

# WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference



# Welcome



As we prepare to turn the page on another year in our organization, we are excited to gather once again to celebrate the highlights of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

After a year-and-a-half of navigating virtual platforms and meeting from afar, I am excited to welcome you back to the Kalahari for a weekend of celebrating, networking and forwarding our organization. While I think I speak for all of us that we do not hope to revisit the

challenges the pandemic posed, it seems fitting that this year's Annual Meeting theme is "Focus on the Future".

We have a great line up of speakers, workshops and entertainment prepared for you this year. We look forward to seeing our members throw it back a couple decades during our kick-off to YFA Conference with a 90s Country Night complete with bowling, music and games.

From competitions to speakers to award winners, Saturday is sure to be one to remember. I encourage each of you to visit the tradeshow, take in a YFA workshop and prepare to be amazed with our evening entertainment featuring hypnotist Dr. Jim Wand during the Farm Bureau Proud banquet.

Another day of outstanding workshops awaits you on Sunday, with topics ranging from renewable energy to reducing farm

stress. Don't forget to get your bids in on the silent auction before the trade show comes to a close and we celebrate our award winners during the Farm Bureau Awards Banquet and Program.

Last but certainly not least, the WFBF Annual Meeting will culminate with our grassroots policy development session. Voting delegates, appointed by fellow county Farm Bureau members, play an important role in the guidance of our organization by formulating the policies that will guide the WFBF staff in the coming year. Even if you are not a delegate, I hope you consider attending the session to listen to the policy discussions that will take place.

There is so much to reflect upon as we look ahead to the next year of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. As we focus on the future of our organization, let us gather with the spirit of camaraderie that makes us proud to be Farm Bureau members.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member, supporting our organization and joining us for this memorable event. We are proud to serve you and look forward to seeing you throughout the weekend.

**Kevin Krentz**  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President



Scan the QR code to stay up to date with the latest WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference news, updates and resources.

The WFBF Annual Meeting Updates page is also available at [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com).

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## Farm Bureau Mission:

Empowering the Wisconsin agricultural community through our grassroots membership to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture.

## Farm Bureau Vision:

The trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward.

# Agenda

## YFA Conference Begins

### Friday, December 3

**3:00 p.m.**

**Registration Opens** – Registration Africa West

**5:00 p.m.**

**First-timers' Orientation Session** – Tamarind

**6:00 p.m.**

**YFA Welcome Dinner** – Africa Ballroom



#### 90s Country Music Theme

Do you ever wonder if you "Should've Been a Cowboy"? Join us as we've "Gone Country" for 90s Country Night. We promise you will have "Too Much Fun" as we network with fellow YFA members

and recognize the accomplishments from the past year. Put on your "John Deere Green" and "Boot Scootin' Boogie" your way to the Kalahari.

**8:00 p.m.**

#### District YFA Meetings:

District 1: Africa 10	District 4: Africa 40	District 7: Marula
District 2: Africa 20	District 5: Mangrove	District 8: Aloeswood
District 3: Africa 30	District 6: Aralia	District 9: Tamboti

**9:00 p.m.**

**Bowling, Music and Games** – Tom Foolery's Adventure Park

– Sponsored by Mid-West Farm Report and BMO Harris Bank



### Saturday, December 4

**7:30 a.m.**

**Registration Opens** – Registration Africa West

**7:45 a.m.**

**Discussion Meet Judges Orientation** – Wisteria  
**Discussion Meet Contestant Orientation** – Tamarind

**8:15 a.m.**

**Discussion Meet Quarterfinals I** – Africa 10/20/30/40/Guava

**9:40 a.m.**

**Discussion Meet Quarterfinals II** – Africa 10/20/30/40/Guava

#### Color Key

● YFA Conference ● WFBF Annual Meeting

● YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting

## #WFBFAM21 #FBProud

### Saturday, December 4

**10:30 a.m.**

**YFA Brunch and General Session** – Africa Ballroom  
– Sponsored by Culver Franchising System, LLC and Insight FS



**Keynote: Jeff Havens**

#### Uncrapify Your Future!

If you've listened to anyone talk about innovation recently, you've probably heard something along these lines: "The world is changing at a crazy fast rate. Everything you're doing now is about to become obsolete. If you don't come up with some amazing, industry-changing ideas in the next 18 seconds, your

business is basically going to disappear. Have a nice day." And if that's the kind of doomsayer message that you and your friends love hearing, then you can stop reading now.

But if you'd like to present innovation as a simple process that literally everyone is capable of performing, then you might want to listen to Uncrapify Your Future! Filled with the trademark wit that has made Jeff Havens one of the most in-demand speakers in North America, Uncrapify Your Future! will make the process of coming up with new ideas easier and more rewarding than you ever thought possible. Because it turns out that every innovation in every industry – from automobiles to streaming music, coffee cup holders to wartime treaties – follows the same straightforward pattern.

Oh, and did we mention that it's also hilarious? Well it is. And imagine that – a keynote that's both educational and enjoyable. How innovative!

**12:30 p.m.**

**Excellence in Ag Presentations** – Portia

**1:30 p.m.**

**Discussion Meet Semifinals** – Africa 20/30

## WFBF Annual Meeting Begins

**2:00 p.m.**

**Trade Show and Silent Auction Open** – Suites 1-8

**2:15-3:00 p.m.**

**YFA Conference Breakout Sessions (Four Concurrent)**



#### A Year in the Life of an Alsum Potato

**Room:** Marula  
– Jeff Huber, Assistant Farm Manager and Beau Hartline, Farm Manager | Alsum Farms

We will take you through the journey of an Alsum potato from seed to your table.



**Sold, Sold, Sold!**  
**Room:** Aloeswood  
 – Justin and Livia Doyle | OnPoint Auction Service

Have you ever wondered how an auctioneer talks so rapidly or have been puzzled by what they are really saying? In this session, participants will be up and out of their seats learning basic tongue twisters, number scales and auction chants as they gain a greater understanding of today's auction industry.



**Focus on Your Future in Farm Bureau**  
**Room:** Mangrove  
 – Panel discussion led by District 4 YFA Representative Savannah Henke



Looking for ways to become more involved with Farm Bureau? Not sure what opportunities are available to you as a member? Join this panel of Farm Bureau members as they share their experiences in various

Farm Bureau programs and how you can develop your future in Farm Bureau. Panel members include YFA committee member Savannah Henke, Rock County Farm Bureau President Jill Uhe, former YFA Committee Chair Derek Husmoen and Sheboygan County YFA Chair Nicole Schommer.



**COMET™ (Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory)**

**Room:** Aralia  
*This workshop is from 2:15-4:15 p.m.*  
 – Joy Kirkpatrick, Farm Succession Specialist | UW-Madison Division of Extension's Resilient Farms & Families and Chris Frakes, Program Director | Farm Well Wisconsin



We all live in a vulnerable space at one time or another – and for one reason or another. COMET aims to change the trajectory of someone in that vulnerable space headed towards crisis back towards a place of wellness. A critical factor in changing someone's trajectory is often another person who says or does something that offers support, care or treatment and causes a positive change. COMET's goal is

to help people feel more comfortable in providing someone a safe space and a non-judgmental listening ear.

*This workshop is limited to 30 participants.*

**3:15-4:00 p.m.**

**YFA Conference Breakout Sessions (Four Concurrent)**



**Wisconsin Cranberries Buds, Berries and Beyond**

**Room:** Marula  
 – Heidi Slinkman | Gaynor Cranberry Company

An overview of what it takes to grow Wisconsin's state fruit, from buds to berries. Including behind the scenes glimpses of harvest, packaging and processing.

Highlighting unique cultural practices and critical roles agribusinesses play in Wisconsin's Cranberry production.



**From Farm to Consumer: Direct Marketing Your Product**

**Room:** Mangrove  
 – Panel discussion led by District 7 YFA Representative Kelly Oudenhoven



Want to learn more about ways that you can add value to your farm and market the products you produce? Join this panel of Farm Bureau members as they share their journey and what has



helped them be successful in marketing products directly from their farms. Panel members include Lindsay Knoebel Baneck, Leslie Svacina, Natasha Paris and Amber McComish.



**Here's Your Sign: Sustainability**

**Room:** Aloeswood  
 – Rachel Gerbitz, Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships | WFBF

Sustainability is a buzzword in agriculture. Consumers want to know that their food is responsibly produced. Sharing your sustainability story is important now more than ever! If someone asked you "what

does sustainability mean to you?" what would you say? How do you talk about it at your farm or workplace? Learn the whys and hows behind conservation discussions and create your own sustainability statement.

## Saturday, December 4



Trustem



Demrow

### TikTok: The New Way to Advocate

**Room:** Tamboti  
– Brooke Trustem, Rock County YFA Chair and Rock County YFA members Alyssa Demrow, Dana Powell and Ava Gard



Powell



Gard

Members of Rock County are excited to bring to you a fun and interactive TikTok experience. Learn from some of the best TikTokers in southern Wisconsin how to create TikToks,

engage with consumers and how to use TikTok to promote you and your farm!

### 3:00-4:30 p.m.

District 1: Africa 10

District 4: Africa 40

District 7: Portia

District 2: Africa 20

District 5: Guava

District 8: Wisteria

District 3: Africa 30

District 6: Tamarind

District 9: Cypress

### District Policy Discussion Meetings:

#### 4:30 p.m.

**Farm Bureau Reception** – Suites 1-8

#### 5:30 p.m.

**Trade Show Closes**

#### 6:00 p.m.

**Farm Bureau Proud Banquet** – Africa Ballroom



### Featured Entertainment: Dr. Jim Wand

Dr. Jim Wand grew up on a farm in Illinois as a part of a Farm Bureau family. He has presented at the National FFA Convention for more than 20 years and has produced more than \$250K in revenue for FFA. He also is one of the top-rated hypnotic entertainers in the world today. He has done more than 12,000 performances in every state, many multiple times, 14

foreign countries, and on numerous cruise ships and casinos. His hypnotic performances are always fast moving, tastefully done and enjoyed by everyone. For this performance "You can be the show or see the show."

### 8:30 p.m.

**Trade Show and Silent Auction Open** – Suites 1-8  
(until 10:30 p.m.)

### 8:30 p.m.

**BINGO and Name that Tune** – Salon A/H (until 10:30 p.m.)

## Sunday, December 5

### 7:30 a.m.

**Morning Devotional** – Africa 20

### 8:00 a.m.

**Registration Opens** – Registration Africa West

### 8:30 a.m.

**Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet Final** – A/H Convention Center

### 9:00 a.m.

**Resolutions Processing** – Empress

### 9:30 a.m.

**YFA Discussion Meet Final** – A/H Convention Center

### 10:30 a.m.

**Buffet Brunch and General Session** – Africa Ballroom  
– **Keynote Speaker: Tom Thibodeau**



Servant leadership is both timely and timeless. It is an approach to leadership that is ethical, meaningful and practical. Good people choose to work for good people. When people find their work meaningful and purpose driven, they are more engaged. When people experience the practical results of service and leadership, they are inspired to work with others for a greater good every day.

## YFA Conference Ends

### 11:00 a.m.

**Resolutions Processing Closes** – Empress

### 12:30 p.m.

**Media Room** – Africa 50

**Trade Show Opens** – Suites 1-8 (until 5 p.m.)

### 1:00-1:45 p.m.

**Concurrent Workshops (Four concurrent)**



Peterson

### Strategic Marketing and Promotion – Behind the Scenes with Wisconsin Cheese

**Room:** Africa 10

– Tina Peterson; National Program Manager, Media Appearances and Beth Schaefer; Regional Manager-Wisconsin | Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin



Schaefer

Did you know that Wisconsin Cheese has been featured on television in all 50 states? Learn how utilizing consumer research and insights to strategically target key markets for Wisconsin Cheese has increased consumer demand for Wisconsin Cheese. No matter what your promotion goals are, we'll share how understanding and identifying the 'why' of what you do is the key to promotion success!

## Sunday, December 5



### Renewable Energy Development

**Room:** Africa 20

– Matt Johnson; Field Operations Director | Wisconsin Land and Liberty Coalition

This presentation will cover the transition to renewable energy, the economic benefits of wind and solar projects such as construction jobs, land lease payments to farmers and landowners and shared revenue payments to local and county governments. It also will cover how large projects are developed, permitted and operate. Decommissioning of projects will be covered.



### ARRRRR You Ready For MemberSHIP?

**Room:** Africa 30

– Becky Hibicki; District 5 Coordinator and Wes Raddatz; District 7 Coordinator | WFBF

ARRRRR you ready for memberSHIP? By the end of this workshop you will be! As Farm Bureau leaders we know the importance of membership. However, membership isn't always easy and you can easily get discouraged if you don't have a successful plan. During this panel workshop, you will hear from experienced membership workers from across the state. They will share membership tips and tricks that have made their county membership program a success. Attendees will be encouraged to be interactive and ask panel members questions.



### Surveying the Safety of Your Farm

**Room:** Africa 40

– Chris Schlechta; Safety & Loss Control Manager | RMIC

In this session we'll discuss how Rural Mutual's loss control consultants conduct a safety walk-through with farmers. Humans are creatures of habit and it often takes an event to change our habits. We'll take a deep dive into the types of incidents that result in injuries and fires, and provide balanced advice on maximizing both safety and operational efficiency.

## Sunday, December 5

**2:00-2:45 p.m.**

**Concurrent Workshops (Four Concurrent)**



### Precision Agriculture Technology – Today and Tomorrow

**Room:** Africa 10

– Darren Riskedal; Precision Equipment Specialist | Insight FS

Learn how technology is being used in agriculture today and how we see that changing in the future. With a wide array of companies offering different products and solutions, it can be difficult to navigate which options are best for your operation. We will discuss how to identify solutions that will most effectively help you to reduce input costs, improve yields and make your life easier.



### Wisconsin Farm Center – Helping Farmers Reduce Farm Stress & Improve Wellness

**Room:** Africa 20

– Dan Bauer; WI Farm Center Supervisor | Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

For more than 35 years, the Wisconsin Farm Center has focused on helping Wisconsin farmers and their families overcome challenging times through several programs and services. Over time, these programs and services have evolved and expanded, always remaining free and confidential. As part of the 2019-2021 biennial state budget, it launched a pilot Farmer Wellness Program designed to help farmers reduce stress and improve wellness. During this session, attendees will learn about this new program and other Farm Center services available to help farmers manage and overcome financial and farm stress.



### Should I Buy It? Running the Numbers on Farm Investments

**Room:** Africa 30

– Paul Dietmann; Senior Lending Specialist | Compeer Financial

If land comes up for sale in your neighborhood, you're probably going to want to consider buying it. How do you figure out whether or not you can afford it? How do you determine whether or not it would be a wise investment? Many investors calculate the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) on a potential capital investment before they make any financial commitments. In this workshop you'll learn how to calculate IRR, and how to use this powerful tool to decide when and where to invest your hard-earned dollars to maximize your returns.

## Sunday, December 5



### Advancing Conservation in Agriculture

**Room:** Africa 40

– Casey Langan; Communications Director | Sand County Foundation

A panel of Farm Bureau members who have been selected as Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award recipients will discuss how agricultural conservation practices are environmentally and economically

beneficial. The Leopold Conservation Award is presented to farmers, ranchers and forestland owners in 23 states.

**3:30 p.m.**

**Policy Development Committee Meeting** – Empress

**4:00 p.m.**

**Reception (Trade Show area)** – Suites 1-8

**Award Winners Photos** – Africa 50

**5:00 p.m.**

**Silent Auction and Trade Show End**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Farm Bureau Awards Banquet and Program** – Africa Ballroom

**8:00 p.m.**

**Reception** – Africa 10/20/30/40

## Monday, December 6

**7:00 a.m.**

**Registration Opens** – Registration Africa West

**Breakfast and General Session** – Africa Ballroom

**9:00 a.m.**

**District Caucuses:**

District 1: Africa 10	District 4: Africa 40	District 7: Marula
District 2: Africa 20	District 5: Mangrove	District 8: Aloeswood
District 3: Africa 30	District 6: Aralia	District 9: Tamboti

**10:30 a.m.**

**Resolutions and Business Meeting** – Africa Ballroom

## TWENTY WARS

to support the WFB Foundation



**December 5, 2021 • 12:30-5:30 p.m.**

**Put your dollars toward a great cause!**

Remember the penny wars from grade school? We're upgrading that to 'Twenty Wars.' All proceeds from 'Twenty Wars' support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Farm Bureau volunteers will be walking around the Kalahari with the 'Twenty Wars' display immediately following the Sunday brunch until the Sunday evening awards banquet begins.

- Put a **\$20 bill, \$50 bill or \$100 bill** in your district's jar to **ADD** to your total point value.
- Put a **\$1 bill, \$5 bill or \$10 bill** in another district's jar to **SUBTRACT** their total point value.

## Opening Doors

Supporting agricultural education programs and developing agricultural leaders is the guiding principle of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Through programs and training supported by the Foundation, Farm Bureau members have been given numerous experiences giving them memories, leadership skills and connections for a lifetime. These opportunities couldn't be given to our members without supporters like you.

### The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation funds:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist program
- Promotion and Education program
- Farm Bureau's Leadership Institute
- Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls

In addition to funding these Farm Bureau programs, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation also supports 4-H and FFA activities and scholarships for Leadership Wisconsin.



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 tax deductible entity to support agricultural education and leadership programs. Established in 1988, the Foundation continues to significantly invest in the next generation of agriculturists.

### 50/50 Raffle

Back by popular demand! You can win half of the funds collected while the other half benefits the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. **Drawings are held during Saturday and Sunday brunch.**

Prices: \$2/ticket, \$20/arm length, \$40/wingspan

Watch for WFBF YFA Committee members selling tickets throughout the entire conference.

# Alice in Dairyland

Julia Nunes is serving as the 73<sup>rd</sup> Alice in Dairyland. As Wisconsin's agriculture ambassador, her goal is to educate audiences across Wisconsin about the \$104.8 billion economic impact and importance of our state's diverse agriculture industry in our daily lives.



## Milk Mustaches

Saturday 4:30-5:30 p.m.

In the tradeshow area



## Celebrity Bingo Caller

Saturday 8:30 p.m.

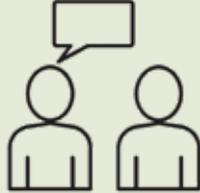
Salon A/H



## Meet and Greet

Sunday 12:30-2:30 p.m.

In the tradeshow area



# Promotion and Education Activities Stage

In the tradeshow area

## Saturday

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Exhibitor spotlights with Pam Jahnke

4:30-5:30 p.m.

Milk Mustaches with Alice in Dairyland

5:00 p.m.

Discussion Meet Final Four Announcement

## Sunday

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Kids Coloring Contest

Holiday Crafts for Kids

And more!



# Tradeshow Treasure Hunt



Visit exhibitor booths for a chance to win prizes! Pick up a tradeshow map for more details.

## Ready! Set! Bid!

Always a fun and favorite activity, you will enjoy strolling the aisles and viewing the variety of donations ranging from hotel packages, sports and farm collectibles, crafts, food baskets, tools and children's items. Be sure to check your bids often. Bidding will close at 5 p.m. on Sunday. All items should be paid for and picked up immediately after the Sunday night banquet. A huge thank you to all the members, counties and supporters who donate, bid and purchase items at the Silent Auction.

### Bidding ends at 5 p.m. on Sunday

Items to bid on include:

- Themed baskets (kids, family fun night, food, date night, etc.)
- Gift certificates for hotels, golf courses, stores and spas
- Handmade items (wooden, craft, sewn, crocheted)
- Sports-related items
- Toy farm machinery
- Tools and accessories needed on the farm
- Safety equipment
- Beer, wine or cheese baskets

All items donated are new. Bidding is from 2 p.m. on Saturday until 5 p.m. on Sunday. Items will not be released until after the banquet on Sunday night.



# YFA Excellence in Ag Finalists

## Julie Sweney

District 2, Dodge County



Julie is the director of communications and marketing at FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative in Madison. She serves on the Dodge County Farm Bureau board of directors and is the membership chair, a graduate of the WFBF Leadership Institute and served as the first president of the UW-Madison Collegiate Farm Bureau.

Julie and her husband Todd live in Fall River with their daughter Sadie.

## Julie Wadzinski

District 9, Barron County

Julie grew up on a 400-head grade Holstein dairy farm in Marathon County. After graduating from UW-Marathon County with an associate degree in liberal arts and sciences, Julie earned her bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-River Falls. She is finishing her master's degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University, focusing on agritourism and farm income diversification.



Julie is a farm operations instructor at Northwood Technical College. She inspires agricultural careers in young adults and supports life-long learners in a class focused on giving farmers the information and technological background they need to make decisions on best practices.

Julie has participated in the Discussion Meet, served as the District 9 YFA representative and as the WFBF YFA Committee chair.

In her spare time, Julie enjoys hiking, camping, reading and creating memories with her son, Bryan.

## Kellie Zahn

District 7, Shawano



Kellie grew up as part of the fourth generation on her family dairy farm where her passion for agriculture was cultivated at an early age.

She is the agriculture agent for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community where she manages the community gardens, teaches classes on gardening and food preservation and oversees the tribe's agriculture

lands. She is a Certified Crop Advisor and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from UW-River Falls. Kellie enjoys working on her family farm and volunteering in the community. She serves as a board member for the Shawano County Farm Bureau.

## Stephanie Abts

District 6, Manitowoc County

Stephanie grew up on her parents' 80-cow registered Holstein dairy farm in Valders. In 2013, she earned a bachelor's degree in animal science with a dairy and agricultural business emphasis from UW-Platteville.



Stephanie and her husband Keith are proud owners of a 130-cow dairy farm in New Franken. They raise all their own youngstock, steers and grow crops on 450 acres. Stephanie works at Rio Creek Feed Mill as a dairy nutritionist consultant servicing all farm sizes throughout the lakeshore area in northeast Wisconsin.

Stephanie is involved with the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau, serving as the YFA chair, chairing the annual wreath sale and helping plan kiddie showmanship.

You can watch their presentations on  
**Saturday at 12:30 p.m.**

**Good luck  
finalists!**

## More about the YFA Excellence in Ag Award

The Excellence in Agriculture Award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Applicants must have derived a majority of their income from a non-production agribusiness enterprise.

This year's state winner competes at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2022 Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, GROWMARK, Inc., will provide \$1,500 to the winner. All finalists will receive a jacket courtesy of GROWMARK, Inc.

# YFA Discussion Meet Contestants

## District 1

### Whitney Rathke, Ozaukee County



Whitney is an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Random Lake School. She combined her love of teaching and traveling, and this summer will take students to Italy,

Scotland and Ireland. Whitney enjoys participating in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet.

### Darren Riskedal, Jefferson County



Darren is a precision equipment specialist at InsightFS, selling and servicing ag technology on planters, sprayers and combines near Johnson Creek.

He grew up on his family's farm raising corn, soybeans and beef cattle before pursuing a degree in technical systems management at the University of Illinois.

### Jim Waldron, Racine County



Jim owns a sales business selling seed and precision planter equipment near Franksville. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Farm & Industry Short Course and owns

a small beef herd. Jim was injured in a farming accident which left him paralyzed from the waist down. Jim is involved in the Racine County Farm Bureau as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair.

## District 2

### Paige Blair, Green County



Paige is the Assistant Credit Manager and Agri-Finance Specialist at InsightFS and is from Brooklyn. She grew up on her family's farm showing dairy cattle before

pursuing a degree in agribusiness from UW-Platteville. Paige is a member of the Green County Farm Bureau where she currently serves as vice president, membership chair and is active on many committees.

### Scott Timm, Green County



Scott is a fifth-generation farmer and has owned and operated GC Seeds & Service for more than 10 years. He also is building the family farm brand, Green

CO Farms and Green CO Farmstand, where he grows and markets sweet corn, CBD, cheese and other local goods. He enjoys hunting, fishing, cooking, travelling, flying drones, competing in triathlons and golfing. Scott has served on the Green County Farm Bureau board of directors for five years and is a 2019 graduate of the WFBF Leadership Institute.

### Brooke Trustem, Rock County



Brooke is a sixth-generation dairy farmer from Evansville. She also works full-time off the farm at BouMatic in Madison. Brooke is the Rock County Farm Bureau YFA

chair along with serving on the Evansville FFA Alumni Board and WALSA Board of Directors.

## District 3

### Kent Jerrett, Grant County



Kent is a service technician at Sloan Implement in Bloomington. He was raised on his family's farm which he continues to help with today while also starting his own cattle

herd. Kent enjoys trapshooting, preparing equipment for planting and harvest seasons and being a member of the Grant County Farm Bureau board of directors.

### Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County



Tammy is the Business Development Manager for Hilbert Communications/ Bug Tussel Wireless and AT&T where she connects rural communities with broadband

internet and cell service. Tammy also runs her own photography business, Riverview Photography, near Lancaster. Tammy has served as the District 3 YFA Representative and is a member of the Grant County Fair Ag Tent Committee.

### Megan Yager, Iowa County



Megan is a beef farmer from Mineral Point and the fifth generation to own her mother's family farm. She also works full-time on her dad's grain and cattle farm while

serving as her township's treasurer and as a substitute teacher. Megan serves as the Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair.

# YFA Discussion Meet Contestants

## District 4

### Kyle Danzinger, Buffalo County



Kyle is the Technical Education instructor at Durand Middle/High School. Kyle and his wife Taliah have a small farm where they direct market

beef animals, board horses, and sell hay and straw. He has participated in the YFA Discussion Meet several times and also volunteers for the Buffalo County Farm Bureau malt stand in the summer.

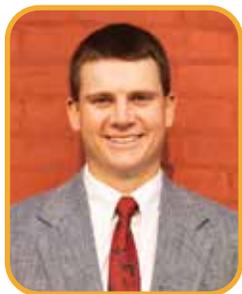
### Andrea Rippley, Buffalo County



Andrea is the Jackson and Trempealeau County 4-H Program Educator in Whitehall. She was raised on a diverse family farm in Buffalo County, raising broiler

chickens and dairy goats. For Andrea, Farm Bureau has always been a family affair and she has participated in the YFA Discussion Meet for four years.

### Collin Weltzien, Buffalo County



Collin is a recent graduate of UW-River Falls where he studied ag business and dairy science before returning to his family's 180-cow dairy farm near Arcadia.

Off the farm, Collin enjoys hunting, golfing, softball, riding motorcycle and playing cards. He is a member of the Buffalo County Farm Bureau board of directors and is proud to be a part of an organization committed to sustaining and inspiring the future of farming.

## District 5

### Collin Bays, Adams County



Collin is a senior at UW-Platteville where he is studying agribusiness with a minor in agricultural engineering. This past summer, Collin interned

for Allied Cooperative as an Operations & Sales intern while working on his family's cash crop farm near Adams. This is Collin's first year as a Young Farmer and Agriculturist member and he looks forward to continuing to support agriculture as a Farm Bureau member upon graduating from college.

### Natasha Paris, Green Lake County



Natasha is a high school agricultural education teacher and FFA advisor at Ripon High School. She and her husband also own Parkelm Farm, a grass-fed beef and pastured

pork farm specializing in Classic Herefords and Large Black Hogs where they direct market all their products. She writes curriculum for the agriculture classroom focused on conservation and inclusion in agriculture. She is the Green Lake County Farm Bureau YFA chair and is a self-proclaimed policy nerd. She is a past Excellence in Agriculture State Winner and Top 10 National Finalist. She went to Knox College, has lived in Norway, and speaks Spanish, German and Norwegian.

## District 6

### Ann Glowacki, Door County



Ann is an agricultural science teacher at Southern Door High School. She teaches 8<sup>th</sup>-through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students in subject areas including: wildlife

management, forestry, large animal production, small animal management, veterinary science, food science, leaders for the future and introduction to ag. Ann received a bachelor's degree from UW-River Falls and loves to travel, read and raise chickens. She is a Door County Farm Bureau board member.

### Rachel Harmann, Door County



Rachel is a Volunteer Engagement Representative for the American Red Cross. She also raises and shows registered beef cattle with her husband and

sons. Rachel earned a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from UW-River Falls, was an Alice in Dairyland finalist, is a Master of Beef Advocacy graduate and is a member of Leadership Institute Class XIV.

### Erin O'Toole, Kewaunee County



Erin integrates her passion for agricultural business and marketing as a High School Business teacher. First joining Farm Bureau as a student at UW-

Platteville, Erin enjoys the organizations social and professional events while building relationships with others involved in agriculture.

# YFA Discussion Meet Contestants

## District 7

### Anna Jones, Shawano County



Anna manages the quality control lab for PEAK Genetics in Shawano. Anna received her bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-River Falls before obtaining a master's degree in

dairy science from UW-Madison. In her free time, she enjoys running and spending time with her family and pets. Anna is a new member of the Shawano County Farm Bureau and looks forward to learning more while contributing to agriculture in greater ways.

### Riley Bricco, Waupaca County



Riley is a Solution Specialist at Riesterer & Schnell, Inc. from Bear Creek. Riley enjoys running a small hobby farm with his wife and two children.

## District 8

### William Litzer, Marathon County



William works at Marathon Cheese Corp. and Litzer Dairy Farm near Marathon. He is involved with the Marathon County Farm Bureau as a director on the board, the

scholarship chair, and the bylaw and historian chair. In addition to Farm Bureau, William is a cross country referee, the finance chair for his church, the Wisconsin Section 7 FFA Alumni representative, and enjoys running and snowshoeing.

## District 9

### Nathan Kringle, Barron County



Nathan is a reproductive program senior technician for Genex. He earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science from UW-River Falls. Nathan and his wife, Kayla,

have four children: Remington, Elnora, Felix and Matthys. The couple also milk eight Guernsey cows with plans to direct market milk and other dairy products. Nathan is a past YFA chair for Barron and Sawyer counties and past Policy Development committee member. He serves on the Barron County Farm Bureau board of directors.

### Julie Wadzinski, Barron County



Julie is the Farm Operations instructor at Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake. Julie has been an active member of the Barron County Farm Bureau,

having participated in the Young Farmers and Agriculturists Discussion Meet, served on the state policy development committee, as the past District 9 YFA representative and is a past state YFA chair.

### Kirsten Konder, Polk Burnett County



Kirsten is the agricultural and technology education instructor and FFA advisor at Luck Public Schools. She was raised on her family's Holstein dairy farm near

Glenwood City, which sparked her interest in agriculture. Kirsten serves as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair for Polk-Burnett County Farm Bureau.

## More about the YFA Discussion Meet

The Discussion Meet gives young Farm Bureau members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues. To qualify for the state Discussion Meet, each contestant participated in their district's Discussion Meet held earlier in the fall.

This year's state winner competes at the American Farm Bureau Federation's 2022 Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition, GROWMARK, Inc., will provide the winner with \$1,500. All contestants will receive a jacket courtesy of GROWMARK, Inc.

You can watch these participants in the quarterfinals on **Saturday at 8:15 a.m.** and **9:30 a.m.**, in the semifinals at **1:30 p.m.** and in the finals on **Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**

**Good luck contestants!**



# Collegiate Discussion Meet Contestants

## UW-Madison

### Josh Gerbitz



Josh is a senior studying dairy science at UW-Madison. He grew up on his family's small dairy farm. Shortly after he was born, his family stopped farming and

began elsewhere in agriculture. Josh has been active in organizations such as the Wisconsin Holstein Association and 4-H. These organizations helped him make connections in agriculture and to eventually work on area dairy farms in Southern Wisconsin. Josh serves as president of the Badger Dairy Club, and is active in Collegiate Farm Bureau, Babcock House, and on the dairy judging team. After graduation, he will be working as a dairy business advisor helping farmers make reproduction and herd health decisions.

### Olivia Spaight



Olivia is a student at UW-Madison studying dairy science and life science communication with a certificate in agriculture business management. She grew up

in Waterford on her family's hobby farm raising a small flock of sheep. On campus, Olivia is active in Collegiate Farm Bureau, Badger Dairy Club, National Agri Marketing Association and the Association of Women in Agriculture.

## UW-Platteville

### Emma Buss



Emma is a senior at UW-Platteville double majoring in agricultural business and dairy science. In addition to Collegiate Farm Bureau, Emma is an active member of the

Pioneer Dairy Club where she serves on the sale committee and CERES Women's Agricultural Fraternity. Off campus, she works on her family's 50-cow, registered Holstein farm assisting with day-to-day chores and field work.

### Ryan Erickson



Ryan is a junior at UW-Platteville studying agricultural education with an emphasis in technology education. He grew up working on his family's beef

farm and several neighboring dairy farms near Barron, Wis. After high school, Ryan earned a two-year technical diploma in construction and cabinetmaking from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. From 2019-2020, Eric served as the Wisconsin State FFA Vice President representing Section 1. In the future, Ryan plans to return to Northern Wisconsin to grow the family farm and become an agricultural educator.

## UW-River Falls

### Serenity Hetke



Serenity is a senior at UW-River Falls. She grew up on her parent's 160-acre dairy farm near Ladysmith in Rusk County milking 60 registered Ayrshires. Serenity became passionate about

dairy industry after receiving her first show cow at the age of eight. That love for the dairy industry has transitioned from a love of showing to a love for the land and cows that make her a farmer. After graduation, Serenity looks forward to continuing her education less formally as a lifelong learner in the industry.

### Emma Statz



Emma is pursuing a degree in agriculture studies at UW-River Falls. She grew up on a diversified farm near Helensville, having specialized in everything

from beef cattle to cash crops to show pigs. Through her involvement in 4-H and FFA, she has served as an officer and advocate for younger members. She enjoys teaching others to raise animals and be an active member in the community. One day, she hopes to take over the family farm, start a venue business out of her barn and continue to be an advocate for agriculture in Farm Bureau.

## More about the Collegiate Chapters

The first Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter was established in 2010 and there are more than 150 members in three chapters around Wisconsin. Collegiate Farm Bureau helps members build their social network, increase their knowledge of agriculture issues and develop leadership skills.

The winner of the Collegiate Discussion Meet will win a \$1,500 scholarship courtesy of GROWMARK, Inc., and represent Wisconsin in the national Collegiate Discussion Meet held in conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, in February.

The Collegiate Discussion Meet finals will be **Sunday at 8:30 a.m.**

**Good luck participants!**



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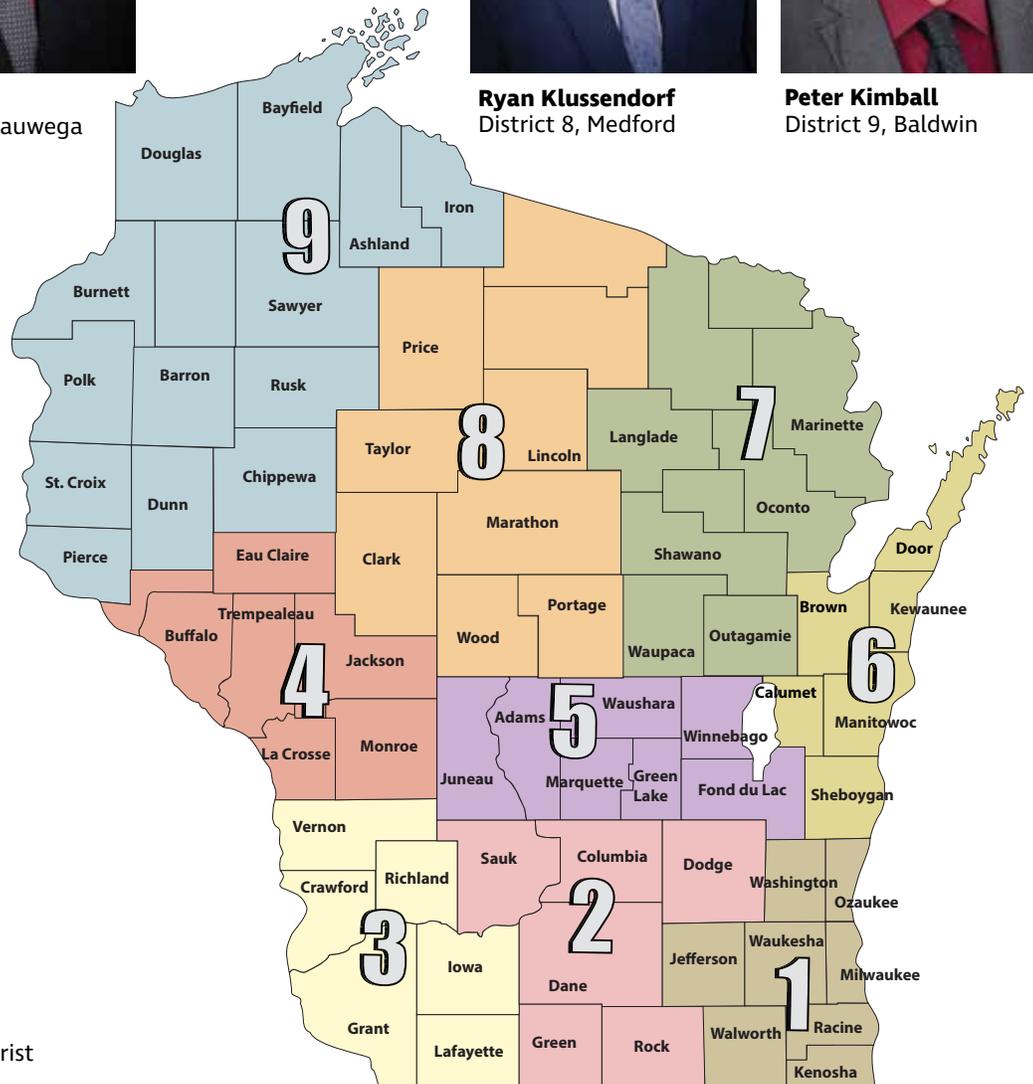
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