

Grassroots

District 3 News

Stronger Together



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Greetings. As I write this, we are hours before election day. The mailbox has been full every day with political mailers. I often wonder what good we could do for those with financial and emotional issues if we used those dollars for a better purpose. Or maybe use those dollars to tackle infrastructure issues. We will never know.

Congratulations to those counties that made membership gains. Way to go, especially during this challenging year. Membership is the life blood of WFBF. Keep up the great work for 2021. Membership has many benefits for you as an individual from savings on farm machinery purchases and trucks to savings at Grainger and Choice Hotels. For more details on these and other saving opportunities, visit www.wfbf.com.

On the farm side, WFBF has a strong voice in Madison as well as in Washington, D.C. Your dollars have helped with use value assessment, gray wolf delisting, livestock siting, CARES funding, water quality legislation and more. The recent peer review of WFBF lauded the work and the respect of the WFBF Governmental Relations Department. With the peer review portion of the strategic planning process completed, your WFBF Board of Directors and senior management team is prioritizing the areas identified as needing attention. Every organization has areas where they can improve, WFBF is no different.

The peer review was presented to staff and board members during our October WFBF Board of Directors meeting. We have many areas to be extremely proud of. Thirteen years of membership gain, a very strong operations division and awesome public relations and governmental relations teams. The highlight was our super staff. Hardworking, talented, committed and passionate were used to describe them. Moving forward please share your thoughts on how you think we could be even better.

On a personal note, thank you for your friendship, support, input and hospitality. I look forward to 2021 and what we can accomplish. While we are nearing the end of what will go down as one of the most challenging years ever, thank you for being there for others and your caring attitude towards others. The news media and political ads have sought to divide us, but we have stood strong together as farmers. I am extremely proud of you. Thank you for being who you are.

As always, please contact me with comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell). Stay safe, healthy and informed.

Berg Is Leopold Conservation Award Finalist

Lafayette County Farm Bureau member, Mike Berg, has been selected as a finalist for the 2020 Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the



prestigious award recognizes farmers and foresters who inspire others with their dedication to land, water and wildlife habitat in their care. In Wisconsin the \$10,000 award is presented annually by Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

Mike Berg's farm has long featured contour strips and no-till practices. Recently, he planted more than 25,000 trees. Rip-rapping installed along the Pecatonica River has reduced erosion, minimized cropland damage from flooding and improved fish habitat. Waterways are lined with grass buffer strips of at least 16 feet in width. Berg's beef cattle are rotationally grazed in a manner that encourages grass growth while retaining soil.

Other finalists include John and Melissa Eron, Portage County; Charlie Hammer and Nancy Kavazanjian, Dodge County; Brian Maliszewski, Trempealeau County; and John and Dorothy Priske, Columbia County.

Earlier this year, owners of Wisconsin farmland and forests were encouraged to apply (or be nominated) for the award. Applications were reviewed by an independent panel of agricultural and conservation leaders.

"In a year where it feels like everything has been flipped on its head, it is comforting to see farmers' continued commitment to conservation through the good times and the challenging," said Joe Bragger, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President. "Each one of these finalists is extremely deserving to have been nominated for this award and to receive extra recognition for their conservation efforts."

"Recipients of this award are real life examples of conservation-minded agriculture," said Kevin McAleese, Sand County Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer. "These hard-working families are essential to our environment, food system and rural economy."

"As the national sponsor for Sand County Foundation's Leopold Conservation Award, American Farmland Trust celebrates the hard work and dedication of the Wisconsin award finalists," said John Piotti, AFT President and Chief Executive Officer. "At AFT we believe that conservation in agriculture requires a focus on the land, the practices and the people and this award recognizes the integral role of all three."

The first Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award was presented to woodland conservationist Gerry Mich of Appleton in 2006. The 2019 recipient was farmer Jeff Lake of Boyceville in Dunn County.

Pokorny Named Chief Administrative Officer



Kim Pokorny has been selected as Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Chief Administrative Officer.

Pokorny will oversee all day-to-day operations and staff for the Madison-based, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, which is the state's largest general farm organization.

"I'm thrilled to bring my expertise and passion for agriculture to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation," said Pokorny. "I look forward to working with the staff, board and members to develop opportunities and solutions to advance

agriculture in Wisconsin. I'm grateful for the opportunity to return back to my roots in agriculture."

Pokorny most recently served as the executive director for the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association where she led operations of the organization. Additionally, she led the Food Armor® Foundation. Prior to her involvement with WVMA, Pokorny served as a program manager for the Professional Dairy Producers.

"I'm excited to welcome Kim to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau family," said WFBF Vice President and Interim CAO Dave Daniels. "She has a great knowledge of agriculture and comes with extensive experience with other non-profit associations. She is an active member of the Dodge County 4-H and Waupun FFA Alumni. Kim was also a member of the Wisconsin Ag Coalition."

Kim grew up on a registered Brown Swiss farm in Monroe. Today, she and her husband, Doyle, reside on a small farm in Waupun with their three children Dylan, Katrina and Cameron.

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Go Virtual

The 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Dec. 4-5. The meeting agenda has been shortened to a two-day format during which essential business, award presentations and workshops will take place.

"Although the WFBF Annual Meeting won't be held in person, we are still excited to celebrate the accomplishments of our members over the past year and will offer workshops and other learning opportunities," said WFBF President Joe Bragger. "We are optimistic that the virtual format will allow members who couldn't normally attend our Annual Meeting to be able to tune-in from the comfort of their home."

The YFA Conference, which is normally held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting, will be held virtually with sessions throughout November and early December.

Details about the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference can be found under the 'Events' page at www.wfbf.com.

FORWARD TOGETHER

2020 Wisconsin Ag Open

The 23rd annual Wisconsin Ag Open was held on Sept. 15 at The Oaks in Cottage Grove. There were 74 golfers who participated in the event.

Due to COVID-19, Dane County restrictions created some challenges for the organizers and golfers. Event contests included a putting contest, Par 3, 50-50, mulligan sale and basket raffles.

The 2021 Wisconsin Ag Open is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 14, at The Oaks.



Centennial Campaign Concludes

Wisconsin Farm Bureau has been celebrating its 100th anniversary the past two years. As the centennial celebration comes to a close, so will the Centennial Campaign. Contributors to this campaign help preserve Wisconsin's farming heritage by supporting the WFB Foundation. Programs supported by the WFB Foundation include: WFBF Leadership Institute, Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Promotion and Education and Ag in the Classroom.



WFBF is fortunate to have the support of Rural Mutual Insurance Company and their offer to match any donations (\$50-10,000) up to \$100,000 for the Centennial Campaign. As a 501(c)3, donations are tax deductible and 100 percent of funds received support agricultural education and leadership programs.

Donations received by Dec. 31 will be recognized by the following gift and will be listed in Rural Route as a contributor.

- a. **\$50-\$199 donations:** Centennial pin
- b. **\$200-\$499 donations:** Centennial pin and commemorative coin
- c. **\$500+ donations:** Centennial pin, commemorative coin and a sign

To donate, visit www.wfbf.com/centennial/centennial-fundraising. Checks can be mailed to WFB Foundation, P.O. Box 5550, Madison, WI 53705.

To learn more about the WFB Foundation, visit www.wfbf.com/foundation.

Thank you for your support of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

A Reason to Be Thankful

By Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson

WFBF District 3 Coordinator

2020 is certainly a year we won't forget. It's been filled with so many unknowns leading to a roller coaster of emotions. It seems the challenges have far outweighed the good, making it difficult to keep a positive attitude.

For my family, the year started off with a lot of excitement and anticipation. We had a wedding to plan!

July 18 was circled on the calendar and the countdown was on. There was so much to get done.

We quickly learned the planning that goes into a wedding is truly overwhelming. From the large tasks to the tiniest of details, wedding planning requires a tremendous amount of decision making and a whole lot of time.

By March, we had many of the large tasks checked off the list and were feeling pretty good about things; however, we were quickly thrown for a loop as things started to spiral out of our control.

Our original venue canceled all events, the guest list needed to be downsized, vendors were unsure how to proceed and the local policies and statewide restrictions were changing by the day.

We never imagined we would be planning our special day during such unpredictable times and that a global pandemic would put a wrench in what was supposed to be the 'best day ever.'

My husband-to-be, Trevor, and I did a lot of thinking and praying. With the support of our family and friends, we made the decision to move ahead with our original date.

We knew our wedding was going to look a bit different than initially planned, but we were excited for the next chapter of our lives.

On the hot and humid day of July 18, Trevor and I said "I do" in the presence of our closest loved ones. The morning brought a 'good luck'

rain shower, but by the afternoon the skies cleared up and made for a beautiful day.

After the ceremony, we traveled to my family's farm to take pictures, which made it extra special. We then headed to the Grand River Center in



Photo Credit: Sawyer Creek Photography

Dubuque, Iowa, for our reception and a night to remember.

The safety and well-being of our guests always remained our top priority. We followed the suggested guidelines and took preventative measures to ensure our wedding event was safe for all who attended.

We are incredibly grateful for our family and friends who celebrated with us, whether it was in person or from afar. There is no doubt we encountered many hiccups in our journey to the alter, but we're stronger because of it and so happy to finally be married.

Trevor and I technically have Farm Bureau to thank for our love story. Although having many mutual friends and attending several of the same events, we 'officially' met at the Iowa County Fair among a circle of Farm Bureau friends. We immediately bonded over being old souls, having a passion for agriculture and sharing a love of country music.

Our paths crossed again at a Grant County Farm Bureau event where Trevor sparked my interest a bit more. A few weeks later, we attended the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference and the rest is history.

While this holiday season may look different for many of us, I hope we all still find a reason to be thankful. This year I am especially thankful for marrying the man of my dreams, the endless love and support provided by my family and friends and of course Farm Bureau.

Orth Selected for Farm Bureau Leadership Institute



Grant County Farm Bureau member and emerging agricultural leader, Charisse Orth, has been selected to participate in the 2021 WFBF Leadership Institute. This year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Kannel.

"The Institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

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

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

Farm Bureau members interested in applying for the 2023 class can contact Wendy Kannel at 608.828.5719 or wkannel@wfbf.com.

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Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo
District 3 YFA Committee Representative

I think it's safe to say that fall is here and winter is following in its footsteps. I have always enjoyed this time of year the most out of all the seasons. It is the time of year where we get to see the reward of the work that was put in during the spring and summer.

Every fall I always find myself thinking about how lucky I am to be where I am

and how much I love being involved in such an amazing part of life that we call agriculture. I guess that is why we always celebrate 'thanks' around this time of year.

Speaking of thanks, I wanted to take some time and thank you for everything you do. From slipping on those work boots every morning to finding time to make it to a monthly Farm Bureau meeting, to just simply doing what you do every day. It truly is amazing to see the passion and dedication that you put into your animals, crops and farms.

This year, of all years, has truly tested each and every one of us. So thank you for staying strong, keeping up on the faith and maintaining a positive outlook. There isn't much left of 2020 and 2021 will surely have its fair share of highs and lows.

What I have learned this year is that I know that I can count on my friends involved in Farm Bureau to be on that roller coaster with me. We will be on every hill, loop and turn together. And when we finally get off this ride, we will be able to look back and say we got through it together. Let's hope no one purchases that picture that they snap on the first drop, as I know my expression would be very memorable if it does not break the camera that is.

But truly, we are in this together and we always will have each other to turn to. I am looking forward to the future and to what may be. We are creating new ideas, new ways to stay active and new ways to grow. Thank you again and I hope to see you virtually at the YFA Conference.

Be safe. Be happy. Be strong.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Overcomes Challenges



Kristen Felton
UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau President

This fall semester Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has been having bi-weekly meetings via Zoom to keep members updated and engaged in our chapter. We safely hosted

an in-person fall pumpkin painting activity and will have another activity later this semester with two other agriculture clubs on campus.

We are fortunate to still have these events to keep members involved before going entirely online after Thanksgiving. We have also had several industry professionals serve as guest speakers during our virtual meetings, providing a lot of valuable information and advice.

This year has been a journey for us, but we are thrilled to be able to connect and do events virtually for Ag in the Classroom and Brag About Ag and also still have our meetings bi-weekly.

Being a student is certainly challenging during these times; however, we have one another to continue to get help from and be successful this school year.

We look forward to being able to resume in-person activities, classes and meetings, but until then we will continue to find ways to still stick together and spread our knowledge to others about agriculture.



Connect with the agriculture community that's open to all members ages 18-35. From livestock to agribusiness, agriculture is stronger together. Farm Bureau is its members and we need you.

Members make the decisions.
Members lead the conversation.
Members make the difference.

- Build your social and professional network.
- Increase knowledge of current agriculture issues.
- Let your voice be heard and help develop agriculture policy.
- Develop the skills to be a leader today and in the future.
- Participate in activities on the county, district, state and national levels.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!
Contact your county YFA Chair:

Grant | Jackie Seelow | (608) 632-1714 | jackie.seelow@gmail.com
Iowa | Dakotah Hammerly | (608) 963-7943 | dakhammerly@gmail.com
Lafayette | Casey Lobdell | (608) 482-4525 | caseyllobdell@gmail.com
Richland | Josh Joesph | (608) 604-9819 | josej5604@gmail.com



Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic Announced

“Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car,” written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham, was announced as the 2021 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. The essay contest topic is, ‘How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin’s economy?’

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

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

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

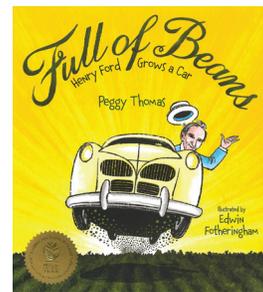
Essay submissions must be 100- to 300- words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due

Apr. 1, 2021.

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

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

Questions about the book or essay contest can be directed to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com.



Ag in the Classroom Resources and Programming Available

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom will offer several resources for K-12 teachers, students, parents and volunteers. The Training Tuesday series will continue to the end of 2020.

Each week, the video covers resources, grants, projects, COVID-19 outreach ideas, commodity partners, programs and activities that Ag in the Classroom offers.

The videos are uploaded to the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom’s YouTube channel, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom.

A number of the videos help address how to reach schools during COVID-19 when schools are virtual, in-person or hybrid and when usual activities may not be possible. Monthly themes also will be offered throughout the school year.

The compiled lessons will be located in the ‘Lesson Plans’ section of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website at www.wisagclassroom.org. Each month will feature an animal and crop.

The packet will have lessons from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, National Ag in the Classroom, American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and other commodity groups for elementary, middle and high school students.

They also will contain a career focus, activities students can do and links to videos on that topic.

As schools, teachers and volunteers try to navigate these challenging times, weekly updates will be used to share Ag in the Classroom information.

Daily Facebook posts also will be used to highlight new resources, grants, videos and other opportunities from commodity groups and agricultural literacy partners.



Iowa Hosts National Ag in the Classroom Conference

The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization will hold their annual meeting and conference in Des Moines, on June 29 through July 1, 2021. The conference moves to a different region of the country every year and this will be the first time Iowa has hosted the event.

Each year the conference brings together hundreds of teachers, volunteers, informal educators and industry experts from across the country to share ideas, network and celebrate agricultural literacy.

It boasts agricultural tours that will show participants a slice of what Iowa agriculture has to offer including research, biotechnology, biofuels, swine production, cattle production, corn production, soybean production, farm machinery production and specialty crops production. In addition to the tours, more than 80 sessions will educate participants on best practices of integrating agriculture into core classroom subjects like science, social studies, language, math and art. The conference will have keynote speakers and recognize award winners of the organization, as well as host commercial and educational exhibits.

Des Moines beat out other finalists as the Midwest host for 2021. The host state organization, the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, will be responsible for organizing pre- and post-conference professional development tours as well as the tours during the conference. More than 20 tour sites are already being considered.

National Agriculture in the Classroom has programs in all 50 states in four U.S. territories and impacts roughly eight million students annually. The conference will likely see visitors from across the country.

For more information or to learn more about the conference, visit www.agclassroom.org/conference.



FALL HARVEST REPORT



TJ & KATIE ROTH
GRANT COUNTY

It's always good to have harvest done and in the books. This year we unexpectedly purchased a 2007 Class Lexion combine to replace our well-seasoned 1992 Case IH combine. All together we harvested around 900 acres of corn for grain and 350 acres of corn for silage.

We started harvesting corn silage on September 1. Silage harvest went well other than a few minor breakdowns. Once we finished up chopping with our neighbors to the south, Kieler Farms, Inc., around September 25 we started into high moisture corn that we grind and pack into a bunker.

Close to 70,000 bushels of corn went into the bunker this year. Ideal moisture is 30%, but with ideal drying conditions and the beautiful weather coupled with the black tar that set in late for us, the average moisture was 24%.

After high-moisture corn, we took a few days to catch the combine with the baler, making some of the driest fodder bales we've made in the past years. Once we started filling bins, it was a breeze compared to last year, only having to dry the corn two to three points versus the 10 to 15 points last year. We quickly finished up the corn harvest by October 20. Last year we didn't finish until December 7.

As for the nutrient relocation, we drag lined our lagoon onto our silage ground after we broadcasted rye seed. The moisture along with the slight soil disturbance made for an excellent cover crop and beautiful green fields. All year watching the crops grow it was evident that there were some compaction ghosts haunting us from last year's wet harvest, so our Brillion disc ripper has been busy this year. Some ground had manure applied before tillage; some will wait until next spring.

As we were finishing up all the fall work, the weather was just too nice to start in on the shop projects, so we went back to hay. We only cut the fields that are going into corn in the spring, making it the fifth cut on those fields. It ran close to a ton to the acre and fed and tested really well for feed value.

Our sorghum sudan that was planted early in July after second cut alfalfa on some poor stands was cut for the second time with the fifth crop alfalfa. The first cut was wet and chopped with fourth crop. The second cut was killed by frost and dried down standing, making for an easy harvest. All that feed was round baled and line wrapped.

The to-do list before winter is getting smaller, with all harvesting, tillage, cover crops planted and manure handling done. What's left? Soil sampling and planning for next year's crop.

Farmers work a bit like squirrels. We put in a few weeks of excessive long hours to store away our 'nuts' for the winter and enjoy the fruits of our labor throughout the whole year.



DON & LORI BROWN
CRAWFORD COUNTY

Fall harvest this year was so much different than harvest of 2019. Last year we had so much rain and it made for a very difficult time to get our corn and beans dried down and out of the fields.

This year we had such a beautiful summer and fall that most farmers seemed to be way ahead of schedule. Being ahead of schedule allowed us to help other area farmers with some of their crops so they could get harvest done as well.

In mid-October we had snow flurries. There was so much snow on the head of the combine that we couldn't continue, but luckily the next day we were back at it.

There is always the threat of accidents when we are moving large equipment from farm to farm. Several times other drivers have made poor decisions causing us a few gray hairs. However, we continue to take extra safety precautions and always pray everyone stays safe.

We are so thankful for the team who works for Busy B Farms. After putting many long hours in during the planting and harvesting season, we have all become like family. We have many laughs at the end of the day and are so thankful for everyone who helps us out.



MEGAN YAGER
IOWA COUNTY

The year 2020 has been quite interesting as we all know, but this year's crop season has been much smoother than 2019. After a favorable spring planting season the crops took off and really looked good. Some strong thunderstorms in June brought pretty gusty winds that left many folks with down corn and green snap. The summer haying season saw lots of opportunities to bale high quality, dry hay.

As the combines started to roll, the weather this fall was pretty fair. The wind damage showed up on the yield monitors, but the corn dried down fast with plenty of moisture samples being under 20%. Soybeans became a race to get them harvested before they were too dry; a far cry from last year's wet soybean harvest.

Fall is also the time for weaning the spring born beef calves. There were plenty of bawling calves to keep the neighbors awake at night. It's always a sad day to see the calves leave the farm, but it also elicits great pride to see your hard work and keen management pay off.

As the fall season wraps up and the year winds down, I hope everyone enjoys a bountiful harvest and stays safe and healthy.

Donations that Make a Difference

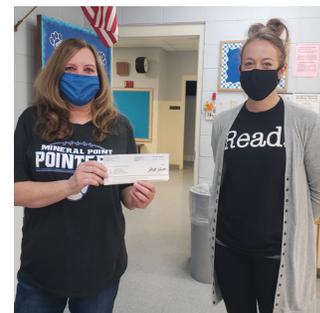
County Farm Bureaus across Wisconsin are continuing to help make a difference in their local communities. Iowa County Farm Bureau recently donated to the local organizations, Feeding Friends and Pointer Pantry.

Feeding Friends is a true community around the dinner table. The organization offers a free meal each week at the Dodgeville United Methodist Church. The meal is open to everyone and served by volunteers with neighborly hospitality.

Pointer Pantry's mission is to ensure at risk Mineral Point students do not go hungry on weekends and breaks. The non-profit organization helps local families keep food on the table through the challenging times. To-date, Pointer Pantry has helped more than 25 families.



Krista Dolan presented Juanita Starr with a \$450 check for Feeding Friends.



Livia Doyle presented Deb Molle with a \$450 check for Pointer Pantry.

Crawford County

wfbf.com/about/counties/crawford
CrawfordCountyFarmBureau

Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 17 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a potluck meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed two resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support all law enforcement, EMTs, first responders and fire departments serving our rural and urban communities.

State and Federal

- We support being proactive in promoting and educating the public that those in the agriculture production industry are striving to continue to develop and promote good use of our natural resources.

Lori Brown, Pat Dearth and Janice Johnsrud will serve as delegates for the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Don Brown, President; Craig Hromadka, Vice President; Mary Jo Johnsrude, Secretary/Treasurer; Lori Brown, Mike Dearth, Pat Dearth, Ron Ellefson, Janice Johnsrud, Steve Johnsrude and Leroy Peterson.



Farm Bureau Flavor

From the kitchen of Janice Johnsrud

Curried Walnut and Apple Butternut Squash Soup

Ingredients

- 1 large butternut squash, 2 to 2 1/2 lbs.
- 1 cup walnuts
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 apple, peeled, cored and quartered
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon dark brown sugar
- 4 cups vegetable stock
- Kosher salt and pepper to taste



Photo courtesy of California Walnuts.

Walnut Gremolata

- 1 cup walnuts, roasted and chopped
- 1/2 cup cilantro, chopped
- 2 tablespoons lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and line a baking sheet with lightly oiled foil. Cut squash in half and scrape out seeds. Roast cut side down for 1 hour or until soft when pierced with a knife; turn cut side up. When cool enough to handle, scoop squash out of peel.
2. While squash is roasting, puree walnuts and water in a food processor until smooth; set aside. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and apple and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add curry powder, garlic and brown sugar and cook for 2 minutes more.
3. Place onion mixture, cooked squash, walnut mixture and half the vegetable broth in a blender and puree until smooth. Place back in pot and stir in remaining vegetable broth. Bring to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes more.
4. While soup is simmering, combine all gremolata ingredients in a food processor. Pulse until walnuts are chopped, about the size of rice.
5. Ladle hot soup into bowls and top with a spoonful of gremolata.

A True Grassroots Organization



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau
President

Hello, from north central Grant County. My name is Peter Winch and I was re-elected Grant County Farm Bureau President.

In September, we had our county annual meeting. There was a smaller attendance than normal, but a lot of important work was accomplished. We presented and voted on an assortment of resolutions, truly demonstrating the grassroots process.

Resolutions are presented locally at committee level or can be brought forward at the county annual meeting. The resolutions that pass at the county annual meeting are forwarded to the state and are voted on during the WFBF Annual Meeting. These resolutions are used to develop policy at the state and national levels.

The WFBF Annual Meeting is held in the beginning of December. For the first time in history, the meeting will be presented on a virtual platform. The resolution session also is being held virtually with delegates voting online. Delegates are able to attend from home or at a central meeting place in each district around the state to limit exposure.

Earlier this fall we organized a drive-thru pork chop dinner fundraiser. We served about 300 meals. With the help of the Wisconsin Pork Association we also sold about 20 pork bundles. Bent Gate Catering was generous enough to do the cooking. The event went very smooth and we made some money to help fund our activities and events. Udder Brother's Creamery sold their delicious ice cream as well.

As harvest started there was an increase in farm-related accidents on the road. Grant County Sheriff, Nate Dreckman, contacted me about doing a joint press release making motorists aware of the added fall farm machinery on the road. I contacted the WFBF office and with their help we sent out a press release to local radio stations and newspapers about farm machinery awareness on the roads.

Grant County Farm Bureau had a voting and total membership gain for the year, which was exciting to see after a very challenging year. We received a cash bonus for our efforts. Membership is one of the harder tasks for me sometimes. It takes members in order for our organization to remain strong. By renewing your dues and asking neighbors to join it helps Farm Bureau be stronger. Plus there are so many benefits of being a member. As always, thank you for your membership.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 22 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed five resolutions, including the following:



State

- We support revising the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to ensure a more uniform milk price.
- We support the reinstatement of basic life skills curriculum in middle and high school classrooms.
- We support tax incentives for people burning wood to heat their homes.

Internal

- We support a membership database that allows WFBF to identify members based on the commodities they are involved in to aid in increased data collection and membership retention.
- We support developing a task force to discuss policy in preparation for the 2023 Farm Bill.

Andrew Dal Santo, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Derek Orth, Katie Roth, Jackie Seelow and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Peter Winch, President; Allen Johnson, Vice President; Katie Roth, Secretary/Treasurer; Josh Bailie; Andrew Dal Santo; Jason Heberlein; Kent Jerrett; Larry Jerrett; Richard Johnson; Charisse Orth; Derek Orth; and Jackie Seelow.

Drive-Thru Deliciousness

The Grant County Farm Bureau Pork Chop Dinner was held on Aug. 11. The event featured a drive-thru format at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster.

Each meal included: A marinated pork

chop from Weber Meats, potato salad and cookies from Ma's Bakery, cheese curds from Carr Valley and Prairie Farms chocolate milk from Fishnick Dairy. Thank you to those who helped make the event a success.



A New Year Brings Hope



By Krista Dolan, Iowa County Farm Bureau President

As 2020 draws to a close, we have so many emotions to describe this year. We were faced with so many uncertainties and unknowns. Things were forced upon us by mandates and we had no idea how to react. Everything we considered 'normal' was no longer normal.

Going out to eat, concerts, Farm Bureau events and in-person school cease to exist. I have a teaching degree, so I understand how

important education is. My kids attend the public school system because I want them to utilize the services they have to offer. Never once did I think I would be helping teach my children at home through virtual learning while still trying to manage everyday farm life.

We are fortunate enough to have high-speed internet to make this possible, but I could see them struggling because they missed the interactions with their peers. They missed their friends and they need the structure. Somehow, we managed to finish out one grade level and start another. Those of you reading this, know that you are not alone in the frustrations of all of this. Having to adapt and change at the drop

of a hat is hard.

As we are inching closer to a new year, let's hope we can start enjoying life and all it has to offer again. For the first time in 10 years, I won't be attending the WFBF Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in person. Every year I look forward to this mini vacation from the farm to see my Farm Bureau family and to formulate policy. It's times like this when you appreciate the advancements in technology to still be able to stay in contact with those people.

I hope the holidays find you well and you can somehow find a way to celebrate this special time of year with family.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 27 at Centennial Park in Dodgeville. The afternoon began with a picnic lunch and was followed by the business portion of the meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed 12 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support law enforcement.
- We support more options in local and regional processing facilities while producing a safe and consistent food supply.
- We support safe and clean water for all citizens. We believe the state has a responsibility to help its citizens improve the infrastructure in the karst areas to make this possible.
- We support a major overhaul to the dairy pricing system that would benefit the farmer by aligning farm gate prices with retail and wholesale prices.
- We support a milk pricing formula that recognizes the full value of Class III products including specialty and value added cheese production within each Federal Order.
- We support requiring all milk handlers to pay the federal minimum price regardless of where it was sourced.
- We support a cost sharing program similar to the ROPS Program to help farmers repair PTO shields on farm equipment.
- We support the usage of the "Wisconsin Cheese" label only on products made with 80%+ of milk originating in Wisconsin.

Federal

- We support law enforcement.
- We support a major overhaul to the dairy pricing system that would benefit the farmer by aligning farm gate prices with retail and wholesale prices.
- We support a milk pricing formula that recognizes the full value of Class III products including specialty and value added cheese production within each Federal Order.
- We support requiring all milk handlers to pay the federal minimum price regardless of where it was sourced.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow and John Meyers will serve as delegates for the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting. Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan, President; Justin Doyle, Vice President; Dan Adams, Secretary/Treasurer; Bob Daentl; Laura Daniels; Ryan Dolan; Dakotah Hammerly; Adam Heisner; Kyle Levetzow; Don Ley; Matt Limmex; Jackie McCarville; John Meyers; and Megan Yager.



Steak and Burger Night Success

Iowa County Farm Bureau hosted a Steak and Burger Night on June 24. The event featured a drive-thru format at Point Foods in Mineral Point.

Meals included a choice of steak sandwich or burger, baked potato or chips, cheese, coleslaw and an ice cream cup. The event successfully sold out of all meals.

Thank you to event sponsors and partners: Point Foods, Hook's Cheese, Compeer Financial, Wisconsin Beef Council, Avon Locker Plant, Cheese Pirates and the Iowa County Dairy Promotion Committee.



2020 Master Showman Contest



Iowa County Farm Bureau was a proud sponsor of the Iowa County Fair Master Showman Contest. The contest featured the top two showmen from each of the five large animal species. Contestants competed in showing all five species and were evaluated on their showing ability, species knowledge and attitude and sportsmanship in the show ring. Prizes were awarded to the top three participants: First place: Nathan Daniels; second place: Morgan Vondra; and third place: Regan Suddeth. The contest proved to be a great success, providing a fun and educational experience for youth exhibitors.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

By Christina Benson, Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

How many times have you heard that saying?

I hear that in my mind as I scroll through social media and see different parts of the county and across the world through other’s photos.

I love to go exploring, it may be in my own back yard or across the country. This year has presented the opportunity to explore more of what is around me and capture photos of my own corner of the county.

It was only a few short years ago someone challenged me to share what I photograph at the fair. The Lafayette County Fair was able to go on this year in a scaled back fashion.

I was happy to see that sharing my point of view through my camera lens paid off with a few blue ribbons. I also enjoyed serving as a volunteer at the food stand and seeing the kids

showing the projects they worked on.

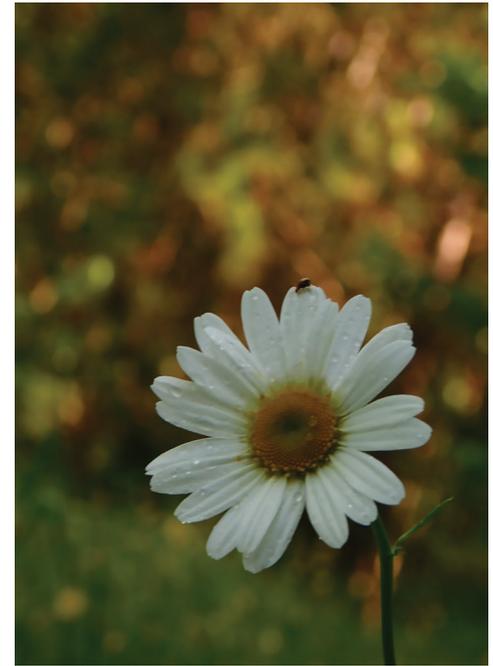
We did miss going in person to a lot of our other Farm Bureau events, but the show will go on and the next time we are able to see everyone’s smiling faces in person, it will make for a great time.

As we move towards year end, I recognize these moments we are going through will be a part of our history.

I am choosing to keep a few of them so that I can look and see what was beautiful and what we are able to get through moving forward together.

Thank you to all who attended events this past year. Next year will provide another opportunity for Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Promotion and Education activities to connect us throughout the county.

If you want to keep in touch with Farm Bureau happenings, find us on the WFBF website, Lafayette County Farm Bureau Facebook page or call or message me at 815.275.4400. Keep telling your agricultural story and have a happy New Year.



A Fairgoer Favorite



Farm Bureau members helped serve up delicious food at this year’s Lafayette County Fair. Although things looked a bit different this year, the steak sandwiches continue to be a fairgoer favorite. Thank you to the members who volunteered their time to help make the food stand a success.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held the annual meeting on Sept. 13 at the Darlington Country Club.



The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions.

Allen Abraham, Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Casey Lobdell and Amber McComish will serve as delegates to the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Christina Benson, President; Tim Appell, Vice President; Amber McComish, Secretary/Treasurer; Allen Abraham; Casey Lobdell; Joe Riechers; Jordan Torstenson; Mackenzie Torstenson; and Leon Wolfe.

President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

By the time you read this we will probably know who our president will be for the next four years and what challenges agriculture will face. It is too difficult to know right now, so I will move to a different subject.

As some of you know I lost the ends of two of my fingers in a chopper accident. We get many reminders to be careful and shut equipment down before working on it. Well I did shut the tractor off, checked the pickup and blower for mud (the source of the plug) all of which were stopped, then turned to reach for some mud in the cutting chamber only to discover too late that the cutting rotor was still coasting.

I can attest that accidents happen in a split second. I also can attest to the fact that trying to type with two shortened fingers is a challenge. Especially, since I was not much good at it before. I am only relaying this story because in the five weeks since the accident, I have encountered way too many people in the agriculture field who have missing or shortened fingers. To be sure not all were from choppers, but numerous other kinds of equipment. We hear time and again that agriculture is a dangerous occupation. Yes, we love what we do, but please be careful.

I hope you have had a productive year on your farm and as a new season approaches, we can soon get to a new normal that will seem a little more familiar. Be safe and stay well.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Oct. 14 at the White House Ramada in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions.

Dick Hauser, Bill Hying and Josh Joseph will serve as delegates for the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Dick Hauser, President; Josh Joseph, Vice President; Germain Hying, Secretary; Bill Hying, Treasurer; Byron Hillberry; and Bekka Martin.



Vernon County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Wednesday, September 23 at Gasser's Bar & Grill. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors for next year and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed five resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support a dairy growth management plan that improves the welfare of farmers, processors and consumers.

Federal

- We support a dairy growth management plan that improves the welfare of farmers, processors and consumers.
- We support Country of Origin Labeling (COOL).

Internal

- We support establishing a committee within WFBF to research, develop and present to members a dairy growth management plan.
- We support reinstating the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Achievement Award.

Alex Bringe, Dave McClurg, Travis Klinkner, Lee Nerison, Ralph Petersheim and Scott Sherry will serve as delegates to the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Robert Nigh, President; Alex Bringe, Vice President; Scott Sherry, Secretary/Treasurer; Travis Klinkner; Dave McClurg; and Steve Wagemester.



**ANNOUNCING
A NEW MEMBER BENEFIT**

YAMAHA

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Highlights for:**

Crawford County

Grant County

Iowa County

Lafayette County

Richland County

Vernon County



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