



# Grassroots

District 9 News

## District Director's Message



**Peter Kimball**  
WFBF District 9 Director

Wow, what a wild ride it has been since the last newsletter.

From COVID-19 shutting down the whole world economy to riots in many major

U.S. cities. I wake up each day wondering what is next.

During the COVID-19 stay at home order, I could not be more proud of WFBF and AFBF for the work they have done, and continue to do, in representing farmers and keeping county leaders abreast of what actions were taken to

support agriculture.

As it became clear that the stay at home order was going to be coming, the office and field staff seamlessly transitioned to working from home while still making farmers voices heard loud and clear at the state and federal levels.

The governmental relations team set up appointments with elected officials for Farm Bureau members to share personal stories directly with them on how the virus had affected them.

On the state side, Farm Bureau also made sure that farmers were not forgotten and received the support we needed.

The results of these efforts did not fall on deaf ears. The state and federal governments responded in record time to roll out programs

that help farmers starting with the Payroll Protection Plan.

More recently, the USDA rolled out the CARES Act with \$9.5 billion to fill the gap of disrepute markets.

Without these actions, our farm communities would be hit much harder than they already have. This is only a sampling of the work that has been done on behalf of farmers.

I want to end this by thanking WFBF and AFBF for the work they have put into these efforts.

I also want to thank our elected officials for listening and acting quickly. As we continue, there will be challenges, but I am confident we can work though and will come out better farmers and people for having gone through it.

## Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund

In partnership with Rural Mutual Insurance Company, WFBF 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 agriculture products to ensure farmers continue to have a place to sell products, and provide Wisconsinites access to nutritious, high-quality foods. As part of this fundraising effort, WFBF will collect monetary donations for Harvest of Hope while Rural Mutual Insurance Company will be raising funds for Feeding Wisconsin. Collectively the fund will reach all corners of our state from the most urban areas to the rural farming communities.



or fuel in the fuel tank. The mission of the Harvest of Hope is simple: to provide financial help and hope to Wisconsin farm families in difficult financial situations. All administrative costs are covered by a partnering organization, so 100 percent of donations given to Harvest of Hope go directly to help farm families in need.

### Feeding Wisconsin: Fight Hunger, Spark Change

Feeding Wisconsin is the statewide association of the Feeding America food banks that sources warehouses and provides food to more than 750 affiliated agencies and 1,000 local food programs throughout the state. Their vision is a hunger-free Wisconsin and their mission is to help our food banks and partners fight hunger, improve health and strengthen local communities so that everybody in Wisconsin has access to the food and benefits they need to work, learn, play and live healthy lives.



Your monetary donation will be used to process milk that would have otherwise been disposed of due to lack of processing capacity and demand and to purchase other food products, e.g., meat, fruits, vegetables or eggs, where farmers have seen decreased market access.

Rural Mutual Insurance will donate \$10,000 to Feeding Wisconsin in support of the Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund.

In addition, county Farm Bureaus around the state are making a difference in their local communities. For more information, visit [wfbf.com/wisconsin-food-and-farm-support-fund](http://wfbf.com/wisconsin-food-and-farm-support-fund).

### Harvest of Hope: A Farm Family Crisis Fund

The Harvest of Hope is a resource for farm families that are struggling financially. It was created in January 1986 to respond to the farm crisis of the 1980s and was intended to be short-term but never really ended. Harvest of Hope has given more than 1,650 gifts totaling more than \$1,070,000 during its 34-year history as an organization.



To spread the money among farm families, grants are limited to two gifts of \$1,500 over time. The range of farm crisis situations is extensive: climatic conditions (floods, drought, hail, frost), electric power cut-offs, medical or veterinary bills, house or barn fires, feed for cattle, machinery repair, supplies for spring planting or basics like putting food on the table

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Mental Health Checks

By Haily Sand, District 9 YFA Chair

May wrapped up mental health month.

Add on top of that the challenges brought on by COVID-19 and that makes for an extra emotional, overwhelming and stressful situation. Pick one or pick them all, this year, we have been stretched in different ways than we are used to.

Some strategies for combating the additional strain include: Getting into a new schedule, praying or meditating, reflect on your day, go for a walk or start that hobby you have been meaning to ... that sewing pile is sitting there, get started.

Alright, so that sewing pile may be too big to tackle. If that is the case, try a 20-second hug. Not a pat on the back, not 10 seconds, a 20 second, that is 20 Mississippi's, hug. Why so long? Giving yourself 20 seconds increases the levels of oxytocin, the love hormone, reduces blood pressure and cortisol, the stress hormone, increase happiness and can improve relationships and connections.

Give it a try, what is it going to hurt? Take a deep breath and focus on your breathing. Afterwards you will feel better, its like a mini-mediation session with a friend or family member and can take some stress away.

If you are an introvert, like me, hugs can be kind of awkward unless you are a very close family member, which we may not be seeing too much of lately. So another way to get some happiness is gardening. Think I am crazy, I am a soil scientist and agronomist by trade after

all, but just do it. Soil microbes, specifically *mycobacterium vaccae*, have been found to have similar effects on the brain as drugs, e.g., Prozac, without the chemical dependency and withdrawal.

Working in soil can make you happier and healthier. At our house, we regularly walk around the garden to check how everything is growing and it gives us a couple of minutes to step outside away from technology and focus on something else, like peaceful nature.

One of the most important things to help with your mental health is getting support by socially staying connected. Humans are social creatures, even the introvert in me needs to talk to others.

With our Young Farmer and Agriculturist district chairs, we have provided support. We stay connected with daily activities including: Motivational Monday, What's Up Wednesday, Thankful Thursday and Funny Friday. Whether we are communicating through a text or in Snap

Chat, we to send updates and work on keeping good mental health. Another way is interacting with each other in a bi-weekly Zoom support group session. Catching up on life, what's happening in "our neck of the woods."

In the end, find something that works for you.

- What makes you happy.
- Think of a positive for the day.
- Google a funny meme.

When talking to my friends, family, and customers, I try to bring them back to my 2020 mantra: "One day at a time." Try not to get stuck in what has happened (watching the news) or what tomorrow could bring (like the milk futures). Take a step back and focus on what you can do right now. After all, today is a brand-new day.

Looking for additional resources, feel free to look into Farm Bureau's Rural Resilience page ([wfbf.com/rural-resilience](http://wfbf.com/rural-resilience)).



## Northwestern Wisconsin Local Farm Shopping Guide

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau**

#FarmNeighborsCare

**19 Opportunity Farm**  
Lamb  
Ridgeland, WI | 715.651.7840

**20 Sandy Acres**  
Beef and Lamb Cuts  
Elk Mound, WI | 715.579.2917

**21 J/K Charolais Ranch**  
Beef  
Colfax, WI | 715.577.9231

**22 Springhill Heritage Farm**  
Pasture Raised Chicken and Pork  
Chetek, WI | 715.256.7029

**23 Willouville Cattle Co**  
Corn Finished Beef  
Clear Lake, WI | 612.756.0251

**24 Jensen Family Farms LLC**  
Beef  
Elk Mound, WI | 715.556.8435

**25 Fair-uew Farm**  
Various meats and eggs  
Exeland, WI | 715.943.2576

**26 Rocking Ridge Ranch**  
Goat Meat  
Eau Galle, WI | 715.418.0975

**27 Anderson Maple Syrup**  
Maple Syrup  
Cumberland, WI | 715.822.8512

**28 Peterson Craftzman Meats**  
Beef, Pork, Lamb  
Osceloa, WI | 715.417.2253

**29 Piney Hill Farm**  
Vegetables  
Glenwood City, WI

**30 E Cattle Company**  
Beef  
Deer Park, WI | 715.269.5118

**31 Deers Locher**  
Butcher Shop  
Deer Park, WI | 715.269.5118

**32 Kinni Hemp Co**  
Hemp  
River Falls, WI | 844.978.2376

**33 White Pine Berry Farm**  
U-Pick, Pre-Pick, Agritourism  
River Falls, WI | 715.222.2946

**1 Springbrook Meats**  
Butcher Shop  
Elk Mound, WI | 715.664.8585

**2 On Twin Lake**  
Beef, store, wedding barn  
Birchwood, WI | 715.354.3210

**3 Northstar Bison**  
Bison  
Cameron, WI | 715.458.5300

**4 Balsam Ridge Farm**  
Poultry  
Ojibwa, WI | 715.558.2562

**5 KAM Farms**  
Beef & Pork  
Ojibwa, WI | 715.415.2830

**6 Valley Pasture Farm**  
Pasture Raised Meats, pumpkin patch  
Elk Mound, WI | 715.256.7676

**7 Cylon Rolling Acres**  
Goat Meat  
Deer Park, WI | 715.607.0248

**8 Mary Dirty Face Farm**  
Certified Organic Fruit  
Menomonie, WI | 612.280.2438

**9 CMT Farm**  
Beef, goat milk soap  
Superior, WI | 218.349.7707

**10 Turner Road Farm**  
Eggs, Chicken, Pork, Lamb, Turkey  
Bayfield, WI | 715.209.5276

**11 Blaeser Farms**  
Grass Fed Beef, Lamb, Chicken  
Chippewa Falls, WI | 612.207.1121

**12 Conrath Quality Meats**  
Butcher Shop  
Conrath, WI | 715.532.5063

**13 Barney's Meats**  
Butcher Shop  
Weyerhaeuser, WI | 715.353.2271

**14 Maple Hill Farm**  
Lamb, Beef, Chicken, Pork,  
Farm Store  
Ladysmith, WI | 715.000000

**15 Shaffner Hobby Hill**  
Lamb  
Colfax, WI | 608.323.0044

**16 Gouin's Farm**  
Lamb, Strawberries, corn maze  
Menomonie, WI | 715.231.2377

**17 Minglewood Inc.**  
Beef  
Deer Park, WI | 715.338.4192

**18 Morning Scape Farm**  
Grass Fed Beef and Lamb, Produce  
Spring Valley, WI | 715.410.2958

**34 Bergmann's Greenhouses**  
Garden Center/Greenhouse  
Clayton, WI | 715.948.2921

**35 Mommsen's Harvest Hills**  
Apple Orchard & Pumpkin Patch  
Rice Lake, WI | 715.234.2665

**36 JM Wathins Meats**  
Butcher Shop  
Plum City, WI | 715.647.2554

**37 Wagon Wheel Ranch**  
Farm fresh beef, eggs, maple syrup  
Menomonie, WI | 715.219.1111

Know someone we should include on the map? Let us know! Email [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) with additions/changes.

## Farm Bureau Adds Yamaha Discount to Member Benefit Lineup

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is excited to announce a new partnership with Yamaha Motor Corporation, USA, to offer members a special discount.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members are now able to receive \$250 off the purchase of a new Yamaha 4WD ATV, side-by-side or snowmobile.

"It is exciting to add another money-saving member benefit to our already robust lineup," said WFBF President Joe Bragger. "We are thrilled to announce this new partnership."

For more information about this benefit or to learn more about other discounts and incentives, visit [wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits](http://wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits).

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general farm organization. Made up of 61 county Farm Bureaus, it represents agriculturists and farms of every size, commodity and management style.



## 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.



AMERICA IS AWAKENING to the reality  
that PROTECTING OUR FOOD SUPPLY is part  
of our NATIONAL SECURITY.



## Elk Mound Student Named Essay Contest Winner

By Kay Gilbertson, District 9 Promotion and Education Committee Chair



The Ag in the Classroom essay contest brought 98 essays from five different counties in District 9. The essays submitted were noteworthy of praise and entrants did a fantastic job of sticking to the theme, 'How has Wisconsin agriculture affected your life today?' The essay theme correlated with the book of the year, "Right this Very Minute" by Lisl Detelson. The winning entrant was Madelyn Malone from Moundview Elementary in Elk Mound. She is the daughter of Matt Malone and Cody Harrison and her teacher was Jordan Kongshaug. Sarah Larson, another

fourth-grade teacher at Moundview Elementary was instrumental in the coordination of the essay contest. Madelyn will receive prizes for her efforts on behalf of Dunn County Farm Bureau as well as recognition from WFBF. This year, COVID-19 certainly lowered the total number of entrants. We are thankful to the following counties for their great participation in this contest: Dunn, Pierce, Chippewa, Polk and St. Croix.

### Madelyn's winning essay.

#### HOW HAS AGRICULTURE AFFECTED ME?

What is agriculture? Well agriculture is farming! There are actually 8,000 family farms! Did you also know that cheese and other dairy products are Wisconsin's most important industry? Isn't that crazy! Wisconsin offers the best cheese in the nation and is happy to help contribute to their state's economy.

#### CHEESE

Over 2.5 billion pounds of Wisconsin cheese are produced each year, that's equal to 1,250,000 tons. The milk for all that cheese comes from over one million dairy cows from about 18,000 dairy farms! Without Wisconsin cheese, there'd be a lot less cheddar to go around. Even a small serving of cheese will do a lot to fill your protein quota for the day. A single ounce of Swiss or Cheddar Wisconsin cheese holds 7 grams of protein, and an ounce is only about the size of four dice.

#### CRANBERRIES

Everyone loves cranberries...right? Wisconsin is the nation's leading producer of cranberries, harvesting more than 60 percent of the country's crop. The little red berry, Wisconsin's official state fruit, is the state's number one fruit crop, both in size and economic value. Cranberries are grown on 21,000 acres across 20 counties in Wisconsin. The sand and peat marshes in central and northern Wisconsin create the perfect growing conditions for cranberries.

#### BEEF

While Wisconsin is known as America's Dairyland, the state's beef industry is also thriving. Beef cows, beef heifers over 500 pounds, steers and other heifers account for nearly 23% of the total cattle population in the state. Wisconsin's beef farmers and livestock specialists understand the overall characteristics of the beef industry in Wisconsin but know less about the management practices employed by these diverse operations.

In my essay I told you how agriculture has affected me, I hoped you liked my essay, I hope you like agriculture.

## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING DATES

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 30**  
St Croix County Farm Bureau

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**  
Superior Shores Farm Bureau

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1**  
Polk Burnett Farm Bureau



Do you have an issue, concern or potential policy topic? Attend your county annual meeting to bring it up or contact a County Farm Bureau board member. County Farm Bureau board members and contact information can be found at <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/>

\*Above dates are subject to change.

Save the dates for the District 9 County Farm Bureau Annual Meetings. Check your mailbox for more details to come as the dates get closer.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 23**  
Sawyer County Farm Bureau

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Barron County Farm Bureau

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**  
Dunn County Farm Bureau

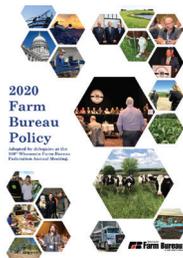
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**  
Pierce County Farm Bureau

## Submit Farm Bureau Policy Proposals

Some of you have started brainstorming policy proposals or will potentially have time to brainstorm some in the tractor. For a form, visit <https://bit.ly/2020D9PD> and submit resolutions or ideas that you want to be considered. Your ideas will be added to the list for discussion in July.

For reference, the WFBF Policy Book can be found at [wfbf.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Policy-Book\\_web.pdf](https://wfbf.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Policy-Book_web.pdf).

You may fill out and submit the form as many times as you want. Please share this information with other Farm Bureau members who may have ideas to add.



## District 9 Policy Development Meeting

Get your seat at the table and let your voice be heard!

Join members of District 9 for the 2020 Policy Development Meeting as we draft resolutions to be considered for 2021 Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy.

All members are encouraged to attend.

Cost: \$15/person to cover the meal

**Thursday, July 30th**

**29 Pines Conference Center**  
5870 33rd Ave, Eau Claire

**7:00pm - Registration**

**7:30pm - Meal & Policy Development Meeting**

RSVP to Katie Mattison, District 9 Coordinator, at 715.418.0975 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com)

## Promotion and Education Happenings



**Kay Gilbertson**

District 9 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

As I write this, one of the oddest years in history is hopefully behind us. It felt odd having our kids each doing distance learning from home and school and church activities halted immediately.

I recently asked each of our kids what they missed most about school and it was the people.

While they still maintained a schedule to stay on top of their studies, the work was met with some challenges but completed quickly to be able to get to work on the farm.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee met on June 12. It was not however, the meeting we had planned in February. Since March, many of our plans have been altered, postponed or canceled. The meeting on June 12 was to be our annual summer meeting where the committee collaborates ideas, learns more about each other and plans more goals for the year. As a committee, the summer meeting is held in different locations where the committee members can explore a corner of Wisconsin that we don't normally get to.

The featured location was supposed to be West Bend. District 1 committee member Jacki Moegenburg invited us to explore her Barnyard Adventures farm camp ([www.rodenbarnyard.com](http://www.rodenbarnyard.com)) and explore some other features of southeast Wisconsin. Instead of exploring the camp, we saw each other using Microsoft Teams. As many of you know, virtual meetings are a far cry from seeing someone in person, but it offers us the option to maintain a connection.

In this shut down state of our world, I'm sure many of you have met virtually in some way. It is amazing the avenues and connections we have if we reach out. It has been a focus of the Promotion and Education Committee to reach out to others with the Farm Neighbors Care Campaign. I encourage you to do just that – reach out. It may sound simplistic, and perhaps something you already do, keep doing that. As you know, the agriculture world we live and work in can be rewarding, but it also can be alienating. We are not alone. Reach out to friends and neighbors. You never know how much your reaching out truly means.

This spring, the Promotion and Education Committee featured a mini-series touching on mental health topics. The webinars and videos address subjects such as identifying signs of stress, the effects of chronic stress on our lives, recognizing and handling suicidal behaviors and the importance of self-care. I encourage each of you to look through this very informative series to learn more at [www.wfbf.com/mental-health-mini-series](http://www.wfbf.com/mental-health-mini-series).

With many June Dairy month breakfasts canceled, we are called on to use our creative minds to promote our agriculture products. On June 6, Alice in Dairyland, Abigail Martin featured a virtual dairy breakfast. She shared recipes, a tour of her home farm and a question and answer feature while using Facebook Live.

There have been a number of ideas that have circulated to do drive through agriculture promotions or fund raisers. Some of those ideas include drive through food options or picking up the fixings to prepare cheese sandwiches or pancake breakfasts at your own home. If you are doing any drive through ideas be sure to share your idea in the playbook at [www.wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education/playbook](http://www.wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education/playbook).

Lastly, WFBF is seeking candidates for the WFBF Leadership Institute, which is a year-long premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. The application deadline is **August 17** and is limited to 15 participants.

If you have questions, comments or want to chat, please contact me.



## What on the farm is it?

Below are extreme close up pictures of things found on the farm. Do you think you know what they are?



Email your guesses to [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) to win some great prizes.

# SAVE THE DATE

— Saturday, November 14 —

**Heartland Farms, Hancock**



Leadership



Training Series

Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

## President's Message



**Karyn Schauf**  
Barron County Farm Bureau president

Dear Friends,  
I hope this finds you with a great first crop in the barn and ready to start second crop, looking at knee-high corn and locking in on some better milk prices.

My husband and I really enjoyed attending the area's District Holstein Show on June 15.

The numbers were strong and so was the quality. It was good to see and be with friends. I hope too these past five months will have caused many – legislators and citizens alike – to have started to recognize that the production and processing of food IS a national security issue and needs to be treated as such. It is still amazing to me to see our local stores with empty shelves well into June. It is my hope that Americans are recognizing how consolidation of agriculture affects them and the benefits that local farmers bring to their communities.

I hope dairy processors are recognizing the danger of putting all of their eggs in one basket, whether it be specializing in one type of product or providing for one type of customer and instead are finding ways to spread their risks by working with other processors. Perhaps our industry has started to see wisdom in building a little bit of 'cushion' in terms of storage and delivery times. And I hope producers have begun to recognize the unequal distribution during these past five months.

Let's be ready to put it to good use by formulating some valuable changes through our upcoming policy development meeting. See you there ... I hope.

## Can Inter-Seeding Cover Crops In Corn Work in Barron County?

By Craig Hamernik

The Farmers of Barron County Watershed (FBCW) producer-led group wants to answer that question.

An increasing number of growers are integrating cover crops in their cropping systems with goals of reducing soil erosion, increasing soil health, adding and capturing nitrogen, extending livestock grazing or aiding in weed suppression. Cover crop establishment after corn and soybean harvest can be challenging in northern Wisconsin with mixed results. Therefore, an increasing number of growers have asked about the potential for inter-seeding cover crops in established crops.

Earlier this spring, the FBCW group purchased an interseeder with the intent of testing it out on a large number of acres. The plan is to inter-seed 250 acres using a variety of seed, timing of planting the cover crop and herbicide programs. This is going to be interesting to watch throughout the growing season.

Other projects the FBCW group is working on is relay cropping and 60-inch corn rows. In the relay cropping system, soybeans were planted on May 15, in rye that was planted last fall as a cover crop. The rye was harvested as a forage the first week of June.

It will be interesting to see if the soybeans can tolerate the forage harvest mowing and traffic and how those soybeans will compare with the soybeans planted at the same time without the rye competition. One observation is that the soybeans planted in the rye were twice as tall due to the soybeans reaching for sunlight.

Later this summer, the FBCW will host a field day to show the results of the test plots. Be sure to watch for that event. It will be spectacular.

## Should We Consider the PRIME Act?

By Karyn Schauf, Barron County Farm Bureau president

The Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption Act or PRIME was re-introduced again by Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME).

This bill would loosen regulation to allow meat such as beef, pork or lamb from custom kill plants, not state or federally inspected, to be sold to consumers, restaurants, hotels, boarding houses and grocery stores.

Farmers can sell animals to customers while the animal is still live. The rancher or customer can then deliver the animal to a custom plant for butchering. But neither the farmer nor the customer can sell that meat piece by piece if it is slaughtered at a custom plant.

Currently, meat must be slaughtered at a state or USDA inspected plant in order to be sold piece by piece across state lines. Meat butchered at a state inspected plant can be legally sold within said state. Even at USDA inspected plants, not every carcass is inspected but the federal inspector and the plant follow certain protocols and the inspector looks at and tests a certain percentage of the meat.

The PRIME Act would potentially give farmers another option for marketing their meat, and would give local restaurants, grocery stores and other food service establishments the ability to more affordably source local meat.

With custom plants over-full and over-booked, they may need to expand staff or hours to meet added demand. Custom lockers are booking for January or February of 2021.

## Wisconsin Needs Farmers Farm Sign

By Eva Curtis, Rural Mutual Insurance agent

Wisconsin farmers and their families are struggling given the current state of the economy caused by COVID-19.

My husband Tom and I insure many farms in our community. To have them impacted by disposing of milk due to closures of businesses, restaurants and the change in demand means those farmers are taking the equivalent of a financial beating.

Other agricultural groups have been offering signs to show support for agriculture, some for sale and others giving them away. The response has been overwhelming and there aren't enough signs to go around.

We want to thank farmers and show our support by offering signs. The first 100 signs are on us and we will give them out as long as the supply lasts. If we need to order more, we will offer the signs for sale at our cost. Please contact our office at 715.403.2223.

It has been good to see people supporting one another during this difficult time.

We wanted to do something to help bring attention to support the farmers in our area and we want to continue to bring to the public's attention that these farmers continue to need our help and support. This is our way of giving back.

# THANK YOU!



**Rural Mutual**  
Insurance Company  
EVA AND TOM CURTIS

## Recipients of the Scholarships Announced

Barron County Farm Bureau is proud to assist future generations of agriculture leaders by offering three \$250 scholarships to graduating seniors. The applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and a recommendation from teachers.

Congratulations to the recipients. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.



**Megan Anderson** graduated from Shell Lake High School and is the daughter of Boyd and Cheryl Anderson. She plans to attend UW-River Falls and study accounting with a minor in agriculture business.



In addition to awarding three scholarships to graduating high school seniors, Barron County Farm Bureau also awarded a \$250 scholarship to **Ryan Erickson** of Barron. He is serving as the Wisconsin FFA State Vice President and plans to attend UW-Platteville.



**Brooke Hammann** graduated from Barron High School and is the daughter of Scot and Becky Hammann. She plans to attend North Central Technical College to become a registered nurse.



**Haiden Salsbury** graduated from Prairie Farm High School and her parents are James and Christina Salsbury. She plans to attend UW-Stout to become a teacher.

## Elliot Meyer Wins Drawing Contest

Elliot Meyer, daughter of Barron County Farm Bureau members Damon and Arlaina Meyer, won the National Ag Day drawing contest.

Elliot is 7-years old and resides in Rice Lake. For winning, Elliot received a bag of goodies supporting Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

For more information on agriculture activities that you can do with your children, please visit the Ag in the Classroom website at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org), visit the Ag in the Classroom Program Facebook page or contact Teresa Hanson at [tmhanson\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:tmhanson_98@yahoo.com).

Congratulations, Elliot.



## President's Message



**Marv Prestrud**  
Dunn County Farm Bureau president

Need I say the world we live in has changed dramatically in the last 100 days? Some of these

changes have been extremely difficult. The adversity of this time affects us many ways, in many different arenas of life.

Emotionally, it can be very negative and lead to unhealthy changes in the relationships that we all have. This pressure cooker of emotions and other difficulties from financial areas and workloads gets to be more adverse than is healthy.

If you are like me, you have been taught that adversity is opportunity to build character and to make us more self-confident. This adversity builds conscientiousness for those around us and

gives us compassion for those we are in close proximity to.

We need to be in a place where past experiences lead us to making good decisions for this time and the future. As we make difficult decisions, we need to be aware of the detailed parts of our decision making. This includes not only being able to see the short-term effects but also taking a comprehensive look at long-term impacts.

We also need to capture the opportunities that difficult times can sometimes bring. And we need good advice from "third parties", those on the outside who can see our strengths and weaknesses. Then we can be more confident in the decisions we make. Even through all that, we will make mistakes as decision makers. That's when third parties can be valuable. They give us someone to blame.

A good friend of mine tells me that now is the time to persevere and enjoy good music. Crazy as it seems, I think it is good advice.

Thank you for reading.

## Donation Yields Big Results

These past couple months have been trying on everyone as we adjust to a 'new normal.' The Wisconsin dairy farmer has especially taken a hit.

Al Shannon, Dunn County Farm Bureau board member, and his wife, Bristol, decided they needed to do something to help. So, they contacted friends to make an impact in our community.

On April 22, 1,044 pounds of butter and 1,600 string cheese sticks were donated to the School District of Menomonie Area for the meal program. The district has provided breakfast and lunch seven days a week for students in need - more than 15,000 meals in a week.



Al Shannon and Curt Nelson delivered butter and string cheese sticks to the School District of Menomonie Area.

## Congratulations to the Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Dunn County Farm Bureau is excited to announce the four recipients of the 2020 Dunn County Farm Bureau \$250 scholarship.

Dunn County Farm Bureau awards up to four \$250 higher education scholarships each year to graduating seniors. The scholarships are awarded to graduating high school students enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college and is open to students in Dunn County, with preference given to students from Farm Bureau families.

“We are excited to support the future generation of agriculturalists,” said Dunn County Farm Bureau President Marv Prestrud.



**Andrew Zukowski** graduated from Menomonie High School and is the son of Adam and Mary Zukowski. He plans to attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, to major in homeland security.



**Ben Styer** graduated from Menomonie High School and is the son of Dave and Karen Styer. He plans to attend the University of Minnesota to major in animal science and ag and food science.



**Kittrick Singerhouse** graduated from Menomonie High School and is the son of Jesse Singerhouse and Collette Blado. He plans to attend either UW-River Falls or Chippewa Valley Technical College to study agriculture.



**Camryn Christopherson** graduated from Prairie Farm High School and is the daughter of Tim and Callie Christopherson. She plans to attend UW-Stout and major in early childhood education.

# Pierce County

## Elmwood Student Wins Essay Contest

Paige Ginsbach, a fourth-grade student from Elmwood, is the Pierce County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. She is the daughter of Natalie and Joshua Ginsbach. Mr. Klink's is her fourth-grade teacher Elmwood Elementary

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

### Paige's winning essay:

Wisconsin agriculture has affected me and my community by keeping businesses open; schools for kids to learn, churches to learn about God, grocery stores to buy food, and places to provide jobs.

Nearly everything we eat and wear comes from a farm like in my everyday life. Agriculture provides food such as vegetables, maple syrup, fruit and clothing made from cotton fields. Farms also raise animals for consumption such as beef, chicken, pigs, and dairy. We consume many dairy products like milk, cheese, ice cream, butter, and eggs. Agriculture also provides food for wildlife like acorns and berries. Caring for our world is not just the responsibility of farmers.

The air we breathe depends on people planting trees. This is something we all can do to improve the air quality. We can all plant gardens or grow fruit and vegetation, we can plant fruit trees and flowers to attract bees for pollination.

Among other things, agriculture teaches us about caring for things.

Agriculture also teaches us hard work, responsibility and family togetherness. This is why Wisconsin agriculture daily affects what is important to me and my community.

## A Message From the President ...



### Laura Benitz

Pierce County Farm Bureau president

Greetings Farm Bureau members.

Summer has finally shown up and it is amazing all that has taken place from the

last newsletter to now.

Many of you may not have been affected as much by the stay at home order due to COVID-19, where others of you may have wondered how you could get cabin fever in the spring. I want to say congratulations to the moms and dads who became teachers to their children and thank you to grandparents and family members who helped with an unusual finish to the school year.

We also want to congratulate the 2020 graduates. You are entering a new chapter in

your life and you are starting it in a unique way.

I know that there have been other fallouts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as: the drop in commodity prices, cattle sales and unemployment, which have affected families in various degrees.

We are thankful for the Paycheck Protection Program, Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and the Wisconsin Farmers Support Program that have greatly impacted our operations.

We want to thank the bankers, FSA workers and those who have answered questions and those who helped farmers become aware of the programs. I want to thank our WFBF President Joe Bragger for his efforts to make sure farmers are able to get the resources they need. Thank you, Joe, for being our advocate.

Amidst everything going on, our workloads have not changed. The majority of you have finished getting your crops in the field and are working on spraying and getting fertilizer on the crop. First crop hay is up, and you have hauled

manure. Some of you may have contracted commodities, where others are still watching the markets closely.

We thank farmers for the amazing work you do. With odds against us so often, we still fight to do what we love.

I know the last few years have affected us each differently and as dairy farmers, we saw milk prices finally increasing and then to be struck down with the COVID-19 pandemic. Shoppers went into stores to find shelves empty and limits on what could be purchased. What we do day in and day out never seems to be more important.

We have been thankful that we are an essential business, that as so many businesses were forced to shut doors and turn their lights off, that we continued to function.

A quote I found says it well, “The farmer is more than just the person working in the fields and taking care of his animals ... no, the farmer is much more. They are the ones that feed you.” Thank you, farmers, for everything that you do.

## Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Highlighted in Wall Street Journal

The May 15 edition of the Wall Street Journal included an article titled, "The Perfect Prank for These Times: Ding-Dong Ditch Is Back" stating that "Coronavirus lock-downs fuel a return of childhood game—with a twist. Grown-ups get a much-needed dose of nostalgia and mischief; that buildup of anticipation."

One of the ding-dong ditchers featured was none other than local Rural Mutual Insurance agent Leah Saufl. To support dairy farmers, Leah bought 80 one-pound bags of cheese curds from a local creamery. Then she spent a day delivering them ding-dong-ditch style to doorsteps of friends and clients.

"I am used to going to work every day so staying at home I was getting into this rut," Leah shared. "This idea came to me and it brought me purpose and so much joy."



Leah delivered 80 pounds of cheese curds ding-dong ditch-style to friends and clients.

# Polk Burnett

## President's Message



**Chris Owens**

Polk-Burnett Farm Bureau President

Hello. I hope you are doing well with everything going on in the world. I want to update you on what has been happening with Polk-Burnett Farm Bureau.

We made a \$1,000 donation to an organization that is made up of a few fire departments in northern Polk County. The donation helped purchase grain bin rescue equipment and provided training to the volunteer firefighters in the area. This organization has made some of the purchases needed to get the project up and running.

I hope you got the crops in the ground and have wrapped up the first cutting of hay. Now, all we can do is pray for timely rains and some sunshine to help it grow.

With the craziness going on and the unfortunate canceling of county fairs, hopefully you can find things to do as a family. Stay healthy and safe.

## Donations to Local Fire Departments

Cushing, Frederic, Lorain, Luck, Milltown and St. Croix Fire Departments have recognized a high potential for a grain bin rescue in the response areas and are being proactive in forming a response team.

This dedicated team would stock a technical response trailer that would be dispatched at a moment's notice.

Many hours of training will go into forming this team to insure the best positive outcome to the incidents they respond to.

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau donated \$1,000 to the efforts of the fire departments in Polk County to help purchase the needed equipment for the rescue team.



Farm Bureau President Chris Owens presented a donation to help purchase grain bin rescue equipment for local fire departments to Lorain Volunteer Fire Department Chief Matt Ennis.

# Rusk County

## Hazardous Waste Collection and Disposal For Farmers

**Date:** Wednesday, September 2

**Time:** 2 to 7 p.m.

**Location:** Rusk County Highway Shop

Since 1990, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection has provided grants and technical assistance for collecting farm chemical wastes and unwanted pesticides.

Formerly known as the Agricultural Clean Sweep, this program has safely collected nearly three million pounds of chemical and pesticide wastes from active and abandoned farming

operations.

Farmers and rural property owners will be able to take unwanted farm chemicals and pesticides to the annual Clean Sweep program. Abandoned farm operations also may use this program.

To dispose of farm chemicals under Wisconsin Clean Sweep you must be preregister. Ag producers and farmers may dispose of waste chemicals of up to 200 pounds for free. Waste chemicals exceeding 200 pounds will be taken for a fee.

There also will be collections for electronics, appliances, pharmaceuticals, sharps and tires. This is a great opportunity for farmers to get rid of large quantities of tires.

Keep in mind that our pharmaceutical collection also includes veterinary medications and sharps from animals. There are restrictions.

For more information or to pre-register, please contact the Rusk County Recycling Department at 715.532.2167 or visit [www.ruskcounty.org/recycling](http://www.ruskcounty.org/recycling).

## President's Message: Showing Support For Our Local Farmers and Community

**Leslie Svacina**

St. Croix County Farm Bureau president

2020 has been a year for the history books in too many ways to count.

What's been inspiring is seeing our community come together – in the sense of community and within agriculture.

- Our neighbors and community members have increased their purchasing from local farmers who direct market or those who have pivoted to add direct market farm goods to their farm operation.
- Community leaders, like Rich Miller,

stepped up to create a 'cheese curd fund' to help move more cheese to our local food pantries and school food programs.

- The New Richmond FFA continued to carry out this cause in our own county with their Support Local Farms sign campaign, putting 75-yard signs out in the community and raising \$800 for the same fund.
- Our St. Croix County Farm Bureau also purchased cheese to donate to six food shelves in our county.
- On a state level our WFBF leadership has been working non-stop navigating the issues impacting our farmer members as a result of COVID19, working with policymakers



and local Farm Bureau leaders to share the impact and discuss ways to address these issues.

## Area Farmers Offered Incentive Conservation Program

The Western Wisconsin Conservation Council (WWCC) is offering its members several incentive programs to help minimize the risk associated with implementing conservation practices in their farming system.

Applications are due **November 10**.

- Cover crops: \$20 per acre up to 50-acre maximum
- 4-R nutrient stewardship: Up to \$20 per acre, 50-acre maximum
- No till and limited tillage: \$20 per acre up to 50-acre maximum

WWCC also is offering a new grant program to support the use of first-time cover crops. Farmers who have not planted cover crops before but plan to do so in the fall of 2020 can apply to receive funds to help cover the cost of this practice. Applications are due **September 1**, and a simple report must be turned in by **December 1**.

See the application for full details on how to apply. Funds will be awarded to applicants in the order in which applications are received. Thanks to the Nature Conservancy for the generous support to make this program possible.

WWCC membership is no-cost for farmers in the Kinni, Rush or Willow River Watersheds. As a member, you're asked to participate in a confidential well water and soil testing program, complete an annual survey about your farm's conservation practices, and participate in one to two general meetings or field days when possible.

More information about joining and the cost-share programs is at [www.westernwisconsinconservation.org](http://www.westernwisconsinconservation.org).



WESTERN WISCONSIN  
CONSERVATION COUNCIL

## Farm Bureau Donates to Food Pantries

Members of the St. Croix County Farm Bureau donated dairy products to six food pantries within the county.

The food pantries included: Baldwin Food Pantry, River Falls Community

Food Pantry, Zion Lutheran Care Fund in Woodville, Five Loaves of New Richmond, United Church of Christ in Roberts and Somerset Community Food Pantry.



Members of the St. Croix County Farm Bureau donated a \$100 gift card from Kwik Trip for the United Church of Christ Food Pantry to use towards the purchase of milk. Coordinator Roene Frederick accepted the gift card from Melanie Peterson.



Melanie Peterson and Jenny Mueller dropped off a check for \$500 to be used towards the purchase of gift certificates from Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery that will be given to food pantries in St. Croix County. Ellsworth Coop manager, Theresa Boardman accepted the check.

## Peterson Receives Scholarship

**Madison Peterson** has been selected as the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from St. Croix County Farm Bureau. Applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities



and a recommendations from teachers.

Madison graduated from Baldwin Woodville High School. She is the daughter of Jeff and Jodi Peterson. She plans to attend UW-River Falls and major in agriculture business.

Congratulations to Madison. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

## County Essay Contest Winner Announced

Ryan Sell, a fourth-grade student from River Falls Public Montessori, is the St. Croix County winner of the Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. He is the son of Jen and Chris Sell. Mr. Burow is his fourth-grade teacher.

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

### Ryan's winning essay.

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

Agriculture affects my life today because my family eats lots of foods that farmers make. Some examples are wheat, barley, rye and produce. I really like dairy products. Wisconsin in the Dairy State. Here are some dairy products that my family and I like: cheese, milk, cheese curds, cream cheese, butter and ice cream.

I think that COVID-19 has affected Wisconsin's agriculture tremendously. Stores have limited how much you can buy. So farmers get less money because they cannot sell as much dairy. Speaking of dairy, did you now that farmers have actually been having to throw out milk? Because the cows are used to giving regular amounts of milk. They give more than the farmers want or need.

So in the long run, I hope that the economy can go to a new normal and farmers can go back to normal. I'd like everything to go back to normal so everyone can be happy again.



Melanie Peterson and Jenny Mueller presented St. Croix County's essay contest winner Ryan Sell with "Right this Very Minute" signed by the author, Lisl H Detlefson, a \$25 Culver's gift card and a framed certificate. Ryan is looking forward to participating in the contest again next year.

## Sawyer County

### Scholarships Awarded

Sawyer County Farm Bureau is excited to announce they have awarded two \$250 scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Congratulations to Connor Beissel and Jordan Pasanen

We wish you the best in your future endeavors.



Connor Beissel graduated from Winter High School. He plans to attend Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College-Rice Lake and enter the farm operations program and is ready to take on the agriculture field.



Jordan Pasanen graduated from Winter High School. He plans to attend Fox Valley Technical College for their agriculture management and science technology or agribusiness program.

## Superior Shores

### Farm Bureau Awards Scholarship

Joseph Tuttle has been selected as the recipient of the 2020 Superior Shores Farm Bureau scholarship.

Applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and a recommendation from a teacher.

Joseph was involved in many school and community activities including: Cross county, nordic skiing, drama/music, track and field and 4-H to name a few.

Congratulations, Joseph. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.



Joseph graduated from Drummond High School and is the son of Andrew and Kelli Tuttle. He plans to attend Purdue University to major in agriculture and minor in Portuguese.

### Dairy Donations to Celebrate June Dairy Month

Superior Shores Farm Bureau dropped off a \$500 check at Benoit Cheese.

The donation will be used to purchase cheese and other dairy products for the BRICK Food Pantry.

Superior Shores Farm Bureau represents farmers and agriculturists in Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Iron counties.



Superior Shores Farm Bureau President Gregg Johnson dropped off a donation with Jill of Benoit Cheese. Benoit Cheese will use the funds to purchase dairy products and set up delivery of those products to the BRICK Food Pantry.



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

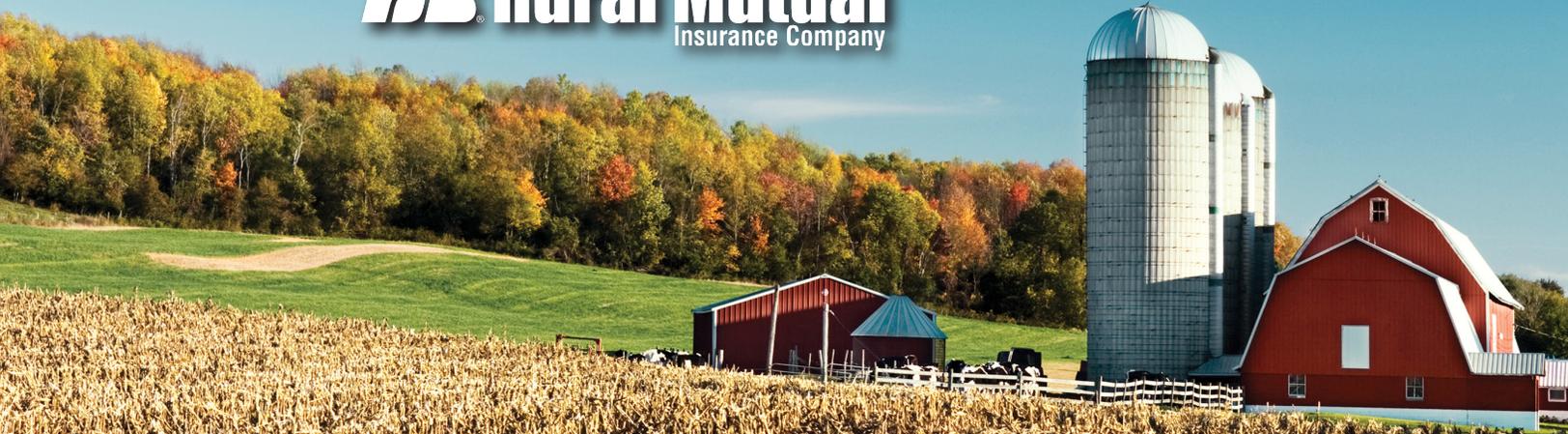
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- Barron County
- Dunn County
- Pierce County
- Polk Burnett
- Rusk County
- St. Croix County
- Sawyer County
- Superior Shores

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