



MAY 2021

Grassroots

District 7 News

District 7 Director Report

**Brian Preder**

WFBF Board Member

Spring is a time of planning, growth and excitement for the upcoming year. Maybe Robin Williams put it better when he said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, 'Let's party!'"

What does WFBF's party look like for the year? It starts with the new strategic plan approved in March. A group of 11 members

from across the state worked to develop the new strategic plan.

The group created a new mission statement: 'Empowering the Wisconsin agricultural community through our grassroots membership to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture' and a new vision statement: 'The trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward.'

They also identified five core values: Integrity, Inclusion of all Agriculture, Grassroots Leadership, Sustainable Stewardship and Financial Stewardship; and five strategic goals for the organization.

With a new member driven strategic plan, WFBF is ready to tackle challenges and celebrate successes in the upcoming years.

When I read the new vision statement, I think about the farmers and county Farm Bureaus who are taking a proactive approach on local issues.

Counties throughout the district have used the new local affairs chairs to establish a connection between the county Farm Bureaus and local officials.

These connections continue to become more important as more ordinances are being proposed at the local town and county board levels.

At the state level, we have

been engaged in discussions from the biennial budget and NR151, to the wolf harvest.

One of the best ways to keep up to date on the latest policy and legislative news is through the new e-newsletter, Policy Pulse.

If you are not receiving the Policy Pulse, contact a member of your county Farm Bureau board or myself to get you signed up.

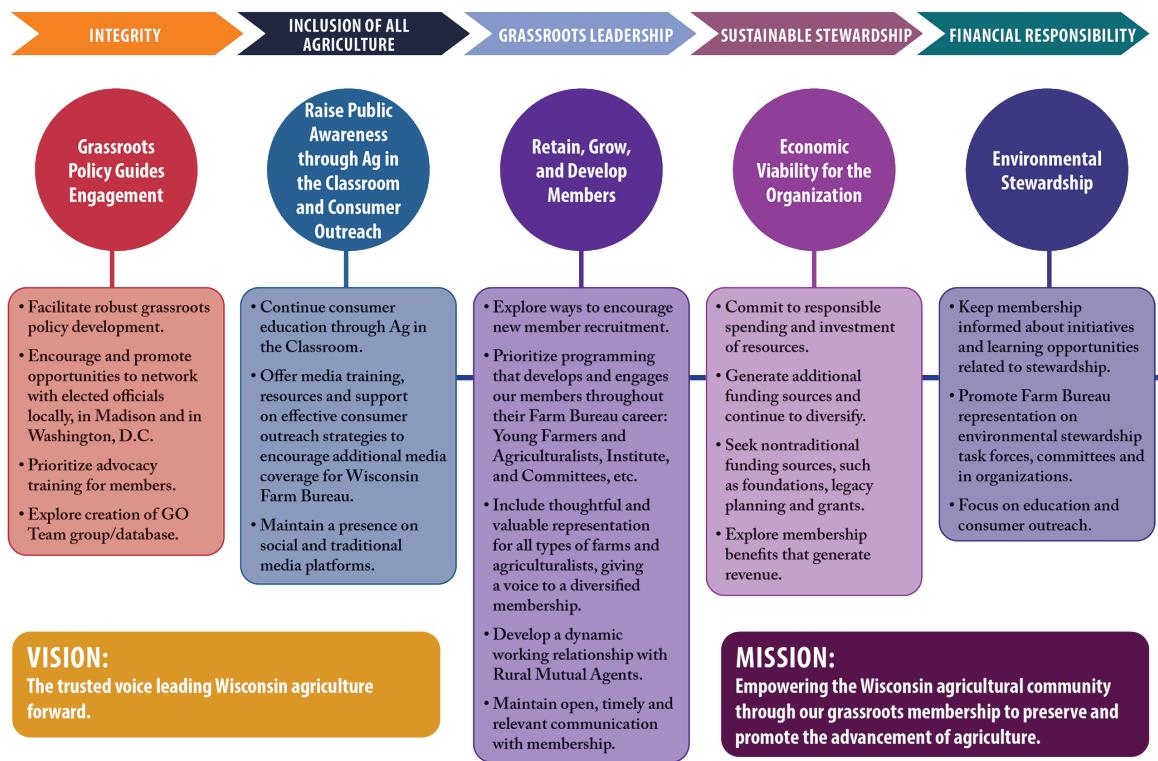
With summer fast approaching, it's encouraging to see the line-up of dairy breakfasts and summer events around the corner.

WFBF also has plans to begin transitioning to in-person meetings starting in June and the goal of having an in-person WFBF Annual Meeting.

George Washington once said, "I would rather be on my farm than be emperor of the world."

We are stewards of the land and proud of our way life. As people become more removed from farming, it's important to share our stories and passion for our way of life.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Strategic Plan (2021-2024)

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

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District 7 News

Ag LEAD Summit Overview

By Kellie Zahn, Shawano County Farm Bureau Board Member

In March, I attended the WFBF Ag LEAD Summit. It was a great opportunity to connect with Farm Bureau members from around the state and to talk about opportunities and challenges that we have in and outside of Farm Bureau.

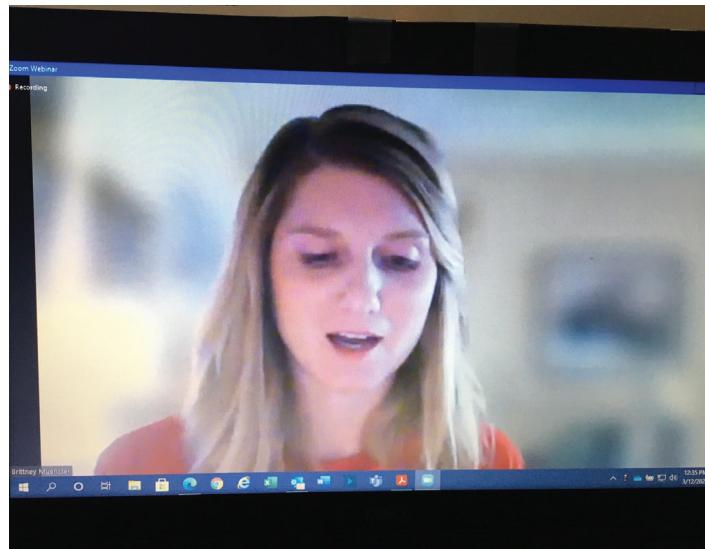
Paul the Ripples Guy started the meeting and shared some great insights on how to make sure that we were taking care of ourselves and our own mental health.

There were a series of breakout rooms where we were able to follow topics that we were interested in. I chose the breakout room that talked about recruiting and working with volunteers.

I was in another workshop that reviewed the Enneagram personality test. It was fun to do the quick assessment and I ended up sharing it with my co-workers and we discussed it as an office team.

I appreciated that many of the topics were about developing personal leadership skills that I can use at work, on the farm and in organizations I'm involved in.

Thank you to Shawano County Farm Bureau for sponsoring several members to attend the summit.



SECURING THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE: ENGAGING WITH INFLUENCERS, CONSUMERS AND NEIGHBORS

HANNAH THOMPSON-WEEMAN
VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

District 7 Promotion and Education Committee Representative, Brittney Muenster, introduced one of the keynote speakers during the virtual Ag LEAD Summit.

District 7 YFA Report



Kelly and Keith Oudenhoven

YFA Committee Representatives

While we haven't been able to have quite the year that we would like to have, we did receive some fantastic news that we can resume in-person activities as of June 1.

Keith and I will gather ideas so we can try to include all of the counties to allow us to network together.

We are working as a committee to plan the YFA Conference, which will be held in December and it will be IN-PERSON.

Please mark your calendars for **Dec. 3-5** and come to the Kalahari Resorts and Conference Center to enjoy wonderful workshops, networking opportunities and of course a good time.

The Discussion Meet contest also will be in person and soon we will send information along with a date. The Excellence in Ag applications became live and applications are due **July 1**.

We hope that you consider trying out for these contests or joining us in December and that you have a safe planting season. Watch for more information soon.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



How many attorneys does it take to change a light bulb?

- One to argue for the rights of the old bulb.
- One to advocate for the new bulb.
- One to represent the socket.
- And one to defend the light switch.

All those in favor of conserving gasoline, please raise your right foot.

Old accountants never die, they just lose their balance.

Classified ad: Farm Hands Wanted: Take a job on our sheep farm and learn about profit-shearing.

What is the safest way to keep milk from going sour?
Leave it in the cow.

What goes through towns, up and over hills, but doesn't move? The road.

If you take your laptop computer on your run you could jog your memory.

I figured out my budget just right! The money I owe is the same amount as I spent.

Why did the chicken cross the road, roll in the dirt, and cross the road again? Because he was a dirty double crosser.

Always use tasteful words – you never know when you may have to eat them.

District 7 News

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Brittney Muenster

Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Heading into a new season the Promotion and Education Committee is wrapping a few events and moving into planning for a much anticipated summer.

To summarize, thank you to those members who participated in the Ag LEAD Summit. Even with a virtual platform, we had a great turn out.

Next up, we are in the process of selecting a winner for the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. We had amazing participation within District 7 with some impressive county winners.

Finally, It's May Beef Month. Stay tuned to the WFBF Facebook page for some great beef recipes provided by the Promotion and Education Committee.

In addition, if you're planning an event for a Beef Promotional event don't forget about the Wisconsin Beef Council offering \$250 grants to Wisconsin agriculture organizations holding a beef promotion event between **May 1 and Sept. 10**. They also will provide \$100 in beef promotional materials (recipes, handouts, swag/trinkets). Each organization is eligible to receive one grant, even if multiple events are held.

Applications should be submitted to the Wisconsin Beef Council at least two weeks prior to holding an event.

For more information, please contact me or the Wisconsin Beef Council at 608.833.9943.



The smartphone screen shows the "POLICY PULSE" logo with a red heart rate monitor graphic. Below it, a description reads: "An e-newsletter to keep Wisconsin Farm Bureau members up to date on the latest policy and legislative news and other happenings in the governmental relations division." A "SIGN UP HERE:" button leads to the URL <http://bit.ly/PolicyPulseSignUp>. At the bottom of the phone screen, there is a small image of a building and the text "Ag Day at the Capitol Set For March 24".

Stay up to date on the latest legislative news affecting you.

SIGN UP HERE:
[http://bit.ly/
PolicyPulseSignUp](http://bit.ly/PolicyPulseSignUp)

Ag Day at the Capitol Set For March 24

Wisconsin Farm Bureau FEDERATION

Ag Day at the Capitol Report

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Board Member

This year, Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag Day at the Capital was conducted virtually.

A morning session included presentations on background and specifics on WFBF priority issues. That was followed by afternoon virtual meetings between county Farm Bureau members and local legislators.

A new biennial state budget will be adopted and many of the issues of interest to Farm Bureau were in the Governor's budget proposal. They included support for DATCP to:

- Increase funding for producer-led watershed research and demonstrations.
- Increase funding for small dairy processing plants.
- Establish funding for an initiative to increase exports of Wisconsin ag products.

A proposal in the DNR budget would increase funding to replace, reconstruct or treat contaminated water supplies serving residences and livestock.

WFBF supports three initiatives related to agricultural nitrogen that were not included in the Governor's budget proposal. They include:

- Create a grant program for farmers to implement on-farm projects to reduce nitrogen loading to groundwater.
- Make changes and increase funding to DNR Well Compensation Program to make it more workable.
- Create a program in DATCP to provide \$5 per acre rebates on crop insurance where cover crops are planted.

Support budget proposals in the UW-System budget that would:

- Track the hours UW Extension ag specialists spend teaching farmers.
- Authorize additional funding to replace critical ag specialist positions that have been lost in recent budgets. Note that in our session with individual legislators we also reiterated the need to add funding to replace county Extension ag positions.

In the WFBF policy development process this spring, one common concern was small-scale meat processing facilities. WFBF recommends several initiatives in DATCP to support and encourage growth of smaller scale meat processors, including:

- Create a grant program to expand and modernize meat processing facilities.
- Create a tuition assistance program for individuals pursuing meat processing training in Wisconsin universities or technical colleges.
- Authorize DATCP to hire additional meat inspectors to aid in timely inspection at meat processors.

The final issue is rural access to broadband internet service. The Governor's budget proposal more than triples the level of previous funding, which WFBF supports. Specifics include:

- Focusing grant program on unserved rather than underserved areas.
- Prioritizing investing grant funds in 'future-proof' projects. Applications capable of higher speed service would score higher.
- Create a low-income family broadband assistance program.
- Create a broadband line extension grant for individual customers not served by a broadband service provider to assist in the cost of extending lines to provide service.

In the afternoon, I attended a session that included Farm Bureau members from Shawano and Waupaca Counties with 36th Assembly Representative Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) and a member of 12th District Senator Mary Felzkowski's (R-Irma) staff.

The legislators received the WFBF Issue Briefing paper, so we discussed related issues and experiences in our local areas.



President's Report



By Tom Houdek, Langlade County Farm Bureau President

With the increasing numbers of vaccinated people, and everyone just being tired of COVID, things are very slowly returning to some semblance of normal.

Restaurants are filling up and people are going out more. Our local board meetings and all state Farm Bureau meetings are still being held virtually. Hopefully soon we will be able to meet in person. We have been told that

Music in the Park is happening and many other events are scheduled. Langlade County Farm Bureau will be serving pie, ice cream and BBQ on **Thursday, June 24**. We were planning on it last year, but the entire summer was canceled.

It's nice to be getting some moisture again after a very dry winter. Stay safe and enjoy the summer.

Langlade County Favorite Recipes

By Christy Sveda-Schreiber, Langlade County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

Pizza Spaghetti Squash

1 Spaghetti squash, drizzle of avocado oil, salt, pepper and oregano to taste

1 cup pasta sauce

½ cup mozzarella

¼-½ cup Parmesan cheese

⅓ cup cottage/ricotta cheese

¼ cup slivered onion

1 clove minced garlic

Add your favorite pizza toppings: basil, pepperoni, chicken, etc.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees, pierce holes in squash and microwave 5 minutes. Let cool 5-10 minutes then slice in half, clean out seeds, drizzle with oil and seasonings. Place squash face down and roast 40 minutes. Mix the rest of the ingredients together (except toppings) leaving a bit of cheese aside. Remove squash from oven. Fluff up the insides and spoon ½ the ingredient mixture into each half and top with pizza toppings and the rest of the cheese. Broil 5 minutes on high or until golden brown. Enjoy.

Pumpkin Bread

1 2/3 cup flour

1 ½+ cup sugar

1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. cinnamon

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. ground nutmeg

½ tsp. ground cloves

2 large eggs, room temperature

2 cups canned pumpkin

½ cup canola oil

½ cup water

½ cup chopped walnuts (optional)



Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine first eight ingredients. Whisk together eggs, pumpkin, oil, water and stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in nuts. Pour into greased loaf or muffin pans. Bake until the bread pulls from the sides of the pan and a tooth pick comes out clean (approx. 65-70 minutes). Top with butter and brown sugar mixed together and brushed on top of the hot bread or muffins.

Amount of butter and brown sugar is your preference. Enjoy.

Government Programs and Financial Aid Update

By Darlene Eckerman, Enrolled Agent, Langlade County Board Legislative and Local Affairs Chair

There are many generous programs available right now. There was a major change in the Paycheck Protection Program. Last year it was based on payroll.

Right now up until **May 30**, it is based on your GROSS income, not net. This is significant as you can imagine.

Your local bank may be participating. Lendio at this writing was still accepting applications and on the U.S. Small Business Administration website, there are other lenders. The application is not complicated. Many are completing the applications themselves or with the help of the loan officer, lender or tax professional or accountant.

What this PPP loan means if you use the proceeds 60 percent for payroll and the remainder for utilities, equipment or payroll, the PPP is a forgiveness loan. The PPP dollar amount is not taxable and the expenses are still deductible. When the money comes to your bank account, as a sole proprietor, Schedule F farm or business owner, you write yourself a check for your own payroll as you would normally do for a draw. Now, you are able to spend that money by putting it back into your business or as a paycheck to you. But do not wait as the money may run out before **May 30**.

If you do have payroll, please be aware that paycheck retention is available up to \$10,000 per quarter for first and second quarter for 2021. If your 941 was not filed with it, it can be amended for it. If you are filing 943s per farm payroll you can file a 7200 Form to get the credits paid to you early, rather than waiting until the year-end.

Approximately for every \$10,000 paid per person in a quarter, the government pays you back \$7,000 for providing employment. This is phenomenal and you should be taking advantage of this.

Check out your Wisconsin portion of your taxes, If you received the Wisconsin Farm Support Grant or the 'We're All In' grant, those are taxable to the federal government, but they are not taxable to Wisconsin and there should be an adjustment on Wisconsin Schedule I, like the Addback for Unemployment Compensation.

As you probably are aware, the federal government exempted \$10,200 of unemployment, however, Wisconsin did not as it has another program available to calculate how much unemployment is taxable. This shows on Wisconsin Schedule I also.

Contact your local FSA/USDA office to see what programs are available. I know there is one for cow and goat milk, still waiting on sheep milk. I convinced them there is a wool Loan Deficiency Payment that had come through. I heard that through the grapevine.

Knowledge and communication are power and money helps sometimes. Some say the farmers have enough money this year. But these programs are to help the local community as well.

Repair your buildings, buy more equipment, upgrade, put money away for retirement, etc.

For more information or help, please me at eckermansheep@gmail.com.

Beef Promotion Recipe

By Bev Brecklin, Langlade County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

Here's a recipe to celebrate May Beef month, although it's good all year long.

Quick and Easy Steak Casserole

Ingredients

3 lbs. round steak or boneless chuck roast
4 Tbsp. flour
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
1 green pepper, finely chopped
1 can mushroom soup
1 can tomato soup
1 large can (12 oz.) evaporated milk

Dredge steak in flour and brown in olive oil or any other type of cooking oil. Mix onion, pepper, soups and milk. Place steak in casserole dish and cover with soup mixture. Bake 1.5 hours in preheated 350 degree oven. Add more milk if needed. Enjoy.

Music in the Park Fundraiser Planned

By Judy Bolen, Music in the Park Committee Member

Farm Bureau will again be hosting Music in the Park, it is going to happen on **Thursday, June 24**, so please save this date.

We will serve barbecues, pies, ice cream and drinks.

We hope to have a good turnout as this is the only fundraiser we will have this year.

Please keep an eye out for time and who will be providing the music.



Marinette County

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

By Bill Kempka, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Marinette County's winning essay by Lauryn Peters of Peshtigo.

The Soybean Process

Did you know that soybeans are used for more than just eating? Soybeans originate from Asia, but now also grow in various places including Wisconsin. Soybeans are grown from seed and planted in rows in a field. Soybean plants grow to about two feet tall are ready for harvest in about 80 days. Soybeans are harvested in large machines called combines. The header on the front of the combine cuts and collects the soybean plant. Then the combine separates the soybeans from its pod and stem and collects the soybeans and stores them in the back of the combine.

Soybeans go through a three-stage process called SPC to make Soybean meal, soy protein, and concentrate. Soy oil, soy lecithin, and soy molasses are extracted from the process. Soybeans are used for more than just eating; they are used for animal feed and their bedding. The beans are mostly used in oils.

Henry Ford was an extraordinary person; he loved recycling. He wanted to make a safer and better car. He wanted to use recycling to make cars. He used soybeans as a crop. Ford built a soybean laboratory in Greenfield Village. His experiments led to soy-based oils and plastics in Ford motor company.

Soybeans have many uses for oils, animal feed, food products, industrial uses and more. In 2018 Wisconsin soybean growers harvested 105 bushels of soybeans. They planted 22.2 million acres of soybeans in 2018. Soybeans are used for many things! Did you learn a lot about soybeans? I did.

Young Farmers and Agriculturist Update

By Emily Cudnohosky, Marinette County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

Greetings from Marinette County YFA.

I hope this finds you and yours well.

On March 27, Outagamie County hosted a Green Bay Gamblers hockey game event on Weiner Dog Night.

Participants from our county had a blast watching the exciting hockey game as the Green Bay Gamblers took on Team USA and laughed as several wiener dogs made their 'mad dash' down the ice.

While the pandemic has left us to be virtual for the past year, it was refreshing to be able to have fellowship, in person, with those in the agriculture industry as well as our community.

While there was no organized post game pizza party this year, some of the attendees did find their way to a local bar/restaurant for some additional 'together' time with Farm Bureau friends and acquaintances to take the opportunity to gather with YFA members from other counties in the district.

After attending the night's events, Marinette YFA is extremely hopeful to organize an event of our own within the coming months that we hope will be just as successful.

Stay tuned for updates.



YFA members enjoy watching the wiener dog race during intermission of the hockey game.



Emily Cudnohosky and Trevor Van Drisse (upper right) participated in the multi county Green Bay Gamblers hockey event.

AgVenture Day: Farm to Table Lessons, a Success

By Cindi Wautier, Marinette County Farm Bureau Board Member

AgVenture Day was held on April 28 at Coleman High School.

The Marinette County Farm Bureau worked with Coleman FFA to teach how food is grown and processed from the farmer to the table.



Coleman Elementary School students learned about pigs.

The sessions included- growing shiitake and oyster mushrooms, the process of maple syrup tapping and cooking, beef cow production, comparison of small flock chicken production to large scale and fish farming.

The day also wasn't complete without the petting zoo featuring: alpacas, a calf, piglet,



The petting zoo was a fun place for the kids to get a little interaction with animals.

horse, rabbits and some goats. It is vital to teach youth what farming is and what it takes to get food to the table.

The event was a success, and all the students have a better understanding about where their food comes from.

Thank you to those who participated.



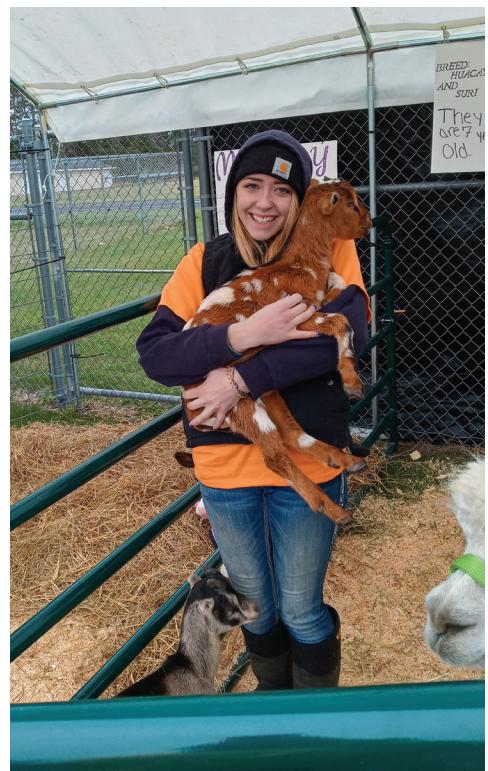
Learning about chicken and egg production was part of this year's Food to Table theme.



Students learned about calf care as well as raising goats and beef cattle.



Learning about horse care is a student favorite.



The goat farming pen got a lot of attention from the 'kids.'

Farm Bureau Members Greet New Assembly Representative

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Legislative and Local Affairs Chair

Elijah Behnke (R-Oconto) recently won a special election to fill the vacancy in the 89th Assembly District. The 89th District encompasses portions of Marinette, Oconto and Brown County.

In December 2020, just after the 2020 election, Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette) announced he would resign from office. Behnke announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination to succeed Rep. Nygren.

Farm Bureau members from the three counties invited Representative-elect Behnke to a get-acquainted meeting to meet him and introduce him to some of the issues before the legislature that are of interest to Farm Bureau members. We were pleased to be joined by veteran 6th District Representative and Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair, Gary Tauchen (R-Shawano).



Farm Bureau Board Member Spreads the Word About Agriculture

By David Schneider, Oconto County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Co-Chair



I'm a local beef cattle rancher and I operate Schneider Family Farms Red Angus Ranch in Oconto. I grow fruits, vegetables, corn, hay, pumpkins, sell firewood and eggs and raise cattle, pigs, cattle dogs, horses, goats and chickens.

I taught more than 110,000 people from kindergarten to the doctorate level covering a wide variety of agricultural topics locally, domestically and internationally. I love to teach about where our food comes from, how it is produced on the farms and ranches and the nutritional value people receive from eating a variety of food from the five food groups.

I serve for AmeriCorps as a Farm to School Educational Specialist, which is a branch of the U.S. government titled National and Community Service in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

I also serve on the board of directors for Oconto County Farm Bureau.



David Schneider taught Howard/Suamico School District students about agriculture.

Brat Fry Fundraisers

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Legislative and Local Affairs Chair

Oconto County Farm Bureau will hold two fundraising brat fry events this summer at Witt's Piggy Wiggly in Oconto Falls.

Dates are **Friday, June 4**, and **Friday, July 9**. Hours will be 10 a.m. to around 2:30 p.m.

We will grill bratwursts, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs.

Safety protocols will be in place.

Plan to take a mid-day break for a great grilled sandwich and support the agriculture promotion and education programs of the Oconto County Farm Bureau.



Shoppers enjoy some delicious hot food at the Oconto County Farm Bureau brat fry fundraiser.



FRIDAY, JUNE 4 AND JULY 9

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

@ WITTS PIGGY WIGGLY

OCONTO FALLS

Outagamie County

wfbf.com/about/counties/outagamie
OutagamieCountyFarmBureau

A Message From The President ...



By Mike Salter, Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

I can start this report on the positive note that our County Farm Bureau board meeting was held face-to-face, which is an improvement from all the Zoom meetings.

The Ag Day at the Capitol was held in Zoom and had a lot of good information, and after the reports, we visited with Senator Robert Cowles (R-GreenBay) and Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna).

The topics we talked to our representatives about are listed in the Rural Route magazine that you should have received, and Senator Cowles and Representative Steineke were in favor of the things that we recommended to them.

We did not have a WFBF Council of Presidents meeting before Ag Day at the Capitol this year, so we are having a once a month Zoom update that is open to members, these meetings are to update us about the activities taking place at the state.

There is a update called the Policy Pulse highlighting what political activity WFBF is involved in on a weekly basis, and watching to see what happens in Madison to protect farmers. If you want to receive this weekly e-newsletter, please contact District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz at wraddatz@wfbf.com to ask to be on the mailing list.

Appleton Octoberfest Fundraiser Report

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Octoberfest Chair

The way it looks Octoberfest in Appleton will be **Sept. 25**. Organizers are taking booth application starting on May 3, so at this time we do not know if we have a booth. For more information, watch your August newsletter and save that date as we will need help in the booth starting at 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Remember this is our only fundraiser of the year and it helps to support programs like Adventures in Dairyland, FFA and 4-H programs during the year.

Adventures in Dairyland Program Update

By Kelly Oudenoven, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

The Adventures in Dairyland program is well underway this year with 12 schools participating. With the COVID-19, volunteer instructors are not allowed into classrooms and there are no farm tours as many schools have eliminated field trips this year. We still wanted to offer the program as a 'self-teach' as many schools rely on this program. Fortunately, there are 957 students in the program this year.

Adventures in Dairyland is a program designed for fourth-grade students that takes a deeper look into the dairy industry and the history of dairy in Wisconsin.

Outagamie Farm Bureau partners with the Outagamie County Dairy Promotions to support this program.



Kelly Oudenoven organized Adventures in Dairyland materials for teachers to use as an alternative to classroom visits by local farmers.

Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Board Member

Ag Day at the Capitol was held virtually on March 24. The day started with a briefing on the UW system budget bill, meat processing infrastructure, agricultural nitrogen legislation, Wisconsin broadband coalition, DATCP program proposals, DNR program proposals, transportation funding and legislative initiatives such as support for the Farmland Preservation Program, Truth in Labeling Bills and Wildlife Damage Program.

Then we had a zoom meeting with Senator Robert Cowles (R-GreenBay) and Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) at 11:30 until 12:15 updating them on our feelings on these important policies. One real important issue is the NR 151 regulations changes.

A good way to stay informed is the new Policy Pulse e-newsletter, and you can contact District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz to sign up.

Shawano County

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner

By Renee Schmidt, Shawano County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Member

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture.

This contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students around the state. They were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?' The topic is based off of the Book of the Year "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car," written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Amelia Du Chesne from St. James Lutheran School in Shawano is the winner of the Ag in the Classroom essay contest and was selected from 21 entries.

Amelia's winning essay

wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano
ShawanoCountyFarmBureau

How Have Wisconsin Soybean Farmers Fueled Wisconsin's Economy

Have you ever wondered how WI soybean farmers fueled WI economy? I have too! How have WI soybean farmers fueled WI economy? One reason is the products they make from soybeans. There are many products soybean farmers make here are some of the types of products they make!

One of the products they make is toys some are crayons some are key chains. There are over 80,000 crayons made for kids to draw with. Also the keychains can sometimes look like beans. There is also beauty products made with soybeans.

There also is feed for animals. Farmers produce feed for animals, there is hog feed which is also known as pig feed. There is also chicken feed that Wisconsin farmers produce. Cow feed is also one of the feed farmers produce.

There are also cleaning products made from soybean farmers in Wisconsin here are some they make. Wood stains and concrete stains are some cleaning products made with soybeans. Also paint and insulation are made with soybeans. That is some cleaning products that are made from soybeans there are lots of different things made from soybeans.

All of these products helped me write my essay. There are many different things that have fueled Wisconsin economy and is what I was supposed to write about. I think that the way Wisconsin economy is fueled is the way farmers have passion for their crops and how they work. Lots of farmers have different ways of farming like with animals or crops.

President's Report



By Neil Christianson, Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Happy spring. It sure is great to have warmer temperatures and longer daylight hours now. Recent board meetings have been about our annual membership drive.

My mind started to think about how the most important aspect of Shawano County Farm Bureau is its members.

The present membership for Shawano County is more than 600, which is outstanding. I want to highlight our 40- and 50-year members who were recognized during our last annual meeting:

40 year members: Daniel Borcherding, Daniel Buss, Dale Schultz, Donald Schwartz and Herb Tauchen

50 year members: Bernice Brodhagen, David Laatsch, Jerome Schultz and Dennis Zahn

Our Brunch Committee is in full swing planning this year's brunch. More details to follow in this newsletter.

Now, it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage.

Sven and Ole were busy shingling a roof when Sven noticed that Ole was throwing away about half of the nails. Sven asked, "vy are ya trowing avay all dose nails?" "Vell, dey got da heads on da wrong ends," replied Ole. "Ole, you sure are stupid. Dose nails are for da udder side of da roof!"

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch Co-Chair



June 27, 2021

NISCHKE BACK 40 ACRES | PULASKI

Committee felt confident in early spring that hosting a regular event will be possible by the end of June. Modifications are being planned to limit high touch and close contact activities between guests and volunteers to ensure health and safety of those in attendance; however, the outdoor space will allow for plenty of social distancing.

Last year we made the difficult decision to cancel Brunch on the Farm, and we are excited about the opportunity to bring people out to a dairy farm and show them where their milk and dairy products come from again this year. Even if some things look different, we know that there will be a great breakfast, cows and of course ice cream.

Brunch will include a hearty country breakfast of eggs, sausage, cinnamon bread, cheese and milk topped off with an ice cream sundae.

There will be plenty of activities including wagon rides, farm tours, and a polka band with a polka mass at 8 a.m. See farm animals, machinery and learn about robotic milking systems at the event.

Brunch on the Farm typically draws 4,000 people during the course of four hours. The event is from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on **June 27**. Tickets are available in advance and the day of the event for: Adults and 12+: \$8, children 4-11: \$5, children 0-3: Free. Please follow signs from Highway 29 to the event on Cedar Creek Road.

Dairy Dash 5K: Get a running start to Brunch on the Farm with a trail run/walk starting at 7:30 a.m. This is a fun way to see the farm from the farmstead to the Back 40 Acres, which the farm is named. Register in advance

Get a running start at Brunch on the Farm



June 27th at 7:30 am

Trail Run and Walk | Nischke Back 40 Acres

online, Active.com or the day of at the event. Brunch ticket is included in registration.

Individuals:

\$35 advanced registration, \$40 at the farm or groups (four plus): \$30 advanced registration, \$35 at the farm.

Host Farm: Back 40 Acres is a 150 cow, robotic dairy

farm located outside of Pulaski. It is owned and operated by Wayne and Connie Nischke along with their children Kayla and David Coehoorn and Ashley and Ricky Mikle. They updated the facilities from a tie-stall barn to two DeLaval robot milking systems and free stall barn in 2017. They farm 750 acres of corn, alfalfa, soybeans and wheat.

Wayne and Kayla work full-time on the farm with others helping part-time and working off farm in the agriculture industry. Connie works for Nutrition Service Company of Pulaski and David works for Bentley Family Farms in Pulaski. Ashley and Ricky also own and operate a customer harvest operation while working at United Cooperative and Riester and Schnell, respectively. The next generation also is being raised on the farm with three grandchildren and a fourth expected this spring. The family is looking forward to hosting brunch this year.

Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to help the day of Brunch on the Farm including serving food, farm tours and cooking. Please contact UWEX to sign up

For more information, follow Shawano County Farm Bureau and the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm event page on Facebook.

Quick Information

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm

Date: Sunday June 27, 2021

Address: Back 40 Acres- N3220 Cedar Rd Pulaski. Please follow signs on Highway 29 to access the event on County Road F

Time: Brunch: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Polka Mass: 8 a.m.; Dairy Dash: 7:30 a.m.

Tickets: Adults and 12+: \$8; Children 4-11: \$5; Children 0-3: Free



Back 40 Acres Dairy, near Pulaski, will be the host for the 2021 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm on June 27, 2021. The farm is owned and operated by Wayne and Connie Nischke, Kayla and David Coehoorn, and Ashley and Ricky Mikle.

Shawano County Extension Update

By Kimberly Schmidt, Agriculture Extension Educator

Like most things, Extension programing has had to adapt this past year due to COVID-19. While it has been a challenging year not being able to see everyone in person and I am looking forward to planning more in-person events, I want to share some of the projects that I have been working on during the past several months.



The first is a webinar series that developed during the 2020 growing season. With the limitations of completing in-person programing and field days last year, Extension crops and soils colleagues still wanted to reach those interested in agronomic issues.

The Badger Crop Connect was developed to meet this need by providing agronomists, crop consultants and farmers with timely crop updates for Wisconsin. Due to the success of this webinar series, it is now continuing into its second year. The webinars will be offered, on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 p.m., from March through September 2021. Badger Crop Connect is hosted by Extension crops and soils educators.

For more information, please visit the Badger Crop Connect fyi.extension.wisc.edu/grain/badger-crop-connection.

The second project is an alternative forage research study, which was planned during this past fall and winter and is scheduled to start this spring. During the past several growing seasons forage shortages have become a challenge for many producers. Weather ranging from heavy rains that delayed corn silage planting and harvest as well as extreme cold temperatures with inconsistent snow cover have created forage quality and quantity issues. In order to combat forage inventory shortages, farmers have increased their planting of winter rye and winter triticale after corn silage as well as sorghum or other alternative forages. While these alternative forages have helped increase the forage inventories of producers, there is a need for research based feeding guidelines to better understand the economic implications of planting and harvesting these forages. The purpose of this research project is to collect data to help answer these questions. If you are a farmer that is growing an alternative forage such as winter rye, winter triticale, sorghum, or other species of forages besides corn silage and alfalfa and would like to participate in this study please contact me, Kimberly Schmidt at kimberly.schmidt@wisc.edu or 715.526.4871.

The pandemic has certainly brought its challenges, but Extension has worked on these projects as well as many educational programs, tools and research to help producers and agriculture industry professionals make the most informed decisions for their operations and customers. I hope to be seeing everyone in the near future, stay safe in the fields this spring.



Badger Crop Connect

TIMELY CROP UPDATES FOR WISCONSIN

Farm Bureau Supports Farmer's Mental Health Promotion

By Kellie Zahn, Shawano County Farm Bureau Board Member

During the January Shawano County Farm Bureau board meeting we agreed to support this farmer mental health promotion program sponsored by UWEX, Shawano/Menominee County Health Department, Rural Health Initiative and ROADS, Reaching Out About Depression and Suicide, which is a local suicide prevention and support program.

The flyer will be one of many items in the 'Gratitude Package' that will be sent to 400 farm families in Shawano County.



Past Brunch Videos Available Online

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch Co-Chair

I have uploaded the historical Brunch videos on a new YouTube channel. I think this will be a good central location to store the Brunch videos. Having them online will create an easy access for those who are interested. There are videos from 1986 to 1996, with a few missing.

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm YouTube Channel:
www.youtube.com/channel/UC48bV04FW5VjXc3mpTPeIA/videos.

Brunch on the Farm Videos

Scan this code with your phone's camera to find videos from the 1984 - 1996 era.



SCAN ME

Rent the Little Red Barn

By Kevin Bonnin, Little Red Barn Committee Chair

Are you or your group planning a get together or event this summer and want to serve or sell a dairy product? Now is the time to reserve your spot.

Our 'Little Red Barn' is available to rent from the Shawano County Farm Bureau. Our barn features electric hookup, a freezer and a refrigerator to accommodate your needs. It has been used for fundraisers, parades, Brunch on the Farm, church events and could be used for countless other things as well.



The Shawano County Farm Bureau Little Red Barn is available to rent for events and promotions.



President's Report



Wayne Steingraber, Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

It's already May, this year seems to be going by so fast.

With all that has happened this past year it is good to see things starting to open up.

Your Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board has been meeting regularly, in person with virtual options available, for those members not able to get into the meetings for various reasons.

This adds another dimension to accessibility for board members.

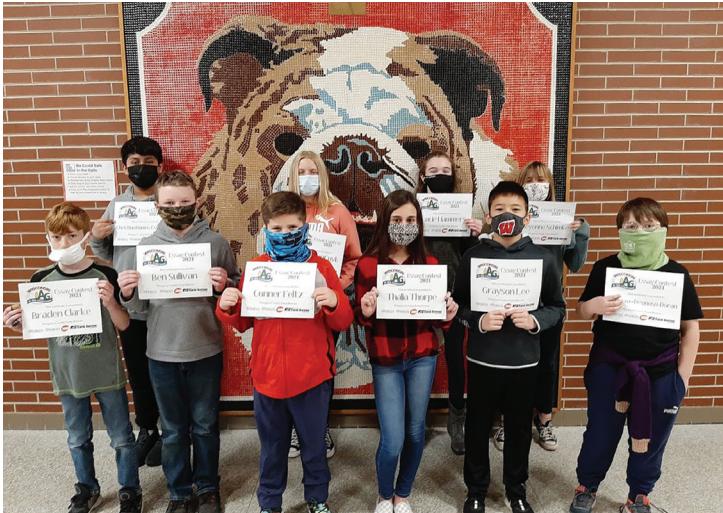
Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Gets Great Participation

By Kari Riley, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

New London Middle School participated in this year's essay contest with 90 entries.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau treated the participants with ice cream sandwiches.

Several board members and their spouses as well as Rural Mutual Insurance staff spent an afternoon reading the delightful essays and selecting the runners up and the winner.



Waupaca County essay contest winner and runners up

Waupaca County Farm Bureau will once again be promoting agriculture in various ways again this year. We also have been staying in touch with our legislators in Madison keeping them informed of our concerns when it comes to legislation that will impact agriculture.

As of now the Waupaca County Fair is still going to happen this year. Your food stand committee is making plans to once again provide fair goers with delicious food from the Farm Bureau food stand.

Keep an eye out for the August newsletter for more updated information. I'm sure we will be needing help to make this a great year.

Until next time, stay safe and healthy and may God bless you and your family.

FFA Farm Forum Participation

By Meredith Bowers, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Vice President

Waupaca County Farm Bureau offered county FFA chapters a \$100 donation to support their programs if they would report about their experiences with this year's virtual FFA Farm Forum format.

Eight students from the Weyauwega Fremont FFA Chapter participated in the event. Here is their report about one of their experiences.



Our FFA Chapter loved learning about the UW Swine Research and Teacher Center studies and how much they are involved with swine. We definitely enjoyed the virtual tour.

Students from our chapter learned about the process of raising swine. We learned how at UW Swine Research and Teacher Center pigs are marketed at five months old.

The types of flooring that they have, cement and slatted, are for different research projects happening.

They do many different research programs at UW Swine Research including for nutritional, agricultural and reproductive studies. They also weigh their pigs every week.

The surgery suite is used for both agricultural and biomedical research. When reproductive studies are done, doctors might also look at organs in the pigs.



Weyauwega-Fremont FFA members during National FFA week.



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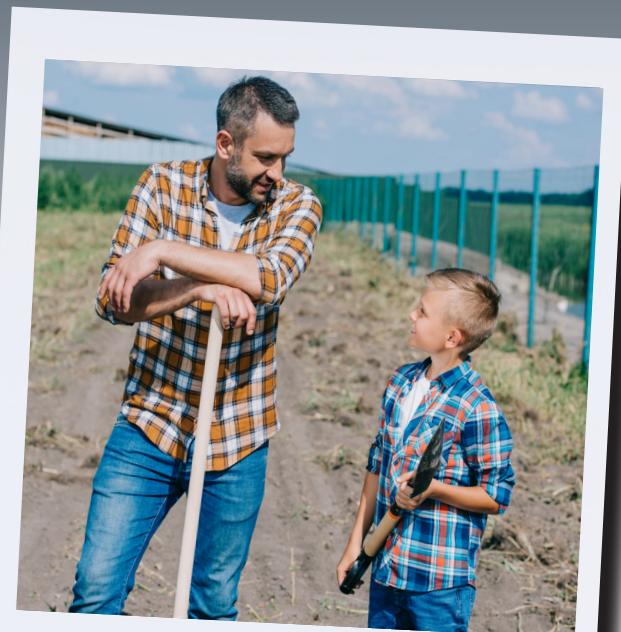
Shawano County

Waupaca County

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