

Grassroots

District 7 News

Membership Champions

Wesley Raddatz

District 7 Coordinator

Each year WFBF recognizes folks who have made extra efforts to help keep our organization strong by promoting Farm Bureau membership and signing five or more new members. This recognition is called the Farm Bureau Proud Club and usually takes place at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

The 2020 Proud Club members from District 7 were Kelly Oudenhoven from Outagamie

County, who signed five new members; Monica Schwittay from Marinette County, who signed 14 new members; and Scott Breित्रick from Shawano County, who signed 15 new members. Scott and Monica were also among the top 10 volunteer membership workers in the state.

There also is special recognition for Rural Mutual Insurance agents who excel by signing 50 or more new members to Farm Bureau and these folks are recognized during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

This year, Dave Loken from Waupaca County

was recognized for signing 53 new members.

Since the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting was a strictly video-conferenced event, we wanted to do something special to thank our membership champions.

Gift boxes were assembled and delivered to these folks to recognize their extra efforts to help keep Farm Bureau strong and growing.

A specialty cheese box was filled with items produced by Farm Bureau members around the state as well as glassware and gloves sporting the Farm Bureau logo.



Kelly Oudenhoven, Outagamie County, signed 5 new members.



Monica Schwittay, Marinette County, signed 14 new members.



Scott Breित्रick, Shawano County, signed 15 new members.



Dave Loken, Rural Mutual Insurance agent from Waupaca County, signed 53 new members.

Promotion and Education Boot Camp Presentation

By Darlene Eckerman, Langlade County legislative and local affairs co-chair

Spending a couple of hours on listening to the WFB speakers was well worth it. Highlights included:

Get Involved

- Reach out to your local affairs such as your town board, school board and county board. Depending on the contacts, attend meetings, find the phone numbers and call the board members or talk to the administrators, read the minutes and newsletters.
- Make sure you tell your story, many people are no longer familiar with agriculture. Many of the board members also can be contacted by emails but that would be the initial contact as a phone call or face-to-face follow-up will always work the best.
- The common theme was, "We all need to advocate for something!" Get an issue started, research the facts, be positive, find solutions. Do

not waste energy on negativity.

- A hot issue right now is agriculture land and its use. Work with your WFBF liaison. Gather a committee and meet with your state legislators. Be prepared, punctual and focused. Again, tell your story. Listen and gather information, follow up and express your thanks.
- Contact the Federal House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Some methods of advocacy for agriculture could be visits to the Capitol, letters and emails to elected officials, phone calls and posting on social media. Develop contacts with the legislator's staff members so you have a working relationship so it's you they come to about agricultural issues.

The seminar continued with directions on effective ways to get attention through emails, letter writing, etc. The WFBF Director of Local Affairs is Steve Boe. He is available as a resource, and has links on wfbf.com. Please contact Steve at sboe@wfbf.com.

Best wishes and happy advocating for agriculture.

YFA Conference Report

Kelly and Keith Oudenhoven

District 7 YFA Committee Representatives



As we went through changes and heard many sayings of the year 2020, I was secretly hoping along with many other YFA members across the state, that we would still be able to have our YFA Conference in person; however, that simply wasn't the case.

When the YFA Committee met in January, we had big plans for the conference in 2020 and wanted to make it the best one yet. And then had to completely change course a couple months prior to the

conference and create an entirely virtual event. I am very proud of the work by the YFA Committee and Wendy Kannel who made our ideas come together.

Our virtual YFA Conference kicked off on Nov. 11 with our first round of the Discussion Meet. There were 14 contestants from around the state who competed virtually. The top eight were announced on

Nov. 13 and competed on Nov. 18. The Final Four were: Natasha Paris, Green Lake County; Erin O'Toole, Kewaunee County; Julie Sweney, Dodge County; and Riley Bracco, Waupaca County.

The Final Four competition was held on Dec. 4 in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting and was live streamed. The winner of the Discussion Meet was Julie Sweney.

The Excellence in Ag competition also looked different. The Excellence in Ag is for individuals who earn 50 percent of his or her income from a non-production ag business that he or she do not own. The competition requires a vigorous application and a 25-minute power point presentation that is normally given at the Conference. This year, the competitors recorded their presentations and presentations were available to watch on the YFA Facebook page and also can be found on the WFBF website.



The Final Four competitors were: Julie Wadzinski, Barron County; Natasha Paris, Green Lake County; Kellie Zahn, Shawano County; and Stephanie Abts, Manitowoc County. The winner of the Excellence in Ag was Natasha Paris.

The workshops also looked different because we wanted to do something that we wouldn't normally be able to do. We had four Young Farmer and Rancher members take time and give us an insight into their industries.

We visited a hog barn in Indiana with Ryan Hilton from Indiana Farm Bureau; enjoyed a cotton harvest in Georgia with JD Newton Farm Bureau member; and learned about their peanut crops; and Jon Iverson from Oregon Farm Bureau took us on a virtual tour of his farm where they grow tulips and hemp. Jocelyn Anderson from California Farm Bureau gave us a tour on her family farm where they grow almonds and walnuts.

These were a huge hit and the videos were viewed more than we ever anticipated. The videos are available to watch on the WFBF website. I encourage you to check them out.

We also did a trivia night held virtually on Dec. 4 and had 30 YFA members participate. Fun prizes were up for grabs and there were many laughs.

Thank you to Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK, Inc., for sponsoring the 2020 YFA Conference.

Even though we weren't able to be in-person, the virtual conference was still successful. We hope to see everyone again in 2021.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



Scratch a dog behind the ears ... and you will have a permanent job.

The trouble with bucket seats is that not everyone has the same size bucket.

Imagine how things will be 50 years from now ... there will be millions of old men and women hobbling around with wrinkled and sagging tattoos in places they weren't originally ... and rap music will be the Golden Oldies.

Virtual business conventions are changing the way companies operate ... because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

Who says money can't buy happiness? Money can buy cows, which give milk, which makes ice cream, which makes you happy when you eat it.

I thought my drier was shrinking my clothes, so I got a different one. It turned out the problem is actually my refrigerator.

A person who doesn't lead and won't follow makes a very effective roadblock.

Life isn't tied with a bow ... but it's still a gift.

YFA Chair's Retiring Address

By Kelly Oudenhoven

As we all know, the year 2020 has been something that we never could have envisioned.

When I started my year as YFA Committee Chair, I never envisioned three months later we would be entering into a stay-at-home order that is still in effect. This meant no in-person meetings and then eventually, no in-person YFA Conference. I had envisioned standing at the podium on Friday night at the Kalahari in front of 500 plus YFA members to give my retiring address. Rather, I gave my retiring address from the comfort of my own home on Nov. 30.

If you want to see the live version, you can find it on the YFA Facebook page or wfbf.com. I am including it in the newsletter for those of you who are unable to view it. I am forever grateful for the opportunities that were given to me this past year and look forward to serving one more year with my husband Keith on the YFA Committee as your District 7 Representatives.

Kelly's Retirement Address

My husband Keith and I live in Outagamie County near the small town of Freedom. We have four children: Josephine (8), Jack (6), Allison (5) and Clayton (1).

I grew up on a farm and always loved to talk about agriculture and all that it has to offer. Like many of you, I was very involved in 4-H and FFA. I knew that I always wanted to be a dairy farmer, but that has not come without some adversity and challenges. I can vividly remember sitting in my high school guidance counselor's office going through my classes with her when she asked me what I wanted to do after high school. I told her I wanted to be a dairy farmer. I was going to attend the local technical college where I planned to take a course in herd management and dairy business.

My breath was taken away as she told me, quite boldly, "Women don't become dairy farmers." I knew in my heart, that one day I would achieve my dream.

Today, I am the herd manager on our dairy farm in addition to managing our employees and the daily operations alongside my father-in-law, Larry. I am proud to stand next to my husband as the fourth generation to carry on his family's legacy. And if you were to ask my children, they would excitedly tell you that someday they will be the fifth generation on our farm. While farming provides its own adversity and challenges, I can't imagine doing anything else.

One year ago, as I stood behind Julie Wadzinski and listened to her give her retiring

address, I imagined myself being able to stand at the podium like so many have done before.

I remember attending my first YFA Conference and listening to Teresa Marker give her retiring address, then each year after, every YFA chair stood at the podium addressing and inspiring our young members.

I knew that I always wanted to be the WFBF YFA Chair, lead the committee and represent YFA members on the WFBF Board of Directors. I envisioned, with much anticipation, standing at the podium, with the bright lights shining on me, looking into the crowd and giving my retiring address. I imagined the rest of the committee coming up after and being able to celebrate another successful year.

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee started 2020 with big plans and ideas. When we met in January, we made our goals, set our action plan and left ready to spread our wings and have a great year. Little did we know the adversity and challenges that 2020 would bring.

As you and I know, 2020 showed us what it means to adapt and change. In Webster's Dictionary, the definition of change means: To give a different position, course or direction to. In simpler terms and in the famous words of Jeff Fuller, "What once was, no longer is." Whether we liked it or wanted it, our world was changing around us and there was no stopping it. For the first time in our life, we saw movie theaters, restaurants and public buildings close. Grocery store shelves were empty. Commodity markets were all over the place. We saw a mask mandate and a Safer at Home Order put in place.

We also saw our committee goals and action plans that we had in place get pushed to the side and other plans take its place. The year of 2020 will be something that will be talked about for years to come.

But even with all of that, there is one thing that has not changed, the resiliency of our farmers, agriculturists and Farm Bureau members. Farmers still get up every day and go to the barn to milk, feed and care for their animals. We still work the land, plant the seeds, grow the crops and reap the harvest.

Nutritionists, veterinarians, crop consultants, loan officers, hoof trimmers and more, still went to work to help farmers and ranchers be successful. We were and to this day are still farming. And what is still pretty incredible to me is that consumers trust the American farmer and rancher more than ever.

As young farmers and agriculturists we can move forward together to tell our story to consumers. We can speak from our grassroots organization that represents us on the local,

state and national level. We can reassure our consumers that we aren't going anywhere and we will be here every minute of every day, growing the food and products to keep them fed, clothed and happy.

As Farm Bureau members, we can move forward together to make a difference, provide kindness and be good people.

All of our stories are different and yet somewhat the same. We may be in the same storm, but we are in different boats. My boat may have holes that are patched while yours may be freshly remodeled; however, as an agricultural industry and as Farm Bureau members, we must go forward together to make a difference. We can lead the way.

We may not be able to change the world, but one day at a time we can make it a little bit more cheerful.

I want to share with you a challenge to do just that – spread joy.

In June, Jon and Amy Eckleberg lost their daughter Chloe. If you are unfamiliar, Amy is the Executive Director of Public Relations and her family farms in Waupaca County.

Chloe brought joy and cheer to her family, friends and strangers. Amy and Jon have started a movement called #ChloeCheer to keep her memory alive and it's just what we could use right now.

I am challenging you as we move forward together, to bring #ChloeCheer to people who you encounter in the next days, months and years.

Although this wasn't the year I envisioned as the WFBF YFA Chair, I am forever thankful to have represented you in our year of change.

I also hope that the YFA Committee members along with the WFBF Board of Directors will remember our Motivational Mondays, What's Up Wednesdays, Thankful Thursdays and Friday Funnies with fondness. I thank them for allowing me the opportunity to lead.

In closing, always be grateful, be thankful, and of course, always be kind.



2021
FFA Farm Forum
UNSTOPPABLE

VIRTUAL

MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY
FEBRUARY 15, 2021

For the latest updates go to:
wfbf.com/events/ffa-farm-forum

Presented by:
Farm Bureau

WFBF Virtual Policy Development

By Ken Harter, WFBF Policy Development Committee

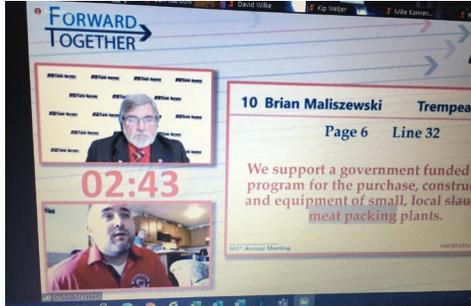
The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation has concluded the 101st Annual Meeting that was historic in more ways than expected. The conclusion of the year-long celebration of the WFBF centennial was anticipated. What was not is that this would be a virtual conference.

Organizing and carrying out an event the size of the WFBF Annual Meeting is a big job every year. The WFBF Board of Directors and staff are to be commended for going above and beyond to develop a virtual convention program that included all the 'musts' such as the YFA contests, workshops, the annual business meeting and the policy development process.

Farm Bureau hangs its hat on grassroots policy development – the desires of the membership related to state and federal government legislation and policy that guides the WFBF governmental relations staff in their work with legislators and government program administrators. Farm Bureau policy is respected, as it represents the collective wishes of hundreds of people involved in farming and agriculture.

In America's Dairyland, dairy policy issues are a huge focus. Changes to dairy policy for 2021 include support for eliminating size and calorie restrictions for milk in vending machines in schools and overhauling the dairy pricing system by aligning farm gate prices with retail and wholesale prices.

Existing policies for addressing dairy farmer profitability through research and development



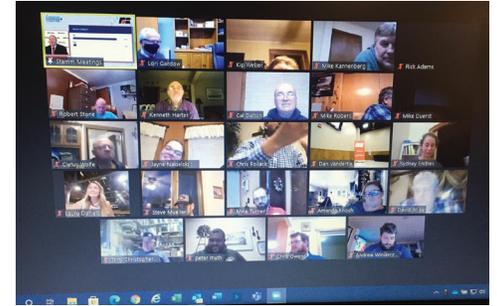
Walter Taylor, lower left, discussed a proposed resolution amendment during the delegate session.

for growth management, Grade A dairy farm upgrades in transition and opportunities to remedy high plate counts before sanctions are imposed were reaffirmed.

On the federal level, delegates supported increasing the butterfat content from 80 to 82 percent in the federal order butter standard.

An issue generating many ideas at county policy development sessions related to the availability of smaller scale local meat processing and other food processing facilities. Driven by the pandemic that caused temporary loss of markets for livestock and fears of shortages of meat and other foods at retail there was interest in encouraging establishment, upgrade or expansion of small food processing plants.

Changes to policy included support for creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase capacity and availability of local processors and retailers; creation of incentive programs to encourage students to pursue



The WFBF annual meeting's resolutions session had a whole different look this year.

careers in meat processing; development of a grant program to help local processors upgrade to federal inspection standards and establish start up processing plants including on-farm processing.

Members also supported establishing a state program to provide technical resources, funding assistance and low interest loans for the development of new or to up-grade existing local, smaller-scale slaughter, meat processing and other food processing facilities and hiring more inspectors to increase local meat packing and slaughter plant capacity.

With the pandemic emphasizing the need for rural internet connectivity, delegates supported additional appropriations and accelerated implementation of expanded high-quality internet coverage in rural areas.

For more complete coverage of the results of the historic 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting, visit wfbf.com.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



By Brittney Muenster, District 7 Representative

We welcome a new year with new beginnings. The Promotion and Education Committee thanks members Darby Sampson, Kay Gilbertson and Jacki Moegenburg as they retire. We welcome new committee leaders including: Kathy Muth, Brenda Dowiash and Steven Mueller.

We congratulate new Promotion and Education Committee Chair Lynn Leahy. I'm excited to move forward with the committee serving as vice chair.

Moving into the new year we are looking forward to events of 2021. Starting with the Ag LEAD Summit that will be held virtually on Friday, March 12. Keynote speakers are Paul Wesselmann, 'The Ripples Guy' and Hannah Thompson-Weeman with the Animal Agriculture Alliance. Registration information will be available in early 2021.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year is "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. It also is the AFB Foundation for Agriculture's book of the year.

Each year, an essay contest is held in conjunction with the book of the year. The essay topic is 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled

Wisconsin's economy?' For more information, please contact your county Ag in the Classroom chair or Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com.

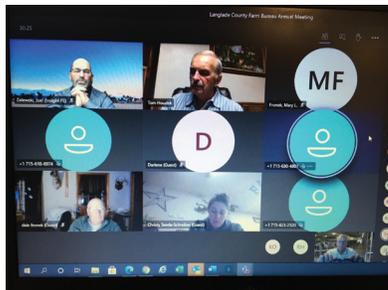
Watch the WFBF Ag in the Classroom Facebook page and YouTube channel for a weekly 'Training Tuesday' video. Each week a new topic is covered that typically would have been discussed during an in-person Ag in the Classroom training. All Training Tuesday videos are available to view any time on YouTube by searching for 'Wisconsin AITC' and selecting the 'Training Tuesdays 2020' playlist.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Playbook has been updated and copies were mailed to county Promotion and Education chairs. The latest version also is available at wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education/playbook. The Playbook consists of events, programs and activities submitted by county Farm Bureaus throughout Wisconsin. The purpose of the Playbook is to provide counties with ideas and resources for planning activities and events.

Finally, thank you to those who attended Promotion and Education's virtual Boot Camp on Nov. 14. The WFBF governmental relations team provided attendees with training on local-level engagement with elected officials.

For more information and resources, please contact me. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a happy new year.

County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting by Video Conference



The Langlade County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held as a video-conference.

Originally scheduled for Oct. 19 at the Clover Room at the Langlade County Fairgrounds, the Langlade County Farm Bureau annual meeting was canceled due to COVID-19 and rescheduled as a video-conference meeting on Nov. 2.

President Tom Houdek convened the meeting with a strictly business agenda. First up after the committee and affiliate reports were given was the election of directors. Elected were the following: District 2 Director #2, three-year term, Dick Bolen; Director-at-Large #2, three-year term, Roseann Hoffman; Promotion and Education Committee chair, one-year term, Bev Brecklin; Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair, one-year term, Joe Markgraf; and the District 1 Director #2 position remains vacant.

Next was the election of delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Delegates elected were: Tom Houdek, Dick Bolen and Mary Fronck. Jake Bula was elected as an alternate.

Tom presented the resolutions from the Langlade County Farm Bureau Policy Development meeting and opened the floor for additional resolutions or amendments.

On-line balloting took place and the resolutions that passed were:

- Federal**
1. We support Country of Origin Labeling of all food products.
- State**
2. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.
 3. Amend WFBF policy book page 10 line 40, Workers Compensation to read, "We support a minimum number of farm employees under workers compensation at 8 full time farm employees and increasing the minimum days required from 21 to 60."
 4. Self-employed business owners and S Corporation shareholders should be exempt from needing to have Workman's Compensation insurance.
- Local**
5. We encourage local government leaders to openly communicate with farmers to protect roads during field operations

Keith Wilson Honored for Promoting Farm Safety

By Roseann Hoffman

Mention the name Keith Wilson in Langlade County and I would be surprised if you could find someone who didn't know this man. Happily married to Lorraine for 67 years, they raised four children on a country road just south east of Antigo.

Keith retired from Langlade County in 1992, where he worked on the highway department for 32 years. Known as "Whip Wilson" because he could not abide by anyone standing around. He cracked the whip! His retirement marked the start of his 4-H and Farm Safety Instructor volunteerism career. An icon on the fairgrounds during the weeks that lead up to and after the fair each year, arranging exhibit displays, setting stages, erecting livestock pens or tending to garbage cans. You name it, Keith was your go-to man. You could always find him someplace on the grounds with his Green Gator and a few adult youths in tow. A smile on his face and a spring in his step, places to be and jobs to get done.

Supported by the County board and the 4-H Leaders Association, Keith taught thousands of young people and their families about farm safety. A topic that today is still a vital concern for all of us, as many lives are changed forever when safety is forgotten even for a split second. He recently sat and told several members of the Langlade County Farm Bureau stories of his past experiences. Some with good outcomes, some not. Each year for the past 28, Keith held a youth safety program at the Langlade County fairgrounds. He also attended numerous speaking engagements throughout the state.

It was humbling to be part of the experience to honor Keith with the Langlade County Farm Bureau Recognition Certificate for his many years advocating farm safety. Such a fitting time, just before Thanksgiving, during a year of so much uncertainty, to be reminded how grateful we are for our own lives and how generous some people can be.

Thank you, Mr. Wilson for all you share.



Keith Wilson was recognized by the Langlade County Farm Bureau for his many years of farm safety efforts. Making the presentation are (from left): Board members Christie Sveda-Schreiber, Roseann Hoffman, President Tom Houdek, Dick Bolen and District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz.



Keith and Lorraine Wilson

Langlade County Farm Bureau Co-Sponsors Pasture Walk

By Roseann Hoffman

October 4 was a nice sunny fall day that brought out about 30 individuals to the SamanthaRose Beef Education and Field Day. The efforts of Roseann and Scott Hoffman, Crocker Kids 4-H Club, Langlade County Farm Bureau, Solin Farm, Gavin Bunnell and Jon Conklin made for a phenomenally successful day.

The morning began with coffee, hot cocoa, muffins and a hands-on AI experience. Although typically a four-day training camp, the participants were led through the entire AI procedure. Equipment was supplied to allow individuals to test their skills with the LN tank, semen straws and insemination guns. To add to the realism, female reproductive tracts were available for visual or a physical learning experience. One brave sole ended this portion of the event with the complete procedure and actual palpation.

Chicken soup and sloppy joes were served for lunch while District Coordinator Wes Raddatz, WFBF Board Director Brian Preder and Langlade County Vice President Jake Bula talked about how Farm Bureau

has been advocating for farmer relief efforts needed during the COVID pandemic and discussed the many benefits of Farm Bureau membership.

Whether by foot or by wagon, the group toured the farm fields lead by Roseann Hoffman, SamanthaRose beef farm, and Pat Prasalowicz, crop specialist for Insight FS. SamanthaRose is in their third-year transition to rotational grazing so there was plenty of discussion on the new fencing, new seeding and the grants that helped make it possible. A practice that did not work for the farm was winter bale grazing. Plans for next year include fertilizing, more fencing and new winter watering solutions.

Pat explained the condition for the number of animals and the use of the fields. The farm both grazes and makes hay on the same fields so timing of fertilizer and lime applications need extra consideration. To extend the grazing season, a variety of warm and cool grasses along with early and late grasses will be a must and are in the seeding plan. Apart from one field, the farm is on course to achieve a six-month grazing season. Home on 105 acres, SamanthaRose enjoys the sustainable, no-till, grass-fed grass-finished, small farm lifestyle. They raise Shorthorn beef, natural colored sheep, Idaho pasture pigs, chickens and bees.



Roseann Hoffman and Pat Prasalowicz conducted the pasture walk and explained the seed and fertility programs being used while showing the results.



Roseann Hoffman explains her system of permanent and moveable fencing for her rotational grazing system.



Cattle move into their new pasture during the SamanthaRose beef farm pasture walk.



Roseann Hoffman explains her system of pasture management

Marinette County

Farm Bureau Fair Ice Cream Stand

Though the volume was down a little from previous years, the ice cream stand was still a very successful fundraiser.

Look for the stand to be spruced up a bit by next year's county fair. A new metal roof is planned for the stand.

The Marinette County Farm Bureau and the Coleman FFA are also contemplating some additional food items to expand the snack options available.



The friendly folks at the Marinette County Farm Bureau ice cream stand dished up delicious ice cream treats for Marinette County Fair attendees.



Ag in the Classroom Book Distribution

By Bill Kempka, Marinette County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom coordinator

This year, Marinette County Farm Bureau has again purchased 15 copies of the Ag in the Classroom book of the year and I will distribute the books to the schools in the county.

This year's book is "Full of Beans, Henry Ford Grows a Car" written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

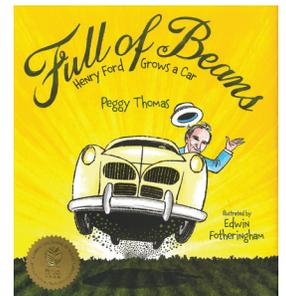
It shares early efforts to develop markets for soybean byproducts and how that developed into the many non-food soybean byproducts we use today. We also want fourth- and fifth-grade students to enter the Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due April 1, 2021.

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

For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.



County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Marinette County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held Oct. 13 at Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake.

Special Presentation: Marinette County Farm Bureau President Chuck Rabitz recognized retiring board member Wayne Staidl for more than 40 years of service and 13 years of service on the WFBF board. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, Wayne and Mary could not attend.

Bylaw Change Approval: Chuck Rabitz offered a proposal by the board of directors to change the bylaws to specify the number of directors on the Marinette County Farm Bureau board to be 11, which would include nine directors elected at-large to three-year terms with a system of overlapping tenure, plus the Promotion and Education Committee chair and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair. The motion to approve the changes carried unanimously.

Resolutions: Policy Development Committee chair Corey Kuchta presented the resolutions proposed at the county Policy Development meeting and opened the floor for amendments or additional resolutions. Balloting took place and the resolutions that passed were:

State Policy Resolutions

1. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.
2. We support less regulation on local meat processors and development of in-house training/availability of USDA state inspection certification for local meat processing facilities.

3. We support increased funding for repairs and maintenance of local roads.
4. We support a minimum number of employees under workers compensation at eight full-time employees and increasing the minimum days required from 21 to 60.

Internal Resolution

5. The Marinette County Farm Bureau requests the WFBF Board of Directors assemble a task force to study challenges in establishing and maintaining livestock harvesting and processing businesses and develop recommendations to address the shortage of smaller scale meat processors to serve Wisconsin livestock producers and consumers.

Election of Directors and Delegates for WFBF Annual Meeting:

Directors elected to one-year terms were Bill Kempka and Monica Schwittay. Directors elected to two-year terms were Morgan Messenger and Cindi Wautier. Directors elected to three-year terms were Corey Kuchta and Chuck Rabitz. Trevor Van Drisse and Emily Cudnohosky were elected as co-chairs of the YFA Committee. Delegates elected were Corey Kuchta and Chuck Rabitz. Wayne Staidl and Cindi Wautier were elected as alternates.

Other Business: Corey Kuchta thanked Cindi Wautier for her extra efforts to make the fair stand successful.



Corey Kuchta, chair of the Policy Development Committee, conducted the resolutions session.



WFBF Board Director Brian Preder talked about Farm Bureau's efforts to secure financial relief for farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rural Mutual District Manager Nick Lenzendorf highlighted successes and community support.

Oconto County

President's Report



By Dennis Jahnke

2020 will be a year to tell the grandchildren about.

COVID-19 has proven the world is woefully unprepared to take on a world-wide pandemic.

Overconfidence in our health-care system was exposed. Political division and the influence of the internet has left us flailing in the wind.

Unfortunately, two institutions that have set the USA apart from the rest of the world, our voting system and faith in the media, are being

bombarded with negativity and distrust. I have lived outside the USA where this has existed for decades and it does not lead to greater freedoms. I believe we will get through this but not unscathed.

Anyway, north of Green Bay no snow and no prospects until about Dec. 20 and above normal temperatures. Perfect for my old bones but, as the UPS guy said, "Can't ice fish on open water." I am now farming again as my wife decided we needed chickens. I love eggs and she promises they will eat my potato bugs.

Kudos to the WFBF staff on a great WFBF Annual Meeting despite the challenges of a video conference.

Some random thoughts:

- My sister, who has lupus and goes nowhere without a mask sent me this: "Not wearing a mask (in crowds or groups) is like having a urination area in a swimming pool."
- We can all agree that in 2015 not a single person got the answer correct to: "Where do you see yourself in five years from now."
- When I was a kid I wanted to be older ... this is not what I expected.
- We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads.

That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Just waiting for my garden catalogs. Have a good 2021.

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Kayla Zahn

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom has their own YouTube channel that is updated every Tuesday with a new video. Of course you can go back and watch whichever topic you want.

A lot of it is training information that was missed this summer when several meetings and tours that were planned were canceled due to the pandemic. Another fun thing on the website is the monthly themes. The link to check out this month's theme is wiaginthe classroom.org/monthly-themes. This includes resources on a crop and animal of the month.

Another resource that is available are weekly zoom meetings where Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson provides updates about Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and answers questions. The last two meetings were Dec. 16 and 30 but I believe they were recorded and are available to view on the website.

The celebrations this year may look slightly different for National Ag Day, but Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is still having the contest. The theme is 'Food brings everyone to the table.' The entries can be a wide variety from a portrayal of the student's favorite foods to how food goes from farm to table. For national

contest information and resources or more information, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website or agday.org.

Of course, we shouldn't forget about the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Darlene Arneson has a great link on the website to the YouTube channel with videos pertaining to the book of the year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Builds a Car."

I hope with Ken Harter and Walter Taylor's help getting our donations of the books to county schools we have some participants for the essay contest.

Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

Due to COVID-19 concerns the Oconto County Farm Bureau board decided to schedule the annual meeting as a video-conference event.

Elections: The ballot was created as a Microsoft Forms survey and the internet link was emailed to attendees to fill out after any amendments or nominations from the floor were made.

Board of Directors: Election results: Gordon Aprill, Ken Harter and Maryann Monette were elected to two-year terms on the board representing District 2; Jamie Marx was elected to a two-year term year as the at-large director; Kayla Zahn was elected to a one-year term as the Promotion and Education Committee chair; and Walter Taylor was elected to a one-year term as Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair.

Delegates for State Convention: Election results: Dennis Jahnke and Walter Taylor were elected as delegates with Ken Harter to serve as an alternate.

Resolutions: The resolutions session was conducted by Policy Development Committee Chair Ken Harter. Ken read the proposed resolutions and opened the floor for additional resolutions. Balloting took place.

The resolutions that passed were:

State

1. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.
2. We support the establishment of a state clearinghouse to connect farm businesses in need of short-term essential labor in emergency situations such as extreme weather or pandemics with volunteers willing to help.

Internal

3. The Oconto County Farm Bureau requests the WFBF board of directors assemble a task force to study challenges in establishing and maintaining livestock harvesting and processing businesses and develop recommendations to address the shortage of smaller scale meat processors to serve Wisconsin livestock producers and consumers.
4. The Oconto County Farm Bureau requests the WFBF Board of Directors explore with relevant state government agencies and other interested entities the feasibility of developing a clearinghouse for registering and making available to farm businesses, contact information for volunteers to assist with short-term essential farm labor needs during emergency situations as extreme weather or disease pandemics.

Outagamie County

Adventures in Dairyland Program Update

By Kelly Oudenhoven

This past year has been something for the history books.

In the beginning of the year, the Adventures in Dairyland program hit the ground running and unfortunately was blindsided by the Stay at Home order that was put into place in March.

We are working with our schools to figure out what the best option would be to keep everyone safe and healthy, while learning about our wonderful dairy industry.

Once we have a solid plan in place, there will be an article in the next newsletter giving you an update on where we are at.

Until then, I hope you are staying safe and healthy and wish you a wonderful, and less crazy, 2021.



In January of 2020, Kelly Oudenhoven chaired the Adventures in Dairyland kickoff meeting.

A Message from the President ...



By Mike Salter, president

It's been a long year filled with unexpected twists and surprises around every curve and corner, but it also had many good turns and curves.

We had a very nice fall for farm work and we're lucky this year we've had no major storms like in the Gulf of Mexico.

One of the changes this year is that we now have a new President elect and what it is going to do for the economy is anybody's guess. It's been very surprising the price of grains have gone up and the price of meat and milk haven't done a great service to the farmers.

Our county meetings have been virtual and now our WFBF Annual Meeting was two days of virtual presentations. We've learned this is a new way to do business but personally I'm not

enjoying it. We had our county annual meeting virtually because of the pandemic and we made a bylaw change to the number of board members hoping we can get quorum at county meetings.

We are trying to plan next year but it is very hard to sponsor kids to FFA Farm Forum, which will be virtual this year; we've supported 4-H kids on trips and that's up in the air; also the county fair where we present the centennial farmers award, which we did not have last year although we had two applicants.

I am preparing this report the day before a lonesome Thanksgiving Day for the wife and I decided to sit home away from the kids and grandkids and great grandkids hoping will all be safe and healthy so we can have a Christmas gathering. I hope everybody else plans the same.

December 4 and 5 was the WFBF Annual Meeting, which was a new experience for everyone, watching Zoom as people talk and gave the annual reports then we had to go to Spotme web page to vote when it was time

to vote on elections of board members and resolutions.

There were a couple of resolutions on dairy. One that passed to increase the size and calories of milk and vending machines at school and also overhauling the dairy pricing system, which would benefit farmers. Also, a couple resolutions on the meatpacking industry with the programs for education, and grants to butcher shops to increased capacity. With this pandemic the greater need for internet service in rural areas has come to light, and there was a resolution to support that and also to increase the availability of natural gas in rural Wisconsin.

It was a long day for the resolution part of the meeting for people switching from Zoom and back to Spotme, and sometimes when people put their virtual hand up to speak, they forgot to unmute themselves. Although resolutions are always well discussed and then voted on, this year you could actually see the percentages for yes and no on each vote.

Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held as a Video Conference



The Outagamie County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held as a video conference.

Nennig for 25 years of continuous membership and Fred Woodke, Wichman Farms, Ron Nelson and Leroy Van Asten for 50 years of continuous membership.

Bylaw Change: The board of directors proposed a bylaw change to reduce the number of directors on the Outagamie County Farm Bureau board from 20 to 12 by changing the number of directors representing each of the four districts from four to two. The motion to approve this change carried unanimously.

Resolutions: Mike Salter presented the resolutions proposed at the

Originally scheduled for Oct. 8 to be held at the River Rail in Shiocton, the Outagamie County Farm Bureau annual meeting was canceled by closure of the restaurant due to COVID concerns and rescheduled as a video conference on Oct. 28.

Recognition of 25 and 50 Year Anniversary Members: President Mike Salter recognized Joseph

Policy Development meeting and opened the floor for amendments and additional resolutions. The resolutions that passed were:

1. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.
2. We support increased funding for repairs and maintenance of local roads.

Election of Delegates: Elected as delegates were: Mike Salter, Dan Knutzen, Kelly Oudenhoven and Bernie Vander Heiden.

Board of Directors: Directors elected to two-year terms from District 2 were: Harvey Albert III and Darrin Stingle; Directors elected to two-year terms from District 4 were: Bob Fox and Bernie Vander Heiden; Director elected to fill the second year of a two-year term as Director at Large #1 was Mike Salter; elected to a two-year term as Director at Large #2 was Dan Knutzen; elected as Promotion and Education committee chair was Kelly Oudenhoven; elected as Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chair was Bret Long.

Special Recognition: Mike Salter recognized retiring board member, Marvin Fox, for many years of dedicated service to Farm Bureau.

Proud to be a Member of the WFBF Leadership Institute

By Bob Fox

Hello, I'm so excited to be one of 14 members to be selected to the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute. What got me interested in applying was attending some of the leadership workshops hosted by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee. During the first meeting, WFBF Director of Local Affairs Steve Boe was one of the presenters. Until Steve's presentation, I never was interested in the political process. He told us about a link on the internet, 'The Wheeler Report' to follow what happens in Madison and around the state. Now I read it daily. I attended Ag Day

at the Capitol. In Sept. 2019, I took part in the WFBF Leadership Trip to Washington, D.C. It was eye opening to see how our government works at the state and national levels.

As a member of the institute, I want to improve my communications skills. In March I was asked by Assemblyman Jim Steineke to be part of a news conference when he was introducing four farm bills. Jim spoke, then asked me for input as to how the bills would help agriculture in our community. I looked at the three cameras and panicked. Fortunately, that part never made the news. Later, the news stations also did one-on-one interviews and that went better. I hope you had safe and happy holidays.

President's Report



By Neil Christianson

Greetings and happy new year. What a crazy 2020 we had, I'm looking forward to the new year. Despite the difficult year, your county Farm Bureau board stayed active and engaged.

Some of the accomplishments were:

- Sponsored six, \$500 scholarships for students continuing their education post high school.
- Sent FFA students to the Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.
- Helped distribute string cheese at Fourth of July parades in Bonduel and Gresham.
- Sent out farmer appreciation gift certificates to every farmer in Shawano County.
- Another successful year serving ice cream at the county fair.
- Worked on the new plat book that will be published soon.

Your County delegates participated in the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting in December. We voted on 2021 proposed policy resolutions. I want to thank each of you for your participation and we look forward to an even better year ahead.

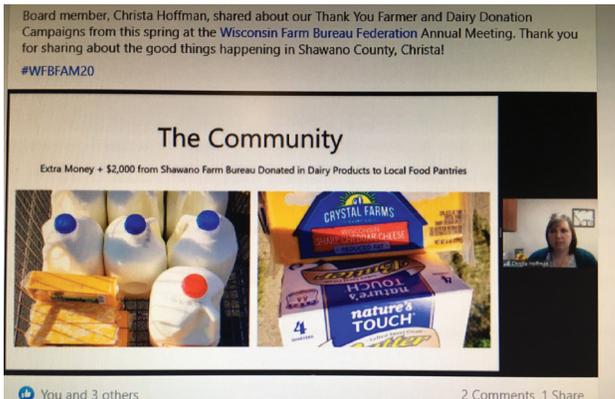
Now it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage ... Ole and Lena took little Lars to church for the first time. After the services, they asked him how he liked it. "Vell," said little Lars. "Da music program was okay, but da commercial vas too long."

Farm Bureau Program Featured in WFBF Annual Meeting Workshop

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

The 'Thriving Through COVID: County Idea Sharing Panel workshop was one of the eight breakout sessions workshops that took place at the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm co-chair Christa Hoffman told about the effort last summer to thank and recognize farmers in the county and also provide local dairy products to area organizations in need during the time of farm surplus and retail shortage created by COVID-19.



Christa Hoffman was one of four panelists who talked about the county Farm Bureau programs during a WFBF Annual Meeting workshop.

County Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

The Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on Oct. 11 at The Gathering in Shawano.

Recognition of 40- and 50-Year Membership Anniversaries: President Neil Christianson recognized 40 year anniversary member Herb Tauchen and 50 year anniversary members Bernice Brodhagen and Jerome Schultz.

District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz recognized Brian and Kristi Fiedler for their WFBF Centennial donation by presenting them with a Betty Engel WFBF centennial art print.

Guest Speaker: Hank Wagner brought a great inspirational message to the group.

Special Report: Dawn Dingeldein, Rural Health Initiative nurse discussed COVID testing and promoted health maintenance.

Election Results: District 1 Directors elected to three-year terms were: Sheri Beilke and Scott Breitrick; District 2 Directors elected to three-year terms were: Bob Krause and Don Radloff; Skye Breitrick and Deanna Zernicke were elected as co-chairs of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee; Angie Schultz was elected as Women's Committee chair.

Delegates for WFBF Annual Meeting: The delegates elected were: Scott Breitrick, Neil Christianson, Kristi Fiedler, Bob Krause and Kellie Zahn. Elected as an alternate delegate was Christa Hoffman.

Resolutions: Bob Krause presented the resolutions created at the Policy Development meeting and opened the floor for additional resolutions. The resolutions that passed were:

State

1. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.

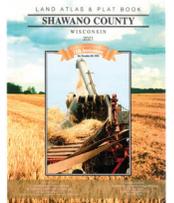
Internal

2. The Shawano County Farm Bureau requests the WFBF board of directors assemble a task force to study challenges in establishing and maintaining livestock harvesting and processing businesses and develop recommendations to address the shortage of smaller scale meat processors to serve Wisconsin livestock producers and consumers.
3. The Shawano County Farm Bureau requests the WFBF board or directors assemble a task force to determine ways to adequately strengthen the ag supply chain during a pandemic or natural disaster.

2021 Shawano Plat Book Now Available

The new 2021 edition of the Shawano County plat book is now available at the Shawano County Court House, Premier Bank's Shawano County locations and Kropf Meats in Bowler. The price of the book is \$40.

The book can be ordered from the Shawano County Farm Bureau page at wfbf.com, or by contacting Ken Matyas at matyaskenneth13@gmail.com.



Farm Bureau Fair Ice Cream Stand

Though the volume was down from previous years as was the attendance at the Shawano County Fair, the ice cream stand was still a very successful fundraiser.

The friendly masked folks at the Shawano County Farm Bureau ice cream stand made sure the treats they sold were safe and healthy products.



President's Report

By Wayne Steingraber



Welcome to 2021. It's a brand new year. Time to make plans for the future. That is what the Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board of Directors will be doing in the next few months.

Looking back, things didn't go as we planned in the beginning of

2020, but we quickly made adjustments and made the best of the situation that we could. Throughout the year we stayed focused on doing the best we could for Agriculture at the Local, State, and National levels. We stayed connected with virtual zoom meetings. Even the WFBF Annual meeting was held virtually, with zoom meetings.

The resolutions process went relatively smooth. Your Waupaca County Delegates met together during the annual meeting to be able to discuss proposals to the resolutions being submitted. The resolutions discussions took longer than some expected, (a total of 5 1/2 hours), but in the end I feel we have good policy in place for the coming year.

What's in store for us this year? Only time will tell, but you can be sure Farm Bureau will be watching out for agriculture's best interest on a National, State and Local level.

Until next time, Stay safe, Stay Healthy, and may God bless your future.

Farm Bureau Program Featured in WFBF Annual Meeting Workshop

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

The 'Thriving Through COVID: County Idea Sharing Panel' workshop was one of the eight breakout session workshops that took place at the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Vice President Meredith Bowers presented the Waupaca County Farm Bureau effort last summer to purchase locally produced dairy products and provide them to area organizations in need during the time of farm surplus and retail shortage created by COVID-19.



Meredith Bowers was one of four panelists who presented their county Farm Bureau programs during the WFBF Annual Meeting workshop.

County Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held Oct. 6 at the Bear Lake Dance Hall in Manawa.

Resolutions: The resolutions session was conducted by Vice President Meredith Bowers. The resolutions that passed were:

State

1. We support a state program to provide technical and funding assistance for the development of new, or the upgrade of existing smaller-scale meat processing facilities.
2. Add to the WFBF policy book pg 21 line 6 - We support increased funding for repairs and maintenance of local roads.

Local

3. We encourage local government leaders to openly communicate with farmers to protect roads during field operations.

Board of Directors: Directors elected to three-year terms were: Leah Hamilton representing District 1; Arnie Heise and Wayne Steingraber representing District 3; Dick Piechowski representing District 4; and Meredith Bowers as a director at large. Directors elected to one-year terms were Emily Huettl, Promotion and Education Committee chair; Jake Hoewisch, YFA Committee chair; and Kari Riley, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator.

Delegates for WFBF Annual Meeting: The delegates elected were: Jake Hoewisch, Dick Piechowski, Alan Tank and Wayne Steingraber. Kyle Much and Emily Huettl were elected to be alternates.



Keynote speaker Jeff Ditzenberger talked about farmer's mental health issues and suicide prevention.



Rural Health Initiative nurse, Dawn Dingeldein, updated the group about health maintenance.



Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Kari Riley announced that Waupaca County had the district winner in the essay contest.



Kaisha Nash reported about the Livestock Expo Food Stand that took place when the county fair was canceled.



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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Langlade County

Marinette County

Oconto County

Outagamie County

Shawano County

Waupaca County



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when you
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