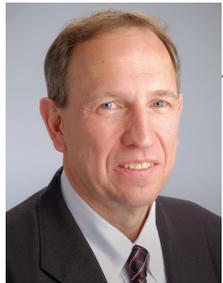




Grassroots

District 2 News

District 2 Director Report



Arch Morton Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again fellow District 2 Farm Bureau members, I hope you are doing well. I want to congratulate the six counties in

District 2 on a great job of planning and conducting your annual meetings. Some were held in person, some through video conferencing and some with the option of being there in person or joining virtually. They were all a success. I enjoyed each one of them. Congratulations.

The pandemic has certainly forced us to make many changes. Most of the county and district meetings, since March, have been conducted by video conferences and conference calls. All of our WFBF Board Meetings have been held virtually since mid-March. Even the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be held virtually this December. I appreciate the way that our county Farm Bureaus and our staff have been able to adapt and adjust.

As we make our way through this strange year of 2020, January is not far away. January is very important for town governments as it is when caucuses are held to nominate candidates for town boards. We need to have people who understand agriculture on these boards, making the decisions that affect us. I am in my 22nd year on our town board. Our board believes strongly in agriculture. If your community is not well represented by farmers and agribusiness people, then I urge you to run for town board, county board of supervisors or school board. Farm Bureau members make great board members.

I hope you are having a safe and prosperous harvest season. It is my pleasure to serve as your District 2 Director. See you soon.

Golf Outing Fundraiser Raised Nearly \$6,600

By Sam Skemp, chair

I want to give you an update on the outcome of our District 2 fundraising activities for this past year. Before I get into the details of our activities, I want to remind you how the funds are utilized. The funds raised are used for: College student scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, farm safety demonstrations, agriculture promotions, legislative and local affairs committee activities within our counties.

This year was quite the challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic we are facing. With the restrictions Dane County put in place, we would not have been able to hold our outing as we planned. We would not have been able to hold some of the fundraising contests. We would not have been able to hold a shotgun start or have a gathering after golf. By eliminating the gathering after golf, we would have had to do away with our silent auction, which is a major part of the fundraiser.

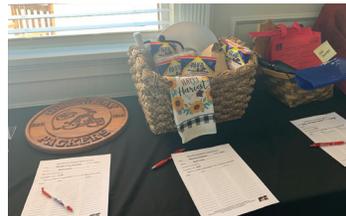
With that in mind, we made the decision to move the outing to Kestrel Ridge in Columbus, which is owned by the The Oaks Golf Course. By moving into Columbia County, we were able to hold our outing close to normal. We took many safety precautions throughout the day including face masks and social distancing while inside the building if people were up and moving around. We had hand sanitizer stations located throughout the outing.

I am pleased to report that our annual golf outing held at the Kestrel Ridge Golf Course was a success. The event took place on August 11. The weather was great, and a fun time was had by all. There were hole events, 50/50 raffle, silent auction prizes, ball toss and a putting contest. We raised almost \$6,600 dollars with the money going back to the District 2 counties based on participation.

I thank everyone who participated in the golf event by either golfing or donating prizes, sponsoring a hole or contributing toward the lunch. Thank you to the volunteers who helped throughout the day. Without your help, the event would not have been as successful as it was.



Jeremy Skemp



The funds raised from the golf outing, including the silent auction, are used to support many county activities.



Julie Sweney, Dodge County Farm Bureau director, bid on a silent auction item.



The winning team was from Rock County including: Matt Severence, Josh Michel, Derek Leckwee and Nick Larson.

Serving on the WFBF and AFBF Promotion and Education Committees



Andrea Brossard

WFBF and AFBF Promotion and Education Committee

For those of you I have yet to meet, I am a third-generation dairy farmer from Beaver Dam, located in Dodge County. I represent District 2 on the Promotion and Education Committee for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation covering Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk counties.

In addition, I serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Promotion and Education Committee. To date, this journey and experience has been so rewarding. While 2020 has brought many different challenges, our promotional efforts and engagement continue to excel through our state and national committee work.

As a committee we want to hear from you ... our members. We are continuing to develop and expand our Playbook. The Playbook is a working document filled with Farm Bureau activities, events and programs. During the past year, I've worked with many of you to submit 'plays' for the AWESOME programs you are doing within your counties and throughout the district. I will continue to request 'plays' and encourage you to share your successful programs.

This year so many amazing events were held that made an impact in the agriculture community, built solid relationships and grew membership.

To share a few:

- Leadership Boot Camp in November 2019: Working with the media.
- 2019 WFBF Annual Meeting activities: Food drive, author Lisl Detlefsen book signing.
- 2020 Mental Health Awareness mini-series.

Save the Date

- Ag LEAD Summit: **Mar. 12-13, 2021**



Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic Announced

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is kicking off the 2020-2021 school year by announcing the Book of the Year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" written by Peggy Thomas.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state.

This year's essay contest topic is, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

Thomas' book also is the American Farm Bureau Foundation's Book of the Year and has an educator's guide developed for it. Accompanying lessons aligned to educational standards and Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

This topic will enable teachers and students to use the Soybean Science Kits to learn about how soybeans grow and connect to science.

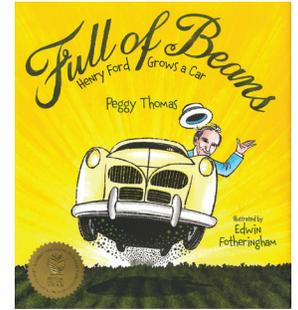
"There is so much behind the Henry Ford story and his connection to agriculture," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "The book looks at how Henry Ford grew up on a farm and searched for ways to use soybeans in the car plant, in his diet and in other ways. The essay contest focuses on how soybeans continue to be used and how they impact Wisconsin's economy."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due April 1, 2021.

The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class. Last year, more than 1,500 students participated in the contest.

As we move into 2021, we all pray for a brighter and better future! I look forward to working with you in the coming months and year to build on educating and promoting Wisconsin agriculture and Farm Bureau. We are Stronger Together.



How to Navigate Agriculture's Needs Discussed at Policy Development Meeting



Joshua Schenk

District 2 Policy Development Representative

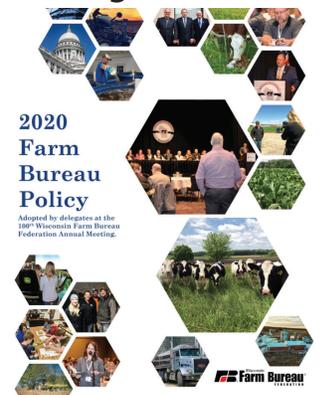
This year, the challenges we have faced are historic and have affected each of our farms and members in different ways.

The disparities we have experienced can add additional challenge when discussing policy and how to best navigate for our collective needs.

The virtual District 2 policy development meeting that was held on July 23 highlighted differences and more importantly the combined resolve we as Farm Bureau members have for the betterment to our members.

The events that transpired so far have encouraged us to think differently about our food systems, customers we market product to, supply chains and inevitably the end consumers and their experiences.

I am encouraged by the discussion and comments from the District 2 meeting and that there will be many relevant resolutions drafted to continue the progression of our organization's policy.



An Update on the YFA Conference: November 30–December 5



Emily Johnson
District 2 YFA Representative

Since my video update for our county annual meetings, the Excellence in Ag finalists have been announced: Kellie Zahn, Shawano County; Julie Wadzinski, Baron County; Stephanie Abts, Manitowoc County; and Natasha Paris, Green Lake County.

Excellence in Ag presentations can be viewed virtually on **Nov. 16**. Congratulations and good luck.

Registration for the Discussion Meet closed on Oct. 23. Discussion

Meet rounds will be held virtually on **Nov. 4, 11, 13 and 18**. The final four will be announced **Nov. 20** and the final contest will be held **Dec. 5**. For more information, you can see the details on Facebook or contact me.

Workshops will be held daily **Dec. 1-6**. They will be in real time or you can watch the recorded version on the Facebook event page at <http://bit.ly/2020YFAconf>. If you have questions about the virtual YFA Conference or the YFA program, please contact me.

Also, congratulations to District 2 Farm Bureau members who were selected to participate in the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute including: Paige Blair, Brooklyn; Logan Frei, Janesville; Shawn Monien, Beaver Dam; Kat Nissen, Rock Springs; and Tess Zettle, Juda.

Dane County

wfbf.com/about/counties/dane
DaneCountyFarmBureau

Annual Meeting Goes Virtual Amid Pandemic

By Scott Eastwood, annual meeting co-chair

The 2020 Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Oct. 8. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the decision was made to conduct the meeting virtually.

In total 27 guests were in attendance, including 24 voting members. Due to the virtual environment, attendees were treated to a Culver's gift card.

Mike Duerst, Lindsey Hellenbrand and Nicole Hibbard were re-elected to continue serving on the board of directors. Brandon Larson, who previously held the position of YFA chair, was also elected as a director. Kadi Walsh, who previously served as the Ag Promotions co-chair, was elected as YFA chair. Sarah Shimshak also joined the board as the ag promotions chair. Congratulations Kadi and Sarah. Kody Haag chose not to seek re-election. We thank him for his participation and contributions to the board.

Delegates for the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting were elected. By unanimous ballot the 10 delegates were: Jerry Bradley, Roger Cohee, Kevin Connors, Jerry Derr, Mike Duerst, Scott Eastwood, Dennis Jesberger, Chuck Ripp, Jeremy Skemp and Sam Skemp.

The following resolutions were adopted:

State

- We support USDA licensed and inspected agricultural and research businesses. We oppose municipalities (including but not limited to Townships, Villages, Cities or other governing body) from making laws/ordinances which interfere with agricultural and research businesses.

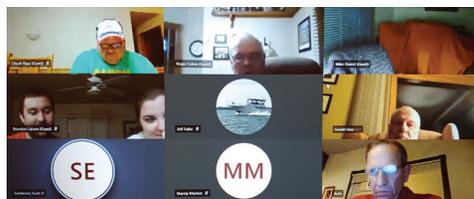
General Government – (subsection)

- We support the right of all teachers and support staff to perform their duties in a safe work environment. *Education – Elementary and Secondary*
- We strongly support accelerated implementation of expanded high quality cellular, broadband, fiber optic and telecommunication coverage in rural areas to enhance rural education and agribusiness needs.

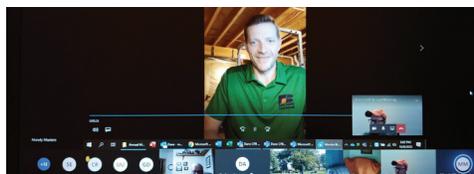
Federal

- We support updating prevented plant and crop insurance guidelines on claims of 20 acres or less to allow for payment on any claim so long as at least 5-8% of a farmer's acres are affected. Sec. 225 p. 26 (1.2.30)

Thank you to the members of the board for their efforts and accomplishments this past year. Thank you to those in attendance for the meeting.



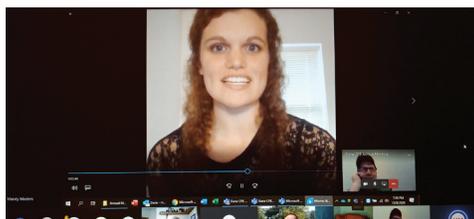
Dane County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting completely virtual on Oct. 8.



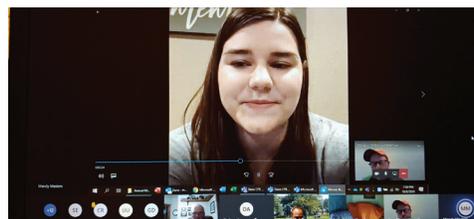
Scott Eastwood, building committee chair, reported the Dane County Farm Bureau building has an accepted offer with closing soon.



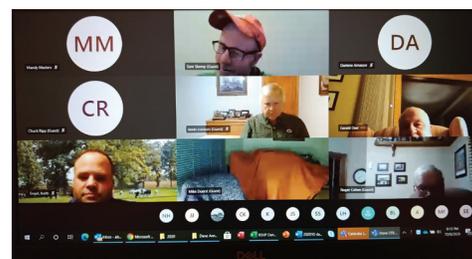
Alissa Grenawalt, Ag in the Classroom coordinator through a partnership between Dane County Extension and Dane County Farm Bureau, provided a video report.



Kadi Walsh, ag promotions co-chair, shared a video report about the virtual scavenger hunt during the Dane County Fair.



Lindsey Hellenbrand, ag promotions co-chair, reported on a successful Milk and Cookies with Santa event held last December.



Virtual Scavenger Hunt

By Kadi Walsh, ag promotions co-chair

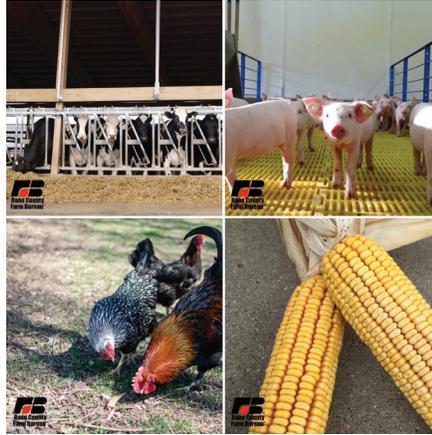
Summer is usually busy promoting agriculture at breakfast on the farm and at the Lodi Agricultural Fair and Dane County Fair.

Although the Dane County Fair was not held in person this year, the ag promotions committee was still able to provide a scavenger hunt for fair goers to participate in online.

The virtual Dane County Farm Bureau ag scavenger hunt featured fun facts and trivia questions, as well as encouraged participants to post a picture of their favorite products that come from a variety of agricultural sources including dairy cows, pigs, chickens and corn.

A winner was randomly selected each of the four days to receive a gift card to either Culver's or Sassy Cow Creamery for participating.

We are grateful for those who participated and are appreciative of the opportunity to promote agriculture in an alternative format. We look forward to hopefully having the scavenger hunt and other summer activities in person next year.



DANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU VIRTUAL AG SCAVENGER HUNT

Today's hunt is to find a product you love that comes from pigs! From leather to crayons to pork chops, it shouldn't be hard to find; with a wide variety of products, we are able to use almost everything- "everything but the oink!" Post a picture using the hashtag #DaneCoAgHunt to be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to Sassy Cow Creamery or Culver's!!

ALSO, receive additional drawing entries by posting the correct answer to each of the questions below in the comments.

1. Are pigs herbivores, omnivores, or carnivores?
2. True or False: Pigs are known to be very smart
3. Which sport is historically known for using a ball made from the skin of a pig?

Dane County Farm Bureau & YFAs will be selecting and contacting the winner for each day of their Virtual Ag Scavenger Hunt.

Radl Awarded With \$1,000 Scholarship

Carson Radl is from Roxbury and is a junior at the UW-La Crosse where he studies accounting and finance as a double major. He is actively involved in student organizations including the professional business fraternity and president of the Investment Club.

After graduation, Carson plans to pursue a CPA license and hopes to help and serve the agricultural industry while working with his passions of accounting and finance.

From growing up farming, to helping his dad deliver seed and run his agronomy business and being an active member of Sauk Prairie High School's FFA chapter, Carson hopes to continue to make a difference in his community and make a positive impact in agriculture.



Meet: Sarah Shimshak, Ag Promotions Chair

Hi, my name is Sarah Shimshak. I am from Lodi. I went to school at the UW-Platteville where I began my involvement with Farm Bureau at the collegiate level.

I live in DeForest. I am working for a dairy company formerly known as AgSource Cooperative, which is now VAS, on the east side of Madison.

I can't wait to get back involved with Farm Bureau and continue meeting the wonderful people who are involved in the agriculture community.



New Partnership for Ag in the Classroom Program

Dane County Extension is excited to partner with the Dane County Farm Bureau to offer the Ag in the Classroom program.

The goal of Ag in the Classroom is to increase teachers and K-12 students understanding of how their food is produced, increase awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, increase safety of youth on the farm, and introduce youth to career opportunities in agriculture.

Alissa Grenawalt has been hired as the Ag in the Classroom Educational Program Coordinator. Alissa hales from Beloit, where she grew up on her family's beef and crop farm in the southwest corner of Rock County. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in animal science and agriculture industries from UW-Platteville.

In this new position, Grenawalt will teach Ag in the Classroom



educational programs in Dane County schools and coordinate farm safety educational events.

She will work closely with Dane County schools, Extension educators and other ag-related organizations to build partnerships, improve on farm safety and promote agriculture awareness and understanding in Dane County.

To learn more about the Ag in the Classroom program, you can contact Grenawalt at grenawalt.alissa@countyofdane.com.



SILO Viewing Raises Farm Safety Awareness

By Alison Kepner, safety committee member

The Dane County Farm Bureau Safety Committee hosted a virtual screening of the film, SILO, on Oct. 4.

SILO is the first feature film about a grain bin entrapment. SILO was created by independent film producers in conjunction with the Grain Handling Safety Coalition to bring awareness to this very important farm safety topic.

The film producers created this film with the intention that it would be viewed as an in-person community screening. As most people know, 2020 has changed a lot of plans but luckily the producers pivoted and created a virtual viewing experience for 500 IP addresses to view at one time.

The timing of this idea aligned with a matching grant application window from Division of Extension and then COVID-19 hit and plans were put on hold for a few months. As the film producers allowed for virtual viewings in late summer 2020, the topic was re-visited to host a virtual showing right as harvest was beginning.

We wanted to keep the topic fresh in farmers mind as they unload their grain and work to keep everyone safe this harvest season.

SILO's story centers around Cody Rose, an 18-year-old who is entrapped in a grain bin half full of corn, trying to help save a fellow employee from being sucked under the corn.

If lockout/tag out and communication procedures had been in place, this accident would never have happened. Cody is trapped for several hours as a nearby fire department brings the only available cofferdams to try to save Cody.

The story also provides insight into multi-generational farming, grief, alcoholism, dementia and support from community members.

Registration for the virtual screening started in late August and by show time there were 141 email addresses registered to view the film. It ended up being a beautiful afternoon so not all who registered viewed the film.

Film producers were able to see that 110 IP addresses were tuned in. A post event survey was sent out to capture the number of individuals and while not all surveys were returned an estimated 150 plus individuals viewed the screening.

In the post event survey registered attendees were asked what their key

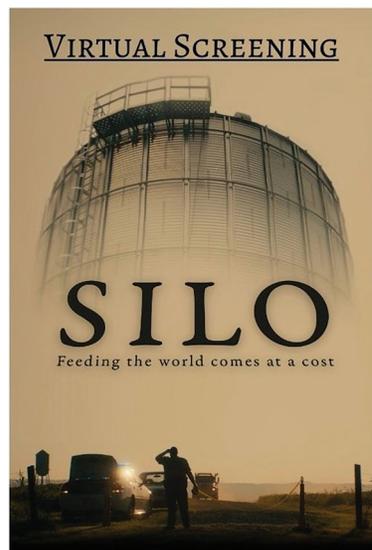
take-aways were from this farm safety film. We have included a few screenshots of the responses below.

This event was free and open to all participants. You did not have to be a Dane County resident or a Farm Bureau member to view the film. The majority of the viewers were Wisconsin residents, but a few tuned in from Illinois, Colorado, Missouri and even California thanks to family and friends spreading the word about this event.

Following the 70-minute virtual screening, a live Q&A was hosted on Microsoft Teams. There were four panelists: Mark Baker of Stateline Farm Rescue; Cheryl Skjolaas of Division of Extension; Pat O'Brien, local farmer and entrapment survivor; and Brad Pecora of United Cooperative.

About 30 individuals joined the Q&A for the hour duration. SILO film producers and the Grain Handling Safety Coalition developed a Community Discussion Guide for the follow-up Q&A. We focused on the questions from this guide regarding Safety, Identification, Legacy and Learning and Outreach. The panelists and audience provided many resources for entrapment rescue training and equipment for first responders.

This event would not have been possible without the financial support from the Dane County Farm Bureau safety committee, Division of Extension, Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Grinnell Mutual Insurance and United Cooperative.



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How critical it is that we ensure our farmers are taking proper safety measures, EACH time they enter a confined space, and how critical it is that we make the sure the first responders are aware of proper response and have the equipment required to save the injured.

- Jackie Bratz

It is of utmost importance to follow & implement safety protocols, such as lock out, tag out when performing an activity that can cause serious injury or death. There's no such thing as too cautious.

- Kadence Walsh

I'm stunned. My mind will never be the same after watching this film. Not only the safety aspects, but the mental health, aging adults and small town feels made it all so much more real.

- Jenny Martin

Helped show our kids (7 & 9) the importance of grain bin safety as we just installed our first grain bin on our property.

- Katie Duthie

Farm safety is always important! There cannot be enough emphasis put on preparing for a situation you hopefully never have to encounter.

- Alissa Grenawalt

Participants are forever changed and become our greatest farm safety advocates by the viewing of SILO.

A Message From the President ...



Josh Schenk
Green County Farm Bureau president

Fall harvest started early for many of us and provided relief compared with the prior few years. This has helped to raise our spirits in a year that brought much uncertainty to agriculture. Thank you for your dedication as farmers working through this year's unexpected events.

Thank you for your continued support to Farm Bureau and to the new members who joined our influential organization. Green County Farm Bureau has continued membership growth and because of your dedication has one of the highest member retentions in the state. This growth would not be possible without the efforts from each individual and our Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents who signed new members this year. Thank you.

This year, WFBF and AFBF have been hard at work leading industry organizations and working with Congress and Wisconsin State Senate to assure our farms, agribusinesses and rural communities have access to support funding during these uncertain and challenging times. Our members often enjoy socializing, getting together and look forward to attending Farm Bureau events. Green County Farm Bureau held a successful in person annual meeting and other virtual events; I encourage you to read each report.

Like the change in season from summer to fall, Green County Farm Bureau director rolls also have changed. I am encouraged by the interest of young leadership to guide our organization and look forward to the year ahead as Green County Farm Bureau president.

Wishing you a safe bountiful harvest and happy holiday season.

YFA Game Night

By Erin Marchant, YFA chair

Although the YFA committee did not proceed with planning our second annual go-kart night at Sugar River Raceway due to the pandemic, we were able to provide a virtual game night in place of the event.

As many farmers were eager to get out in the fields, a small group of board directors were joined by two Dane County Farm Bureau members and used the HouseParty application to test our skills at games such as trivia and Apples to Apples. It was a great opportunity for members to network and share ideas with others from a different county while having a healthy competition.

Thank you to those members who attended YFA events throughout the 2019-2020 year. The Green County Farm Bureau YFA committee is hoping to continue to plan in person events, with the proper safety precautions, throughout this coming year.



YFA members enjoyed a virtual game night as a way to socialize during COVID-19; from upper left corner: Sarah Shimshak, Kadence Walsh, Amy Silver, Erin Marchant and Paige Blair.

"Crisis Doesn't Create Character, It Reveals It."



Ben Huber
Former Green County Farm Bureau president

To say 2020 has been an unprecedented year is an understatement. We have experienced new challenges and continue to each day. As people, we react differently to adversity, and I can honestly say I could not be prouder of how the Wisconsin Farm Bureau organization and its members have reacted

to the challenges of today.

President Bragger and the rest of the WFBF board and management staff have spent many hours working to inform, support and advocate for our members. From weekly email updates to calls with the nation's leaders to timely inspirational messages, the leaders of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation stepped up to the challenges our members faced and met them head on.

By no means are the challenges we face complete. One of my favorite quotes is, "Crisis doesn't create character, it reveals it." The character of our organization has been revealed through this crisis, and it is as strong as our membership. We continue to advocate for agricultural policy that protects and preserves the items we as farmers and agriculturists hold the dearest. We face challenges with a desire to learn and grow through them but face them with a tenacity and commitment to lead through change.

I have never been prouder to represent Wisconsin Farm Bureau and while challenges certainly lie ahead, so does great opportunity. As WFBF President Joe Bragger says, Forward Together.

Essay Contest and Coloring Contest Winners

By Tess Zettle, chair

This year, Green County Farm Bureau received seven essays to be judged. Green County essay contest winners read their winning essays during the county annual meeting.

The winners included: Heidi Olson, first place; Olivia Brooks, second place; and Audrianna Schraufnagel, third place.

We held a coloring contest and received 75 entries. The winners included: Brynlee Roelli, first place; Alexa Altmann, second place; and Amirah Parker, third place.



Rural Mutual agent Craig Kamholz and Green County essay contest coordinator Tess Zettle presented awards to (from left): Audrianna Schraufnagel, Heidi Olson and Olivia Brooks.



The coloring contest winner, Brynlee Roelli, was the first place recipient.

Annual Meeting Celebrates Agriculture and Emerging Leaders

By Ben Huber, past president

Another year has passed, and another Green County Annual Meeting is in the books. Like many events in 2020, our annual event was different than in years past. We battled last minute venue changes that resulted in a menu change and a few logistics nightmares. It was hosted on a cold, rainy night and in a building at the fairgrounds with no heat, so we were all a little chilly in the end; however, like many things in agriculture we prevailed through challenges and had a nice evening of networking and information sharing with our fellow Farm Bureau members.

We started things off by having the winners of the essay contest read their essays to the crowd. With the dairy breakfast being canceled, we thought it appropriate to provide the winners an opportunity to read aloud, and they delivered.

Board elections also took place and we are pleased to welcome back Carmen Montgomery to the board. Tess Zettle and Erin Marchant also were re-appointed to the positions of Promotion and Education Committee chair and YFA Committee chair. The membership also re-elected Amy Silver and Paige Blair, whose terms were up.

As we moved through the evening, we addressed several policy issues and had seven resolutions pass the annual meeting and move onward to the state policy committee for approval. I am very proud of Green County Farm Bureau's commitment to ag policy and fighting for our farmers. While there is always work to be done, rest assured our policy committee has represented us well with resolutions that are relevant and could be impactful as we approach the spring legislative session.

Following our robust resolution session, Debi Towns, WFBF Senior Director of Government Relations, discussed several upcoming policy topics that are forth coming from the state legislature. We are obviously coming through another election cycle and have several candidate options

up for re-election. She also discussed several policy pieces in the works, particularly items around water quality and nutrient management that we need to stay focused on throughout this legislative session.

Craig Kamholz was named the 2020 Green County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture for his commitment to the Green County ag community and his selfless acts of kindness throughout the community. Craig has been helping people in any way possible through the pandemic and is very deserving of the 2020 Friend of Agriculture award.

We concluded the evening with the re-organization of the board, and in Green County we have a lot of new and exciting leaders rising to the occasion. I retired as president and Josh Schenk was elected into that role. Josh has been with Green County Farm Bureau for six years and is an active member of the farming and ag business community who will be an excellent president. We also elected a new vice president: Paige Blair; and new secretary/treasurer: Amy Silver.

These individuals are emerging leaders in the Farm Bureau organization and ag community. It's wonderful to see these people step up to the opportunity. I look forward to continuing my service on the board and seeing where this group leads our organization.

Thank you again to our membership and to those who make it possible for Green County Farm Bureau to be successful. Please help me congratulate the new board members and leadership team in our county.



Josh Schenk, Policy Development committee chair and District 2 Policy Development Representative, led the policy resolutions discussion.



Debi Towns, WFBF Senior Director of Government Relations, discussed several upcoming policy topics that are forth coming from the state legislature.



Dustin Williams led the board of director and delegate election during the Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



President Ben Huber and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed members to the county annual meeting during registration.



President Ben Huber recognized Craig Kamholz as the 2020 Green County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture for his commitment to the Green County ag community and his selfless acts of kindness throughout the community.

Meet: Carmen Montgomery, Board Director



I live in Argyle with my husband, Clint, and three kids: Hayden, Faith and Nora. My husband and his family operate a dairy and beef farm in addition to growing alfalfa, corn and beans. I work for the School District of Argyle as the business and computer teacher. I serve as the District 2 Youth Ag Summit chair and I have helped organize and chair the Green County Farm Bureau Rural Safety Day since it was established in 2017. After taking a few years off from serving on the board, I am excited to be back working with this wonderful group of people and to help this organization continue to grow.

Connect With Us

By Amy Silver, communication committee chair

How to stay connected with Green County Farm Bureau?

1. Like us on Facebook. We feature activities/events that we participate in and bring attention to industry updates.
2. Tune into WEKZ 93.7 FM every Monday morning from 7:50 to 8 a.m. to hear one of our board directors speak on upcoming events, industry and field condition updates.
3. Watch your mailbox three times per year for the District 2 newsletter where Green County features area agricultural news and upcoming events.

Rock County

A Message From the President ...



Jill Uhe
Rock County Farm Bureau president

Typically, we associate 2020 with perfect vision and clarity. Many of us have used the phrase "hindsight is always 20/20." I don't know about you, but for me, 2020 has been anything but perfect and there

has certainly been a lack of clarity ... or has there?

A year ago, we were gearing up for one of the wettest harvests we have had. Flooding plagued much of the Mid-West, crop prices were not where we expected them to be, stress was high and it seemed there wasn't enough time for everything we wanted to do. We said 2020 has got to be better.

We turned the calendar in January with hope and optimism. For some of us, our calendars were filling with the calendar fillers, "things we've always done." Then we hit the middle of March, the rest of the world seemed to stop, but like every other year, agriculture kept going. Seeds were sown into the ground while prices plummeted.

Our processing chains were tested, and the weak links were quick to spot. Customer appreciation events that were once a social event were anything but social if they even happened. Life slowed down, and we found a renewed sense of appreciation for things we once took for granted.

Despite so many changes happening, schools closing, and businesses shut down, agriculture remained the steady heartbeat of America. Our consumers realized they needed farmers more than ever before. The impact agriculture has on local economies was evident by the businesses that were deemed essential because they helped to support agriculture. Isn't this the clarity we have been asking for? Haven't we been asking for our consumers to understand where their food comes from?

As we head into fall and close out 2020, don't forget to see the clarity 2020 has brought. The areas of opportunity in agriculture were highlighted, don't let the fog get in the way of your 20/20 vision. Thank you for being part of agriculture.

Ag in the Classroom to Host Externship Adventure Program

By Sheila Everhart, County Ag in the Classroom chair

Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom initiative is accepting applications from educators, counselors, librarians or curriculum specialists for the **July 13-14, 2021**, hands-on agriculture Summer Bus Externship Program to be held in Green and Rock counties.



Rock County Ag in the Classroom agricultural education program provides free, hands-on and interactive agricultural information, following current curriculum standards, that make learning about food, farming and careers in agriculture fun. Rock County Ag in the Classroom initiative has received a grant to work in collaboration with the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program during this exciting two-day externship adventure visiting Wisconsin farms, processors and agricultural businesses. The externship stops include: Wegmueller Dairy Farm, tours and farm stay; Emmi Roth Kase, cheese processor; GC Seeds, industrial hemp grower; Hawks Mill Winery; National Historic Cheesemaking Center; Larson Acres, Inc., dairy farm; Blackhawk Technical College; and Kuhn North America Inc., farm implement manufacturer.

This Externship Program is limited to 10 Rock County educators, librarians, counselors or curriculum specialists. A commitment to attending both days and riding on the bus is required. To request an application and more information, please contact Sheila Everhart, county Ag in the Classroom coordinator at 608.774.1354 or sheilageverhart@gmail.com. Application deadline is **Dec. 30**.

SKELLY'S SIPS AND SUNFLOWERS

BY LAUREN MCCANN, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

For the second year, Rock County Farm Bureau was asked to partner with Skelly's Farm Market to host the Sips and Sunflowers event. With a focus on highlighting Rock County, Skelly's opened a few acres of sunflowers for 300 attendees, providing the perfect opportunity to take photos, enjoy a glass of wine from a Janesville winery, Fermenting Cellars, and listen to music from local talent Steve Weber. Food also was provided by local food trucks Route 26 Hamburger Stand and South Padre Seafood. Thanks to tour volunteers and Skelly's staff, we raised more than \$3,000 for scholarships. We appreciate those who attended to support Rock County Farm Bureau and Skelly's Farm Market. This event would not be possible without you.



Business, Fun at the County Annual Meeting

By Mary Hookham, executive director and chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at the Elks Lodge in Janesville on Sept. 28. Of the 37 people in attendance, 27 were voting members. President Jill Uhe recognized Arch Morton Jr. as the top membership worker and Danial Stevens as the top Rural Mutual Insurance agent for signing new members.

The Distinguished Service Award was given to Chris Bettenhausen; Friend of the Farm Bureau Award was given to Deb Kolste; and Trailblazer Award was given to Mary Hookham. Sheila Everhart is the new Promotion and Education chair while Brooke Trustem is the

new Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair. Kirk Leach, Derek Leckwee, Josh Peterson and Jill Uhe were elected for a three-year term on the board of directors. WFBF Annual Meeting delegates include: Jacob Bobolz, Logan Frei, Mary Hookham, Emily Johnson and Jill Uhe; alternates are Tim Wellnitz, Lauren McCann and Sheila Everhart. Although there was plenty of discussion at the policy development meeting earlier in the year, the county had no resolutions for members to vote on.

After handling essential business, guest speaker Kim Fons lightened the mood with some improvisation activities that caused an abundance of laughter. Kim is president and founder of Blue Wysteria Coaching and

Consulting and is a certified professional coach. Her background is in leadership development and professional training. Her passion is to inspire the people around her to create positive, powerful change in their communities.

Door prize baskets contained all-donated items from Skarda Maple Farms, Hughes Farms, Northleaf Winery, Skelly's Farm Market, Anchor Inn, artist Larry Schultz, Raven's Wish, CSB Art, Country Quality Dairy, Apple Hut, Gray Brewing Company and Country Pride Meats. Dorothy Zanzinger and Kirk Leach won a door prize basket. Rock County Farm Bureau wants to thank the annual meeting sponsors: Sauk Valley Bank, State Bank of Cross Plains, United Cooperative and George Auction Service.



The Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting was on Sept. 28 at the Elks Lodge in Janesville with a virtual option due to COVID-19 for those who wanted to join from the comfort of their homes.



Guest speaker Kim Fons, president and founder of Blue Wysteria Coaching and Consulting, lightened the mood with improvisation activities that caused an abundance of laughter.

Meet: New County Board Directors



Derek Leckwee

I come from a small beef farm east of Milton where I graduated high school in 2007. Upon graduation, I attended UW-Platteville and pursued a bachelor's degree in agribusiness. I've worked in agronomy ever since. I'm excited to get myself and my family more involved in Farm Bureau, and help be a voice for agriculture in Rock County and Wisconsin.



Josh Peterson

My wife and I own a 60-acre farm north of Footville. I work full-time as a water operator for the city of Janesville and farm 'on the side.' We have three children: A five-year-old daughter and two-year-old twin boys. I am willing to serve on the board in hopes to educate younger generations about the importance of farming and how crucial it is to continue to support farms/farmers.

Sheila Everhart, Promotion and Education chair

Sheila Everhart and her husband Dennis reside in Janesville Township and have two sons: Michael and Mathew and five grandchildren. Dennis and Mathew operate Everhart Farms where they raise beef cattle, and grow corn and soybeans. Sheila loves helping students learn about farming and career opportunities in agriculture. She chairs the Ag in the Classroom and Scholarship committees and co-chaired the Fair Food Stand subcommittee. Sheila is serving her third term as president of the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association. She worked 27 years as a teacher and principal for school districts in Alaska and Wisconsin. Sheila earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Whitewater and a master's degree from UW-Madison.



Brooke Trustem, YFA Chair

I am a recent graduate of UW-Madison where I majored in dairy science with a certificate in agriculture business management. After graduation, I accepted a position with BouMatic, a dairy supply company in Madison, as their marketing and sales coordinator. I live in Evansville where I am the sixth generation on my family's dairy farm, Larson Acres. I am excited to take on the position as YFA chair and bring a new activities to the position and showcase Rock County and what it has to offer at the state level.



Congratulations, Scholarship Recipients

By Sheila Everhart, scholarship committee chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau board of directors thanks Skelly's Farm Market and the volunteers that helped make the Sips and Sunflowers event possible. The Skelly's Sips and Sunflower event funded our 2020 scholarship program when other fundraising efforts were not possible.

In order to be eligible for the 2020 Rock County Farm Bureau scholarship, the student needs to be a member of Farm Bureau or a parent must be a member of Farm Bureau if the student is younger than 21 years old. Recipients must have completed their first year of college or technical school, and have at least a 2.5 grade point average.



Kenny Ballmer is the son of Ronna Morton Ballmer and the late Jerry Ballmer. He graduated from Clinton High School in 2018. Kenny is a junior attending the UW-Platteville pursuing a degree with a double major in agricultural education and tech education. Kenny, also known as #77, plays defensive lineman for the Pioneers. This future farm owner wants to learn about and use practices and techniques to produce the best yields and highest efficiency crops; while sharing his knowledge and passion for agriculture with students and his community.

Hayden Funk is the son of David and Julie Funk. He graduated from Craig High School in 2018. Hayden is a junior at the UW-Platteville majoring in agricultural business. Hayden's goal is to pursue a career in finance or agricultural lending. This fourth-generation dairy farmer works alongside his mom and dad and has a desire to take over the family farm.



Anne Runde is the daughter of Diane Runde Morgan and the late Brian Runde. Anne is a 2018 graduate of Craig High School. She is a junior at the UW-Madison majoring in agricultural business with a certificate in entrepreneurship. Anne works at a small plant and floral shop in Madison. This floral shop was shut down due to COVID-19 and then by protests. Anne also operates a small flower business called Anne's Flowers. This entrepreneur has gained a share in the County's Calla Lily bulbs direct-to-consumer market. She also grows and sells fresh flowers at local farmers' markets and wholesale to florists. Her desire is to own a small greenery and farm to table restaurant.



Sauk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sauk
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County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

By Tommy Brennan, annual meeting committee co-chair



President Mike Turner led the Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

The 2020 Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at White Mound County Park on Aug. 27 and consisted of 36 people in attendance and 23 voting members. The meeting was

called to order at 7:05 p.m. Special thanks to Ken and Tammy Nolden for sponsoring the annual meeting dinner for members.

Attendees included people from Wisconsin Farm Bureau, Rural Mutual Insurance, Senator Howard Marklein and Representative Tony Kurtz and guest speaker Sid Cook, owner of Carr Valley Cheese.

Cook gave a very interesting presentation regarding his family's cheese businesses and where they are headed. Sid spoke of how

the businesses have grown in employee numbers and varieties of cheeses produced, and locations. There is a lot in the works for continued growth for this Sauk County agribusiness. Thank you, Sid.

Minutes of the 2019 Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting were approved, along with the annual financial report.

There were five seats up for election and with the cast of a unanimous vote, Galen Alwin, Tommy Brennan, Karen Reisinger, Mike Turner and Ken Nolden were re-elected. Brady Peper was approved to serve as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair for 2020.

Delegates that were elected to represent Sauk County Farm Bureau during the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting include Galen Alwin, Peter Giese, Kat Nissen, Ken Nolden, Karen Reisinger and Mike Turner. Alternates include Jamie Haag



Sid Cook, owner of Carr Valley Cheese, gave an interesting presentation about his family's cheese businesses.

and Eunice Yanke.

There was a resolution presented and passed that reads: We support country of origin labeling for all agriculture products intended for human consumption.

County committee reports were shared in the booklet available to those who attended.

Scholarship recipients included: Olivia Davis of Lodi, Rachel Lichte of Baraboo and Tiffany Neuheisel of Spring Green.

Videos from Kim Pokorny, WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Joe Bragger, WFBF President and Emily Johnson, District 2 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Representative were shown. Arch Morton Jr. reported on WFBF's accomplishments during COVID-19 and throughout the past year.

A motion to adjourn took place at 8:48 p.m.



Vice President Tommy Brennan led the policy resolutions discussion.

A Message From the President ...

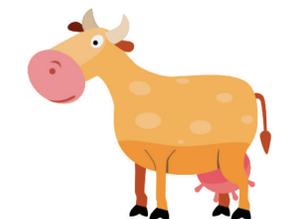


Mike Turner
 Sauk County Farm Bureau president

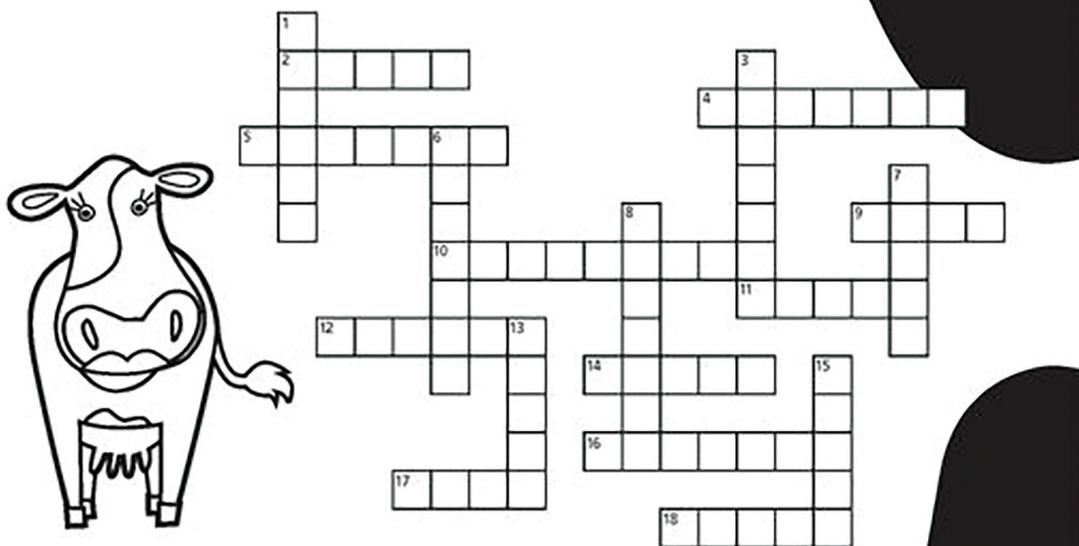
Hello, Sauk County Farm Bureau members,
 Is 2020 over yet? I think we can agree on this statement with everything that has happened this year.
 Harvest has come and hopefully by the time

you are reading this it is coming to an end. Make sure you are keeping up with information coming out of the FSA offices with sign-ups and reporting information.

I hope everyone has a happy holiday and on to next year.



COW PUZZLER



ACROSS:

- 2. A cow stores her milk in this
- 4. Famous milk slogan
- 5. A cow's _____ has four compartments to digest food
- 9. A baby cow
- 10. The most popular flavor of milk
- 11. Cold milk drink
- 12. This dairy food comes in a cup
- 14. About one-fifth of all U.S. cheese is used to make _____
- 16. America's favorite ice cream flavor
- 17. This month is Dairy Month
- 18. 'Holey' cheese
- 19. Cow talk

DOWN:

- 1. Tastes great on corn
- 3. Milk goes well with this snack
- 6. Milk mineral that keeps bones strong
- 7. Milk is approximately 97 percent this
- 8. Southeast's largest dairy state
- 13. Get _____ servings of dairy every day
- 15. Cows graze on _____
- 18. Non-fat milk is also called



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**Dane County
Green County
Rock County
Sauk County**



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when you
need us most*

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