



# Grassroots

District 3 News

## Moving Forward Together



**Robert Nigh**

WFBF District 3 Director

Summer greetings District 3 Farm Bureau members.

Just a few comments in regard to your membership dollars. We appreciate your support. Without you, our organization's voice isn't nearly as effective.

The Farm Bureau staff have been extremely busy supporting you and the challenges that you are facing. Through

their efforts we have been able to improve the availability of funding to help mitigate farm loses.

With your support and comments, they have been able to create meaningful change and improvements. Joint efforts with other agriculture groups helped obtain \$50 million for farmers from the State of Wisconsin. Direct aide to farmers in Wisconsin.

Our May board meeting was held via Microsoft Teams as well as the June board meeting. We are hoping to get together for August. Fingers crossed.

We are looking forward to the new normal. We are working through the strategic plan. The timeline has changed. We are moving forward.

We continue to monitor ag issues that are popping up, such as the attorney general's opinion regarding high capacity wells. Many planned events have been canceled or gone virtual, please check the website for the most updated lists. Many fairs also have been canceled impacting many of our county Farm Bureaus, with some choosing innovative ways to replace the funds from fair food stands.

The Governor's Task Force on Climate Change, Driftless Area Water Study (DAWS) and Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) work continue with altered timelines as well. DAWS water sampling is scheduled for November, SWIGG results were released without much fanfare. The Task Force has had to modify its schedule due to COVID-19. The Task Force recommendations will be released later this summer than originally planned.

Rural continues to do very well with sales and the ability to adjust claims has been very good. We are on track to repeat last year's performance in many areas. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this very challenging time for all.

And thank you for what you do on a daily basis. Together we will get through this. Don't be afraid to contact others, share your stories and your strength.

Stay healthy and safe.

## Food and Farm Support Fund Surpasses \$40,000

In partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Wisconsin Farm Bureau is proud to announce the Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund to benefit the state's farmers and help feed residents in need.

The Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund will provide support to our state's farmers and encourage consumption of milk and other agriculture products to ensure farmers continue to have a place to sell their products, as well as provide Wisconsinites access to nutritious, high-quality foods. Collectively the fund will reach all corners of our state from the most urban areas to the rural farming communities.

Corporate partners of Rural Mutual have stepped up to donate to the fund, including the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago. Their donation, in combination with individual contributions, brings the total amount raised to approximately \$43,000.

Rural Mutual Insurance is focusing on collecting funds for Feeding Wisconsin. Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the Feeding America food banks. Specifically, the funds have been used to provide dairy products to food pantries to encourage movement/consumption of milk and other Wisconsin agriculture products.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is focusing on collecting funds for Harvest of Hope, a farm family crisis relief fund that is supported by the Madison Christian Community. Wisconsin farm families that are experiencing financial stress can fill out a short application requesting up to \$1,500

"We are grateful to everyone who has contributed to this effort," said Wisconsin Farm Bureau President and Rural Mutual Insurance President Joe Bragger. "We take pride in providing some support to those who need it."

To learn more about the Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund, visit [wbf.com/wisconsin-food-and-farm-support-fund](http://wbf.com/wisconsin-food-and-farm-support-fund).

— WISCONSIN —  
**FOOD AND FARM**  
SUPPORT FUND

*Donate Today!*

Learn more about how you can support Wisconsin farmers and Wisconsin food pantries.

## District 3 Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

In February, 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 in the state and why he declared 2019 the year of clean drinking water.

Gov. Evers also emphasized his three-pronged approach to help rural Wisconsin. He 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 (R-Spring Green) and Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) and Representatives Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville), Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City), Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) and Katrina

Shankland (D-Stevens Point).

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.

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

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

## AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This event is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about issues impacting Wisconsin agriculture and meet with their state legislators.



## Local FFA Members Attend Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum

More than 180 high school juniors from around the state 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 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 48<sup>th</sup> time the event has been hosted for Wisconsin youth.

Fennimore FFA members who attended the forum shared their experiences in the following statements:

### Isabela Cauffman

*"I had a lot of fun at the forum. The sessions were interesting, but the one that stood out the most was the one about soil. He did a hands-on activity learning about different types of soil and if we participated and asked questions we could receive large carrots. I think that was honestly everyone's favorite part. The guest speaker was awesome ... pushed us to go out of our comfort zone and to not be afraid to go after our dreams."*

### Emma Merz

*"I had a lot of fun at Farm Forum. I met a lot of new friends and really enjoyed all of the activities that we did to meet new people, as well as the icebreaker. I also liked getting to learn more about the different job opportunities in agriculture, and all of the hands-on activities."*

### Randy Winch

*"My experience at Farm Forum was one that was memorable and very educational. The sessions all brought to light new opportunities in the ag industry that I did not believe existed. I especially enjoyed all the technological advancements in agriculture shown by John Deere specifically. Other things that stuck with me were the importance of consumer and producer relationships and extending your connections to open up numerous opportunities."*



Cassville FFA members (from left): Levi Hampton, AJ Butler, Britney Boxrucker and Chloe Timm.



Cuba City FFA members (from left): Julie Augustin and Hannah Pitzen.



Fennimore FFA members (from left): Emma Merz, Isabela Cauffman and Randy Winch.



Iowa Grant FFA members (from left): Dalton Seyfferth, Courtney Spease and Kylie Cutts.



Kickapoo FFA members (from left): Torrance Campbell, Garrett Peterson, John Schweiger and Rachel Durst



LaFarge FFA members (from left): Conrad Lombard, Anmarie Morrison, Makayla Potter and Chance Roe.



River Ridge FFA members (from left): Kyle Adrian, Zach Fischer, Christopher Taylor and Bryce Quick.



Viroqua FFA members (from left): Thomas Jones, Kody Nelson, Sean Wagemester and Bretton Anderson.

## Promotion and Education Update



### Krista Klinkner

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

I hope your summer is off to a good start.

We unfortunately haven't been able to plan any in-person events lately, but there are several online opportunities

available for those who are interested, including the following:

### Mental Health Mini-Series

Join the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee as they explore mental health topics.

All recorded webinars are uploaded to the WFBF YouTube Channel at [www.bit.ly/WFBFmentalhealth](http://www.bit.ly/WFBFmentalhealth).

### National Agriculture in the Classroom Virtual Summit

The 2020 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference that was scheduled to take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, has transitioned from an in-person conference to a virtual summit.

The virtual summit is scheduled for the same days as the canceled conference, **June 24 and 25**. It will feature 12, one-hour workshops, six on each of the two days. Registration is free of charge to anyone who wants to participate.

To learn more about the workshops and registration, visit <https://agclassroom.org/conferences/virtual.cfm>. Anyone who wants to participate in the workshops must register.

### ZOOM Training Tuesdays

To replace the canceled Ag in the Classroom trainings, a series of Training Tuesdays will be taped and posted on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom YouTube channel.

A Facebook post also will share the link to the videos that you can share. Other recorded Zoom meetings on a variety of Ag in the Classroom topics also can be watched anytime.

If you can't make meetings and trainings, this is a great way to keep up to date on what is happening, new resources and program details.

At this time, the Back-to-School Kick-Off at Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center on **Saturday, August 22**, is still scheduled. Updates will be found on the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program Facebook page and website.

For more information and to access online resources from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or Facebook: Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program or contact the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at 608.828.5644 or [darneson@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson@wfbf.com).

## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners Selected



**District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner Abby Kane was awarded a special plaque for her accomplishments.**

Abby Kane also was selected as the District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner. Abby is the daughter of Aaron and Andrea Kane. Julie Fergot is her fifth-grade teacher at Viroqua Middle School.

A total of 1,899 students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and We Energies.

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

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

The county Ag in the Classroom essay contest winners, included:

**Iowa County:** Jessica Schubert, Mineral Point Elementary School

**Lafayette County:** Thea Kammerud, Holy Rosary Catholic School

**Vernon County:** Abby Kane, Viroqua Middle School

### *Abby Kane's winning essay*

#### **HOW HAS WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE TODAY?**

What would happen if we did not have agriculture in our everyday life?

Well first when you wake up you would not have any blue jeans to wear. You would need cotton and indigo plant.

Then when you go downstairs to eat breakfast, there would be none. You wouldn't have an egg from a hen to eat. Or maple syrup from the trees, where the farmers collect the syrup, to drizzle on your pancakes. You need farmers for those things.

Then you would get in the car to go to school or to the grocery store. But you need agriculture for those things. The car would not run because you need corn derived oil that helps power the car.

If there was no agriculture then you would have no grocery store, because where would the grocery store get the food from?

You wouldn't even have text books to read out of at school. You wouldn't have any pens to write with either; the ink in the pen is made from soybeans.

Then what if you had to do the laundry? You couldn't because you wouldn't have any laundry detergent because it's made of soybeans that a farmer collected.

You think oh, lunch time! No agriculture. No lunch.

Then time for sports, I guess you're going to walk today. The car won't run. You show up to football. The ball is made of leather from a farmer's cow.

You go home. You remember that there's no dinner this time. So that is what a day without agriculture would be like.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



**Andrew Dal Santo**  
District 3 YFA Committee  
Representative

Where does the time go? What day is it? What month? I don't know if you are like me, but these past few months have molded into one.

With everything that is going on in our world and in our backyard, it has defiantly been a challenge to keep focused on what lies ahead.

The start to 2020 was going to be exciting, my first year as the District 3 YFA Committee Representative, working with the District 3 counties to bring current and new young farmers and agriculturists together and meet new friends. This was most certainly going to be a year to remember.

The YFA Committee had conferences planned, speakers set to inspire and we were ready to bring WFBF members together. But like most everything else, those plans got put on hold.

It's easy to look back on these past months

and think of missed opportunities or time lost and the uncertainty of what may come. But for me, I took it as an experience. An experience that I will grow from and share with others.

I learned that we as Farm Bureau and YFA members are adaptable.

The YFA committee gathered on almost a weekly basis via the conference call application, ZOOM. We shared our thoughts, expanded on new ideas and most importantly, laughed with one another.

If anything, these past few months have brought the WFBF YFA Committee closer together. We have bounced ideas around and shared thoughts, sometimes a little out there, that are exciting and fresh. We cannot wait to share them with you.

Looking forward, we know that there will be new challenges and a new face to the normal that we will need to become use to. But, we can still accept some of the same things to come around.

One of those things is the YFA Discussion Meet. The YFA Discussion Meet gives members an opportunity to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. A contestant

is judged on his or her problem-solving skills as he or she discusses timely topics with colleagues.

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet is going to held virtually at 7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, July 28**. If you are interested in competing or want more information, please contact me.

I hope that the summer brings a sense of normality to you. I know I can't wait to get back into the swing of Farm Bureau activities.

As always, stay well, stay healthy, keep focused and stay strong.

**District 3 YFA Virtual Discussion Meet**  
**Tuesday, July 28**  
**7:30PM**  
Virtual Platform: Microsoft Teams

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

For questions, to participate or to RSVP contact:  
District 3 YFA Representative - Andrew Dal Santo  
608.214.7219 | dalsantoa90@gmail.com  
District 3 Coordinator - Melissa Doyle  
608.574.9884 | mdoyle@wfbf.com

## Ag in the Classroom Awards Grants to Fund Ag Literacy Projects

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag in the Classroom program has awarded \$6,749 to schools and organizations to expand agricultural literacy.

Groups, schools and organizations can apply for up to \$500 as part of the Ag in the Classroom's matching grant program to support a project, provided they have a source of matching funds.

Matching grant recipients from District 3 included:

### Iowa-Grant FFA Chapter, Agricultural Lab Stations: \$500, Livingston

The Iowa-Grant FFA is purchasing eight stainless steel worktables to enhance the agricultural lessons being taught in animal science, crop science, food science and soil science classes for students in grades 9-12. These new tables will provide lab stations for students to explore new concepts within the agricultural field.

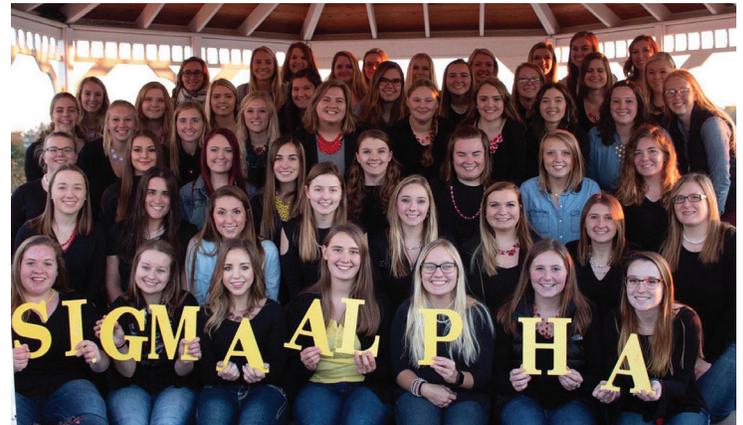


### Sigma Alpha Beta Delta at UW-Platteville, Agriculture Day on the Farm: \$500, Platteville

Sigma Alpha Beta Delta is a professional women's agricultural sorority built on the pillars of scholarship, leadership, fellowship and service.

On Ag Day on the Farm, Sigma Alpha Beta Delta members teach fourth-grade students about agriculture at the University Pioneer Farm.

A total of 10 stations are set up by sorority members and students can learn and explore each topic relating to agriculture, specifically agriculture in southwestern Wisconsin.



# District 3 News

## District 3 Counties Award Scholarships

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and of course, growing the food we eat. Iowa, Lafayette and Vernon counties are proud to support the next generation of agriculturalists and community leaders through scholarships.

Iowa County Farm Bureau awarded three \$250 scholarships to high school seniors. The recipients were Tessa Hanson, Mineral Point; Andrew Heisner, Mineral Point; and Tasha Limmex, Spring Green.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau selected seven recipients to receive \$500 scholarships. The recipients included: Travis Dammen, Argyle; Ryley Lancaster, Darlington; Carson Lobdell, Darlington; Reagan Russell, Shullsburg; Maggie Schubert, Mineral Point; Natalie Soper, Darlington; and Zachary Woodworth, Shullsburg.

Vernon County Farm Bureau awarded one \$500 scholarship to Izaak McCauley, Westby.

Best of luck to the recipients as they continue their post-secondary education.



Ryley Lancaster



Carson Lobdell

# SAVE THE DATE

— Saturday, November 14 —

**Heartland Farms, Hancock**



Leadership



Training Series

Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

# 2020 DISTRICT 3 COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

## LAFAYETTE COUNTY

DARLINGTON COUNTRY CLUB  
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING  
RSVP: MIKE HARMS  
608.574.7807

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

## IOWA COUNTY

LOCATION TBD  
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING  
RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN  
608.574.4565

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

SENECA TOWN HALL  
7:30PM DINNER | 8PM MEETING  
RSVP: DON BROWN  
608.872.2331

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

## GRANT COUNTY

YOUTH & AG CENTER  
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING  
RSVP: PETER WINCH  
608.822.7806

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

## VERNON COUNTY

OLD TOWNE INN  
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING  
RSVP: ROBERT NIGH  
608.606.4319

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14**

## RICHLAND COUNTY

LOCATION TBD  
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING  
RSVP: GERMAINE HYING  
608.739.3367



**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY MEETING.**

# District 3 News

## County Leaders Attend Council of Presidents



In February, District 3 county presidents and vice presidents were invited to the 2020 Council of Presidents meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Those in attendance met with other county leaders from around the state to network, generate new ideas and discuss official WFBF business. Pictured front row (from left): Grant County President, Peter Winch; Lafayette County Vice President, Christina Benson; Iowa County President, Krista Dolan; Richland County Vice President, Josh Joseph; and Vernon County President, Robert Nigh. Back row (from left): Richland County President, Dick Hauser; Vernon County Vice President, Alex Bringe; Grant County Vice President, Allen Johnson; Crawford County Vice President, Jim Meng; and Crawford County President, Don Brown.

Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

# APPLY TODAY!

Applications are due August 17

Applications for the WFBF Leadership Institute are now available at [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com)

## Crawford County

[wfbf.com/about/counties/crawford](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/crawford)  
CrawfordCountyFarmBureau

## County Hosts Successful Ag Events

In February, Crawford County Farm Bureau hosted two agriculture focused events. The first event invited area farmers to learn more about producer-led watershed grants.

Rachel Rushmann from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection shared in-depth information regarding the grant application process and requirements.

“This was a great opportunity for farmers to network and explore the possibility of creating their own watershed group with neighbors in their watershed,” said Don Brown, Crawford County Farm Bureau President. “Rachel did a great job explaining the details of watershed grants and added one more tool to a farmer’s environmental toolbox.”

The second event invited members of the community to come together and learn more about farming in Crawford County.

Amber Radatz, co-director of Discovery Farms Wisconsin, provided a



presentation on water, soil, nutrients and their relationship to farming. Following Amber’s presentation, a panel of farmers from Crawford County talked about their farming practices and efforts to be good stewards of the land.

The event served as a good opportunity for those in Crawford County to learn more about farming and develop an understanding of why farmers do the things they do.



**CRAWFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUMMER PICNIC**

**THURSDAY, JULY 16**

**EASTMAN PARK | 7:30PM**

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT FULL OF FOOD, FRIENDS, AND FARM BUREAU UPDATES. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS AND TABLE SERVICE.

## Farmers Remain Optimistic



**Peter Winch**  
Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello from northern Grant County. A lot has happened since the first of the year. Even with COVID-19 and the collapse of the markets, farmers are still some of the most optimistic people in the world. We are planting crops and will be harvesting hay

throughout the summer not fully knowing what the status of the markets will be.

Now, more than ever, your voice through Farm Bureau is very important. As we proceed things will never be the same. Farm Bureau is a respected organization that is listened to at the state and federal levels.

Farm Bureau has done a good job communicating our needs with the legislature and the Governor.

We must take it one day at a time. As things open up, please be safe and respectful of people.

Your county Farm Bureau has still been meeting monthly through phone meetings. It is different and we have had to adjust, but we still accomplish what needs to be done.

Make sure to save the date for the Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, September 22**, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. In September, you will receive a postcard with more details. The meal will start at 7 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

Please be safe in the months to come.



## County YFA Update

By Jackie Seelow, Grant County YFA Committee Chair

Grant County YFA was fortunate to host a couple events before there were restrictions on group gatherings.

At the end of February, we attended the Battle for the Bluff Rodeo at the Five Flags Center in Dubuque. It was a new event for Grant County YFA to attend and it proved to be very entertaining and a lot of fun.

On **Sunday, July 12**, we will host the annual Grant County YFA Night on the Farm. It will be held at Josh and Jennifer Bailie's farm outside of Lancaster. The entire family is invited to attend. A meal and drinks will be provided, as well as some outdoor activities for the kids.

If you have questions or want to get more involved in YFA, please contact me at 608.632.1714 or jackie.seelow@gmail.com.

Have a fun and safe summer.



GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# NIGHT on the FARM

SUNDAY, JULY 12 | 6:00 PM  
JOSH & JENNIFER BAILIE'S FARM  
(7806 US HIGHWAY 61 LANCASTER, WI)

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING SOCIALIZING WITH YOUR FELLOW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS. FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED BY GRANT COUNTY YFA. THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

TO RSVP CONTACT JACKIE SEELOW AT 608.632.1714.



GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 | 6:30PM

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU BUILDING  
(9755 HWY 61 NORTH | LANCASTER)

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR TO RSVP CONTACT:  
PETER WINCH  
608.778.1150

## An Unexpected Change



**Krista Dolan**

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Change is something that is very hard for many people, myself included.

It seems in the last three months everyone has dealt with some sort of change. Has it been easy? Absolutely not.

During this time of staying at home, reaching out to friends and family via social media, text messages, phone calls, etc., was the go-to-way of staying in touch.

Over and over again, I heard the same message from many people. "This is hard." "I need to socialize." "I cannot do another day of virtual learning!" Believe me, I was thinking those things, too, and one day a friend sent me the following quote by Paul Wesselmann.

"On particularly rough days, when I'm sure I can't possibly endure, I like to remind myself that my track record for getting through bad days is 100 percent, and that's pretty good."

This was a great reminder to me as I look back. I haven't given up on other bad days, so why start now. It's just a matter of taking different steps that day to get things done.

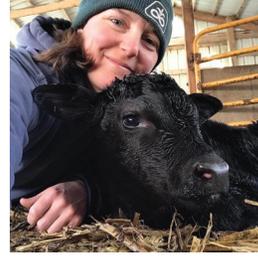
As we are trying to get back to normal, whatever that may be, things have changed and are going to be different and that is ok.

I know many of our Farm Bureau summer events are canceled, but try to be creative and think of things you can do to fill the void.

For example, my son's end of the year school field trip was canceled, so instead, we hosted a virtual field trip for his class on our farm. His classmates loved it and learned more about our farm and agriculture in general.

Have a safe summer and stay healthy.

## The Promise of a New Season



By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

What an interesting spring we had in Iowa County. The weather was pretty pleasant for calving season and getting crops planted.

The dry spring was appreciated by many and I was pleased to have a short and successful calving season. The cold temperatures lingered on and slowed the grass and alfalfa growth, but the heat has arrived, and things are really starting to look good.

With spring comes the promise of a new season and a fresh start, but COVID-19 was the curveball we didn't expect. A lot of farmers may joke that the new social distancing rules were business as usual for them. After a while though, gatherings and nights out to eat became missed. The extra time spent at home as a family, however, is something to cherish and appreciate.

The financial impacts of COVID-19 are certainly being felt by all sectors of the agriculture industry. As farmers, it's easy to become frustrated and feel defeated these days when it seems like one thing after another keeps impacting us.

How can an industry so important to the world struggle so much? No one knows what the end result of this pandemic will be, but agriculture is vital to the world and farmers are resilient and hardworking people.

We have faced many obstacles before and were able to overcome and adapt. While things will change and a new normal will arrive, I have no doubt agriculture will overcome this obstacle, too, and continue to feed the world.

## Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Usually the spring is the time of year where students of all ages are experiencing agriculture hands-on in and outside of the classroom. April and May are usually busy months filled with students working in their school or community gardens, taking field trips to local farms and learning about agriculture.

Although this spring wasn't filled with our usual hands-on experiences, some students were able to virtually visit a classmate's farm or experience the many different virtual farm tours the American Farm Bureau Federation has to offer.

Even with virtual learning in place, I am pleased to announce that the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest brought in 66 local essays from three different area schools.

The winning essay went to Jessica Schubert, a fifth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary School. Jessica is the daughter of Mike and Angie Schubert and has a strong passion for agriculture.

Jessica's teacher, Laurie Heimsoth, surprised Jessica at her home, awarding her with a first-place certificate and balloon. Jessica also received \$25 from Iowa County Farm Bureau.

Additionally, Mrs. Heimsoth received a \$25 eGiftCard to Amazon in recognition of her support in teaching her students about the importance and significant impact agriculture plays in the lives of all people.

If you, your children or grandchildren are looking for different resources for at home agriculture education, please visit [www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org). You will find a variety of hands-on activities, food and farm facts, as well as different virtual field trip opportunities and educational videos for children and adults of all ages.



## Join the Grassroots Process

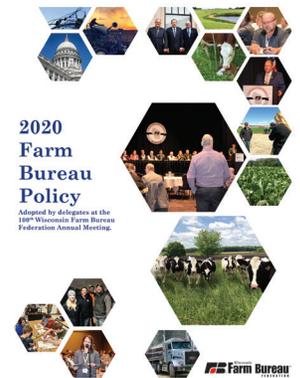
Mark your calendars for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting at 7 p.m. on **Monday, August 24.**

The event will be held at Model Dairy Farms just outside of Dodgeville

This meeting gives members an opportunity to make their voices heard and helps develop resolutions to be voted on at the county annual meetings.

To learn more about the grassroots policy development process and issues of interest, visit [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) and click on the 'Policy' tab.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Krista Dolan at 608.574.4565.



## Achievements to Celebrate



**Mike Harms**

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

During the past few months, Lafayette County Farm Bureau has been busy between membership efforts and helping the community. Some of our achievements to note include the following:

1. Reached our new voting membership goal of signing up 30 new members by April 30.
2. Partnered with Rural Mutual Agent, Toby Spillane, to purchase \$300 of cheese curds to give away in Lafayette County.
3. Donated \$700 of meat from Avon Locker Plant to the Lafayette County Food Pantry.
4. Awarded seven scholarships for a total of \$3,500 to graduating students continuing education in agriculture.

These activities would not be possible without the community support of our annual golf outing and county fair food stand.

The Lafayette County Farm Bureau Golf Outing is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13**, and will be held in conjunction with the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. We are also hoping to serve steak sandwiches and brats again at the Lafayette County Fair in July. Stop by or volunteer to help by signing up at [www.bit.ly/lafayettefoodstand2020](http://www.bit.ly/lafayettefoodstand2020). Have a safe and fun summer.

## Lucky Cow Offers a DAIRY Good Treat

Lafayette County Farm Bureau members Joe and Amber McComish opened Lucky Cow Coffee and Gelato. Their shop is located on Main Street in Darlington and offers more than a dozen flavors of gelato, specialty coffee and non-coffee drinks and a variety of baked goods. The McComishs are constantly updating the menu and creating new flavors of gelato. Lucky Cow is the perfect place to stop this summer to cool off and support a fellow farm family.



## Making A Difference Locally

Wisconsin farmers play an integral role in putting food on the grocery store shelves and ultimately the dinner table. Farmers are some of the most generous and caring people around, especially in times of need.

County Farm Bureaus across Wisconsin are stepping up to make a difference in their local communities.

In May, Lafayette County Farm Bureau teamed up with Rural Mutual agent, Toby Spillane, to promote agriculture in one of the best ways possible ... with CHEESE. The cheese was purchased locally and given away to families and business in Lafayette County.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau also donated \$700 worth of meat from Avon Locker Plant to the Lafayette County Food Pantry.



LAFAYETTE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## GOLF OUTING

**WHEN: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

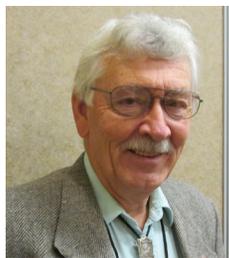
**WHERE: DARLINGTON  
COUNTRY CLUB**

**WHY: ALL PROCEEDS HELP  
FUND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND  
YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS.**

FOR REGISTRATION & HOLE SPONSOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

TIM APPELL - 608.778.6062

## President's Message



**Dick Hauser**  
Richland County Farm Bureau  
President

In my last newsletter article, I focused on the water issue in southwest Wisconsin and its

importance. How quickly things change. A new virus comes along and we see a complete disruption of our daily routine. Everything and everyone has seen change that we could not have comprehended.

While the changes that affected a great deal of the activities that we took for granted each day, those of us in agriculture had to continue to do our regular work and hope that the virus would not get to us.

While most have not experienced the health

problems associated with COVID-19, the financial impact has been most devastating on our operations and our communities. Farming, the production of food and fiber was deemed essential and for a few days it looked like we had to keep doing what we always did.

Then the closing of schools and restaurants changed where our milk and meat needed to go and the processing part of our industry was not prepared for the change. That backed up the markets from the producer perspective and with the consumer trying to stock up caused outages in the stores.

Markets were disrupted, prices started to plummet and all kinds of problems started to appear. The government was trying to get their arms around many things at the same time without a playbook.

As an essential industry, agriculture was

addressed as one of the industries that needed help. As with aid, it will never be as good as a soundly developed market but hopefully will be a bridge to better times. Whatever your ag endeavor, be sure to check and apply for help.

Now, for a quick look to the brighter side. For most of us the planting season has been much better than the last couple years, our suppliers had the products we needed and could deliver them in a timely manner. The pastures are finally growing as well as the hay crop.

Our WFBF President Joe Bragger has been sending information to keep us informed. County Farm Bureau board meetings will be coming back either virtually or in-person.

We as a group are missing many of the functions that are a regular part of our lives. Shows, fairs, etc., no Wisconsin State Fair, bumper. Stay well.

## Vernon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/vernon  
VernonCountyFarmBureau

### Ag in the Classroom Update

By Travis Klinkner, Vernon County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

This year, Vernon County Farm Bureau distributed the WFBF book of the year to seven elementary schools in the county. We were fortunate to visit the schools before they unexpectedly closed.

We were greeted with great excitement by students and teachers. We plan to build on those relationships and hope for more opportunities to teach students about agriculture.

We received 55 entries for the Ag in the Classroom essay contest and were impressed with the essays contributed. Thank you to those who participated.

In February, I visited the fourth-grade students at the Viroqua Elementary School and a few other classrooms to give presentations on dairy and how milk gets from the cow to the table.

This was my second year visiting and I was again very welcomed. As always, I was glad to help students draw the connection to where their food comes from.

Thank you to Renae Diehl, farm-to-school coordinator, for helping

schedule the visit.

Renae has been using WFBF Ag In the Classroom materials as part of her monthly presentations. If there are other classrooms in Vernon County that want to use those resources, please contact me.

Overall, it was a good year. Our program is growing as we continue to reach more students.

Thank you to those who volunteer hours visiting schools and scoring essays.

We look forward to more fun as we make more plans to get involved with educating students about the world of agriculture.



## Summer School on the Farm

As fairs continue to cancel, the disappointment and sadness continues to grow, especially for many 4-H and FFA members. Although the traditional fair won't happen for most, the learning on a farm never stops. Youth will continue to take care of their animals ... acquiring new skills, practicing their showmanship and making memories along the way. After all, some of the best lessons in life are learned on the farm.



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Preston Lease



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