county fairs.

As we look to the remainder of 2020, there is uncertainty about how COVID-19 will affect the economy and upcoming events. Several of those upcoming events are your county annual meetings and the WFBF Annual Meeting.

After receiving feedback from previous delegates, staff, our venue and a lengthy discussion as a board; the WFBF Annual Meeting has been shortened to a two-day conference, focused on the business session and resolution process. The conference will be held in person, but also will allow for virtual attendance. This will allow us to be the most adaptable to the uncertainty of the further time frame.

District 7 has done an outstanding job representing farmers and Farm Bureau during an extremely challenging year. Between now and the next newsletter; here's to a successful harvest, increased commodity prices, and the continued resilience of District 7 county Farm Bureaus and Wisconsin's farmers.

## District Ag in the Classroom Essay Winner from Waupaca County

By Wesley Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

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.

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

A total of 1,574 students wrote essays for the competition, which is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and We Energies.

The nine district winners received a prize package including a yard sign, Culver's gift card, plaque and a selection of books.



Brianna Birling, a fifth-grade student at St. Martin Lutheran School in Clintonville is the District 7 essay contest winner.

### Brianna winning essay.

#### Wisconsin Agriculture Affects Me

Wisconsin agriculture affects me because I am a farmer. I am glad I am a farmer because I know how things are grown. I like knowing how and where things are grown because if people ask questions about a crop, I know how to answer. Plus, I know what foods are real and what are processed.

In my town most of the land is fields. There are crops such as corn, alfalfa, soybeans, wheat and many other. Sometimes people get angry by how expensive fruits and vegetables are but people need to understand that it takes a while for crops to grow. It doesn't just grow magically overnight. And that is how Wisconsin agriculture affects my life and how I live.

## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, November 14  
Heartland Farms, Hancock



Training Series

Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee



## Women for Trump Campaign Farm Tour

By Kelly and Keith Oudenhoven, District 7 YFA Committee Representatives

On July 10, we were fortunate to be chosen to be the only farm stop for the Women for Trump Campaign.

We had a round table discussion with Katrina Pierson (senior campaign advisor), Mercedes Schlepp (senior advisor for strategic communications), Pam Bondi (national co-chair for Women for Trump) and Penny Nance (member of the Women for Trump Advisory Committee). There were many things that were discussed regarding the issues that many farmers are experiencing currently, from low milk prices the past five years to labor issues and supply chain disruptions.

They experienced a personalized farm tour and taste delicious Wisconsin cheese. We are incredibly humbled and honored to be chosen as their farm tour stop.



## County Farm Bureaus Keep Things Going

By Wesley Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Despite major obstacles created by the Safer at Home Orders around the state, District 7 county Farm Bureaus have continued to meet, represent their members and support farmers in some innovative ways.

County board meetings have continued by teleconference, video conference and more recently, in-person meetings or hybrids of in-person and teleconference meetings. The rapid pace of the COVID-19 crisis makes it important for members and Farm Bureau boards to keep in contact with what was happening at the farm gate on a daily basis. This keeps WFBF informed so that board and staff can do the best job possible to get farm support dollars where they are needed.

In this newsletter, you will find many examples of how county Farm Bureaus are making lemonade out of the COVID lemons.

Supporting farmers while also benefiting the community has been the primary theme, and though the end results of the on-going crisis are yet to be seen, county Farm Bureaus are doing many unique

programs to help keep things going and get through this successfully.



The Waupaca County Farm Bureau board practices social distancing for the July meeting hosted by C&D Professional Insurance Services.

## Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



A man got a physical exam and a couple days later he got a call from his doctor. The doctor said, "I've got some bad news and some worse news."

The man asked, "Ok, what's the bad news?"

The doctor said, "The bad news is, your tests showed you only have about 24 hours to live."

"Oh, my goodness!" the man said, "What could possibly be worse than that?!"

The doctor said, "The worse news is, I couldn't get hold of you yesterday."

It's a good thing money doesn't buy happiness. With today's economic situation, no one could afford it.

Some folks expect to be rewarded for doing good, but others are good for nothing.

**Rich man:** "I have a suit for every day of the year."

**Poor man:** "So do I, and this is it."

**Saint Peter:** "How did you get here?"

**Newest Angel:** "Flu."

Don't be afraid to ask dumb questions. They are much easier to handle than dumb mistakes!

Some folks pursue happiness, while others create it.

## District 7 Promotion and Education Committee Update



By Brittney Muenster, WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

Summer brings some welcomed sunshine and normalcy.

Our Promotion and Education Committee still has a few things in the works despite today's challenges. Recently, we completed our Mental Health Mini-Series. The pre-recorded videos are on the WFBF website at [wfbf.com/mental-health-resources](http://wfbf.com/mental-health-resources), along with other helpful mental health resources.

Keeping on those lines Farm Neighbors Care is another great organization working within WFBF to help members of the ag community with the message to check in on those around you who may need some support during these indifferent times.

For more information on Farm Neighbors Care, visit [wfbf.com/rural-resilience](http://wfbf.com/rural-resilience).

Moving forward, some events may look a little different but the show is still going on. The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Wisconsin Ag Open hosted by WFBF is scheduled for **September 15** at The Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. Registration is \$150.

For more information, visit [wfbf.com/events/Wisconsin-ag-open](http://wfbf.com/events/Wisconsin-ag-open). Sign up is due by **Saturday, August 15**.

Applications for the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute are being accepted now through **Monday, August 17**. This is a year-long, premium leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective leaders. Consisting of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on

learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills. This is a great networking opportunity.

For more information, please contact me or visit [wfbf.com/leadership-development](http://wfbf.com/leadership-development).

There also will be an Ag In the Classroom Information Session on **Saturday, August 22**, at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center in Manitowoc. Registration is \$25 per person, this includes admission to the center and lunch.

For more information, visit [wisagclassroom.org/eventsactivities/training-workshops](http://wisagclassroom.org/eventsactivities/training-workshops).

Finally, Farm Bureau members have gotten creative to promote agriculture and our products during pandemic times. Drive-by fundraisers have taken on many forms including drive by: brat/burger fry, dairy breakfast, steak fry or grilled-cheese kits.

I'm sure there are many variations of this kind of promotion that haven't been thought of yet. Social Media is a great tool to promote these events and still promote agriculture while social distancing. Partnering with local business is always a great opportunity to enhance these types of events.

In addition, the Wisconsin Beef Council is offering a \$250 grant and up to \$100 in promotional materials to ag organizations hosting qualifying beef promotion events. Events must take place before **Monday, September 7**. Each county can only receive one grant.

For more information on any of the above activities continue to watch the WFBF Facebook page or contact me at 920.634.8872.

I hope everyone is having a safe and prosperous summer and I wish everyone well.

## Apply Today for WFBF Leadership Institute!

*"The entire Leadership Institute experience is worthwhile. But where I found the most value was building the start of long-lasting relationships with my classmates who are Farm Bureau leaders across the state. It's a great group of folks who I know I can lean on for support or ideas with local Farm Bureau work or even on my farm." ~ Leslie Svacina, Leadership Institute Class X Graduate*



The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.

Applications will be due by Monday, August 17th .

Visit <https://wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute/> to apply.



## Pandemic and WFBF Policy Development

By Ken Harter, WFBF Policy Development Committee

As summer dawns, Farm Bureau leaders begin to look forward to the fall – to county annual meetings and policy development.

The procedures in 2020 may be different but will not forego our commitment to grassroots development of guidance for our state and national Farm Bureau governmental relations staff as they carry our desires in the policy and legislative arenas to decision-makers in Madison and Washington, D.C.

WFBF government relations staff has distributed a draft timetable for state policy development committee work this fall. It includes a **Tuesday, October 20**, deadline for submission of county resolutions and culminates with the delegate resolutions session on **Sunday, December 6**, at the shortened WFBF Annual Meeting. Virtual delegate participation is expected to be an option for those preferring not to meet in-person.

Members are asked to review current policy to ensure a concern is not addressed before introducing a resolution at their county Policy Development meeting. The policy can be viewed online on the WFBF website. The governmental relations staff has put together background papers on issues they and the Policy Development Committee feel are of concern. Backgrounders include the new coronavirus and federal response, PFAS, the so-called forever chemicals contaminating wells and updates on water quality research in southwestern Wisconsin.

The backgrounders are available on the WFBF website. AFBF background papers on mandatory country of origin labeling and minimum negotiated cattle trade that addresses market manipulation and fair compensation for cattle producers in addition to the state backgrounders also were emailed to District 7 County Farm Bureau leaders. Members are encouraged to review these topics before the county Policy Development meetings.

If you want a copy of these Policy Development backgrounders, please contact District Coordinator Wes Raddatz at [wraddatz@wfbf.com](mailto:wraddatz@wfbf.com).

## 24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline

As of July 1, Wisconsin farmers facing increased stress and other challenges can access additional free and confidential counseling resources by contacting the Farm Center at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

As part of a new pilot program, the Farm Center can now connect callers to a 24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline. The hotline can be reached at 888.901.2558. Licensed mental health professionals contracted by the department will provide immediate, in-the-moment care.

In addition to the 24/7 hotline, long-term options are available:

- Callers can schedule ongoing tele-health counseling sessions from a contracted licensed counselor based in Wisconsin, with referrals made through the 24/7 hotline or through the Wisconsin Farm Center (800.942.2474);
- Persons who prefer an in-person session can request to meet with a local provider through the Farm Center's longstanding Counseling Voucher Program.

"The 24/7 Farmer Counseling Hotline is available around the clock as a welcoming ear for farmers who need to talk through a challenging time in their life," said Farm Center Director Jayne Krull. "We hope that this initial pilot program will help us better understand whether a 24/7 hotline and tele-counseling are viable tools for our farmers with mental health needs."

This pilot program is made possible by funding that was provided in Governor Tony Evers' 2019-2021 biennial budget and approved by the state legislature. The 24/7 hotline and tele-counseling services are two of several initiatives developed by the Farm Center in response to increased challenges faced by the agricultural industry.

In June, the Farm Center launched 'Rural Realities,' a podcast offering advice to farmers and farm service providers about managing stress and anxiety. To listen to the podcast, visit [FarmCenter.wi.gov](http://FarmCenter.wi.gov). The Farm Center will host QPR trainings (Question-Persuade-Refer) for people who work closely with farmers, so they can learn how to identify the warning signs of a suicide crisis and direct the person to appropriate resources.

For more information, please contact [FarmCenter@wisconsin.gov](mailto:FarmCenter@wisconsin.gov).



**COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS**

**Save the Date for Your County**

- Langlade County - Monday, October 19, 7:00 p.m.  
Insight FS Fertilizer Plant Office, Antigo
- Marinette County - Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.  
The Embers, Peshtigo
- Oconto County - Tuesday, September 22, 7:30 p.m.  
Totally Virtual Format
- Outagamie County - Thursday, October 8, 7:30 p.m.  
The River Rail Banquet Hall, Shiocton
- Shawano County - Sunday, October 11, Noon  
The Gathering, Shawano
- Waupaca County - Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Bear Lake Dance Hall, Manawa



**POLICY DEVELOPMENT TIME**

Attend Your County Farm Bureau's Policy Development Meeting



- LANGLADE COUNTY - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 7:30 P.M.  
INSIGHT FS OFFICE BOARD ROOM, ANTIGO
- MARINETTE COUNTY - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 7:00 P.M.  
GROVER TOWN HALL, PESHTIGO
- OCONTO COUNTY - TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 7:00 P.M.  
S&S HOMETOWN BAR, OCONTO FALLS
- OUTAGAMIE COUNTY - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M.  
BLACK CREEK TOWN HALL, BLACK CREEK
- SHAWANO COUNTY - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 7:00 P.M.  
SHAWANO COUNTY FAIR OFFICE, SHAWANO
- WAUPACA COUNTY - TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 8:00 P.M.  
MANAWA CITY HALL, MANAWA

## President's Report



By Tom Houdek, Langlade County Farm Bureau President

I hope everyone is doing well. I'm glad to see things are getting a little more normal but for how long I'm not sure. With the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases you still can't be too sure of anything.

There are many cancellations: graduations and the parties, Music in the Park with our

fund raiser, county fairs either canceled or scaled way back, weddings postponed, even the Langlade County Farm Bureau president's report is being shortened.

Stay healthy.

## Government Relations Conference Call

By Ken Mach, Langlade County Farm Bureau board member

Our WFBF government relations staff contacted our new 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Congressman Tom Tiffany and scheduled a constituent's conference call for June 19. Darlene Eckerman and I participated in the call representing Langlade County Farm Bureau.

The call started by talking about parts of dairy programs and how the ag industry might be affected by the Canada-Mexico trade deal. There also was discussion and questions about support for beef and sheep farmers.

There were a lot of specifics discussed and I am not able to remember the details, but my impression from the call is that our new congressman seemed to have an understanding of the programs that were being discussed, so he is doing his homework.



During Ag Day at the Capitol, Farm Bureau members met with former state Senator Tom Tiffany.

## Farm and Community Support Project

By Dick Bolen, milk donation coordinator

As the Langlade County Farm Bureau goes forward with our plans during the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to use the month of June to help farmers by using dairy products and to help the local food pantry.

We donated butter and milk to meet the needs of our local pantry during a three-week period to ensure these perishable products would be fresh when they were distributed to the food pantry's patrons.

In speaking to the food pantry staff, they said the need has grown for the services, so our timing was good.

We are happy we could do our share to help the community and at the same time promote our dairy industry.



Pam Bahr of the Antigo Food Pantry accepted donations of milk and butter from Langlade County Farm Bureau board members Dick Bolen and Tom Houdek.

## Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Bev Brecklin, Langlade County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair

Sampling items in stores is definitely on hold for now and so is my usual summer beef promotion. It's great that some county Farm Bureaus are doing 'drive-by' events and samples, but not knowing what kind of tourist traffic the area would have and when, I've decided to let the beef promotion go for this year. I'm hopeful that by next year things will get back to normal and I can help beef farmers promote their nutritious and delicious products.



Bev Brecklin and Pick n' Save deli staff promoted beef last year in July.

# Marinette County

## County Fair Ice Cream Stand Report

By Cindi Wautier, fair stand coordinator

Ice cream stand volunteers are needed.

Please sign up for a time slot at

[www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B45A5AE2AA1FE3-icecream](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B45A5AE2AA1FE3-icecream) or you can contact me at [wautier@coleman.k12.wi.us](mailto:wautier@coleman.k12.wi.us).

This is our only fundraiser and we need all of the help we can get.

Your donation of time helping in the ice cream stand will help fund accurate and fun ag story books for elementary school kids in Marinette County, reference materials and teachers guides to help teachers accurately portray agriculture, the Coleman FFA AgVenture Day, Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum sponsorships and many other promotional programs.

There are 1.53 billion gallons of ice cream sold in the USA each year. With your help in the ice cream stand we can increase that figure by a hundred gallons or more.

Go to the SignUp Genius link and sign up for your time slot or slots today.



Put smiles on fair attendee's faces by helping in the Marinette County Farm Bureau and Coleman FFA ice cream stand.

## Save the Date: Policy Development Meeting

By Wayne Staidl, Policy Development chair

The Marinette County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting will be **Tuesday, September 15**, at 7 p.m. at the Grover Town Hall.

All Farm Bureau members are welcome to attend. Bring your ideas, thoughts and concerns or attend to discuss issues brought up by others. All of our member's input is valuable.



## Farm Support Benefits the Community

On June 24, Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom coordinator and Mariette County Farm Bureau board secretary Cindi Wautier worked with other FFA programs and dairy industry leaders and supporters to do a drive through distribution of free coolers of dairy products that included: 1/2 gallon

of chocolate milk, 1/2 pound of Kugel's cheddar cheese, Saputo cheese sticks, Belgioso Parmesan cheese and Springside cheese curds. About 3,500 coolers of dairy products were assembled and distributed at 22 locations. Thank you to the sponsors of this great farmer supporting event.



On June 24, volunteers helped distribute coolers of dairy products in Coleman.



# Oconto County

wfbf.com/about/counties/oconto  
OcontoCountyFarmBureau

## President's Report



By Dennis Jahnke, Oconto County Farm Bureau President

Hello, from a retired farmer.

Now, I can look at the agriculture situation from my easy chair.

In my corner of the woods it has finally dried up to the point I am watering my garden. Corn and beans look good

except for the low spots that drowned out. I haven't been more than 40 miles from home, so I don't know about the rest of the state. All we need is normal weather for a change.

The COVID-19 is interesting. We are being pushed to accept it as we do the flu and death by driving a car: 'Part of life.' If it becomes a part of life, then wearing a mask, etc., will become a part of life as does wearing seat belts, mandatory insurance, speed limits and the other rules we live with to protect others from our individual bad habits and mistakes.

Walmart now has a multi-million-dollar suit from an employee that claims they did not protect their health. I think we will look back on this after they develop a vaccine (and not all people will vaccinate keeping it alive and viable) and realize we didn't do enough to protect the people around us.

Anyway, summer is half over and no fairs to go to. I would really like to go to a water park, but I am 73 and standing in line with people from everywhere is not advisable. Just have to go fishing.

## Cheese Bucks, Farmer Support Effort

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau board member

The unprecedented stress on agriculture this spring generated projects to increase awareness of the issue and demonstrate support.

With dairy being the major enterprise in Oconto County, the Oconto County Farm Bureau board chose to partner with the Oconto County Dairy Promotions Committee, the local Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin group promoting dairy in an innovative project to encourage purchase and use of dairy products.

The promotion group printed 1,600 unique coupons called Cheese Bucks and distributed them through cheese retailers in the county. The Cheese Bucks were good for a \$1 discount on the purchase of natural Wisconsin cheese at the local outlets, which were then to be redeemed by the Dairy Promotions Committee.

Unfortunately, the program did not meet expectations with only 146 Cheese Bucks redeemed by the end of May.

Undeterred, the Dairy Promotions Committee in cooperation with Oconto County Farm Bureau and possibly other local ag interest groups and businesses will consider other ideas for supporting our local dairy industry into the fall and winter.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau FEDERATION

**ANNOUNCING  
NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!**

**YAMAHA**

WFBF members can receive \$250 off the purchase of a new Yamaha 4WD ATV, side-by-side or snowmobile.

## A Message from the President ...



By Mike Salter, Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

This is a year of new opportunities.

The county fair has made major changes. They will have limited animal shows but no midway or concession

stands during the fair. They will have a tractor pull on Saturday night and a demolition derby on Sunday.

The animal show will consist of sheep on Wednesday, hogs on Thursday, beef on Friday, and Saturday will be the meat animal sale.

The Outagamie County Farm Bureau board decided not to sponsor trophies this year for the championship showmanship because not all species will have a showmanship competition.

Two Centennial Farms have sent in their applications, but with no place at the fair to do the presentation of the signs, we have asked these farm families to wait until next year for their recognition and presentation of awards.

Farm Bureau is not participating in the Michigan peaches and blueberries sale this summer. The reason for this is we cannot get enough orders to pay for the shipping.

Our county Farm Bureau board meetings have been over the phone during the last two months. The July meeting was in person but holding our safe distance, and with an option to teleconference as well.

As of now we plan to have our county annual meeting at the River Rail in our usual way, but we will discuss how to handle our county annual meeting to accommodate those who may prefer virtual attendance.

Watch the meeting notice postcard that you

will receive in September for more details.

Our county policy development meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday, September 10**, at the Black Creek Town Hall. Bring your ideas to improve agriculture or come to be part of the discussion. All Farm Bureau members are welcome to attend.

The WFBF Annual Meeting in December has been modified to do nothing but the basic business and policy development needs of the organization, but as of now it will be in person.

The YFA Conference will be done in a virtual format this year.

Early in the year they thought warm temperatures would help reduce the impact of this virus. We're in a stretch of 90 degree days now, and the virus is worse, so I hope everyone protects themselves and follows best practices for safety.

I hope you stay healthy and safe.

## Adventures in Dairyland Program Update

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

What started off as a great start to the Adventures in Dairyland Program came to a sudden halt when the COVID-19 shutdown hit. While we wanted to transition to a virtual concept to continue the program, it was simply an impossible feat as many teachers were scrambling in trying to get their entire curriculum virtual and working with their student's needs.

While the future is uncertain as far as schooling goes and in-person teaching, we are working on transitioning the program to a virtual lesson that also includes a virtual tour of a dairy farm.

We hope we can safely resume in-classroom lessons in 2021, however, safety is our highest priority when it comes to our volunteer instructors, host farms and students.



The Adventures in Dairyland hit a snag due to COVID-19 despite a good start with their volunteers kickoff meeting in January.

## Save the Date: County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Policy Development chair

The Outagamie County Farm Bureau will hold our policy development meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. on **Thursday, September 10**, at the Black Creek Town Hall. All members are invited to attend.

The county will discuss policy such as the coronavirus and how it effects the farming industry and what can be done to help protect our industry at county, state and federal levels.

As members, if you have any concern on any issues or, tonight is when the county will suggest the policy at the county level to be voted on at the county annual meeting.

The policies that are adopted will be sent on to the state and federal level as no policy can be sent to state or federal level if not voted on at the county annual meeting. If you have any policy that you want to propose or discuss, like COOL, PFAS or any other issues, please attend this meeting.

## Octoberfest Cream Puffs

By Bernie Vander Heiden

Due to COVID-19 issues, Octoberfest in Appleton has been canceled for this year.

With that decision, our largest fundraiser will not take place but hopefully, we will again be able to have our booth and sell cream puffs next year.

Watch your newsletters and the Outagamie County Farm Bureau Facebook page, Outagamie County Farm Bureau and YFA, for updates on any future alternative fundraisers.



Appleton Octoberfest 2020: Not gonna happen.

## President's Report



By Neil Christianson, Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Despite the COVID-19 situation, our county Farm Bureau board has been busy with several projects including helping fund dairy products to area food pantries, sending out farmer appreciation letters with Chamber Bucks included to area farmers and planning for the ice cream stand at the fair.

We also participated in two parades this summer and handed out dairy products. We are currently working on selling ads for the upcoming plat books. More details about these events will be included in this newsletter.

Also, we are celebrating our 75<sup>th</sup> Shawano County Farm Bureau anniversary. What a great milestone to be celebrating.

We are planning our Shawano County annual meeting for **Sunday, October 11**, at The Gathering in Shawano.

Now, it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage.

Ole had been out of work but finally landed a job delivering flowers.

Being inexperienced, it was probably not too surprising when he got two orders mixed up. A druggist who moved to a new location got a bouquet with a card, 'Deepest Sympathy.' The one intended for the funeral of a prominent banker read, 'Good luck in your new location.'

With the Summer Olympics being canceled, I thought we could continue to invent a new Olympic category, Cleaning the Calf Pen is the competition.

Armed with only a five-tined, hickory handled manure fork and attired in five-buckle boots, contestants would empty the pack in a 15' by 15' pen that has housed 15 growing calves for at least four months.

To simulate actual on-farm conditions, this event would be held on a rainy day. The pen would have been bedded since the onset only with long-stemmed, over-ripe hay the consistency of ¼ inch rope. Rules would call for the gate to be left open during the cleaning process; allowing one of more calves to escape would be grounds for disqualification – as would punching one or more holes in the five-buckle boots.

Bonus points would be awarded for style: Emptying the fork in one fluid move and delivery accuracy, measured by the amount of manure missing the spreader.

## Farmer Supporting Dairy Product Donations

By Kristi Fiedler, Donations Committee Chair

During the COVID-19 pandemic Shawano County Farm Bureau found several opportunities to support local groups in need of food while promoting healthy products from our farmers. To date, we have donated more than \$2,000 in support to local organizations.

Bonduel FFA sells 'Support Dairy' yard signs and uses the money to buy dairy products for the Cecil food pantry. Shawano County Farm Bureau donated \$250 towards the purchase of the signs for this project.

The Tilleda/Bowler area food pantry serves 15-20 families twice a month. Shawano County Farm Bureau bought 20 gallons of milk and 20 packages of cheese for each delivery day for the months of May and June.

The Boys and Girls Club of Shawano received \$330 for the purchase of yogurt, cottage cheese and string cheese for 55 families. The handout was a great success and the products were appreciated. One girl was excited, because she was going to try cottage cheese for the first time.

The Menominee Early Childhood Services received \$1,000 for purchasing 2 percent or whole milk for kids 0- to 5-years of age. Their current programs allow only 1 percent or powdered milk, which doesn't meet the dietary needs for young children. The donation will be used during several weeks to provide milk to about 80 families. Any extras will be used at the K-12 kids program.

Shawano County Farm Bureau also donated \$250 towards the Tiger's Den Daycare in Tigerton to purchase milk.



Shawano Farm Bureau provided dairy products for the Boys and Girls Club to distribute to families in need.

With many kids not in school the enrollment was up at the day care and they asked for support to be able to provide the children with milk at breakfast and lunch.



Some of the Shawano County Farm Bureau dairy product purchases were donated to MITW- Day Care Center, Delores K. Boyd Center in Keshena and Wapatam Center in Neopit.

## Shawano County Farm Bureau Celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

On February 16, 1944, a large group of Shawano County farmers met to discuss the idea of forming a farmer's organization in Shawano County. They met with leaders of several farm organizations and the minutes of that meeting indicate there was a lot of discussion about the organizations and whether there was any benefit to organizing. At last a motion was passed to, "form a farm organization in Shawano County."

Another lengthy discussion ensued about the costs and benefits of the farm organizations in the country at the time.

Finally, a motion by Fred Zacharias of Aniwa, that was seconded by Roman Muskavitch of Belle Plaine to form a Farm Bureau for Shawano County clinched the deal. Fred Harriman was elected president, Fred Eberlein was elected

vice president and Richard Wunsch was elected secretary/treasurer of the fledgling organization.

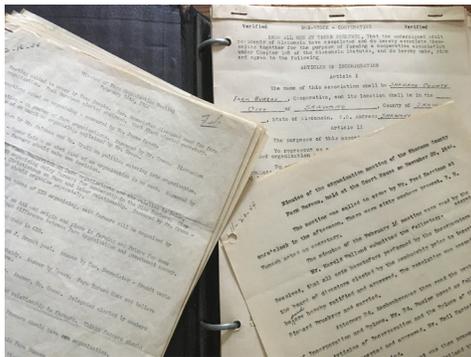
Others in attendance were charged to form township groups in the months following to get the organization off the ground.

Monthly organizational meetings of the developing Shawano County Farm Bureau put the nuts and bolts together and approved a proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws to create the Shawano County Farm Bureau Cooperative that were accepted by the interim board of directors and dated October 18, 1944.

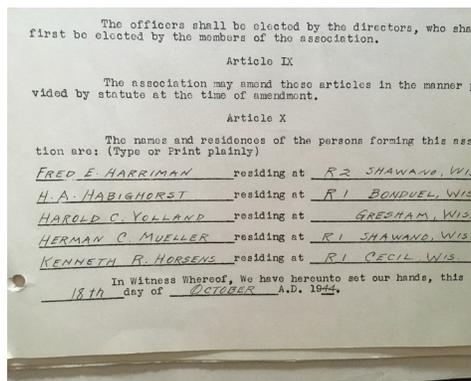
Those proposed articles and bylaws were accepted and approved at the official organizational meeting of the Shawano County Farm Bureau held at the Shawano County Court House on November 20, 1944, and the Shawano County Farm Bureau was born.

An undated list of "Shawano County Associated Women Chairmen" is in the minutes book with the Shawano County Farm Bureau minutes of December 28, 1944, so it looks like farm women also got involved in a major way right from the beginning to make the new organization a success.

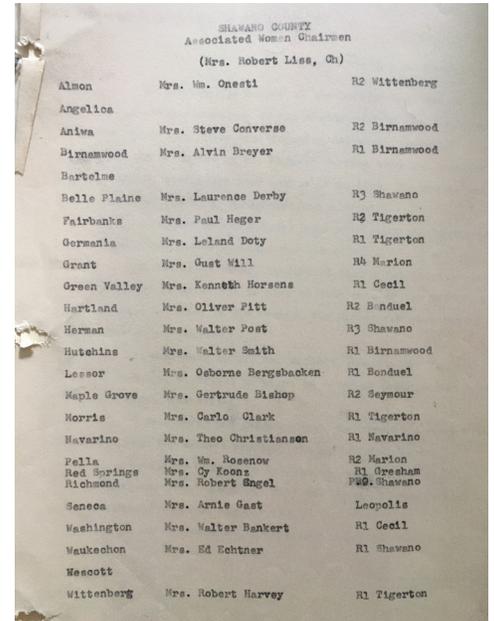
Congratulations Shawano County Farm Bureau for 75 successful years of benefiting Shawano County farmers.



February 16, 1944, was the day the idea got started for organizing the Shawano County Farm Bureau.



Here are the folks who made it happen.



Women have always played a part in the Shawano County Farm Bureau.

## County Farm Bureau Plat Book Fundraiser

By Ken Matyas, plat book committee chair

Every three years, the Shawano County Farm Bureau publishes an updated Shawano County Plat Book.

The ads in the plat book help to cover the cost of the books, so the money that is generated by sales to the public goes to support agriculture in the county.

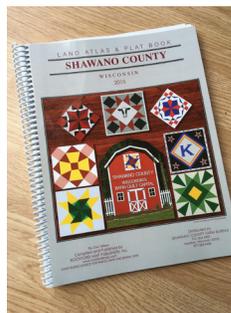
There are many ways the money is used such as: Scholarships for students pursuing careers in agriculture and to attend ag-related conferences, stipends for the 4-H groups that help at the brunch on the farm, milk and cheese for local summer school programs and many events and activities that promote and support agriculture.

If you are interested in supporting the fundraiser, you may purchase an ad for your business or farm to be included in the plat book, or purchase a plat book when it gets published later this year.

For information, please contact a board member.

Your support is greatly appreciated. Without it, Shawano County Farm Bureau could not be the strong voice and advocate for agriculture in the county that it is.

If you want information about placing an ad in the 2021 Shawano County Plat Book, please contact a board member or me at 920.810.2245 or matyaskenneth13@gmail.com.



## Save the Date: Shawano County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting will take place at 12 noon on **Sunday, October 11**, at The Gathering in Shawano.

The keynote speaker will be Hank Wagner.



Representative Gary Tauchen addressed attendees during the 2019 Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

## I Scream, You Scream, We All Scream for Ice Cream

By Kerry Breitrack, fair stand committee chair

Do you love ice cream? Then we have an opportunity for you. The Shawano County Farm Bureau is seeking volunteers to scoop ice cream in their ice cream stand during the Shawano County Fair on September 2-7.

The shifts are four hours long with a minimum of three volunteers per shift. The following are the defined shifts:

- **Wednesday, Sept. 2:** 6-10 p.m.
- **Thursday, Sunday, Sept. 3:** 6:10 a.m.-2 p.m., 2-6 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.
- **Monday, September 7:** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2-6 p.m.

As always, we depend on our volunteers to make our ice cream stand a success. All positions will be filled on a first-come basis. You are welcome to invite friends and family to join you. You do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to volunteer.

For information or if you have questions about signing up, please contact me at breitricks\_scott\_kerry@yahoo.com or 715.851.4713. Thank you for your interest in supporting the dairy industry through this great organization.



The Shawano County Farm Bureau fair ice cream stand is a comfortable and fun place to promote dairy products and help raise funds for the many programs that benefit farmers and the community.

## Farmer Thank You Campaign

By Christa Hoffman, dairy committee co-chair

In an effort to appreciate our members and farmers in Shawano County during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shawano County Farm Bureau completed a Thank You Farmers mailing.

We mailed more than 550 letters that included \$10 of Chamber Bucks, a handwritten letter or drawing from Shawano County youth and coupons. We were glad to support our farmers and local businesses in this program by partnering with our local agri-businesses to purchase Chamber Bucks from the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce. When these are spent, they will go to businesses that are in our community.

Keep up the great work to our local farmers. Thank you to the sponsors of our program.



## Summer Parade Dairy Promotions

By Christa Hoffman and Bob Krause, dairy committee members

The Little Red Barn, complete with cow-suited volunteer, and several volunteers dressed in cooler attire, distributed 1,000 cheese sticks during the Gresham and Bonduel parades that took place in June and July.



String cheese. What kid wouldn't want one of these instead of a piece of candy?



The Shawano Ag Ambassadors and Farm Bureau teamed up to promote ag in the Bonduel parade.

## Farmer Thank You Campaign Sponsors

- Abby Bank
- Armor Animal Health
- Charlie's County Market
- CoVantage Credit Union
- CP Feeds
- Culvers - Shawano
- Dairyland Seed Company
- Dan's Dependable Hoof Care
- David J Cooper Agency - American Family Insurance
- Denmark State Bank
- Farm First Cooperative
- GENEX
- Gresham Town Mart
- Karcz Farms Tiling
- Knuth Farm Equipment
- Kwik Trip
- Nancy Smith
- Northwoods Vet Services
- P & D Sales and Service
- Premier Community Bank
- Rosenow Seed LLC- Pioneer
- Rural Mutual Insurance- Brian Defner and Ben Albrecht
- Sartori Cheese
- Shawano County Dairy Promotions
- Shawano County Farm Bureau
- Splan Nutrition Consulting
- Valley Veterinary Clinic
- Wisconsin Deerhunters



The Shawano County Farm Bureau Little Red Barn made an excellent parade float for Independence Day parades in Gresham and Bonduel.

## No One Says No to Cheese

By Meredith Bowers, cheese donations coordinator

During the COVID-19 stay at home order, the Waupaca County Farm Bureau board of directors decided to make a purchase of locally processed cheese to help support food pantries in the county.

The original funds were quickly added to when both cheese plants decided to donate cheese to the cause.

Cheese in several different varieties from Star Dairy in Weyauwega and DuPont Cheese in Marion were delivered to six local food pantries in Marion, Clintonville, Weyauwega, New London, Scandinavia and Manawa. The total of the donation was more than \$1,500 and will serve more than 300 families in the county.

One coordinator said, "No one says no to cheese!" so they knew the local, delicious cheese would be appreciated by families who are being served by the pantries.

Thank you to the Knaus Family at Star Dairy and the Laack Family at DuPont Cheese for

helping us spread the goodness of Wisconsin dairy to as many families as possible.

The donations and delivery times were coordinated by Meredith Bowers,

Waupaca County Farm Bureau vice president, "The extra cheese donated to our purchase by the cheese plants was very appreciated by the board members and the dairy contribution was welcomed by each of the pantry coordinators."

Arnie and Helen Heise also helped deliver the cheese to several of the locations.

Following the delivery day, several media coverage events occurred. Meredith did a live



Thank you DuPont Cheese and Star Dairy for adding your donations with the Waupaca County Farm Bureau purchases to benefit our communities.

radio interview with a local station during the 'Tell Me Something Good' segment – the interview lasted about eight minutes.

In addition to the radio interview, several other radio stations posted stories and had mini podcasts of the press release information.

Finally, an article ran in the Marion Advertiser with a photo of the donation to the pantry in their community.

## Farmer Mental Health Keynote Address at Annual Meeting

By Tim Bowers, Waupaca County Farm Bureau board member

Jeff Ditzenberger will be the keynote speaker at the Waupaca County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, October 6**, at 7:30 p.m.

Jeff will talk about mental health and stress management in dealing with what life has to throw at us in agriculture.

Jeff is a farmer, mental health advocate, Farm Bureau member and the founder of TUGS, a non-profit support group that stands for, "Talking, Understanding, Growing and Supporting. He will talk about his life experiences dealing with depression and his own suicide attempt.

Thankfully, he didn't succeed in his suicide attempt when he set a building on fire when he was inside of the building. He was strong enough to walk away injury free and ended up getting help.

Jeff understands how hard it is to seek and get the help needed when you are involved in agriculture. He understands how farmers are enveloped in the day to day grind and the stresses that we face in farming.

In addition to speaking engagements, Jeff will facilitate virtual training sessions through the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and Consumer Protection. These will be free to participate in through the Wisconsin Farm Center website. The dates are from the end of July through October 1.

Please attend the Waupaca County Farm Bureau annual meeting on **Tuesday, October 6** at the Bear Lake Resort and Campground.

## Waupaca County Fair Food Stand Report

By Kaisha Nash, fair stand committee volunteer coordinator

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau food stand is not opening this year due to the fair being canceled. Save your energy and volunteering spirits for next year, when we hope to be back open and better than ever. Although it is difficult when plans change, we know a lot of discussion, thoughts and careful consideration for the good of our communities are behind the cancellation.

Don't forget to support your local farmers and please stay healthy. See you in 2021.

## Dairy Agstravaganza

By Ruth Trinrud, Agstravaganza committee chair

The Dairy Agstravaganza will be held **Saturday, June 26, 2021**, at Whitetail Valley Dairy. Whitetail Valley Dairy is owned and operated by Brad and Ruth Trinrud and their children Jensen and Griffin. The Trinruds are excited to welcome you to their farm for family fun including lunch served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There also will be live music, farm tours, children's activities, a pedal tractor pull, silent auction and basket raffle, and many educational opportunities to learn about daily operations of the dairy farm.

All are welcome to join in this national dairy month event.



Save the date of June 26, 2021, for the Waupaca County Dairy Agstravaganza.



**County Farm Bureaus**  
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

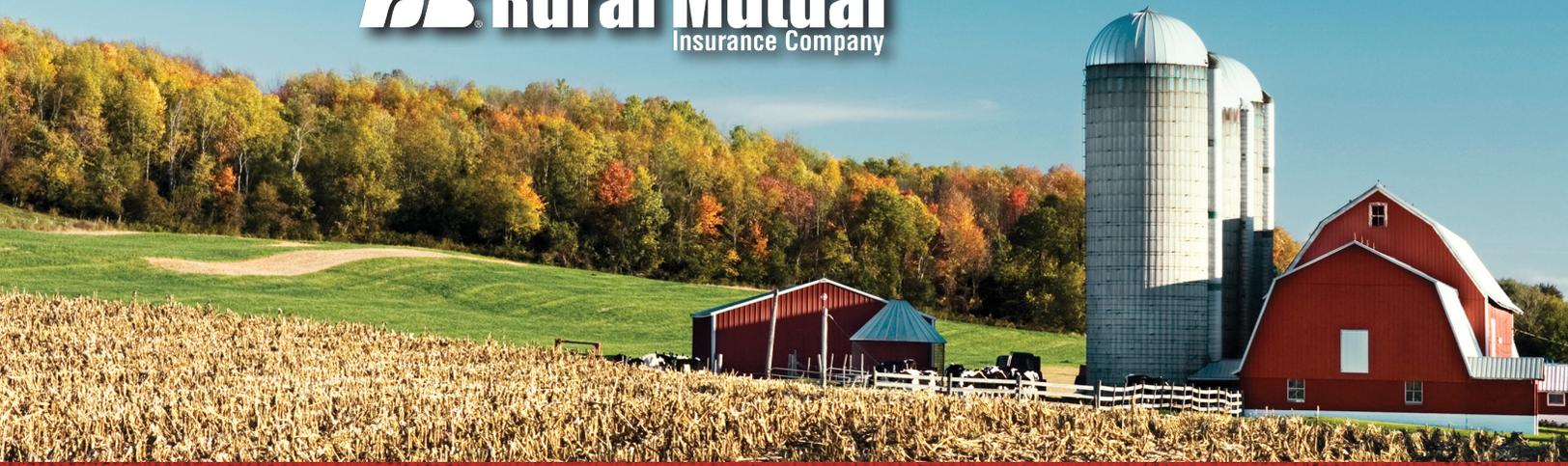
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- Shawano County
- Waupaca County

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