



NOVEMBER 2020

Grassroots

District 5 News

District Director Report

**Kevin Krentz**

WFBF District 5 Director

When I joined Farm Bureau the professionalism of the organization is what impressed me the most.

That is what makes Farm Bureau awesome. We are all professionals in our industry and Farm

Bureau fights hard for our members. The respect we receive from Madison, Washington, D.C., and other farm organizations has been developed over years and decades of doing what is right.

The steadfast approach has allowed Farm Bureau to be bi-partisan and to work with Democrats as well as Republicans to further our policy. As well as being a leader of the industry to collaborate among ag groups. Creating strategy and doing what we say we are going to do builds trust among everyone involved.

Sometimes this means compromising and not fully getting what we want. This trust takes years to build and seconds to destroy. Therefore, it is important to not try to ruin an individual or organization's reputation to further ourselves. We would destroy that trust. And working with everyone would be diminished.

As we advocate for our members, it's important to stay true to ourselves. We are a general farm organization, so we must advocate for all farms. Large and small of all commodities. This is not always easy.

One commodity group/producer may want a particular policy, but it cannot adversely affect another group. This is what makes our grassroots policy development process immensely important. Our process gives all voting members the ability to be heard and to help create policy direction for Farm Bureau.

Many members believe Farm Bureau moves too slow at times in advocating for members. But this slow and steady approach is what made Farm Bureau successful for more than 100 years.

Staying honest and true to ourselves creates trust in the industry. No different than on our farms, if we are not doing what's right for our animals, people or environment we shouldn't be doing it.

Stay safe and keep advocating.

District Coordinator Report

**Becky Hibicki**

District 5 Coordinator

The Farm Bureau membership year ended on Sept. 30. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation ended the year with 47,213 members, which is a total gain of 111 members.

As a volunteer membership organization, maintaining a strong membership is the key to our continued success. I want to thank the membership workers in District 5. We have a dedicated group of volunteer membership workers who are committed to Farm Bureau membership.

Congratulations to the following members who signed at least five new voting members to qualify for the Farm Bureau Proud Club.

Adams County

Kay Olson-Martz: Five members

Fond du Lac CountyTrayton Greenfield: 30 members
Reuben Hopp: Eight members
Steve Sabel: Six members

Once again, Trayton Greenfield also is the top membership worker in the state.

Fond du Lac County Rural Mutual Insurance agent Mike Immel was recognized as a top Farm Bureau membership agent, signing 92 new Farm Bureau members.

Marquette CountyAl Klapoetke: Nine members
Aaron Wachholz: Six members

Also, congratulations to Adams County and Fond du Lac County Farm Bureaus. Both reached a voting and total gain in membership. Also, congratulations to Waushara County who made a voting gain in membership.

And thank you to those reading this newsletter. Thank you for your membership and continued support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

SAVE THE DATE
March 12-13, 2021

Farm Bureau
Rural Mutual

District 5 News

District YFA Report



Sally Turpin

District 5 YFA Representative

2020 has been quite the year to say the least, and certainly one nobody could have predicted. For all of its challenges, there have been many positives though.

Fortunately, most counties had at least one activity last winter, ranging from bowling and ice skating, to the annual Stompin' in the Shed in Winnebago County.

Fond du Lac County had their pizza fundraiser. Additionally, we had beautiful weather and a good turnout for our District 5 Tubing at Nordic Mountain back in February.

While we have not been able to host in-person YFA events since the COVID-19 began, I am excited to announce our virtual YFA Conference.

We will host the Discussion Meet rounds on Nov. 11, 18, with the finals held on Dec. 4. Excellence in Ag presentations also will be given on Nov. 16-19.

Additionally, on Dec. 1-5, we will host a variety of workshops, with some featuring farm tours from different parts of the country; there will be several additional events on Friday and Saturday as well.

To kick off the week, WFBF YFA Committee Chair Kelly Oudenoven will give her retiring address on Nov. 30.

You can find updates for the conference and live events on the "Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program" Facebook page.

Another way to stay involved is to check out the YF&R Connect events hosted via Zoom at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month. These can be found on the America's Young Farmers & Ranchers Facebook page and open to Farm Bureau members nationwide. The hour-long events feature a different topic followed by a networking session.

I am not sure where the last three years have gone, but it's hard to believe that my term as the District 5 Representative on the WFBF YFA Committee is coming to a close.

I have enjoyed serving the district in this role and have really enjoyed this opportunity and getting to know members from across the district as well as the state.

I highly recommend it to anyone thinking of applying in the future. It is my pleasure to announce that the new WFBF YFA Committee representative for District 5 will be Sara Menard from Adams County. I wish Sara the best of luck in her new role.

Meet: Sara Menard, New YFA Chair

Name: Sara Menard

How long have you been a Farm Bureau member: 5 years

Family: My family resides in Shreveport, Louisiana. My dad was an FFA teacher and 4-H county agent and the one who got me involved with agriculture from a young age showing livestock. I went on to show hogs around the county and made great lifelong friends. My dad passed away 11 years ago but my family has established a scholarship through the LSU AgCenter for one lucky high school 4-H senior in his memory. My mom and brother love to visit Wisconsin and cherish the leaves changing. There is not much fall color in Louisiana.

Farming and occupation: While I do not farm, I'm very involved in the agricultural world through my role as a senior food scientist at Brakebusch Brothers in Westfield. We produce chicken products that consumers enjoy throughout the world. My role consists of new product development for national and regional restaurant chains. We make varieties of chicken items such as strips, fillets, wings, etc. There is a lot more to each chicken strip to get that new concept to market leaving my job dependent on farmers and agriculture to make it happen.

Why did I get involved with Farm Bureau? I got involved when I first moved to Wisconsin. My career took me to Wisconsin and I've never left. People said I have caught on to the culture, but my accent is still a little southern. You will find me saying y'all and fixin', too. I met my boyfriend at the 2019 WFBF Annual meeting where you had to throw your boot in the middle of the room and find whose shoe it was. Well, I picked his boot. His family has raised sheep and row crops for years. So now my weekends and evenings after work are filled helping him on their farms. Networking is important to me and being in the agriculture field I was looking to meet people within the industry in my own community. I often get to mentor food science undergraduates and my advice is: 'The world is small but the agriculture and food industry is even smaller.' I firmly believe in two- to three-degrees of separation in our field and the benefits of building your network is reaping. It's always nice to have someone to call when you have a question, because more than likely, someone else has experienced it.

Are you involved with other organizations? I'm involved with the Research Chefs Association where I serve on the board of directors. We are a 2,000-person membership where our focus is blending the culinary arts with food science, which is what I do day in and day out in my job. We bring cutting edge industry trends, seminars and regional events to our members. The network I have built through the Research Chefs Association the last nine years is why I got involved with Farm Bureau in my local community. I wanted the same sense of community that I have with the Research Chefs Association.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag community? The ag community needs a voice and it is up to our members and future members to be that voice. A lot has changed in technology for how consumers access information. It is up to us to be that voice and find our niche. From numerous podcasts to choose from and the resurgence of the local food community, I think you are seeing a shift in how consumers view farmers for the better and gather their information. If COVID-19 did anything, it helped farmers gain a voice and get food to the community in a time of need. For instance, you cannot get a slaughter date due to the demand of local meat products. And just a glance at Facebook, it is great to see the groups connecting local farmers to community members. It is up to us to market ourselves. At end of the day everyone is in sales we just may be selling different things. It could be an actual physical good or it could be our opinions for a better future for the ag community to politicians and the media. It is up to us to portray it and be the voice.

Activities in Farm Bureau: Now, I'm an Adams County member but I got my start with Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau. Life took me to this part of the district. In Fond du Lac County, I was active with the YFA and helped with the county fair food stand, pizza making fundraiser and promotional booths at community festivals. While I may not be a native Wisconsinite, it is now my home and I'm excited for the next three years as a District 5 YFA Chair. I look forward to getting to know everyone across the region and making lifelong friends. I am excited for the opportunities to connect during farm tours and social events. I look forward to getting more young farmers and agriculturist involved in the organization.



District 5 News

Counties Approve Resolutions

All seven counties in District 5 held their county annual meetings in September and October, where members elected board of directors, delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting and approved resolutions.

These approved resolutions will be reviewed by the WFBF policy development committee. The delegate resolution session will be held virtually during the WFBF Annual Meeting on Dec. 5.

County Resolutions

Adams

1. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
2. We support increase funding for DATCP to increase the number of state meat inspectors.
3. We support Attorney Schimel's opinion regarding the review and approval process for High Capacity wells.

Fond du Lac

1. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
2. We support government funded grant programs for the construction, and equipment of small, local slaughter plants.
3. We support grant programs that encourage processing plants that have closed to reopen.
4. We support a continued effort to encourage the start of more farmer-led watersheds.
5. We support establishing a state water sampling standard.
6. We support increased awareness to encourage all landowners, with an emphasis on those with non-production ag land, to develop a nutrient management plan.
7. We support farmers having the right to maintain farm drainage systems and clean ditches, with a more streamlined approval process.
8. We support modifications to soil removal and disposal regulations for wetlands.
9. We support working with Dairy Coops to find solutions for over supply challenges.
10. We support Farm Bureau organizing a task force to review the current Federal Milk Marketing Order system.



Green Lake

1. We support the state adding more meat inspectors or allowing for third party inspection to allow for increased local slaughter plant capacity.
2. We support a government funded grant program for the purchase, construction, and equipment of small, local slaughter plants.
3. We support eliminating limits on the number of poultry & rabbits that can be slaughtered on-farm, as well as allowing for further on-farm processing of those meats, and for those products to be able to be sold at off-farm outlets.
4. We support training for law enforcement and social service personnel in how to identify and assist enslaved & trafficked people to prevent abuse of our agricultural workers.

5. Addition to current state policy - Page 16, Line 22 – insert “working conditions,” after animal care practices to support third party audits for farm labor along with animal care practices and land conservation.
6. We support funding for programs which assist disabled people working on farms with quality of life and working in a safe manner through training and equipment.

Federal

1. Due to industry trends of consolidation that have led to large interruptions in slaughter and supply to consumer, we oppose further consolidation of meatpacking companies and plants.

Juneau

1. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
2. We support increase funding for DATCP to increase the number of state meat inspectors.
3. We support the state developing a standardized well water testing system.

Marquette

1. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
2. We support incentive programs to encourage students to pursue careers in meat processing.
3. We support less regulations on new meat processing plants.

Waushara

1. Reaffirm local control of schools. Page 2 line 41 of the policy book. We oppose local school boards being forced to comply with additional state and federal standards to qualify for aids. We support legislation that will return control of education to the local boards of education and citizens they represent.
2. We support groundwater safety standards developed using sound science with a proper review process.
3. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
4. We support a decentralized approach to the administration and operation of 4H within the UW Extension System.

Winnebago

1. We oppose growth management in any way other than the processor level.
2. We support the Wisconsin DNR managing sandhill crane population.
3. We support funding grants/low-interest loans, further education for the start-up, upgrade and continuation costs of meat harvesters and processors.
4. We support right to repair legislation within the state to give farmers the ability to repair their own machinery.

District 5 News

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Information

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities, and other resources that teachers, volunteers and homeschooled parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

The 2020-2021 Wisconsin Essay Contest topic is 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?' The topic is based off of the Book of the Year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car," written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. The contest is for Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-grade students and entries are due April 1, 2021.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

For more information on the essay, contact your county coordinator.

District 5 County essay contest coordinators

Adams: Adams County Farm Bureau will post their own essay contest topic and rules on the county Facebook page. For questions, please contact Kay Olson-Martz at 608.572.1429

Fond du Lac: Mary Runge, 920.960.3176

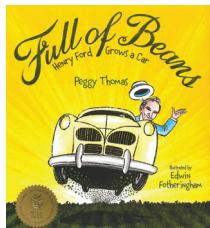
Green Lake: Irene Kutz, 920.229.0938

Juneau: Tonra Degner, 608.553.1256

Marquette: Ashley Henke, 608.369.0261

Wausau: Lynn Leahy, 608.558.9713

Winnebago: Rebecca Poppy, 920.312.0970



The Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is "Full of Beans – Henry Ford Grows a Car."

Online Training Option for Private Applicator Pesticide Certification

Farmers who need to get certified to apply pesticides in 2021 will have an online option for their pesticide safety training.

People can do the online training instead of attending an in-person training at their local county Extension office. Attending this online training from the comfort of your home will be like going to a training session in person.

You will need a computer and a good internet connection. The online training will present the same information as the county Extension in-person training.

You will still need to take the certification exam in person at an Extension office, however; but the required passing grade for the exam will be the same as if you attended an in-person training session. People who choose to self-study, and not do either an in-person or online training session, need a higher grade to pass the exam.

The online training sessions are scheduled for the first two weeks of every month from December 2020 to May 2021.

When you register for one of the sessions, you can take the training at any time during that two-week period. Please block approximately four hours to complete the training. Attendance is mandatory, meaning once you start the training you will have to complete it in one session. Two 15-minute breaks are built into the training. To assure attendance, code words are provided in the training that you must enter at the end to be marked as complete. You will be emailed a link and password to the training to get access.

Certification exams will take place at your county Extension office. If your Extension office is not offering the test due to COVID-19 restrictions, please contact a neighboring county. Once you complete the online training you will be emailed a receipt of completion that you must show to the county Extension exam proctor when you take the exam. The code words must be correct to take advantage of the reduced grade, otherwise you will be marked as a self-study test.

To attend the training, you must purchase the latest training manual either from your county Extension office or the UW Pesticide Applicator Training Program then register separately for the online training at the UW PAT Store. Online training costs \$10.

To register, visit the UW Pesticide Applicator Training Store at <https://patstore.wisc.edu/secure/default.asp>. Select General Farming 100/101. Those wishing to get certified in Fruit Crops or Greenhouse and Nursery can take the General Farming training, but then take the exam for those categories.

To find contact information for county Extension offices, visit <https://counties.extension.wisc.edu>.



Adams County

wfbf.com/about/counties/adams
AdamsCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President ...



Kay Olson-Martz

Adams County Farm Bureau
president

As I ponder what to write for my message, I am in amazement that it is the end of October.

This has been quite the year for everyone.

The pandemic arrived early in the year and caused many of our activities to be canceled. Not only for your Farm Bureau but also for many organizations, businesses and schools. The pandemic also has touched many with the death of loved ones and friends.

One thing the pandemic has done is allowed us to stay home and become close to our families. For some, we found it peaceful and it has given us time to reflect on our lives. Many of us are involved in so many events and activities throughout the year that when we stopped and reflected it was quite peaceful not rushing to put on these events. We got our

farming done without interruptions and had time to relax.

My opinion about the pandemic is we have a long way to go but if we follow the advice of the health officials we should come out of this pandemic and get back to normal whatever that might be. If I were a fortune teller, I also predict that masks will be here for some time.

With this said, your Farm Bureau had to cancel many of our activities but we ended our year on a good note. We made our voting goal of 20 new members required by WFBF and we accomplished our voting gain. This gave us \$1,800, which we depend on each year.

It wasn't without hard work that we accomplished this. Once again, I ask for your help reach our goals and the year already started as of the end of September. We need to work on getting 20 new members. Our dues are \$50. We did not increase our dues. By not raising our dues we have lost revenue from WFBF; however, your board of directors thought it was better to not increase dues for the members. We also have to retain our membership, which

means as soon as you get your dues statement,, please send \$50 immediately. That way we don't have to contact you.

Thank you to Rural Mutual agent Jim Wehinger for his support in helping us reach our goals. If you need insurance or to re-evaluate your insurance needs, please contact Jim at his office in Adams.

The Ag in the Classroom committee has not entered classrooms since last March but will be ready when they are invited back to schools. Our Young Farmers and Agriculturists and Women's Committee are anxiously waiting to plan activities and will when it is safe. Until that time, your board of directors have policies they follow to continue to support our youth and organizations. We accomplished our first ever virtual county annual meeting and will continue to have our board meetings virtual or via teleconference.

If you want to be included in the meetings or to make a presentation to the board of directors, please contact me. Please be safe and follow our health guidelines.

Fond du Lac County

wfbf.com/about/counties/fonddulac
FondduLacCountyFarmBureau

Building Demand and Sharing Stories in Big and Small Ways



By Janet Clark, Vision Aire Farms LLC

If your farm is anything like ours, the to-do list seems to be never-ending. Nearly every day we find something that needs to be fixed, changed or managed. As dairy

farmers, our expertise and focus are on caring for our animals and managing the people, equipment and processes it takes to keep things moving. Of the things on my to-do list every day, thinking about how the cheese made from my cows' milk is marketed to consumers is something I don't have time or expertise for. My family and I rely on a team of professionals to help in planning for and managing our business, as well as making sure that animals are healthy and rations balanced. When an animal is sick or we have a challenge to overcome, we don't hesitate to contact professionals in our industry to ask for help. Why should we treat building demand and marketing our products differently? Dairy checkoff programs were created to provide a professional resource to advocate for our industry and build markets for products, and I'd argue that those investments are more important

when times are tough and margins are tight.

When I started my first term on the board of the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, I would have described myself as a skeptical believer in the role of the dairy checkoff. Three years later during my second term, I have become a believer and supporter of the dairy checkoff programs. My first 'aha' moment was understanding the programs that are happening to build relationships with buyers and consumers, things that I don't see as a dairy farmer. Staff members spend years building relationships with restaurants, food service and retail organizations so they understand the dairy industry and the role of dairy products in today's healthy lifestyles. Dairy products are included in product development for fast-food restaurants and joint promotions. When McDonald's, Domino's Pizza or Festival Foods buyers have a question, these relationships are strong enough that they call the checkoff team member first.

In the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic, the checkoff teams worked quickly on several fronts, working to move product that would have been going through school food service or restaurant businesses, partnering with food banks and developing a media campaign to

build trust in farmers and the food system.

We each have our own role to play in supporting checkoff efforts on our farms and in our communities. Our goal should not be to correct or change minds, but to share our story and stay true to who we are. This does not mean we add becoming full-time dairy industry spokespeople to that never-ending to-do list, but we can each look for ways to share our story and be willing to wear our dairy-farmer hat. Saying thank you to a mom buying three gallons of milk for her family in the grocery store or reliably bringing string cheese snacks to softball or soccer practice can open the door to positive and rewarding conversations. We have important roles to play in keeping the dairy industry strong, productive and sustainable. While it is hard to keep up with the to-do lists in this crazy, ever-changing world, my family and I will continue to stay focused on producing the best quality milk and support the investment in the dairy checkoff to build demand and trust in our products.

Janet Clark is a dairy farmer from Rosendale. She and her husband, Travis, and brother, David Grade, own Vision Aire Farms, LLC, with her parents Roger and Sandy Grade. The farm was awarded the National Milk Quality award from Hoard's Dairymen. Janet is a board member of PDPW, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and DMI. She earned a bachelor's degree in agri-business management from UW-Platteville.

Fond du Lac County

wfbf.com/about/counties/fondulac
FondduLacCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President ...



Reuben Hopp
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau president

As we begin a new Farm Bureau year, I want to review what has happened in the last year.

Last December, we had nine delegates attend the WFBF Annual Meeting. It was WFBF's centennial year. The Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau donated \$1,500 to the WFB Foundation in honor of the centennial. We also had a group of Young Farmer and Agriculturist members attend the YFA Conference and once again, YFA chair Jenny Leahy did an excellent job representing the county in the YFA Discussion Meet contest and was named a top four finalist.

We had two member families who suffered grain bin fires. The Farm Bureau made donations to both families.

At Christmas time, we made our annual \$400 donation to the area Salvation Army.

In February, the YFA committee organized a successful pizza fundraiser by making and selling almost 1,200 pizzas.

Like it did for the rest of the world, everything changed in March. Suddenly we could not meet in person and many of our in-person programs and activities had to change. We organized a county centennial meeting, because 2020 is centennial year for the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau. The centennial

committee met once. We had plans for a in-person celebration, but realized that was not possible.

It is our hope to still plan a celebration in the future to celebrate this accomplishment. The committee did order centennial pens.

In February, we sponsored students from Ripon and Waupun FFA Chapters to attend FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.

We also donated \$1,100 to the Fond du Lac County 4-H Foundation.

In March, April and May, our board of directors met via conference call. Even though this was a change for the board, we adapted and conducted monthly board business.

During this time, the board also approved \$2,500 in donations to five area food pantries. The donations were earmarked to be used for dairy products.

In May, the scholarship committee awarded seven scholarships to area students including: \$750 to Michael Sabel; \$500 scholarships to Grant Buwalda, Kaithlynn Steffes, Kaylee Mess and Eleanor Karl; and \$250 scholarships to Skylahr Murphy and Cayley Vandenberg.

Our Ag in the Classroom continued to be active, even during the pandemic. The committee donated copies of the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year to area schools and promoted the essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Kelly Pollack also organized a promotion and education activity in June to celebrate June Dairy Month. The first boy and girl born in

June at two area hospitals were mailed a gift that included: "Cows Can Moo, Can You?" and a \$40 gift certificate to Poco Pizza.

In June, we also donated to the Fond du Lac County Dairy Breakfast Drive-Thru event.

Our largest fundraiser is the Country Café at the Fond du Lac County Fair. After a lot of discussion, the board made the decision not to participate in the fair.

In August, we participated in our annual brat fry fundraiser at Brandon Meats, which was extremely successful.

Typically, we give a County Service to Agriculture award, but due to COVID-19 the board decided not to present the award. We hope that life will be back to normal and we will present the award and invite special guests and family to the county annual meeting.

Despite of COVID-19, the county had a successful membership year. We met our new voting goal of signing 45 new voting members in March, and we met our voting and total gain in membership by Sept. 30. Thank you to Trayton Greenfield for his continued work and commitment to membership.

I also want to thank the board of directors. It is a pleasure to serve as your county president when I have a great group of dedicated board of directors. Also, thank you to our District Coordinator Becky Hibicki.

I want to thank you for reading the newsletter. Your continued membership and support of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau is appreciated.

Green Lake County

wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake
GreenLakeCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President ...



Peter Badtke
Green Lake County Farm Bureau president

Hello Green Lake County Farm Bureau members.

On Sept. 15, we held our 78th annual meeting at the Farmview Event Barn. We had about 20 people attend, with a shorter than normal meeting.

I welcome Emily Strahota, who was newly elected as a director to our board. Emily replaces Joe Wollinger who decided to step down from the board. I want to thank Joe for his many years serving, as he started in 2006 as young farmer chair and then was elected to serve as a director.

In early August, we supported the youth who wanted to exhibit animals and other projects that could not with

the fair being canceled.

We purchased ribbons for the 2020 Farm and Home Show and the Green Lake County Livestock Scramble. A great opportunity to help youth who were so disappointed.

For the last three years or so we have been discussing local issues at our monthly board meetings. In the next month or so we will appoint one board member to serve as the local affairs chairperson who will report to the board as well as meet with the other county local affairs chairs in the district to discuss issues.

This way we can hear what is happening in surrounding counties and keep a closer eye on our county and prevent problems before they even become issues.

If you are experiencing problems, please let one of the board members know and we can help get things resolved.

Thanks again for your membership.

Green Lake Data

HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?

1,864
jobs
in the county

WHO OWNS THE FARMS?

96%
(482)
are
family farms

Bruss Selected for WFBF Leadership Institute

Green Lake County Farm Bureau board of director, Chad Bruss, was one of 14 emerging agricultural leaders selected for the WFBF Leadership Institute. This year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Kannel. "The Institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

Other members of the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute class are: Paige Blair, Brooklyn; Heather Erdman, Augusta; Robert Fox, Kaukauna; Logan Frei, Janesville; Rachel Harmann, Algoma; Michael Luebke, Maribel; Shawn Monien, Beaver Dam; Kat Nissen, Rock Springs; Sam Olson, Chetek; Charisse Orth, Fennimore; Nichole Rabitz, Crivitz; Andrea Rippley, Whitehall; and Tess Zettle, Juda.

The institute consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. The class capstone event will be a trip with the WFBF Board of Directors to Washington, D.C., in March of 2022.

Get to Know Chad Bruss

Number of years in Farm Bureau: Three years as a member of the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau and two years as a Green Lake County Farm Bureau member.

Family: Mom: Sue; Dad: Dave; Brother: Ben; Sister: Rachel.

Type of farm operation: I work on my family's dairy farm, where we milk 120 cows.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I became a member of Farm Bureau while in college at UW-Platteville because it was an

organization that my grandparents were involved in and I thought it would be a good way to meet people and to be involved in new experiences. Looking back, it was a great decision being involved in collegiate Farm Bureau to meet people and to get to know what Farm Bureau was about. It led me to join the county Farm Bureau.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? Being a member of Farm Bureau is about more than the people and social aspect. It is getting to do things you probably would not have done if you were not involved. It also makes you more aware of what is going on in the community, even outside the agricultural realm of things. Another benefit is being involved in the community and getting the citizens to understand what agriculture is about.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? The ag industry is vital to people's lives, whether it is the food on a person's plate or the clothes on a person's back, the ag industry is everywhere in everyone's life. It is an industry like none other where so many different people are involved in the process and are so closely knit, and are ultimately putting in the work and long hours so people have the products they need to live.

Please share the events, programs you have served on/with, committees you have been a part of with Farm Bureau. I am finishing my first year serving on the county board and have helped with the county food stand. In college, I served as vice-president and director-at-large on the board.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau board of director Chad Bruss was one of 14 emerging agricultural leaders selected for the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Meet: Emily Strahota, Board of Director

Emily Strahota of Markesan was elected to serve a two-year term on the Green Lake County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Get to Know Emily Strahota

Number of years as a Farm Bureau member: 2 years

Family: Husband Cory, daughter Reese

Type of farming operation: We do not own our own farm; however, I grew up on a small dairy farm outside of Fairwater.

Occupation: I work as a physician assistant at the Ripon Medical Center.

Why did you become a Farm Bureau member? I became involved in Farm Bureau to stay connected to agriculture. I have been very active in 4-H and want to be able to connect the two groups for great programming within our county.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? The greatest benefit I see is the support that is being provided through the county and state level to those involved in agriculture and providing the opportunity to connect with people of similar interests.

Are you involved in any other organizations or activities? I am involved in the Green Lake County 4-H program as an adult leader and serve as the Wisconsin 4-H Leadership Council adult and president. I serve on the Southern Green Lake Ambulance as a provider.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? Agriculture and the ag industry provide the world with the raw materials for food, pharmaceuticals and manufacturing. It is vital to keep the ag industry strong to continue to provide these goods to the general population.



Emily Strahota was elected to the board of directors.

AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ► GREEN LAKE COUNTY

Family-owned farms, food processors and agriculture-related businesses generate thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of economic activity for Green Lake County, while contributing to local income and tax revenues.

WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?



in economic activity

Green Lake County

wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake
GreenLakeCountyFarmBureau

Paris Named to Top Four Finalist for YFA Excellence in Ag Contest

Green Lake County YFA Chair Natasha Paris was one of four individuals have been selected as Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Excellence in Ag finalists and will compete in November for the top honor. Paris is the agriculture teacher and Ripon FFA Advisor

The Excellence in Ag award recognizes members of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program who excel in their leadership abilities and involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations.

"We have four outstanding agricultural advocates in this year's state competition," said Joe Bragger, WFBF President. "This contest highlights these individuals and how they have positively impacted Wisconsin agriculture and Farm Bureau and inspire others to do the same."

The other finalists are:

- Stephanie Abts of Manitowoc County. Stephanie is a dairy nutritionist at Rio Creek Feed Mill, Inc.
- Julie Wadzinski of Barron County. Julie is a farm operations instructor at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.
- Kellie Zahn of Shawano County. Kellie is an agriculture agent at the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

Excellence in Ag award applicants are agriculturists who have not derived a majority of their income from a farm (that they own) for the past three years. Examples of occupations of past finalists include agricultural education instructor, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee, journalist and marketer.

Each finalist must make a presentation and answer questions for a panel of judges. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's contest will be held virtually. This year's state winner will compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2021 Annual Convention.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation co-sponsors this contest with GROWMARK, Inc., and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Farm Bureau's YFA program is open to members between the ages of 18 and

35. Information and applications for all YFA contests can be downloaded from wfbf.com.

Question and Answer with Natasha

Why did you first join Farm Bureau? I joined Farm Bureau when I became an ag teacher because I wanted to be better connected to the agriculture community.

What is the best benefit of being a Farm Bureau member?

The best part of Farm Bureau is the experiences and friendships you gain by going to events and engaging in the opportunities, I also really love policy and Farm Bureau lets me nerd out on that and it feels good to be part of the process.

Why did you decide to apply for the YFA Excellence in Ag contest? I was nominated by my county to apply but I did so because I thought that it would allow me to showcase the wide array of ways that I engage with agriculture and consumers.

What advice would you give someone who is considering applying for the EIA award? Do it. Take stock of everything you do, it's probably more than you think.

What is the biggest issue facing American agriculture today? The biggest issue facing American agriculture today is soil conservation and water quality. We all need water to survive, and as farmers we have the opportunity to do our part to improve our watersheds through soil health practices which will also ensure nutrient-dense food can be produced and carbon will stay in the soil for future generations.



Green Lake County YFA chair Natasha Paris was named a finalist in the YFA Excellence in Ag contest.

Juneau County

wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau
JuneauCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President ...



Kip Weber

Juneau County Farm Bureau president

Greetings.

My name is Kip Weber, and I am the new Juneau County Farm Bureau president.

I have lived near Elroy my entire life. I have been married to my wife Heidi for 32 years. We have three children and six grandchildren. My grandchildren are a lot of fun.

I want to thank Richard Sheahan for his many years of serving as the Juneau County Farm Bureau president. Also, thank you to Richard's wife Jean. I have a big shoes to fill. I hope I can continue his leadership and I am looking forward to serving the Juneau County Farm Bureau as your county president.

Thank you for your support of the Juneau County Farm Bureau.

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Tonra Degner, Ag in the Classroom chair

I have delivered all the 2020 essay contest trophies and prizes to the schools in the county, plus the new book of the year and 2021 essay contest information has been sent to fourth- and fifth-grade teachers.

Due to COVID-19, the teachers are taking care of reading the book to students since we cannot send volunteer readers into the schools right now.

I was helping in the fifth-grade classroom earlier this month, and students were making plastic from soybeans by crushing the beans and adding them to a jar.

It was an activity that was included in the Book of the Year educational guide.

It was great to see students still being able to participate in Ag in the Classroom activities.



Katelynn Field's essay was selected to represent Juneau County in the district essay contest. Field attends Wonewoc Elementary School and is the daughter of Jim and Theresa Field.

Marquette County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette
MarquetteCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President ...



Aaron Wachholz

Marquette County Farm Bureau president

Happy fall. The leaves are in full color. Nights are getting colder. Fall is here. The sights and smells of autumn signal another season change—the summer growing season gives way to the harvest season and soon the end of our 2020 farm year and the onset of winter. As another year closes, it is always good during harvest to evaluate crops by weed control, yields and quality.

Even though 2020 crops probably won't make the record books in Marquette County, there is still a harvest for which we should be thankful. Five months ago we were concerned if we would get crops in and if inputs would be available due to COVID-19. Through this strange time, those in agriculture have met the needs and call to keep America fed.

WFBF has played a significant role in helping us stay focused and moving forward in 2020. Thank you to the WFBF staff who worked tirelessly to secure essential aid to those in production ag through the CFAP 1 and 2 payments and state aid through the Department of Revenue. Their constant care and concern for those of us on the front lines of farming have made being a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member a privilege and honor this year. We certainly appreciated their help keeping supply chains moving and evaluating how COVID-19 might be affecting each farm. The future may be uncertain, but as Farm Bureau members, we can move forward no matter what the obstacle – TOGETHER.

Fall can be overwhelming as we are busy trying to harvest as timely as possible, plant cover crops, apply fall manure applications and complete fall tillage. With this busyness, we can lose sight of the things that matter. Sometimes as farmers, we can experience tunnel vision, only looking and focusing on the work that must be done. Yes, the work is important but keep priorities in line. Please remember to make time for your family. Without our families, farmers wouldn't have a support network, and our work would be very much in vain. Thank God for them and do not forget to tell them how much you love and appreciate them. We only live this life once so do not let the work become more pivotal than family life. That is a priceless gift from God.

God be with you, my friends, and guard and keep you in his everlasting arms. I pray you have a safe and bountiful harvest.

Dairy Promotion Report

By Victoria Wachholz, county dairy promotion committee

Due to COVID-19, Marquette County Farm Bureau's dairy promotions had to be out of the box. On June 13, instead of our annual June

Dairy Breakfast, we did a grilled cheese giveaway. We gave away 400 grilled cheese kits that included: One loaf of bread, one pound of butter and two pounds

of cheese. It was an enjoyable way for our county's Farm Bureau to share our love of dairy with the community and still take precautions.



On Aug. 15, we promoted dairy another way by doing an ice cream cone giveaway. We had two of the local ice cream shops, It's Poppin and the Montello Candy Store, hand out ice cream cones from 1 to 3 p.m. Marquette County Farm Bureau paid for the cones sold in that time period. The event was well attended, and we passed out 241 ice cream cones.

Yes, our promotions were different this year, but they were fun and were also effective.

Hopefully, next year we can have a June Dairy Breakfast, but also include these new ways of telling and sharing the dairy story here in Marquette County.



Waushara County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara
WausharaCountyFarmBureau

Meet Mike Leahy, New County Farm Bureau President

How long have you been a Farm Bureau member? 15 years

Why did you first join Farm Bureau? I wish I had a more inspiring story. Long-time membership worker, Trayton Greenfield, stopped by our farm in March (I can only assume part of the new voting membership drive.) and asked if my father and I would be interested in becoming Farm Bureau members. Considering I have spent \$50 on worse, I said sure. It would be a couple of years and a handful of county newsletters before I became more active.

Why did you decide to become a county president? The outgoing president asked if I was interested. I have served on other boards and held leadership positions. The idea of president is a humbling and exciting challenge I look forward to.

What is one thing you want to accomplish as a county president? I am extremely excited about the new local affairs chair position. Everyone's day to day can be super busy. Township and county-wide issues can fly under the radar. Yet those issues have the most immediate and direct impact on

our daily lives. Having an individual with a passion for local government as our counties eyes and ears will be an extremely valuable resource.

What is the best thing about being a Farm Bureau member? Meeting and developing relationships with other farmers and agriculturalists that have the same love and passion for ag that I do.

Explain your involvement in agriculture (background): I have spent the past three years working at Heartland Farms in Hancock. I work in the water resources department as an irrigation tech and oversee our seed cutting operations. Prior to that I farmed with my parents and younger brothers in Fond du Lac County.



Mike and Lynn Leahy. Mike was elected as the new Waushara County Farm Bureau president at the county annual meeting.

Waushara County



wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara
WausharaCountyFarmBureau

Drive-Thru Potato Fundraiser a Success



The Waushara County Farm Bureau had a drive-thru baked potato fundraiser on Sept. 5. Approximately 400 potatoes were sold. This fundraiser replaced the county fair food stand fundraiser. Thank you to those who attended and supported the Farm Bureau.

Harvest Report

By Ryan Nowak, Waushara County Farm Bureau member

As grain harvest continues throughout Waushara county weather always seems to play a factor as it does during the growing season. We experienced nice weather in September that helped finish a nice sweet corn crop as well as green beans.

Potato growers also got a great start on harvest. As soybean and corn harvest cruise along we are seeing mixed yields leading back to timely or missed rain fall during mid/late summer. Areas of Waushara County went nearly six weeks with little or no rain fall during the grain-fill period. On the non-irrigated sand ground this severely hurt the crops yield; however, the irrigated acres seem to be seeing average to above average yields. Hopefully, everyone is having a safe and healthy harvest.



Soybean harvest on the Nowak Farms in rural Mt. Morris.

Winnebago County

Dairy Promotions Report

By Dan Hinz, Dairy Promotions chair

Dairy Promotion has been different this year with no breakfast on the farm. The dairy committee sat down and came up with a different idea for June Dairy Month. The committee organized a grilled cheese drive-thru event. Kevin, Kim, Aaron and Holly Radloff's farm hosted the event in June where we limited the amount of people to 500. We had people sign up for the free event, all the meals were spoken for quickly. The meals consisted of a grilled cheese sandwich (Simon's Medium Cheddar and Belgioioso Provolone), potato chips, pint of chocolate milk and a coupon for Leon's Frozen Custard. Everything went well, attendees enjoyed the drive around the farmstead, and they got to see dairy cows.

Seeing that we had great success with the event, the committee decided to hold a second grilled cheese drive-thru. We set it up and did another one the following weekend at Hinz Farm LLC. In less than 24 hours, 525 meals were spoken for. Attendees got to drive past calves, see farm equipment,



In June, two grilled cheese drive-thru farm events were hosted by two farms. These events replaced the county dairy breakfast.

and drive through the free-stall barn to see the cows up close in the comfort of their home.

Thank you to the Radloff Family and the Hinz Family for hosting two successful Drive-Thru Grilled Cheese events. Thank you to our sponsors for these events, Ag Consulting Team, Berlin Veterinary Clinic, Compeer Financial, Heritage Animal Health, Belgioioso Cheese, Simon's Cheese, Heartland Farms, Leon's Frozen Custard and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

We also did some dairy promotion with a Pork Promotion event that happened at Petals and Plows. As times have changed in 2020, the dairy committee has been trying to adapt too. Watch for more events that may pop up this year.

Poppy Attends Back to School Kick-Off Workshop

Winnebago County Ag in the Classroom chair Rebecca Poppy attended the Ag in the Classroom Back to School Kick-Off Workshop on Aug. 22 at the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center near Manitowoc, Wisconsin.



Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson gave updates on Ag in the Classroom programs and resources.

Attendees also learned about the new Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas and illustrated Edwin Fotheringham.

Meet: Your Newly Elected Board of Directors

Name: Terrance (TJ) Beck

Number of years in Farm Bureau: 0. I'm a brand-new member.

Family: My parents are Terry and Carol Beck. I have five siblings. Three brothers: Craig, Chad and Zach; and two sisters: Amanda and Andrea. I am engaged to my fiancé, Carley.

Type of farming operation: My family does not have a farming operation, but we do have horses, and other county fair animals in the summer that myself and my siblings have shown.

Any other occupations? I am the assistant plant manager in my family's business: Beck's Meat Processing. We have three locations in the Fox Valley, two in Oshkosh and one in Kaukauna. Our business is a full-service meat processing plant. We slaughter primarily beef, bison and pigs. Along with our slaughter, we have a meat retail counter, make our own sausage and provide venison processing.

Why did you become involved in the Farm Bureau? I have joined the Winnebago County Farm Bureau as it is a good opportunity to support our local agricultural community. Being in the meat industry, I directly work with farmers who market and sell their animals to customers whether it is through their own retail setting or by selling to customers bulk in halves or quarter beef, pigs, etc.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? As I am learning about what Farm Bureau does, I can see that there are many opportunities to make your voice heard being a grassroots organization. I am interested in seeing how if there is a change in law it is brought from a local chapter to the state, and then to the state government. I look forward to learning and seeing how the group affects the legislature.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? Along with being a new Farm Bureau member, I am a member of the Ripon FFA

Alumni, and the Winnebago County Meat Animal Board.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? I think that being in the agricultural industry is an important aspect of living in the USA. Everyone says that farmers feed the world,

and having a career in the meat industry, I know that I am a step in the process for farmers to feed the world. Many people are so far removed from agriculture that they do not know where their food comes from. I know that I can do my part in agriculture and be in the process of taking your food from field to plate.



Please share the various events, programs you have served on/with, committees you have been a part of with Farm Bureau. I have not been involved with any events yet, but look forward to trying to be involved with events like the beef, and pork promotional events that they have had like the beef drive through meal or the pork promotional events that I have seen taken place as an outsider in this past year.

Name: Kelly Lloyd

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: First year member.

Family: Married seven years; two kids Owen: 6 years old and Lilly: 3 years old.

Type of farming operation: Dairy farm

Any other occupations? Buyer at Oshkosh Defense.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I wanted to get more involved in the farming community.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? Getting to build

relationships with other people that either do the same as you or different. Learn and understand what other people do and how

other operations run.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? N/A

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry?

I want my kids to understand the work it takes to put food on the table for us and our animals on the farm. I want to help people understand the importance of agriculture and the benefits it has for everyone and why we need it.

Please share the various events, programs you have served on/with, committees you have been a part of with Farm Bureau. N/A

Any other information you want to share? In my free time I run half and full marathons. I also have run a couple of long-distance relays.



Name: Melissa Remer

Number years in Farm Bureau? First year in Farm Bureau.

Family: My family farms in Omro. We used to milk cows but are now a cash crop operation

How are you involved in agriculture/other occupations? I am back in school to finish my degree in education.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I became involved in Farm Bureau to help be an advocate for agriculture and educate myself more.

What is the greatest thing about being a Farm

Bureau member? I think the greatest part about being a member is making connections with other people and helping educate others about the agriculture industry.

Are you involved in any other organization? I am also involved in the Winnebago County Holstein Association.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? There are so many reasons why it is important to be a part of the agriculture industry. It is important to be a part of because agriculture drives innovation in technology and without farming there is no future.





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