



Grassroots

District 8 News

From The New Milk House



Ryan Klussendorf

WFBF District 8 Director

It's been a summer filled with meetings, making hay, milking cows and one great fair week.

As a kid I loved showing my animals and hanging out walking down the midway with my buddies. As my kids grow, it's fun to watch them live the fair life to its fullest, too. They love to hang out with their friends from across the county, eat

at the 4-H food stand and ride the rides. Every one of these kids have a competitive streak while showing but as soon as someone needs an extra hand they jump in to help. Whether they are showing extra animal, washing a dirty heifer or lending some supplies to another family, they work together to make the fair a great event in the county.

As we continue annual fundraisers we have noticed the lack of volunteers. We had tons of time during the last year stuck in our homes, now that we can move about, our calendars have filled up and we are competing for every last volunteer, member and fundraising experience. It's time to take a lesson from the kids, we need to partner with other groups in our community who are struggling as well.

Maybe you need a few volunteers, they might need some start-up fundraising, if we work together both groups will benefit. Why reinvent the wheel, when there are groups in your county who are already working on something similar.

Our local Medford FFA chapter puts on the Ag-Venture tent at the fair. This year, Taylor County Farm Bureau partnered with them and applied for a Ag in the Classroom grant to help with the start up cash for new exhibits in the tent. We don't have the time to sit in the tent all day, but we do have the funds to contribute some great exhibits for people of all ages to learn about agriculture. Win, win, for both of us. That is just one example, the possibilities are endless.

Every group is looking for members, some are even looking for new leaders. We need to stop competing and work together for the better of the whole county. Like Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "Many ideas grow better when transplanted into another mind than the one where they sprang up." Share your ideas and partner with other organizations, you never know where it will take your county Farm Bureau.

In July, we held our annual District 8 Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting. Last minute we found out some of our contestants couldn't make it. So, instead of trying to hold a Discussion Meet with one person, three of our seasoned Discussion Meet judges/past participants jumped in to make sure our contestant was able to get in some practice and be better prepared for the state competition. This is what Farm Bureau is about. Instead of leaving someone to struggle on their own, someone is always there to pick them up, dust them off and remind them how amazing they truly are. Thank you, Don Radtke, Kim Bremmer and Ryan Klussendorf for jumping in. Best of luck to William Litzer, Marathon County. As an organization we are lucky to have membership that understands that leadership isn't about being the leader but instead it's about extending their hands to help others climb the mountain with them.



2021 ANNUAL MEETING DATES

**TUESDAY,
AUGUST 24**

**Portage County
Farm Bureau -
Arnott Lions Park**

**FRIDAY,
AUGUST 27**

**Lincoln County
Farm Bureau -
Gruetzmacher
Farms**

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16**

**Marathon County
Farm Bureau - Rib
River Ballroom**



Save the dates for the District 8 County Farm Bureau Annual Meetings. Check your mailbox for more details to come as the dates get closer.

**MONDAY,
AUGUST 23**

**Clark County
Farm Bureau -
Boon Farms**

**THURSDAY,
AUGUST 26**

**Price County
Farm Bureau -
Palmquist Farm**

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 09**

**Taylor County
Farm Bureau -
Zenner Farm**

TBD:

**Wood County
Farm Bureau**

Do you have an issue, concern or potential policy topic? Attend your county annual meeting to bring it up or contact a County Farm Bureau board member. County Farm Bureau board members and contact information can be found at <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/>

*Above dates are subject to change.

District 8 Essay Contest Winner Announced



This year’s essay contest topic was, ‘How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin’s economy?’ The essay contest was open to fourth- and fifth-grade students and essays were due to each county coordinator by April 1.

In District 8, four counties had essay contest participants. Lincoln County had 35 entries, Price County had 90 entries, Taylor County had one entry and Wood County had 51 entries.

Each county judged their entries and sent the county winner to Katie Zoromski. From there the district winner was selected and forwarded on to the state for consideration to be the state winning essay.

The District 8 winning essay was written by Shelby Y., a student at Washington Elementary in Merrill.

Stay tuned, next year’s essay contest topic and book of the year will be available this summer.

For more information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org.

WFBF Committees and the District 8 Members Who Serve

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau has state committees that include members from District 8. Below is a description of the committees along with who from District 8 serves on the committees.

Dairy Committee

The Dairy Committee is advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. This committee reviews issues and activities at the state and national level effecting Wisconsin’s dairy industry. Committee members are appointed for one-year terms and may not serve more than four consecutive terms.

District 8 members on the Dairy Committee include: Amy Sue Vruwink from Wood County and Bruce Gumz from Marathon County.

Dairy Growth Management

At the January 2021 WFBF Board of Directors meeting, the board approved a special committee: Dairy Growth Management.

District 8 is represented by Ryan Pahl from Marathon County.

Policy Development Committee

WFBF’s policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. Suggestions come from members who propose and vote at the county Farm Bureau annual meetings. From there the policies work their way to the WFBF Policy Development Committee, and then delegate members vote on the proposals at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The Policy Development Committee is referred to in the WFBF by-laws and is not advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee is charged with developing the proposed public policy for consideration by the voting delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The committee reports to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

District 8 is represented by Gary Kohn from Taylor County.

Promotion and Education Committee

The committee is a group of Farm Bureau leaders who develop, implement and promote programs that build agricultural awareness and provide leadership development to the agricultural community. They are passionate about sharing their agriculture store and ultimately providing agricultural education for school-age students and adults of all ages.

The committee helps host the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest

How Soybeans Are Used in Wisconsin

Wisconsin soybeans supply many things like food, animal feed, and many more other things. If you see a short and green plant with a pod on it is probably soybeans. Soybeans are used for many things. It's almost impossible to list them all.

Soybeans are made for food. There are many food products made from soybeans like tofu, edamame, soybean oil, and soy juice and many more. But the one that I used the most is soy sauce.

Soybeans are made for animal feed. Most grains have soybeans in it. Soy meal contains protein and fiber. Pigs, chickens, cows, sheep and many more all have soy in their grain.

Soybeans are made for other things too. Some of the products are candles, crayons, ink, Fuel, and gas. The one thing that I find the most interesting is hard plastic that is made out of soybeans and can even make car doors.

Soybeans are made for many things. If we didn't have soybeans in Wisconsin what do you think would happen? This Soybean is one cool bean.

and helps select the book of the year. The committee also has a ‘Playbook,’ which provides resources and event ideas to county Farm Bureaus. The committee helps plan the Ag LEAD Summit in odd years or the IGNITE Conference in even years.

Katie Zoromski from Marathon County is on the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee.

Legislative and Political Action Committee

This committee is really two committees combined into one. The Volunteers for Agriculture® Committee is a legally constituted political action committee established by WFBF. The committee operates under by-laws established by the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee is charged with increasing the political involvement of the agricultural community. This includes identifying and supporting candidates for state office that are determined to be ‘Friends of Agriculture.’ The Legislative Committee is advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee reviews issues and activities at the state and national level effecting Wisconsin agriculture.

District 8 members include Melissa Yates from Lincoln County and Steve Suchomel from Taylor County.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist program is for members between 18 and 35 years old. The YFA program offers opportunities for leadership and skill development, along with the chance to meet and network with peers. The committee coordinates the YFA contests that include the Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag competition. Additionally, the committee plans the YFA Conference in December.

Brad and Kristine Boon from Clark County represent District 8 on the YFA Committee. This is their final year on the committee and welcome you to join them on **Wednesday, Aug. 25**, for YFA Night at the Central Wisconsin State Fair for the Chris Kroeze concert.

Soil Health: The Answer For Truly Resilient Agriculture

By Paul Daigle, Marathon County Conservationist

The foundation for resilient agriculture is soil health and should be important to everyone, especially farmers.

The role of soil health is critical for the capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans.

The role of healthy of soil to improve infiltration, reduce flooding, temper droughts and regulate/moderate base flow for streams and rivers is vastly underestimated.

If we are to improve our environment from unchecked runoff it starts with healthy soils. The importance of managing soils so they are resilient and sustaining them for this and future generations cannot be overlooked.

To do this, we need to consider soil as living organism that when, provided the basic necessities for life, performs functions required to produce abundant and high quality food and fiber but also clean our environment.

Only ‘living’ things can have health, so we must consider soil as a living ecosystem. It is teaming with billions of bacteria, fungi and other microbes that are the foundation of a symbiotic ecosystem. A healthy soil ecosystem provides nutrients for plant growth, absorbs and holds rainwater for use during drier periods, filters and buffers potential pollutants from leaving fields, and is the foundation for agricultural and forest activities.

If we were to measure only one criterion for healthy soils it would be the organic matter level. If organic matter levels are decreasing our soils are losing health, if they are increasing, soil health increases. What is truly essential for soil health is covering our soils year round to improve infiltration, reduce erosion and nutrient loss.

The agricultural practices most common for this are managed grazing, cover crops, conservation tillage, crop rotation and perennial forages. This applies to not only agriculture but construction sites, shoreland riparian areas, buffer strips and other best management practices.

We can no longer leave our soils exposed to the elements for long periods of time, especially from early October through mid-June if we want to have healthy soils along with clean surface and ground water.

Marathon County along with most County Land Conservation Departments, focus on improving soil health through the following five common sense principles of soil health:

- 1. Soil Cover:** Keep plant residues on the soil surface -- a high percentage of soil must be protected by residue. Living or dead vegetation on the soil surface year round is the building block for soil health.
- 2. Limit Disturbance of Soil Minimize or Eliminate Tillage:** This



Cover crop in standing corn from late June-diverse cover crop seeding.

- provides an opportunity for soil biology to start re-building soil aggregates, pore spaces and organic matter.
- 3. Increase Diversity:** Mimic nature by incorporating a diversity of cool and warm season grasses and broad leaf plants into a management system, by utilizing three or more crops and cover crops in a rotation. Grassland and cropland plant diversity increases soil and animal health.
 - 4. Living Roots:** Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil. Cover crops and perennial forages add carbon to the soil via biomass and root exudates that feed and sustain soil micro-organisms.
 - 5. Integrate Livestock and Animal Manure:** Managed grazing and properly applied animal manure from storage increases the soil biological activity on cropland, and improve nutrient cycling. Proper grazing techniques of managed pastures, cover crops and crop residue, increases livestock’s level of nutrition



Matt Oehmichen: Observing healthy root and soil.

Paul is a professional soil scientist and hydrologist and has been working in Land and Water Conservation since 1986.



Managed grazing in late fall on stockpiled pastures: Managed grazing meets all five principles of soil health.

What Is Farm Bureau Anyway?

Ashleigh Calaway

District 8 Coordinator

Five years ago, I wrote a blog about what Farm Bureau is because as you can imagine, I get asked that question a lot. Five years later, I still find myself having the same response:

Farm Bureau is so much more than Wisconsin's largest general farm organization. It's the organization that has the backs of farmers across the state and the nation. It's the organization that fights to keep our right to farm and provides tools, tours, leadership development, personal and professional development.

To those who are really involved, it's also our second family. It's where we feel at home. It's the group that our neighbor, friend or family member sucked us into getting involved with but after while it became something we couldn't go without.

Farm Bureau takes us out of our comfort zone and gives us the confidence to speak up. It provides us a voice when we can't find our own. For some it gives a place to share our deepest worries about the future of agriculture, our families and what's happening on Capitol Hill.

With close to 50,000 members across the state we come from all different walks of life and agricultural connections, but Farm Bureau provides the rope that keeps all tied together.

As a staff member, it's even more than just being a member. You get to help cultivate farmers and agriculturists of all ages. You get to help county Farm Bureau boards set goals, face challenges and watch them work together to overcome obstacles. You get to be a cheerleader in a world full of downers. Your extended family grows exponentially and before you know it you are celebrating engagements, weddings, births and graduations. You become the shoulder to lean on during tough times and the one to help them dust themselves off when they fall.

Five year's later and I still feel that way. I am proud to share that I am one of the lucky ones. Every day I get to work with some of the greatest people I have ever met who share the same passion for the land and animals that I do.

I am a part of an extended family that understands that I might have forgot something or am running late ... all because for the first time in 18 years, we had a red calf born on the farm.

Yes, I am embarrassed to say, I got wrapped up in taking pictures of 'Joyful Rose' and lost track of time. They understand that sometimes when I take their call I might be in the middle of a pasture, in a goat pen or stuck inside a chicken coop (that's a story for another day).

I encourage those of you reading this to get engaged in your county Farm Bureau, even if you only have an hour or two a month to spare.

I promise you, you won't regret it. Fifteen years ago this month, I joined the Farm Bureau family as a member, and it is still the best decision I've ever made.

So don't delay, get involved, and know that you will be welcomed into an extended family who wants to help you succeed in every way possible.



District 8 "Soil Your Undies" Contest

We had over 20 entries for our first ever District 8 Soil Your Undies Contest. This was a fun way to take part in a do-it-yourself test for test for microbial activity in your soil. We mailed supplies the first week of June, and asked contestants to:

Send a selfie with their flag once they buried their undies and once again a month after planting. The winners of the contest will be announced via Facebook and shared in our next newsletter but in the mean time we wanted to share some of the contestants that completed the contest and are waiting for the judges results.

We will be awarding a grand prize to each county's most deteriorated pair of underwear. There will be panel of UW-Extension Agents reviewing the photo submissions and awarding one winner per county. With the most deteriorated pair of undies receiving a free soil test!



Thank you to Rural Mutual Insurance Agent: Katie Zoromski, Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Price, Taylor, and Wood County YFA and Promotion and Education Committees for sponsoring the event!

Save the Date:
Sunday,
August 29
7 am - Noon
Clark County
Farm Bureau
Dairy
Breakfast in
the Park
Westside Park,
Loyal

Proceeds from the
event go towards
scholarships for area
students pursuing
higher education.

America the Beautiful Plan

By Kim Bremmer, Local Affairs Chair



Currently, we live in a time when it's nearly impossible to keep up with every signed executive order, every proposed funding package designed to combat climate change and every dollar allocated to provide new social and environmental justice programming.

The gas-lighting we experience every day regarding the messaging of agricultural issues is endless. To say the least, the confusion and regulatory uncertainty that agriculture is living with today is frightening.

What began as the '30x30 Plan' after the announcement of the January 27 Executive Order 14008, "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad," is now being called the 'America the Beautiful Plan.'

The goal is to permanently protect 30 percent of America's lands and oceans by 2030. The only way to reach this goal is to target some productive land with things like lucrative conservation easements and designated heritage areas.

One third of the United States is already owned by Federal and State governments and managed under restrictive land use protections. There is no scientific reasoning to support the need to preserve a specific amount of land to 'cure' climate change. Whether it is called the '30x30 Plan' or the 'America the Beautiful Plan,' it is a policy shift, moving from our focus of preserving private property rights to land controlled by the administrative state.

(And for anyone who believes this collaboration with the federal government and environmental activist community is based on similar genuine intent, I want to remind you that the first act toward implementation of this plan was rescinding the Department of Interior Secretarial Order 3388, the policy that gave local governments veto power over land acquisitions.)

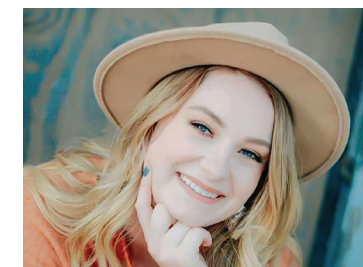
Is there anything we can do to protect ourselves? Desmond Tutu once said, "There is only one way to eat an elephant: a bite at a time."

Don't be afraid to speak out at public meetings and to the press. Share positive stories about the conservation practices that you are already doing. Challenge the idea of the need for the 'America the Beautiful Plan.'

Community involvement and engagement are key. Help your non-farm landowners understand the implications of this program so they don't easily accept federal government conservation programs that take land out of production.

Consider asking your local government boards to adopt a resolution opposing the 'America the Beautiful' agenda. An example resolution can be found here at fight30x30.americanstewards.us/download.

I've never known a more resilient group of people than the American farmer and rancher, and we've never needed your tenacity and fight more than we do now. Our future depends on it. It's time to get engaged.



Congratulations to Brooke Magnus (left) and Kayla Bremmer (right) recipients of the Clark County Farm Bureau Henry Stiemann Memorial Scholarships.

Farm Bureau Hosts Rotational Grazing Beef Farm Tour

By Laurie Groskopf, Lincoln County Member

Lincoln County farm tour was a success. About 30 participants enjoyed a farm tour on June 5, with two area beef farmers. The tour was sponsored by the Lincoln County Farm Bureau, and focused on grass-fed, rotational grazing of cattle.

Grass is the natural food of cattle. While grass-fed beef takes longer to mature to market weight, the beef produced is lower in fat, high in antioxidants and tastes great.

And the benefits of buying local, getting to know who produces your food and who processes your meat, gives buyers confidence in the quality and availability of their food supply.

The tour began at Tom and Linda Daigle's farm, Twin Creeks Cattle in the Town of Harrison. Owner Tom Daigle has been an advocate of grass raised beef for years and has hosted many pasture walks for people who are interested in learning more about the process.

His brother Paul, who works for the Marathon County Land and Water Conservation Department, also was there to answer questions. Rep. Calvin Callahan (R-Tomahawk) also participated.

The participants learned about the environmental benefits of grass-fed, rotational grazed beef. The animals rotate between pastures, changing each day to a new pasture, which allows the natural fertilizer to be evenly and slowly distributed throughout the pastures. Each pasture plot has time to recover, so the growth is richer and more diverse.

Perennial grass means the ground is not plowed up each year, preserving soil and allowing the pasture to soak up water that otherwise would run off into adjacent surface waters. This helps prevent flooding and slows nutrient loss to the groundwater and surface water.

Pasture grasses use less commercial fertilizer, less insecticides and less weed control chemicals than the grain fed to today's mass produced beef.

Another benefit to using grass-fed local beef is the confidence of having

a freezer full of meat. Tour Coordinator, Laurie Groskopf, explained that during the pandemic, when meat got scarce and prices were unstable, having plenty of meat in the house freezer provided the serenity that there would be no shortages in the family diet.

The cattle also are raised in a healthier environment than the traditional feed-lot where market cattle are 'finished' by being fed grain. Pasture raised beef live their lives outside, which is natural, and have their natural herd to rely on for company.

Groskopf remembered, "I visited the second farm (Jerry and Stephanie Conlan's farm in the Town of King) during calving. What an exciting thing to witness, and to my surprise, Stephanie explained that the cow approaching the new mom calf was last year's calf. A multi-generational bovine experience. That was an eye opener."

Learning about where your food comes from and experiencing a real farm is not something many people have a chance to experience these days. We hope to make farm tours available in Lincoln County and surrounding counties each year, and surely do appreciate the Daigle and Conlan families giving up a day to help others learn about the benefits of grass-fed, rotational grazed beef.



Attendees of the rotational grazing tour, sponsored by Lincoln County Farm Bureau, including Farm Bureau member Tom Daigle, brother Paul Daigle of the Marathon County Land and Water Conservation Department and Rep. Calvin Callahan.

Thank you!
Thank you to everyone who came out and celebrated June Dairy Month with us!

We truly appreciate all of our volunteers and sponsors who made the event possible!



Marathon County

From The Presidents Desk

Bill Mueller

Marathon County Farm Bureau President

They say the older you get the faster life seems to go. Honestly, I think in this 'post COVID' world everyone is feeling the crunch of time passing faster than normal.

One thing is for sure though even though it feels like we are going full-speed it is critical we slow down and watch for farmers on the road. Before we know it, we will be heading into fall harvest, as the corn was definitely knee high by the Fourth of July.

I also want to encourage you to join us for our annual meeting in September.

What we have been doing since the last newsletter:

1. We partnered with the district for a 'soil your undies' contest and a QR sticker challenge to dispel the myth that removing cows would end climate change.
2. Held a raffle to raise funds for our Ag in the Classroom program/create new opportunities for teachers and students.
3. Partnered with Marathon County Holstein Breeders and DHIA for our annual Little Britches Program at the Wisconsin Valley Fair and the Athens Fair.
4. Supported an agriculture-focused scavenger hunt at the Wisconsin Valley Fair and organized amazing volunteers to work at our dairy stand.

How can you help? We are looking for help with our county Ag in the Classroom program so if you are interested in learning more about that program, please let me or another director know.

Even if you only have an hour a month or less to give, we can use your help.

Farm Animals Word Search

D T T A O G G N E U I E
O H U W Y K I P E E H S
N O D R E S O O G T A C
K R U L K N E K C I H C
E S C G R E W O C G O D
Y E K F V H Y J G I P A

cat
chicken
cow
dog
donkey
duck
goat
goose
horse
pig
sheep
turkey



My 'Hip' Story

By James Juedes, Marathon County Member

Fellow friends and farmers reading this. Let this be your sign to not delay and schedule your appointment today. For years I have been dealing with severe pain. The pain was getting so bad that I could not take it anymore and I knew that I needed to go see a doctor. Every step that I took was simply excruciating, to the point that I would drag my foot rather than lift it up. My back hurt, my knees hurt, and my quality of life was not what I wanted.

So, I finally bit the bullet and went in. We know what it is like trying to get a farmer in to see the doctor. We seem to see it as sign we that we are weak for reaching out to someone for help. Honestly though, it is a sign of strength to ask for help, as it shows we can overcome our fears, insecurities and mistrust in others.

After a few exams and many x-rays, it was determined that the cartilage in my left hip was completely gone. What they were able to actual discover was in fact bone on bone with spurs grinding away with every step. Forty years of clutching tractors and milking cows, thirty-five plus years of participating in sports and other general abuse of my body finally caught up with me.

They did give me a cortisone injection to help curtail the pain until we were able to create a plan of action. This included a multitude of medications to relieve pain and discomfort so I could continue to care for the farm. While the doctors worked out a game plan, I concentrated on doing what I could and eliminating what I couldn't. The worst was not being able to go golfing on occasion with my youngest son, who just turned seventeen. He has been trooper through it all and was my right-hand man when it came to keeping the farm running while I battled with getting myself healthy again.

We were finally able to set a date of Aug. 31 for surgery. Finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel I began to prepare myself by going on a self-imposed weight loss program to make it easier for my body to recover.

Throughout it all I often joked with my doctor that I would gladly have the surgery done in the parking lot if it meant we could get it done sooner. He thankfully took a hard pass on that but did put me on the list for canceled appointments. Something that I will be forever grateful for as I was able to bump my surgery appointment up to July 1.

I can look back and laugh at it now. All the pushing to have the surgery done only to have it moved up almost two months left me feeling

extremely anxious and nervous if I was making the right decision. I kept reminding myself that this was the only way I was going to have the quality of life I wanted.

The morning of July 1, I arrived a little late to my appointment, not on purpose but my rides tire fell off his truck on the way in. No, seriously it really did. He had volunteered to give me a ride in as he works there, so his wife had to come get us and give both of us a ride in. Retelling the story made surgery prep time go faster.

Before I knew it, I was being wheeled in and the process began. Throughout it all I maintained a steady conversation with the surgeons and staff, or so I thought. Before I knew what happened I was waking up three hours later with absolutely no pain. Mind you, I was on some great pain killers but, for the most part the agonizing pain that I had become accustomed to for the last year was gone. It was glorious to say the least.

I totally understand that 'results may vary' but I still can't believe I was able to walk out of the hospital the very next day. I did have to use a walker for about a week, followed up with a cane for another week. But, for the most part I am able to move without assistance. I was also able to drive myself to therapy, five days post-surgery. Since then, there has been some mild discomfort in the muscles in my leg but the more I start to get back to my everyday life the better and better I feel.

I share this story in hopes that you will not delay getting the help you need when you need it. Don't be afraid to have yourself fixed up if you need to. That it is okay to reach out and ask for help, to seek it out and if you know something isn't right and no one is listening, don't quite advocating. Looking back my only regret is that I didn't do it sooner. I was blessed with amazing medical professionals that truly cared about me and wanted what was in the best interest of my wellbeing. It's kind of funny how we will spend the money on the equipment we need or to make sure that our livestock gets the care they need before we ever spend it on ourselves. But, if you take nothing away from this article take this ... You have to take care of yourself first, nothing can come from an empty cup.

Although, my recovery is still going on and it will be another month before I can milk my cows again, I can honestly say that the sacrifice of down time undoubtedly pay dividends for you in the future. Trust in God, trust in others and trust in yourself! I cannot wait to hit that first golf ball again with my son.

If you have questions, want to talk about concerns with someone who has gone through it, feel free to call me at 715.581.3121.



Thank you

Thank you to our sponsors, pullers and our amazing volunteers that made this year's Horse Pull/Beef Cookout one to remember.

Ackert Bros.
Taylor Credit Union
Nikmuth Imp
Bob's Dairy
Ogema Gas & Go
Hill of Beans
Glass to Go - Medford
Hallstrand Angus
Ogema Heavy Duty Repair
J.S. Auto Arts - Gema
Mix Rite Feed
Peterson Concrete
Mainer's
Kennan Lumber
Sam Scott Insurance



Perrin's Surf Solutions
Jacks Auto
Heritage Credit Union
Komarek Well Drill
Joe's Co. Corner
G. A. Miller Co.
Makousky Brush Serv.
Lulich Implement Inc.
Brantwood Credit Union
Reuben's Sales
Polacek Implement
Rail Trail Cafe
Meyer Tire
Badger Cut Stock
Walmart - Medford
United Pride Dairy

In Need of Hay, Forage or Corn? Visit UW Extension's Farmer to Farmer List

The Farmer to Farmer Hay, Forage and Corn List puts Wisconsin farmers in touch with one another for the purpose of buying or selling corn and forage.

The farmer to farmer list is free of charge to buyers and sellers.

Users can list or search for hay, alfalfa haylage, corn silage, high moisture corn, corn grain or other forages (i.e., oats, peas or sorghum).

UW-Madison Division of Extension assumes no responsibility in the transaction of buying or selling the items listed on this website. All transactions and negotiations are handled directly between buyers and sellers.

The site also provides a map of the current listings.

To access the form, visit farmertofarmer.extension.wisc.edu.

In order to keep the listing current, please request that you be removed

when you have either made your sale or purchase. Listings remain on the site for 60 days, or until you request your listing be removed.

To remove your entry, contact Tammy Zorn at tammy.zorn@wisc.edu. Please include your name, county and listing information with your request.



From The President's Desk



Rob Klussendorf
Taylor County Farm Bureau President

We just wrapped up our District 8 Policy Development Meeting, held the third Saturday of July at the Abbotsford Community Building. This is our third move in less than seven years as the attendance for this event keeps growing.

The district Policy Development Meeting is really a kickoff to our policy development 'season' in Farm Bureau. Members from across the seven counties in District 8 gather to go over past policies, look and see if there is anything we need to tweak, or add to the policy book.

They then take those notes back to their county policy development meeting and eventually they are voted on at each county's annual meeting. This is really where the tires meet the road and why it is so critical to hear from you, our valued members.

A few years back an idea that was brought forth at the WFBF Annual Meeting became policy at the American Farm Bureau Federation, this has happened a few times over the years, but it is always just as exciting.

Once the 62 county annual meetings are completed, the WFBF Policy Development Committee gathers to review every resolution that has been submitted. They discuss them and decide which ones are most pertinent to move on to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Counties do have the ability to bring them back to the floor at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Once the delegates vote on the policies at the annual meeting, they become the direction the WFBF Board of Directors and our lobbyist employ to guide them through the next year.

As county members we have to support what was passed at the WFBF Annual Meeting. If your county resolution didn't pass at the WFBF Annual Meeting that doesn't mean the idea is dead it just means that you have until next year to tweak it, change it, gain momentum behind the idea.

For years Taylor County has brought forth a resolution to support funding for small meat producing plants. This past year with support from counties across the state it was approved at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Thanks to our government relations division, they were able to help pass legislation to approve low interest loans/grants to help upgrade facilities and to have educational class to train people in the meat processing business.

Breaking down how your membership works, you are a member of the county farm bureau, your county is a member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. That being said the policies that we set at the WFBF Annual Meeting also directs what we do as a county on state issues.

I invite you to join us on **Thursday, Sept. 9**, at the Zenner Farm off of Highway O for our annual meeting. We will be serving steak, hot off the grill and look forward to seeing you there.

“

When fellow farms and friends went through tough times, there was no hesitation on my end to step up and help out.

I never do these things for recognition; I do them because I care. However, I genuinely appreciate being recognized as a finalist in the Heroes of Hope Campaign and hope that by helping others during a time of need, I've encouraged others to do the same."

MELVIN "MJ" ZENNER
Taylor County



Recently, Melvin 'MJ' Zenner of Taylor County was named a finalist in our Heroes of Hope campaign. The Heroes of Hope campaign was sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Blain's Farm & Fleet, MPB Builders, Inc., the Doyle and Kim Pokorny family, the Waupun Area FFA and Kwik Trip.

Thank you!
To everyone who came out and celebrated May Beef month with us! We had a great turn out for our annual Steak and Egg breakfast in conjunction with the Northwoods Premiere Beef Show.

We invite you to join us for our annual meeting Sept. 9th for more of those delicious steaks!

From The President's Cab



Josh Calaway
Wood County Farm Bureau President

This month marks 15 years of being an active member of the Wood County Farm Bureau. This does not by any means make me 'seasoned' member of the organization. It does, however, give me some insight on some of our strengths and weaknesses.

Our greatest strength is you our valued members our greatest weakness is how do we engage you? How do we make ourselves stand a part so that you chose to volunteer your time and talent with us? How do we let you know about volunteer opportunities, events or legislative issues that could impact you or your farm?

We want to be the organization that you turn to, but we need your help

to do that.

Soon, you will be receiving your invite to our county annual meeting. I want to encourage you to attend, to share your story, to let us know what is impacting you/your farm and how we can help.

We are only as good as the feedback we receive from you. If you are interested in getting more involved know that we have opportunities for you. We are looking for members who can volunteer throughout the year to help us get our Ag on the Move program up and running.

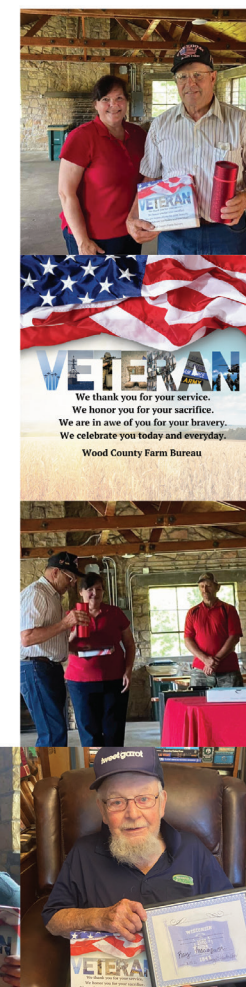
Parents of high schoolers/ag teachers/4-H leaders/troop leaders – if you have a child looking for a program for volunteer hours, SAE, Key Awards, Gold Awards or even fair projects, please don't hesitate to contact me at 715.781.1220 and we can discuss potential opportunities available for them.

Thank you for being a Wood County Farm Bureau member – we couldn't do what we do without you.



On Sunday, July 18th. Wood County Farm Bureau honored four very humble, kind, self-sacrificing men for their service to our country and to the agriculture industry. Wood County Farm Bureau and Young Farmer and Agriculturist hosted their 8th annual summer picnic but with a twist this year. This year the theme was Thank a Farmer - Thank a Veteran.

Representative Nancy VanderMeer presented them with an American Flag that had been flown over our state capital. What a truly special moment for all that were in attendance.



Do You Follow Us on Facebook?

If not, you should because every Friday there is a feature, 'Find Out From a Farmer Fridays.' A member shares his or her story about what he or she is doing on his or her farm.

To find out more from a farmer, visit www.facebook.com/WoodCountyFarmBureauYFA.

If you want your farm featured, please contact the Promotion and Education Committee chair, Brad Weber at 715.650.1542.



Meet us at the Fair!

We hope to see you for the Central Wisconsin Fair! August 24-29th

We are excited to be back at the fair with our dairy stand and to be supporting the following fair events: Little Britches, the Forage Sample Contest, and the Junior Dairy Showmanship Contest, and the Pedal Tractor Races



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