



Grassroots

District 9 News

District Director's Message



Peter Kimball
WVFB District 9 Director

As I sit in my office writing this report, I never thought I would be spending more time in my home office (I think I need a better chair) than traveling to visit you the members and attending meetings at the office in Madison; however, this year, this is the hand we have been dealt.

It has been a very busy year for WVFB, and I want to share some of the highlights and challenges that have taken place. One of the major changes that took place was the hiring of a new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Kim Pokorny. Kim comes to us with a wealth of experience running various non-profit organizations, the most recently she was the CAO for the Wisconsin Veterinary Association. I look forward to working with Kim as we set up WVFB for the next 100 years.

During the last several months, the WVFB board and staff have had many conversations as to what the WVFB Annual Meeting will look like. Two months ago, the board gave direction to staff to go ahead and make three plans for the annual meeting.

One option was to meet in person like normal to accomplish the business of WVFB but scaled back to minimize contact and the spread of COVID-19.

A second option was a hybrid version that would allow those that choose to go in person to make the trip to Wisconsin Dells and use technology to allow some to stay home and still participate in our policy discussion.

The third option was to move it on-line like so much of our lives have been recently. During our August board meeting it became clear that it was not fair to ask our staff to plan an event as large as the annual meeting just to have it pulled last minute due to a spike in cases or another government shutdown. It was said, "what was, no longer is." As I heard this phrase it became clear that this is not only true about the WVFB Annual Meeting but about 2020 as a whole.

By making the decision to hold the WVFB Annual Meeting virtual, we are giving the staff of WVFB the best chance possible to put on a great meeting by focusing their efforts on a virtual WVFB Annual Meeting. It saddens me to share this news with you because WVFB Annual Meeting is one of the highlights of my year.

As disappointing as it is not to be gathering in December to connect with our WVFB family, I have every confidence that we will be back together in December of 2021. We will pick up right where we left off. In the meantime, rest assured that the WVFB staff are working on your behalf to keep Wisconsin agriculture strong for a bright future.

As I wrap this up, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the role of District 9 Director. It has been an honor and pleasure. Jim Holte told me last year that the first year on the board is like taking a drink out of a fire hose, he was not kidding. As I continue to grow in this role, please contact me with any questions, comments or concerns.

YFA Chair Report



Ben and Haily Sand
District 9 YFA Chairs

Whether you have taken the 'now what?' or 'one day at a time' approach for 2020, we are learning new things and having to adapt, and the YFA team is having to do the same. The YFA Conference and contests

have been moved from the typical in-person meeting to a virtual presence.

Contest presentations will be pre-recorded or completed live via Microsoft Teams or Facebook Live. The Discussion Meet has been compressed and will start at the beginning of November and completed by the beginning of December. The YFA Conference, on the other hand, will be extended to a full week with shorter time frames of virtual meetings throughout each day.

Check out a breakdown of the event dates below:

- October 23:** Deadline to register to compete in the Discussion Meeting (register at <http://bit.ly/2020yfadiscussion>)
- November 4:** Round 1 Discussion Meet held via Teams
- November 11:** Round 2 Discussion Meet held via Teams
- November 13:** Tune in for the Facebook Live announcement of the Top 8 Discussion Meet contestants
- November 16:** Excellence in Ag Presentations recorded via Zoom
- November 18:** Top 8 Discussion Meet held via teams
- November 20:** Tune in for the Facebook Live announcement of the Top 4 Discussion Meet contestants
- November 30:** YFA Conference kick-off Facebook Live contestant recognition
YFA Committee recognition YFA Chair, Kelly Oudenhoven's, retiring address
- December 1 and 2:** Workshops held via Teams, recorded, and shared on the YFA Conference Facebook event page
- December 3:** Speaker held via Teams, recorded, and shared on the YFA Conference Facebook event page
- December 4:** Farm Bureau Trivia Night
- December 5:** Final 4 Discussion Meet
Award announcements of:
Excellence in Ag
Discussion Meet
Participation prizes

Be sure to tune in and watch for regular updates.

Members Participate in Round Table With USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey

On Oct. 8, Wisconsin Farm Bureau members participated in a round table discussion hosted by USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey at Solhawk Dairy in Chippewa Falls. State FSA Executive Director Sandy Chalmers also participated in the event.

“Today’s event was encouraging that USDA is listening to and understands the challenges that farmers are facing,” said Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation District 9 Board member Peter

Kimball. “This was a great opportunity to have our voices as farmers heard at one of the highest levels of leadership.”

Members thanked the Under Secretary for the CFAP program and commented on the ease of completing the first application and quick turn around on receiving payments. Additionally, members talked about dairy pricing, crop insurance, consumer confidence in farmers, the need for flexibility in specialty crops within CFAP 2.0 and rural broadband.

During the conclusion of the round table event, Under Secretary Northey announced details about the 2021 Dairy Margin Coverage program enrollment.

Prior to the round table, WFBF members Leslie Svacina, Peter Kimball and Dave Styer had an opportunity for a small group breakfast with the Under Secretary. At breakfast, these members talked about the importance of rural broadband, water quality, local meat processing and gave an update on harvest.



WFBF members talk with USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey at Solhawk Dairy in Chippewa Falls.



(from left): St. Croix County Farm Bureau member Leslie Svacina, Rusk County Farm Bureau member Paul Hetke, USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey, Dunn County Farm Bureau member Dave Styer, WFBF District 9 Board of Director Peter Kimball and WFBF Director of Governmental Relations Tyler Wenzlaff.



WFBF members Leslie Svacina, Peter Kimball and Dave Styer met with USDA Under Secretary Bill Northey for breakfast. During the meeting, the group discussed local meat processing, water quality and gave an update on harvest.

Promotion and Education Committee Report



Kay Gilbertson

District 9 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Thank you District 9 for the opportunity to serve on the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. I have enjoyed meeting many of you and encouraging your counties to promote and educate others about agriculture. My term as your liaison is complete, and soon you will meet the next person to fill this role.

I want to invite you to the virtual Leadership Boot Camp Training Series on **Nov. 14**. The Leadership Boot Camp Training Series was designed by the Promotion and Education Committee to serve as a fast-paced, challenging, one-day training session based on topics the WFBF Leadership Institute covers.

Boot camp gives Farm Bureau members the opportunity to get leadership development training but only commit to a few hours of training. The committee recognizes that not all individuals can commit the time to be involved in the WFBF Leadership Institute.

This one-day training will focus on engaging in legislative advocacy, particularly at the local level. The training is open to Farm Bureau members.

When: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Virtual, register at wbf.com/leadership-boot-camp

Cost: Free

Mark your calendars for the Ag LEAD Summit on **Mar. 12-13, 2021**. This is a biennial conference that is supported by the Promotion and Education Committee to help empower advocacy skills at your local level.

The Ag LEAD Summit will give attendees the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events.

The conference will be broken into four tracks: Leading Your Own Self Development, Engaging Consumers, Advocating for Agriculture and

Developing Agribusinesses. Registration for this event is open to current Farm Bureau members and non-members.

I know there are many great ways you are each using to promote and educate others about agriculture in your counties. The Playbook is a way for counties to share ideas about activities and events encompassing a variety of topics including: Ag in the classroom, consumer outreach, education and agriculture promotion, fundraising, member development, policy and development implementation.

Please enter new submissions for the Playbook by **Dec. 15** at <https://bit.ly/PlaybookForm>.

The 2020-2021 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year is “Full of Beans, Henry Ford Grows a Car,” by Peggy Thomas. The exciting essay theme is ‘How have Wisconsin’s soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin’s economy?’ For more information about Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

Farm Neighbors Care is a social media campaign that encourages rural residents to have conversations with farmers, agribusiness owners and neighbors. For some, this conversation may be the dose of positivity needed to make it through a day.

To participate in the social media campaign, put together a goodie bag and take a photo to share on Facebook #FarmNeighborsCare. This is meant as a check in, to promote positive outreach. Please be aware of those who are vulnerable to illness if you choose to do home deliveries. If you choose not to take a photo and share on social media, that is OK, too, continue to reach out to each other.

In addition to the farm neighbors care outreach, the Promotion and Education Committee helped secure a mini-series on the topic of mental health.

The webinars and videos address subjects including: Identifying signs of stress, the effects of chronic stress on our lives, recognizing and handling suicidal behaviors and the importance of self-care.

Please view these videos to gain more insight about a variety of mental health issues at wbf.com/mental-health-mini-series.

Message From Rural Mutual Insurance Company

By Laurie Peterson, Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Northwest Regional Manager



Virtual Greetings from my office to you. The last time I sent written communication to the board was at the end of March, when this had started.

It is hard for me to believe that

we are still social distancing and the extent of modifications that have become a part of our daily lives. All of this with no clear end in sight.

My thoughts and prayers are with individuals and families who are dealing with positive cases, whether symptomatic or not, and especially with those who are experiencing symptoms or have lost love ones. Please, do what is necessary to keep yourself, your families and our communities safe and strong.

I want to share how very proud I am to be associated with Rural Mutual Insurance Company, the employees and the many agents who represent this company.

On a corporate level, I am extremely proud of the establishment of the Wisconsin Food and Farm Support Fund done in partnership with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The donations that have been made and matching funds provided is helping to put financial support in the hands of those who need it most. Agents also are reaching out and doing whatever they can to make a difference in their communities, for customers and non-customers, because it is the right thing to do.

Some agents have made an impact in a bigger way, by spearheading cheese curd give-a-ways, or purchasing milk and distributing it to anyone who wants it so that demand will stay high enough in hopes that farmers would not have to dispose of milk.

Other agents have taken a less public approach by purchasing gift certificates to help with cash flow for small businesses that were forced to close during the pandemic or ordering takeout food from local restaurants who could not offer dine-in options because of restrictions, when those agent could have easily

cooked at home. I am sure that there were many other things that happened that were not made public, but these efforts remind me that there are good people in this world and many of them right here in our Rural Mutual family.

I feel everyone who works for Rural Mutual is devoted to the communities they live in and can see firsthand how farmers, business owners, friends and family are being affected. Again, I am proud to be a part of this organization.

In closing, if you or anyone you know, want to pursue a career with a great company like Rural Mutual, please contact me. We are looking for agents throughout the state. I am happy to have a conversation with anyone interested in finding out what a career with Rural Mutual has to offer.

Finally, all of us with Rural Mutual are proud of our partnership with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and we will continue to support you as we strive to stay community and customer focused, while taking care of ourselves and our customers. Safety and good health to you and your families.

Wadzinski Named Finalist in WFBF Excellence in Ag Competition

The Excellence in Ag award recognizes a member of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program who excels in his or her leadership abilities and involvement in agriculture, Farm Bureau and civic and service organizations.

The four finalists are:

- **Stephanie Abts** of Manitowoc County. Stephanie is a dairy nutritionist at Rio Creek Feed Mill, Inc.
- **Natasha Paris** of Green Lake County. Natasha is the agriculture teacher and FFA advisor in Ripon.
- **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.



Julie Wadzinski has been selected as one of four finalists in WFBF's Excellence in Ag and will compete in November for the top honor.

"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."

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, the contest will be held virtually. This year's state winner will compete during the 2021 AFBF Annual Convention.

Congratulations and good luck to Julie.

Hosted by:
Dunn County Farm Bureau
Young Farmer & Agriculturist Committee

PORCH POT PARTY

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
1:00 PM
DEAN & SUE'S BAR & GRILL
2002 MIDWAY RD, MEMONOMIE

Join us for an all inclusive porch pot workshop. Everything to make a fun porch pot will be provided including bucket, birch sticks, a wide variety of greens and decorative inserts.

\$40/POT

RSVPs are required by Wednesday, November 11th to District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison at 715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com

President's Message



Karyn Schauf

Barron County Farm Bureau president

Dear fellow Farm Bureau members,

If you are like me, by the time you read this, I imagine you are weary, perhaps

physically weary by the demands of harvest, but most likely soul-weary from the barrage of the political environment.

I implore each of you to not assume but do your homework and know what you are voting for when you make your selection. The person himself is not the most important consideration but rather the platform that person is standing on. It is easy to find comparisons of the two

platforms and they are as different as night and day. Your choice will affect the future of your family, your religious liberties and really every facet of life as you know it. Let no excuse keep you from voting.

The deceptive media not only has been hiding the truth, but it also hides good news. Let me share what I think is good news, at least for the dairy industry.

On September 16, Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI) introduced bipartisan legislation, The Dairy Pricing and Policy Act. This bill directs the USDA to convene a Dairy Pricing and Policy Commission that will make legislative, agency and market-based recommendations to improve milk prices and dairy farm profitability. In addition, this bill is supported by both the Wisconsin Farm

Bureau and Wisconsin Farmers Union.

This is a step forward for Wisconsin's family dairy farmers. It will bring key stakeholders together to find ways to move the industry forward on a path to profitability.

It will take a serious look at the factors driving low milk prices and dairy farm loss in Wisconsin including oversupply, a pricing system subject to manipulation and more.

You can read more about it in President Joe Bragger's Oct. 1 message. This really is good news and our members' support of growth management language that passed at last year's annual meeting contributed to making this happen. Let's keep the momentum moving forward.

Be sure to vote. May God continue to bless America.

County Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

The Barron County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 27 at Anderson Park in Barron.

Members enjoyed a pie and ice cream social with the business meeting following when members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the Virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Joe Braml of Almena replaced Dan Ripplinger on the board of directors and Mitch Hoff of Barron will join the board as Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair.

As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin in Madison and Washington, D.C. During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues. Delegates who will represent Barron County Farm Bureau members during the WFBF Annual Meeting are: Karyn Schauf, Sam Olson and Randy Cook.

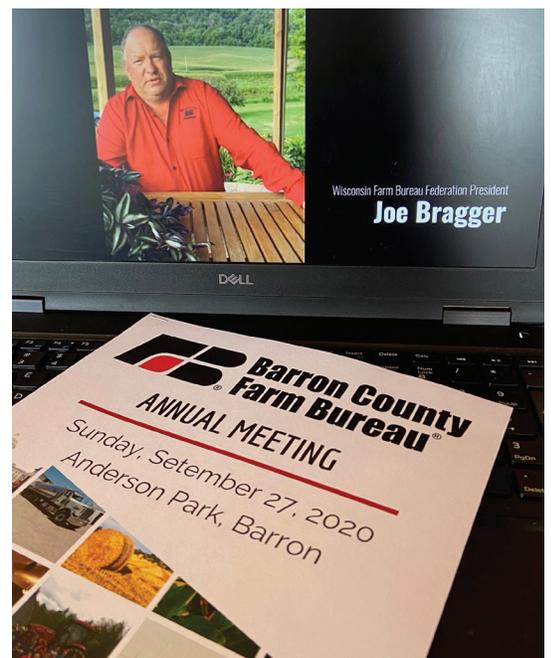
Barron County Farm Bureau will be presenting the following resolutions, passed during this meeting, on for consideration to be presented to the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We support state agreements for interstate commerce of state inspected meat and the USDA approval of these agreements.
2. We support the use of dairy checkoff dollars to go towards research of non-food dairy products.

3. We support imported dairy products contributing to the dairy checkoff at an equal or greater rate than domestic milk.
4. We support adding beef, pork, and milk back to the mandatory COOL program.
5. We support the inclusion of growth management in the new Priorities for Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform set forth by AFBF.
6. We support the historical FSA base acres which determine producer eligibility for FSA programs to be updated at the passage of each Federal Farm Bill.
7. We support an additional category for forage crops in a producer's FSA base acres.
8. We support efforts to prevent international/foreign firms and governments from buying United States utility companies and the infrastructure that the utility companies utilize.
9. We support efforts prohibiting international/foreign entities and governments from owning anything related to the production and processing of food within the United States including land.
10. We support stepped up vigilance on the prevention of monopolies and enforcement of anti-trust laws.
11. We support WFBF immediately appointing a committee to research and develop a dairy growth management plan that will benefit producers, processors, and consumers and present for support to AFBF.



Sam Olson, Barron County Farm Bureau vice president, presented the resolutions for members to vote on.



Meet: Mitch Hoff, County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

Years in Farm Bureau: 1

Family: Father, Mark; mother, Kelly; brother, Matt; sister, McKylie

Type of Farming Operation: Beef: 70 head; and crops: 250 acres

Occupation other than farming: Accountant/insurance agent

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? Farming is very near and dear to my heart. Making sure that people have the opportunity to get into the industry is a must. Farming, no matter what kind of farming, teaches values that are difficult to find. Farm Bureau helps promote and create policies that will allow farming to remain a strong industry.

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

Having a voice in creating policies. Farm Bureau allows many voices to be heard.

Are you involved in any other activities? I am active in our local FFA Alumni and local fire department.

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

The values that come with farming. Learning commitment, gratitude for what you have, and work ethic are just a few that I feel are the most valuable lessons learned. It helps mold the next generation into great leaders.



Local Potato Harvest Is Business as Normal

By Greg Hayes, Rural Mutual Insurance Company agent

On September 21, potato harvest got going for NUTO Farm Supply and Kitchen Kleen Potatoes. Owners Hokey, Brian, Dennis and Adam and Taylor West indicated that it is pretty much business as normal this fall. Employees are wearing masks in the warehouse unloading and sorting potatoes.

The unseasonably warm weather we had when harvest began had them shutting down early for a few days, but they feel they are still ahead of schedule. Temperature control of potatoes is very important during the harvest and storing.

You have to be very careful not to allow them to get to a certain temperature. During the warm days, they were starting at 5 a.m. and shutting things down by noon or so.

NUTO Farms will follow up their potato harvest with about 2,500 acres of soybeans and corn this fall.



County Farmers See Favorable Results of Cover Crop Efforts

By Andy Bensed

In early September the Farmers of Barron County Watersheds farmer-led group toured several area farms that have cover crops under different scenarios during a driving tour of fields. Among the demonstrated practices were skip row corn (60-inch row spacing) that was inter-seeded with a diverse mix of legumes, grasses and brassicas.

Cooperator Logan Dwyer plans to graze his beef cows on this field after the corn is harvested for forage well into the winter. This is the second year Dwyer has done the practice and believes his net costs per acre are less and his soils are benefiting from the diversity while protecting his farm from erosion.

Another stop on the tour demonstrated the group's investment into an implement that inter-seeds cover crops into standing corn while it was about 8- to 10-inches tall.

Cooperator Andy Bensed hopes to refine the steps needed to establish clover, ryegrass and rapeseed into standing corn so it will be at work after the corn is harvested. The challenges with this practice is the interaction with herbicides

and the competition from the corn crop make establishment difficult to achieve. The results are mixed but learning from successes and failures point to careful herbicide and cover crop species selection as essential to make this work.

The third stop on land Bensed operates was a very promising look at clovers and rapeseed planted no-till into the harvested winter wheat. This was probably the most impressive cover crop growth and soil protecting demonstration. The soil quality will benefit with much increased nutrient recycling and biological activity. Another field had soybeans planted in early May into growing rye cover. After winter rye was harvested for forage in late May, those soybeans looked like they should yield normally.

Summer and early harvested fall crops like cereal grains, vegetable crops and corn silage are the easiest place to start with cover crops like winter rye.

The Farmers of Barron County Watersheds is a producer-led watershed group that works to

improve water and soil quality in the county by encouraging and demonstrating regenerative and environmentally sound methods of farming to the community. The group is open to interested farmers and community stakeholders and works to educate the community about their efforts to protect our soil and water resources.

To learn more how efforts like these can boost farm environmental footprint and improve profitability for the future, please contact Karyn Schauf or one of the other group members.



County Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting



Dunn County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Sept. 29 at Dean & Sue's Bar & Grill in Menomonie.

During the meeting, Mark Schaffner of Colfax replaced John Kovacik on the board, Tiffany Shaffner of Colfax replaced Mary Prestrud as Promotion and Education chair and Ben Sand of Menomonie replaced Tara Prochnow as Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair. Delegates also were elected for the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting in December to represent Dunn County Farm Bureau. Delegates

during the WFBF Annual Meeting are: Jim Holte, Marv Prestrud, Tony Christopherson, Al Shannon and Cletus Wolfe.

Members also discussed a wide range of issues as potential resolutions. Resolutions passed during this meeting will be forwarded on for consideration by the WFBF Policy Development Committee. As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization. The following resolutions passed during this meeting and will be forwarded on for consideration to be presented to the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We oppose the use of the term 'milk' to label and describe food products that are derived from vegetative plants and trees.

2. We support updating the historical FSA base acres which determine producer eligibility for FSA programs at the passage of each Federal Farm Bill.
3. We support automatic renewal of WFBF membership payments.
4. We support an update to the milk base for the Dairy Margin Coverage program at the passage of each Farm Bill.
5. We support state agreements for interstate commerce of state inspected meat and the USDA approval of these agreements.
6. We support developing a grant program to help local butcher shops upgrade to federal inspection standards and to also help new start up processing plants including on farm processing.



In addition to the regular business at the Dunn County Farm Bureau annual meeting, the owners of Dean & Sue's Bar & Grill were awarded the Dunn County Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award.

Dunn County Farm Bureau hosts their monthly board meetings and yearly annual meeting at Dean & Sue's, and they have always been supportive of Farm Bureau and agriculture in Dunn County.

Agricultural Performance Standards Set by DNR

By Dan Prestebak, Dunn County conservationist

In October 2002, the state legislature passed rules to help protect Wisconsin's lakes, streams and groundwater. The Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) rule NR 151 sets minimum performance standards and prohibitions for farms.

It also sets urban performance standards to control construction site erosion, manage runoff from streets and roads and manage fertilizer use on large turf areas

The Land Conservation Committee is in the process of revising Dunn County's Manure Storage Ordinance and including these State Agricultural Performance Standards in the revision. The performance standards cover cropland erosion, nutrient management, barnyard runoff, pasturing along streams and new and existing manure storage facilities.

Although Wisconsin's Agricultural Performance Standards are DNR regulations, historically DNR has had limited enforcement of these regulations and when they do; Dunn County Land and Water Conservation Employees (LWCD) have been asked to develop solutions to resolve non-compliance issues.

If the proposed standards are incorporated into County Ordinance, the LWCD's first step will be

to provide education about Wisconsin's Agricultural Performance Standards, then the LWCD will provide technical advice on conservation practices, complete engineering designs as able, and offer cost sharing to help the farmers voluntarily meet the standards.

The LWCD will respond to complaints by investigating allegations with a file review and an on-site visit.

If the review demonstrates a significant violation of the Standards, and adoption of new methods is met with adversity the LWCD will be left with no option other than to enforce.

The agricultural performance standards and prohibitions found in NR 151 require 70 percent cost sharing be offered to change an existing cropland practice or bring a livestock facility into compliance.

The opportunity exists for an increase to 90 percent cost sharing if economic hardship is proven.

For questions regarding Dunn County's Manure Storage Ordinance and the incorporation of Wisconsin's Agricultural Performance Standards, please contact Dan Prestebak, County Conservationist at 715.232.1496.

Note: "Wisconsin's Runoff Rules: What farmers need to know" can be found at dnr.wi.gov/topic/Nonpoint/documents/farmersneed.pdf.

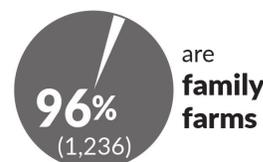


AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR
 ► DUNN COUNTY

HOW MANY PEOPLE
 DOES AGRICULTURE
 EMPLOY?



WHO OWNS
 THE FARMS?



A Message From the President ...



Laura Benitz
Pierce County Farm Bureau president

Happy harvest.

As you are reading this you may be busy in the field or thanking God for the beautiful weather that has allowed a bountiful harvest and time to take care of all those projects that a long fall allows.

I hope as you were or are busy in the field that you have appreciated the colorful leaves, the deer that may be running in the field and the crisp air. With all that has gone on in 2020, it feels good to be active in what we love.

I want to encourage those of you whom will be serving as delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting to not be intimidated by the virtual format. It is new territory for everyone, and we will experience the same learning curve.

At this time, the details have not been finalized, please watch your emails as participation for breakout sessions may be open to Farm Bureau members.

I also want to encourage you to vote in the upcoming election. Although there is a lot of tension between parties, and it can be a tenacious topic to bring up. It is our duty to support the candidate who will best support us in our farming industry as well as the candidate who best follows our moral compass. There are options available for those who are concerned about health, so please get out and vote.

This will be my final letter as president of the Pierce County Farm Bureau. With the duties of our family, farm and our family growing, I believe it was best to pass the position along to someone who will be able to devote the time and attention to the position that it deserves.

Thank you to District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison, our board and President Joe Bragger for the encouragement and support that they not only provided for me, but for you as well.

May each of you be blessed through the many gifts that you have been given.

County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Members of the Pierce County Farm Bureau gathered for the annual meeting on Oct. 8 at El Paso Bar & Grill.

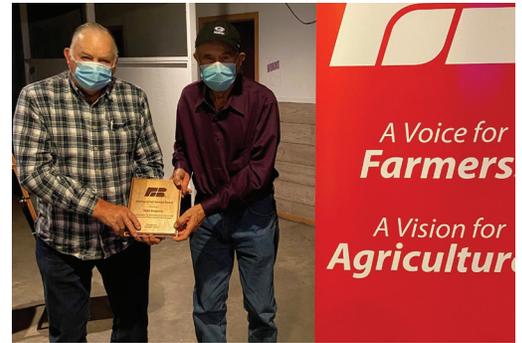
Members enjoyed milk and cookies. Following milk and cookies, the business meeting was held where members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

The following resolutions were discussed and passed during this meeting:

1. We support having a transparent basis for the dairy industry that is able to be locked in and structured similarly to that of the cash grain commodities.
2. We support the historical FSA base acres which determine producer eligibility for FSA programs to be updated at the passage of each Federal Farm Bill.
3. We support an additional category for alfalfa in a producer's FSA base acres.
4. We support adding beef, pork, and milk back to the mandatory COOL program.
5. We support automatic renewal of WFBF membership payments.

Members voted Tom Campbell of Baldwin on to the Pierce County Farm Bureau Board for a three-year term. Tom replaced Ryan Bailey on the board. Members also voted to have Laura Benitz, John Krings and Travis Kopp serve as delegates for the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

In addition to the regular business at the Pierce County Farm Bureau annual meeting, Dean Bergsens was awarded the Pierce County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award. Dean has been a member of Pierce County Farm Bureau since 1968, when he was signed up by Charles Wiff.



John Krings presented the 2020 Pierce County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award to Dean Bergsens. Congratulations, Dean.

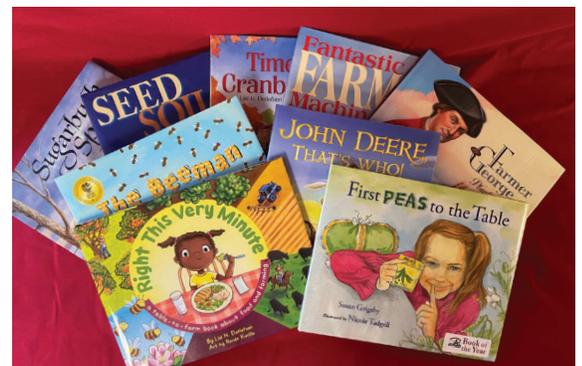
County Farm Bureau Donates Books to Library

Pierce County Farm Bureau recently donated a set of books to the River Falls Public Library. These books were the Ag in the Classroom book of the year for each of the past nine years. The books donated include: "Right This Very Minute," "John Deere, That's Who," "Time for Cranberries," "Sugarbush Spring," "The Beeman," "First Peas to the Table," "Fantastic Farm Machines," "Farmer George Plants a Nation" and "Seed Soil Sun."

These books will be used to provide the public with an understanding of how food is produced.

Ag in the Classroom seeks to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: agriculture.

The goal of the Ag in the Classroom program is to help individuals gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.



PIERCE COUNTY WI
RECYCLING CENTER / SOLID WASTE DEPT.
 PHONE: (715) 273-3092 - www.co.pierce.wi.us

Hours: Monday – Friday 6:00am – 4:30pm
Closed Saturdays Until Further Notice

WE WILL BE CLOSED:
 Wednesday, Nov. 11th (Veterans Day)
 Thursday, Nov. 26th (Thanksgiving Day)
 Friday, Nov. 27th (Day After-Thanksgiving Day)

Recycle Holiday Lights At No Charge

WE WILL BE CLOSED:
 Thursday, Dec. 24th & Friday, Dec. 25th
 Friday, January 1st, 2021

Meet: Tom Campbell, County Farm Bureau Board Member

Years in Farm Bureau: 1

Family: Wife, Heather Campbell

Type of farming operation: I am not farming but I want to start raising cash grains and have a cow/calf herd. Last summer, I raised meat chickens and plan to raise some more next year.

Other occupation: Billing clerk

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I wanted to be involved in agriculture and stay abreast of agriculture issues.

What are the greatest benefits of being a member?

Networking opportunities, involvement in ag policies and opportunities to learn and grow.

Are you involved with other organization or activities? I am involved with Emmaus Church in Spring Valley where I am becoming a member. I also am involved in crop scouting and raising broiler chickens.

Why do you think it is important to be part of the ag industry? We owe our existence to 6 inches of top soil and rain. It is our job in agriculture to be stewards of the land.

Other things you would like to share: While my job is not in agriculture, I want to get back into the industry, perhaps finding work with extension or soil consulting. I'm looking forward to serving on the Pierce County Farm Bureau board.



Polk Burnett

Unity School District Farm 2 School Program Awarded Grant

By Lisa Jagielo, Unity agriculture instructor

Exciting things are happening with the Unity School District's Farm 2 School program. In June, Unity was awarded a \$96,000 grant from the USDA to implement a Farm to School program on campus.

Grant facilitators have two years to carry out our grant goals and implement the program. In August, a Farm 2 School Advisory Council met on campus and decided the best locations for the sweet corn plot, fruit tree orchard, berry patch, composting unit and gardens. Below is a summary of what changes you will see this school year at Unity.

Sweet Corn Plot: The sweet corn plot will be approximately 1 acre and is located on the northwest corner of the school property. Countryside Cooperative sprayed the grass in August to begin the transition to a corn plot. Next local farmer and Unity parent, Mike Garvey, applied manure to the one-acre area. Mike then chisel plowed the manure into the ground and provided a working field demonstration for the agriculture classes. The ground will be worked again in the spring and agriculture students will work together to plant the sweet corn during class. It will be neat to see our first crop grow during the summer of 2021. Harvest will take place in late August and early September. The corn will be used in the school lunch program and possibly sold at a roadside stand if yields are high enough. The Farm 2 School program is thankful for the time and services donated by Garvey Farms and Countryside Cooperative.

Fruit Tree Orchard: Unity currently has a handful of fruit trees located near the sweet corn plot on the northwest corner of the school property and plans to plant additional trees this spring. They are excited to expand the apple tree varieties and add some pear trees. The fruit will be harvested and used in the school lunch program. Classes are welcome to enjoy the fruit as it ripens each year. The crabapple trees west of the sweet corn plot were removed in August and will be put through a woodchipper to provide mulch for the Farm 2 School projects.

Berry Patch and Squash Garden: This fall, if you visit campus you will notice a patch of brown grass near the trailhead area of the school nature trails. This will become the berry patch and if space allows, they plan to plant pumpkins, gourds and squash in that area as well. They will plant a wide range of blueberries, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries and blackberries in this location. The wood chips made from some of the down trees/branches on campus and the crabapple trees will provide mulch to keep the soil moist and act as a barrier for weeds. The berries will be harvested and used by the school lunch program.

Raised Garden Beds: An area near the blue garden shed located between

the new greenhouse and the tennis courts will be transitioned into raised garden beds. Numerous raised beds will be constructed, and a variety of produce will be grown in the beds. A community member suggested dedicating one of the beds to Native American agriculture to demonstrate the Three Sisters model (corn, bean and squash). What a fantastic educational idea. A plethora of school gardening curriculum/activities for grades preK-12 will be used with grade levels throughout the years.

Fork Farms: Two hydroponic

Fork Farm towers have been purchased to grow lettuce for the school salads. The towers will be assembled and placed in a visible area behind plexiglass for viewing. For more information on the specific Fork Farm we purchased, visit <https://forkfarms.com/product/flex-farm-gen-4>.

Greenhouse: The new high school greenhouse will be furnished with metal production tables, grow lights and an aquaponics system to raise fish/plants in one unit. Tilapia fish will be raised in an F5 system from Nelson and Pade. For more information about the F5 aquaponics system, visit <https://aquaponics.com/shop/fantastically-fun-fresh-food-factory>.

Composting: A composting unit will be purchased and placed outside near the school greenhouse. Food compost from the school lunches will be collected and placed in the composting cube. There will be a school-wide kickoff training initiative when we begin or composting efforts. Signage and bins for cafeteria food waste will be created. The compost created will be used to supplement the raised beds each year as needed. For more information about the Earth Cube composting unit, visit <https://compostingtechnology.com/in-vessel-composting-systems/earth-cube>.

Personnel: Three Unity High School students will be hired to help maintain the Farm to School program projects. Positions will be posted through the school this month and students will be hired shortly after the posting. Students will work during the school year and during the summer.

Many volunteers have stepped forward to help implement the Farm 2 School program and see it turn into a successful learning facility for years to come. Thank you to everyone that has provided time into this project. It has been an AGmazing adventure so far.



Lisa Jagielo, Unity agriculture instructor, shows a photo of the Hydroponic Fork Farm towers that will be purchased with the grant.

Farm Bureau Holds Annual Meeting

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Oct. 1 at BrowTine Restaurant and Event Center in Amery.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues including wildlife, school milk and state inspected meat. Members also selected Chris Owens, Jim Melin and Trent Jensen to serve as delegates during the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

The following resolutions passed during this meeting and will be forwarded on for consideration to be presented to the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting:

1. We support requiring schools to offer pasteurized fluid milk and milk products, including 2% and whole milk, as part of the school lunch program.
2. We support updating the historical FSA base acres which determine producer eligibility for FSA programs at the passage of each Federal Farm Bill.
3. We support the removal of \$10,000 max payout from the DNR for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.
4. We support including any damage to crops due to placing wildlife traps in/near any crop field in the wildlife damage claims figure.
5. We support state agreements for interstate commerce of state inspected meat and the USDA approval of these agreements.



AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ► BURNETT COUNTY

HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?



WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?



AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ► POLK COUNTY

HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?



WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?



Rusk County

Rusk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Members of the Rusk County Farm Bureau held the annual meeting on Oct. 7 at Bryhoppers Hilltop Bar & Grill in Conrath. Delegates selected to represent Rusk County during the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting in December are: Terry DuSell and Paul Hetke. Rusk County Farm Bureau members approved following resolutions during this meeting and will forward them on for consideration to be presented to the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We support requiring state and federal inspectors to contact the owner/manager before entering the premises.
2. We oppose banks forcing farms to expand beyond the owners ability/desire to farm.
3. We support the historical FSA base acres, which determine producer eligibility for FSA programs, to be updated at the passage of each Federal Farm Bill.
4. We support an update to the milk base for the Dairy Margin Coverage program.
5. Reaffirm Page 9, Line 31-32: We support the removal of \$10,000 max payout from the DNR for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.

6. We support including any damage to crops due to placing wildlife traps in/near any crop field in the wildlife damage claims figure.
7. We support the use of dairy checkoff dollars to go towards research of non-food dairy products.
8. We support imported dairy products contributing to the dairy checkoff at an equal or greater rate than domestic milk.
9. We support adding beef, pork, and milk back to the mandatory COOL program.
10. We support the removal of food/dairy from the stock exchange. Prices should be regulated by supply and demand.
11. We support the sale of raw milk directly to consumers.
12. We support WFBF immediately appointing a committee to research and develop a dairy growth management plan that will benefit producers, processors, and consumers and present for support to AFBF.
13. We support the inclusion of growth management in the new Priorities for Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform set forth by AFBF.



Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Wrap Up

St. Croix County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Aug. 30 at Mill Pond Park in Baldwin. Members enjoyed lunch from DJ's Restaurante Judá food truck.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues for potential Farm Bureau policy. Resolutions passed during this meeting will be forwarded on for consideration by the WFBF Policy Development Committee before being discussed during the WFBF Annual Meeting. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin both in Madison and Washington, D.C. As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization.

The following resolutions were passed by the membership at the St. Croix County Farm Bureau annual meeting:

1. We support the ability of farmers to update their base acres on their farm(s). This should also be expanded to include additional crops such as alfalfa and other crops not currently included. This would allow farmers to have a more current representation of base acres to potentially earn FSA payments on.
2. We support an update to the milk base for the Dairy Margin Coverage program.
3. We support state agreements for interstate commerce of state inspected meat and the USDA approval of these agreements.

During the meeting, delegates were also elected for the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting in December to represent St. Croix County Farm Bureau. Delegates representing St. Croix County Farm Bureau will be: Leslie Svacina, Dave Kruschke and Steve Mueller.

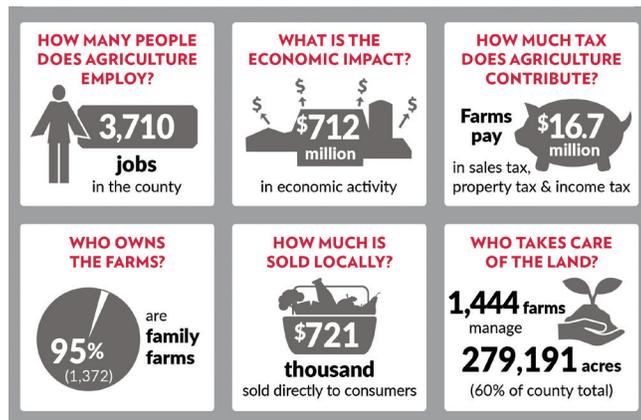


St. Croix County Farm Bureau board, front row (from left): Leslie Svacina, Melanie Peterson, Lexi DuSell, Lynn Brosi; back row (from left): Jim Lund, Randy Roquette, Dave Kruschke, Amy Shafer and Greg Zwald.



AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ▶ ST. CROIX COUNTY

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



New UW-Madison Division of Extension Livestock Website and Beef Articles

By Ryan Sterry, UW-Madison Division of Extension St. Croix County

UW-Madison Division of Extension is in the process of reorganizing its web pages. The new website for beef and other livestock information is: <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu>.

We are in the process of moving resources from the old site to the new site, along with putting new materials.

Newly posted articles:

- **Fall Pasture Weed Control:** <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/fall-pasture-weed-control>
- **Forage Inventory and Needs:** <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/do-you-have-enough-forage-four-steps-to-figure-forage-inventory>
- **What is in a Preconditioning Program?** <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/what-is-included-in-a-preconditioning-program>
- **How Much Meat Should a Beef Animal Yield?** <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/how-much-meat-should-a-beef-animal-yield>

Articles in queue to be posted soon:

- Culling Considerations for the Beef Cow-Calf Herd
- Preconditioning Calves: Establishing Your Reputation

The UW-Madison Division of Extension Livestock Program area will be offering several webinars for beef producers from December through March in lieu of our winter workshops.

In addition, the Driftless Region Beef Conference, a multi-state conference with Iowa State, Illinois and Wisconsin, will be held virtually the last week of January. We are finalizing the details and will promote when available.

Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

The 2020 Sawyer County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Aug. 23 at the Winter American Legion, Post 303.

Members enjoyed brunch and then voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the 2020 virtual WFBF Annual Meeting.

Sawyer County Farm Bureau will be presenting the following resolutions, passed during this meeting, on for consideration to be presented to the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting in December:

1. We support the ability of farmers with FSA historical base acres attached to their farm(s) to update their base acres. This would allow farmers to have a more current representation of base acres to potentially earn FSA payments on.
2. We support the removal of \$10,000 max payout from the DNR for wildlife depredation programs and changing to a percentage payout system where farms are compensated equally based on damage amounts.
3. We support including any damage to crops due to placing wildlife traps in/near any crop field in the wildlife damage claims figure.
4. We support the use of dairy checkoff dollars to go towards research of non-food dairy products.
5. We support allowing dairy goat and sheep farms to participate in USDA.
6. We oppose the use of the term 'milk' to label and describe food products that are derived from vegetative plants and trees.

Connor Beissel of Winter joined the board as the YFA chair. Andy Winiarczyk and Mike Robers will represent Sawyer County Farm Bureau as the delegates during the WFBF Annual Meeting.



The (socially distanced) Sawyer County Farm Bureau board: (from left): Dale Beissel, Mike Robers, Connor Beissel, District 9 Director Peter Kimball, Marty Ewert and Andy Winiarczyk.



AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ▶ SAWYER COUNTY

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



Superior Shores

Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Is a Bit Different

In true 2020 fashion, Superior Shores Farm Bureau's annual meeting looked a little different. The Superior Shores Farm Bureau Board of Directors decided to take its annual meeting virtual.

Members and guests joined the business meeting via Microsoft Teams or conference call. Board of directors and delegates to the virtual 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting were voted on during the meeting.

Josh Huray of Lake Nebagamon was elected to the board of directors.



Photo taken by Linda Simmons on Vernon Johnson Road in Bayfield County



County Farm Bureaus
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124

**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

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



*We're here
when you
need us most*

Rural Mutual
Insurance Company

We understand that accidents happens. You can count on our local claims team to support you and help rebuild following an unintended loss.

Visit RuralMutual.com to learn more and find a local agent near you.