



Grassroots

District 5 News

District Director Report



Kevin Krentz
WFBF District 5 Director

As we reflect on 2020, the year of the 'new normal,' we realize just how much COVID-19 has impacted our daily lives. The pandemic made us rethink communication, learning and meeting. Many schools and organizations were required to meet virtually, and the need for on-line technology skyrocketed.

This demand highlighted the need for faster broadband, a service many of us in rural Wisconsin struggle with. Now, more than ever, Farm Bureau continues to push for high-speed rural broadband access. This infrastructure will continue to be a necessity for Wisconsin farmers long after the pandemic has ended. Broadband is one of many issues Farm Bureau continues to fight for agriculture in Wisconsin, but it creates an underling issue.

Most of us struggle with COVID-19 fatigue of not being able to meet in person. We know about, and may have experienced, mental stress that is affecting rural America. Most of which is COVID-19 related. We have a rapidly changing world but the impacts of seeing each other one-on-one are unmeasurable. We have a stigma in agriculture that we are independent. We must get rid of that and be able to talk about personal issues.

Please check on your neighbors, friends and family members. Farming is a tough business. On any given day, many things may go wrong, or not the way you've planned. Granted, that is why many of us have chosen to farm. But add to that low commodity prices and small margins that we've been experiencing for years and it complicates our lives and our choices in a small amount of time. We need social interactions to be able to hear and understand we are not alone in a situation. Those networks are extremely important and could save lives.

Rest assured Farm Bureau continues to work on your behalf. With COVID-19 still affecting our communities, Farm Bureau will use a virtual platform to safely communicate with members as we work through this pandemic. We do not take lightly the importance of social interaction, but we will continue to measure that with the safety to those involved.

Although 2020 has been an extremely difficult year, we as farmers also are optimistic. We will continue to overcome the obstacles set before us and use the successes of 2020 to build an even better 2021 for our members.

God bless.

District Coordinator Report



Becky Hibicki
District 5 Coordinator

COVID-19 has caused so many things to change in our lives; however, one thing that has not changed is the commitment and dedication of our Farm Bureau volunteers.

Although activities and programs have had to change in order to be safe, I continue to be impressed on how our members in District 5 continue to adapt and be innovative in developing new programs.

It is so rewarding to have the opportunity to work with such great volunteers throughout District 5. I want to highlight a few of those outstanding volunteers:

- Waushara County member Lynn Leahy was elected to serve as the chair of the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.
- Juneau County member Sally Turpin serves on the AFBF Young Farmer and Rancher Committee.

We have a great group of dedicated membership volunteers. Thank you to the following members who still prioritized membership in 2020 despite the challenges of COVID-19. 2020 Farm Bureau Proud Club members:

Adams County: Kay Olson

Marquette County: Aaron Wachholz and Al Klapoetke

Fond du Lac County: Reuben Hopp, Trayton Greenfield and Steve Sabel

I want to thank the District 5 County Farm Bureau presidents who do a great job leading their respective county Farm Bureaus:

Adams: Kay Olson; **Fond du Lac:** Reuben Hopp; **Green Lake:** Pete Badtke; **Juneau:** Kip Weber; **Marquette:** Aaron Wachholz; **Waushara:** Mike Leahy; and **Winnebago:** Charlie Knigge.

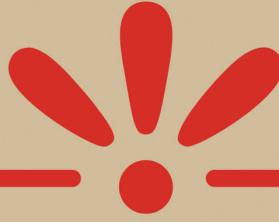
Congratulations to Green Lake County YFA member Natasha Paris who won the WFBF YFA Excellence in Ag contest and was named a Top 10 Finalist in the AFBF competition. Natasha also was a finalist in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet contest.

The Farm Bureau continues to be the leading general ag organization due to the dedicated volunteers who are committed to promoting agriculture in their county Farm Bureaus.

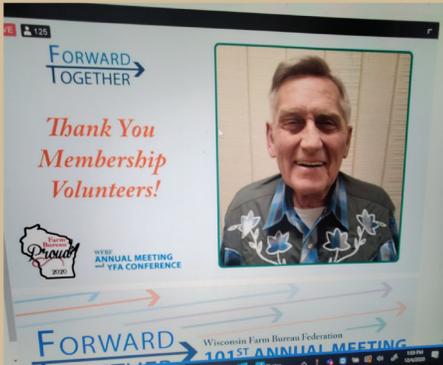
Thank you to the volunteers in District 5.

Why be a volunteer?

It's not for money, it's not for fame.
 It's not for any personal gain.
 It's just for love of fellow man.
 It's to send a helping hand.
 It's just to give a tithe of self.
 That's something you can't buy with wealth.
 It's not medals won with pride.
 It's for that felling deep inside.
 It's that reward down in your heart.
 It's that feeling that you've been a part.
 Of helping others far and near
 That makes you be a Volunteer!
 Author Unknown



District 5 Membership Workers Recognized Farm Bureau Proud Club Members



Trayton Greenfield: 30 members



Al Klapoetke: Nine members



Reuben Hopp: Eight members

Trayton Greenfield, Al Klapoetke and Reuben Hopp were recognized during the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting as part of the top 10 membership workers in Wisconsin.



Trayton Greenfield of Fond du Lac County was once again recognized as the top membership worker in Wisconsin.



Steve Sabel: Six members



Kay Olson: Five members



Aaron Wachholz: Six members

AFBF YF&R Update



Sally Turpin
AFBF YF&R Representative

The AFBF Annual Convention theme of 'Stronger Together' is very fitting for this time we are in as the challenges of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic continue.

This event was held virtually on Jan. 10-13, featuring Mike Rowe, Navy SEAL Rorke Denver and Land O'Lakes President and CEO Beth Ford as keynote speakers.

There also were breakout sessions and farm tours.

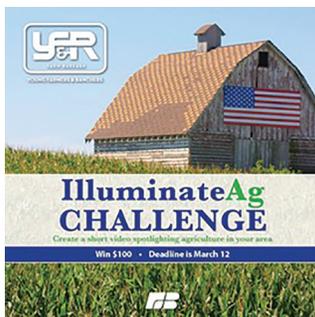
One positive addition to our programming that has come out holding

more things virtually is the new YF&R Connect, a monthly event with a learning portion or farm tour followed by a networking session. It is a great way to learn more about the Young Farmer and Rancher program, which is the national equivalent to YFA, and engage with members from across the country. The next session will be **March 15** at 7 p.m.

For more information on how to register, visit the America's Young Farmers and Ranchers Facebook page.

This year's FUSION Conference also will be re-imagined and moving to a virtual format. It will be held **March 11-13** with the theme 'Where Agriculture Converges' and is open to members as it is sponsored by YF&R, Promotion and Education and Women's Leadership AFBF committees. Stay tuned for more details and a final schedule.

If you are interested in sharing your local agriculture and the possibility of winning \$100, the Illuminate Ag Challenge is for you.



Members will produce 60 to 90 second videos highlighting agriculture in their area and 25 participants will randomly be selected for a \$100 gift card. The deadline for submissions is **March 12** by 11a.m.

To apply, contact me at sally.turpin@gmail.com or Sara Menard at smenar44@gmail.com.



Plant a Seed. Reap the Rewards.

Volunteer membership workers who sign up ...

Three or more new members by February 28
will receive a Farm Bureau
wall thermometer.

Four or more new members by March 31
will receive a Farm Bureau
12-pack duffel cooler.

Five or more new members by September 30
will qualify as members of the
Farm Bureau Proud Club.

For more information, please contact
District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at
920.517.2445.



Share your photos for a chance to be included
in a future issue of the District 5 newsletter.

Email photos to District 5 Coordinator Becky
Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com.

Krentz Elected WFBF President and to Serve on the AFBF Board of Directors

Kevin Krentz was elected president of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company in December. He also was elected to serve a one-year term on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Board of Directors during the AFBF Annual Convention held in January.

Krentz was first elected to the WFBF Board of Directors in 2012 to represent District 5, which includes: Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake,

Juneau, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

Krentz is a dairy farmer from Berlin in Waushara County. He is president of Krentz Family Dairy, Inc., and started his farming career in 1994 when he purchased his father's 60 cows. He grew the farm to 600 cows and 1,300 acres of crops.

Kevin and his wife, Holly, have a daughter and three sons.

Leahy Elected Chair of WFBF Promotion and Education Committee



Waushara County Farm Bureau member Lynn Leahy of Plover was elected to a one-year term as the chair of the Promotion and Education Committee and will serve as the representative on the WFBF board of directors. She succeeds Darby Sampson from Jackson County.

For information about the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, visit wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education.

Make plans to attend the virtual Ag LEAD Summit on **March 12**.

"We are excited to bring members together virtually for leadership development and collaboration on ways to effectively connect with consumers. I encourage anyone with an interest in promoting Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry to attend. There will be a session for everyone to learn something new."

Lynn Leahy,
WFBF Promotion
and Education
Chair



District 5 YFA Chair Update



Sara Menard

District 5 YFA Chair

Happy new year. I hope your 2021 is off to a great start. We are already one and half months into 2021.

If 2020 taught us anything, it was that hindsight is actually 20/20 and to have a contingency plan.

When we started the year, crop markets weren't there when planting decisions needed to be made. Contingency planning was a crucial part of last year's farm plans. As the year continued markets tumbled from animals to stocks. 2020 taught us to be resilient as individuals and as a community.

One of my favorite quotes is, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." I say that is exactly what happened in 2020, while we spent it mainly apart pivoting our farms and businesses for success, we truly were better together and preserved.

Heading into 2021 most markets have stabilized or rebounded and the stock market made one of the largest comebacks in history.

I would even bet to say you learned something new about your farm or a new way to market your products during 2020.

YFA members finished 2020 with our virtual YFA Conference and I finished it engaged. I met my fiancé, Jeff Huber (Adams County YFA chair) two years ago at the YFA Conference in the Wisconsin Dells while I was a Fond du lac County member. We had to play an ice breaker game with the district, where you had to throw your shoe in the middle of the room, well I ended up with Jeff's boot.

While it was sad to not see old friends and make new connections from across the state as we would of typically gathered at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center. The virtual platform, paved way for new opportunities and experiences.

Some of these were a trivia night on WFBF knowledge, Wisconsin

agriculture facts and some fun random Wisconsin history facts. Our district even had a few winners, where they received prize packs in the mail.

Other events included virtual farm tours from across the country. Flowers and hemp in Oregon, pig farming in Indiana, cotton and peanuts in Georgia and almond farming in California. These tours were a great way to hop across the country in a few hours to learn more about other state's agriculture.

There was even a virtual 'Be the Babe' contest where several district members participated for a chance to win \$500 as they impersonated the Fabulous Farm Babe Pam Jahnke.

To wrap-up the conference, Natasha Paris was selected as the Excellence in Ag winner. Paris represented Wisconsin during the AFBF Annual Convention and finished in the Top 10.

Congratulations to Natasha, and to the other District YFA members who participated.

We will host a virtual cooking on **March 17** for St. Patrick's Day. I will walk you through a meal you can prepare at home and learn a few new recipes.

More information regarding these upcoming virtual events will become available.

I look forward to 2021 and the days where we will be reunited for in-person District 5 events.

YFA Dine In: A Virtual Cooking Demo

March 17 at 6:30 pm
Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

District 5 YFA Chair Sara Menard will lead a virtual cooking demonstration. Recipes will be provided before the event. Cook along with Sara in making the perfect St. Patrick's Day meal.

RSVP to Sara Menard at smenar44@gmail.com by March 15



DATCP Launches Virtual Support Groups for Farmers

In a continued effort to help Wisconsin farmers access mental health resources, the Wisconsin Farm Center at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is launching a series of virtual farmer support groups.

The support groups are scheduled to begin in February. Support groups will be offered at different dates and times to accommodate farmers' schedules:

- 8 p.m., the fourth Monday of every month.
- 1 p.m., the first Tuesday of every month.
- 8 p.m., the third Thursday of every month (for farm couples).

The support groups are open to farmers and their spouses at no cost. Participants can be located anywhere in Wisconsin and must register in advance. Each session will be 60 to 90 minutes long and will be held on Zoom. Sessions will be limited to 20 attendees per session, with a couple counting

as one attendee.

Sessions will be led and moderated by peer leaders that are farmers who have experienced stress and anxiety while operating their own farm.

A licensed mental health provider with extensive experience in serving farmers will also be on-hand at each session to offer additional support as needed.

To register for a session or for more information, visit FarmCenter.wi.gov.

DATCP's farmer support groups are made possible by funding provided in Governor Tony Evers' 2019-2021 biennial budget and approved by the state legislature. It is one of several new initiatives developed by the Farm Center in response to increased challenges faced by the agricultural industry.

Other initiatives launched in 2020 include a podcast, Question-Persuade-Refer trainings, an expanded counseling voucher program, a 24/7 hotline and free tele-counseling sessions.



Make plans to attend the virtual Ag Day at the Capitol event on March 24.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol.

To schedule a virtual meeting with your legislator, please contact District Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com or 920.517.2445.



Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

Join us for the 2021 Virtual Ag LEAD Summit
MARCH 12

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Wesselmann



Thompson-Weeman

PRESENTED BY:



AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 12

- 9:00 a.m.** Welcome and Keynote Speaker
PAUL WESSELMANN
The Ripples Guy
- 10:15 a.m.** Breakout Sessions
- 11:15 a.m.** Breakout Sessions
- 12:00 p.m.** Lunch Break
- 12:30 p.m.** Keynote Speaker
HANNAH THOMPSON-WEEMAN
Animal Agriculture Alliance
- 1:45 p.m.** Breakout Sessions
- 2:45 p.m.** Closing Messages
- 3:30 p.m.** Adjourn

REGISTRATION

Registration will be available in early 2021.

For the latest updates, visit wfbf.com/events/ag-lead-summit

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Information

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that teachers, volunteers and homeschool parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

The 2020-2021 Wisconsin Essay Contest topic is, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

The topic is based on the Book of the Year "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car," by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Ed Fotheringham.

The essays are due **April 1**.

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

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

For more information, please contact your county coordinator.

District 5 County Essay Coordinators

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

Fond du Lac County

Mary Runge: 920.960.3176.

Green Lake County

Denise Mayne: 254.415.0571

Juneau County

Tonra Degner: 608.553.1256

Marquette County

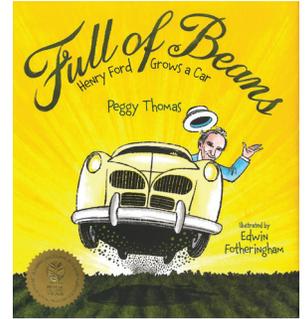
Ashley Henke: 608.369.0261

Waushara County

Lynn Leahy: 608-558-9713

Winnebago County

Rebecca Poppy: 920.312.0970



Adams County

wfbf.com/about/counties/adams
AdamsCountyFarmBureau

A Message From The President



Kay Olson

Adams County Farm Bureau
president

Welcome to 2021.

I expect the beginning of this year will look a lot like 2020 and we can make of it what we want.

Having a positive

attitude is the best approach.

I for one found 2020 a very relaxing year not rushing around with the organizations I am involved in, volunteer for, running and driving for the meetings because everything was virtual.

My family has always been very important to me and 2020 gave me more time to spend with them having a lot of fun and laughter.

This is not to say I did not miss doing some things. Our Ag in the Classroom program did not and has not happened. The committee members and I miss going into the schools and teaching the students. We are hopeful that when school starts back in the fall, we will be allowed back to teach.

I know our YFA members miss getting together and doing activities with other counties.

Your county Farm Bureau board of directors still conduct business, it has been done virtually. We offered the youth from our county who had a livestock project for the Livestock Show the opportunity to write about their project and we will award \$25 to each youth who participated.

We will offer scholarships for graduating high school seniors or those already in college or

mid-state.

If you have received a scholarship from the county Farm Bureau you cannot receive another one. We will post a notice on Facebook. The applications will be due on **June 30**. For an application, please contact me at kolsonmartz@gmail.com.

We need to be vigilant on getting new members and retaining our current members. That is the key to being able to do our programs, especially because we didn't have our ice cream booth at the county fair.

The membership dues are only \$50. If you remember your board of directors did not raise our dues. By signing up 20 new members each year and retaining members we get a bonus of \$1,800.

Remember to be a Farm Bureau member in Adams County, if you have an interest or a vested interest in agriculture you can be a member. Which actually means, if you like to eat, you can be a member.

There are quite a few benefits of being a member. You can find those elsewhere in the newsletter.

I want to thank those who are current members. Your continued membership helps us and is greatly appreciated.

In closing I want to say that it is up to us to do our part and follow the health guidelines during this pandemic.

I am so impressed by our youth and how they are handling wearing masks and doing their part.

My grandson said it best to me, "I think wearing masks is going to be a fashion trend."

Let's have the same attitude and positive thoughts.

**Adams County
Farm Bureau Scholarships**

The Adams County Farm Bureau offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors and those enrolled in postsecondary education.

To request a copy of the application, please email
Kay Olson at
kolsonmartz@gmail.com.

Applications are due June 30.

**Adams County
Farm Bureau**

Meet: Jean Bartz, Farm Bureau Member



Farm Bureau member Jean Bartz and her husband, Dan.

Please describe your background and profession:

I live north of Wisconsin Dells with my husband, Dan, daughter, Claire, our three dogs and two cats. We moved to the area when I got a job managing an apartment community. Now, I am a regional manager with Oakbrook Corporation and my husband and I own and operate Bartz Realty, LLC. We buy, sell, flip and rent.

Why did you decide to join Farm Bureau?

I learned about Farm Bureau when I was an Independent candidate for the Wisconsin State Assembly. My husband and I appreciate and admire farmers in our community and when Kay told me that you didn't have to be an active farmer to be a member, I jumped at the chance to join and learn more. Attending the county annual meetings and seeing the members interact, I loved the small town and community feeling. My husband and I may not farm, but we want support local farmers and farming community. I look forward to when we can meet in person and get to know everyone.

What are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member?

I like the support that it provides. To have resources to reach out to as we educate ourselves about what farmers are going through, especially during this unusually difficult time, is beneficial. I have learned a lot and if my husband and I can help anyone, we want people to know we're available. We may not have farmed, but my husband has been in maintenance and repairs for more than 20 years and we're about helping our neighbors whether its home repairs, real-estate related or extra hands to pitch in and help accomplish tasks. We are willing to help and willing to learn.

What Farm Bureau activities have you been involved and what activities do you want to get involved in?

I attended several of the District 5 county annual meetings and was a delegate during the WFBF Annual Meeting. Hopefully 2021 will be some resemblance of normal and we can volunteer at in-person events including fundraisers and fairs.

Are you involved in other organizations or activities? I am a member of the Realtors Association, the Institute of Real Estate Management and serve as treasurer for my daughter's Girl Scout troop.

Please explain your experience as a delegate for Adams County Farm Bureau.

I enjoyed the experience. While there were technical glitches, it went smooth. The in-person component was missing so I didn't meet people the way we normally might have, but the sessions and workshops went interesting.

Fond du Lac County

A Message From The President



Reuben Hopp
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau president

The year 2021 has arrived, so what lies ahead remains to be seen.

In agriculture, we trust that the seasons will come and go. We usually plant at the same time of the year, take care of the crop during the early summer and wait to harvest

as the season goes on. Usually having much to be thankful for. There are choices we make, such as seed, fertilizer, date planted, chemicals, etc.; however, much depends on the weather we receive the rest of the summer and fall.

As we go into 2021 knowing that there were many situations in 2020 that we faced, we hope we will not have to face ever again. But let us go forward with faith, and trust that it will be a great year.

As my granddaughter Abby Hopp wrote: Although times on the farm may be tough, we have seen generations of work, determination and sacrifice poured into the industry. American agriculture is passionate and motivated enough to push through the storm and continue doing what we all love for generations to come.

Congratulations to District 5 Director Kevin Krentz, for being elected as the new WFBF President. I'm confident he will serve us and Wisconsin well.

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau will try to function as normal as possible while using some precautions in 2021. We hope we can celebrate the 100th year anniversary, which was planned for 2020. We also hope the local fairs will take place. Whatever the case, we will continue to move forward as a strong county Farm Bureau.

God bless you in the new year.

Congratulations Rural Agent Mike Immel



Fond du Lac County Rural Mutual Insurance agent Mike Immel was recognized as a top Farm Bureau membership agent.

Mike signed 92 members during the 2019-2020 membership year.

Thank you Mike for your continued support of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau.

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau offers scholarships to high school seniors and students enrolled in secondary education.

To apply, visit
wfbf.com/about/counties/fond-du-lac.

Applications are due March 31.

A Message From The President



Peter Badtke

Green Lake County Farm Bureau president

Hello, Green Lake County Farm Bureau members. As we enter 2021, looking back at 2020 we have so much to be thankful for. I know there were times it seemed like everything was going down the tube; however, we had a lot of good things happen.

Yes, some milk was dumped, and stores had no milk on the shelf at the same time, but milk prices turned out better than 2019. Grain prices were higher than 2019 at harvest, and prices have increased.

Also, with the virtual meetings, we realized the importance for good internet connection. All in all, 2020 was not as bad as the media made it. The media focuses on the problems and negative things happening, making everything seem worse.

Actually, that is how we solve problems, and those involved in agriculture know nothing is perfect and there is always room for improvement. Each year as Farm Bureau members, we update state and federal policies during the WFBF Annual Meeting. Jim Hebbe, Dave Wilke and I served as Green Lake County Farm Bureau delegates and had two resolutions passed by the delegates.

- **We support the state adding more meat inspectors to allow for increased local slaughter plant capacity.**

With COVID-19, local butcher shops have been swamped with demand for more orders of local animals slaughtered. State meat inspectors have set schedules of inspecting, by adding inspectors it would allow shops to bring in more animals on more days to increase capacity.

- **We support a government funded grant program for the purchase, construction and equipment of small, local slaughter and meat packing plants.**

Realizing most small butcher shops are booked to 2022 creating long waiting lists that we have never seen before. More people want to know where their food is coming from and buying local or raising their own will do that.

Thanks for your continued membership.

Land Conservation Update

By Todd Morris, Green Lake County soil conservationist

- Nutrient Management Plan submission to Green Lake County Land Conservation Department for the Farmland Preservation Program is **March 31**.
- There is a Virtual Nutrient Management Training for Farmers on **Feb. 16 or March 1**. Register at <https://ipcm.wisc.edu/blog/2020/12/2021-virtual-nutrient-management-training-for-farmers>.
- Cost sharing assistance for Soil and Water Grants in Green Lake County, our first ranking deadline is **March 15**. If landowners are interested in applying for cost sharing, please contact me or our office. Each county might have a different deadline.
- Wetland Reserve Program/Agricultural Land Easement Program, sign up starts **Feb. 5**. For more information, please contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- SNAPPLUS is Wisconsin's Nutrient Management planning program, it can be downloaded at <https://snappplus.wisc.edu>.
- Wisconsin Runoff Risk Advisory is for farmers applying manure in the winter, it provides a 10-day runoff forecast. Visit www.manureadvisorysystem.wi.gov/runoffrisk/index.
- For cover crops there is a good resource through the Midwest Cover Crop Council. It has a selector tool that helps farmers choose cover crop options. Visit <https://mccc.msu.edu>.

If you have questions, please contact me at Green Lake County Land Conservation office at 920.294.4051, 920.229.5114 (cell) or tmorris@co.green-lake.wi.us.

Paris Wins WFBF Excellence in Ag Contest, Named Top 10 Finalist in National Contest

Natasha Paris was the winner of the WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Excellence in Agriculture Award at the virtual WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

She also represented Wisconsin at the AFBF Annual Convention in January. Paris was named a Top 10 Finalist during the national contest.

"Competing at the national level, even virtually, was a surreal experience. To be showcased alongside others who have done so much for agriculture, and then to be named to the Top 10, was such an honor. While traveling is fun, I loved being able to watch it from home and to get to meet my competitors during our downtime and rehearsals. I want to thank Green Lake County Farm Bureau, WFBF staff and Board of Directors and Kelly Wilfert, Becky Hibicki and Wendy Kannel for their encouragement and support during this process," said Paris.

Paris is an agri-science teacher and FFA advisor at Ripon High School. Paris and her husband, Jordan, own ParKelm Farm, a pasture-based livestock operation.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award is presented to a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 who is actively engaged in agriculture but derives the majority of his or her income from an off-farm agricultural career. The winner is selected based on his or her knowledge of agriculture, leadership in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

Paris has been a Farm Bureau member since 2015 and serves as the YFA chair and vice president of Green Lake County Farm Bureau.

★ *Congratulations* ★

Natasha Paris
Green Lake County YFA Chair

Excellence in Ag Contest
2020 WFBF Winner
2021 AFBF Top 10 Finalist

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Young Farmer
and Agriculturist
Program

YFA Committee Organizes Virtual Judging Contest

Green Lake County Farm Bureau hosted its first virtual judging contest on Jan. 22-24.

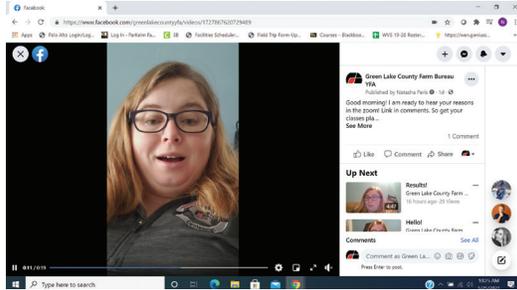
There were participants from six counties, with prizes awarded to YFA and seasoned members.

YFA Division: First place, Aaron Wachholz, Marquette; second place Chad Bruss, Green Lake; and third place, Tony Klotzbuecher, Waupaca.

Seasoned Division: First place, Liz Gartman, Sheboygan; second place, Meredith Paul-Bowers, Waupaca; and third place, Pete Badtke, Green Lake.

The award for the best set of reasons went to Alissa Grenawalt of Green County. Thank you to those who participated.

If you want another contest, please contact Natasha Paris.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau Scholarship
To apply, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/green-lake.

For questions, contact Yolanda Woloszyn at 920.229.3962.

Applications are due **March 15**.

Juneau County

A Message From The President



Kip Webber
Juneau County Farm Bureau president

Greetings, Juneau County Farm Bureau members. I hope all is well for you and your family as we begin the new year. 2020 was a challenge for us, and I am hopeful that things will get back to some sense of normal soon.

The Juneau County Farm Bureau board of directors continues to hold meetings virtually.

Brian Bires and I represented Juneau County Farm Bureau as delegates during the

WFBF Virtual Annual Meeting in December.

County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Tonra Degner continues to promote the Ag in the Classroom book of the year and fourth- and fifth grade student essay contest, despite not being able to have volunteers in classrooms due to COVID-19.

Also, long time board member Richard 'Dick' Santas died.

Dick was a charter member of the Juneau County Farm Bureau and served as president for many years.

He also was active on several WFBF committees.

His leadership and dedication to agriculture will be deeply missed.

Our sincere sympathies are with his wife Gladys and their family.



Juneau County Farm Bureau Scholarship
To apply, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau.

Applications are due **April 1**.



AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR
▶ **JUNEAU COUNTY**

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

Agriculture's annual impact:





A Message From The President ...



Aaron Wachholz
Marquette County Farm Bureau president

Happy 2021 Marquette County.

We find ourselves turning the calendar on a new year. It is filled with hopes, dreams, ideas and a new horizon.

2020 was a year of unprecedented challenges, and many were more than happy to end the year.

COVID-19, the presidential election, the political roller-coaster ride we find ourselves on in our country and growing confusion and frustration made farming in 2020, a year we will never forget.

Let us not focus on the negative though, as many are in the habit of doing so lately. 2021 is ripe with opportunity and hope for a better and more productive year. Find peace and satisfaction in the simple things we do each day and the little miracles we witness but more often overlook and take for granted as normal occurrences.

We are still here, and spring is creeping closer every day. The days are starting to get longer, and evening comes a little slower. New life begins at the blink of an eye as we care for the cow with her newborn calf, the sow and a healthy litter of piglets and as we watch the simple, tiny seeds we plant grow into a bountiful harvest, yielding a hundred to even a thousand times greater than what was planted.

We see these things happen so much that we often lose sight of the privilege and honor that has been given to those of us in agriculture.

We're entrusted with God's creation and are stewards of it. By our stewardship we are privileged to help our fellowman, who benefits from the work we do every day. We farmers and those others in the agricultural community are so few, yet we feed the multitudes of this nation and the world.

Be proud to be part of American agriculture in 2021 and let us do our work gladly and respectfully. Tell your story to those you know and love, but also tell your neighbors and others you meet who do not share

the direct connection to agriculture. We are so privileged to farm in this country, so let that joy shine through that smile on your face when you speak about your life as a farmer.

Thank you, my friends, for farming or having a part in Marquette County agriculture. Thank you for being a WFBF member, and for being a part of the strongest voice in Wisconsin agriculture. Thank you for your part in providing the food, fuel, and fiber to America and the world.

God bless and keep you in His care so that you prosper in 2021.

Marquette County
Farm Bureau Scholarship

To apply, visit
wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara.

Applications are due April 1.



Message From The President



Mike Leahy
Waushara County Farm Bureau President

Goodbye 2020. This past year sure has been something. I want to share an update on the past few months as we look forward to 2021.

In December, we participated in the first virtual WFBF Annual Meeting. Overall, the

annual meeting went well. It started with the WFBF President's Address and presentation of the Leopold Conservation Award. Congratulations to the Eron Family of Stevens Point for being selected. The workshops sandwiched the Rural Mutual business session and concluded with the YFA Discussion Meet.

District caucuses were held. Though there was a wide-range in technical experience among the delegates, there seemed to be few issues when it came to navigating the meeting platforms and voting. I am pleased to share that three of the policies passed by Waushara County were approved by the delegate body

1. We support the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers.
2. We support developing a standard for well water testing and sampling systems.
3. We support an exemption or modification from current UW-Madison risk and liability requirements for the UW Extension System 4-H program in order to continue the services the 4-H program provides to youth and leaders.

I am excited to share that Waushara County's member Kevin Krentz was elected WFBF President. We look forward to Kevin's leadership in these challenging times. Also elected to the WFBF Board representing the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee is Waushara County Farm Bureau member Lynn Leahy. Congratulations to Kevin and Lynn.

County scholarships applications are available online. Please let your graduating seniors know they can apply. Scholarships are due **April 1**.

Happy new year.

"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide you're not going to stay where you are." - JP Morgan

Waushara County Farm Bureau Scholarships

The Waushara County Farm Bureau offer the
Bleskey Memorial Scholarship
and
Gordon Krentz Memorial Scholarship.

To apply, visit
wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara.
Applications are due April 1.



Farm Bureau Donates to Waushara Area Food Pantry's Holiday Project

The Waushara County Farm Bureau partnered with the Waushara County Dairy Promoters and Rural Insurance agent Victor Magnus to make a \$600 donation to the Waushara Area Food Pantry.

The donation was used for the pantry's annual Holiday Project to purchase dairy products for the food pantry to distribute during the holiday season.



Rural Insurance Agent Victor Magnus (right) with daughter Kinsley present a check to Marty Lee with the Waushara Area Food Pantry.

Winnebago County

Dairy Promotion Committee Update

By Dan Hinz, Dairy Promotion chair

What will dairy promotion in 2021 look like?

As we look back at to 2020, the last dairy promotion event we did was provide chocolate milk for the Race for the Light 5K Run/Walk.

We supported the Christine Anne Center with one of its fundraisers, providing 200 pints of chocolate milk and goodie bags with promotional material. This event was held virtually, but participants still came in before the race to pick up race packets and t-shirts.

2020 was a different year, but the committee came up with great ideas with the drive-thru events. The grilled cheese drive-thru was a stand-alone dairy promotion event and the committee worked with the beef promotion committee and the pork promotion committee to promote other events as well as dairy.

I want to thank those who helped with the events in 2020 and the committee has started planning 2021 events.

In 2021, we aren't planning a Breakfast on the Farm like we have in the past. We do not know what restrictions will be in place in June. The committee had success with smaller events in reaching new people and non Farm Bureau members. The committee is planning similar events for 2021. During June Dairy Month, the committee members are planning two drive-thru events at two different dairy farms.

With the smaller events, we have less input costs, easier planning, fewer volunteers, but still able to get our dairy message to the consumers.

We want to add to this list of possible events or ways we can spread the message of dairy, 'Good for My Body, Good for My Community, Good for My Planet. Any funds we receive from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin we will focus on spreading this message versus focusing on events.

For the June Dairy Month events we are thinking about a few farms

but nothing is confirmed. Do you know of a dairy farmer willing to host a drive-thru event?

If you have ideas of events or other promotion activities, please contact Dan Hinz at 920.376.0371.



Dairy Promotions Committee

Dan Hinz - Chair

Rob Stone - Vice Chair

Linda Mullins -
Secretary/Treasurer



If you have any ideas for upcoming dairy promotion ideas, or would like to be a part of the committee, please contact Dan Hinz at 920.376.0371

 **County Farm Bureaus**
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