

# Grassroots

District 3 News

## District Director Report



**Robert Nigh**

WFBF District 3 Director

Summer greetings District 3 Farm Bureau members.

I hope you had a successful spring planting and harvesting hay. We have been receiving some timely rains after a very dry period. Hope you have also.

Thanks to those who have been working on membership

recruitment. We have work to do, especially in the area of renewals. Let's make a push to keep our string of consecutive years of membership growth going. Don't forget the membership benefits. For more information, visit the WFBF website. Our strength is our members.

Your WFBF Board of Directors met in person in May with most of the leadership team joining us. We received many positive updates. Financials are on track, the investment portfolio is doing very well, we are filling staff positions with excellent people and we are continuing to work through the strategic plan.

WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Kim Pokorny, has been doing a great job at addressing issues identified by the peer review related to staff. A board committee is working on policy and procedures to help guide WFBF as we move into our second century. Many of the items identified in the peer review are being addressed or have been addressed. Your board and staff have been working diligently to accomplish this. Thank you to all. The strategic plan is absolutely not sitting on the shelf gathering dust.

Our teams are working on a myriad of issues related to the state budget, water, sustainability, NR 151, membership retention, promotion and education, YFA and social media to name a few. Our counties are stepping up in regard to numerous local issues thanks to our county leaders and volunteers.

Policy development time will be here before we know it. Be thinking and researching policy updates, changes or new policy for our policy book. Our grassroots policy process was lauded by the peer reviewers. This allows our membership, by majority vote, to direct our team to advocate for what is best for agriculture as determined by our robust policy process.

On a final note, it's great to see dairy breakfasts and county fairs back this year. We have missed these events. Get out and enjoy what Wisconsin and Farm Bureau has to offer.

As always, stay safe and stay informed.

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Names Heroes of Hope

Heroes of Hope, a subset of the Farm Neighbors Care campaign, is focused on shedding light on rural heroes who have helped others through a tough time. It aims to identify people who have helped bring hope to farmers or businesses, either in large or small ways.

In May, members of the agriculture community were encouraged to nominate individuals who have made an impact on the way they conduct business, both ordinarily and extraordinarily.

Justin Schroepfer of Langlade County has been named the 2021 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Hero of Hope.

In the past year, Schroepfer and his family stepped up in big ways to help their rural neighbors. When a good friend of the family endured medical issues, Schroepfer and his family not only continued to maintain his farm and his wife, Sara's, salon business, but also stepped in to ensure their friend's landscaping business could continue serving customers. As their friend recovered, they would schedule and deliver loads of landscaping materials to minimize the stress of continuing to run their business.

Additionally, when Schroepfer was notified of another community member who was in the hospital, he also stepped up to assist with the family's trucking business by offering to drive semi.

As stated in his nomination, "This time of year, Justin is usually found planting a farm field that isn't even his and eventually makes his way to planting his own fields. Our community is lucky to have this very generous family as a part of it."

Also being recognized as finalists this year are Melvin (MJ) Zenner of Taylor County, Duane 'Dewey' Kunz of Eau Claire County, Kellie Zahn of Shawano County and Al Shannon of Dunn County.

As this year's Hero of Hope, Schroepfer will receive \$500 cash, a Yeti Cooler, \$50 to Kwik Trip, \$50 to Blain's Farm & Fleet and a variety of Farm Bureau gear. The four remaining finalists will each receive \$150 cash, \$25 to Kwik Trip and \$25 to Blain's Farm & Fleet. All Heroes of Hope finalists will be recognized in an upcoming issue of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Rural Route magazine.



*Heroes of Hope*

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

## Virtual Ag Day at the Capitol Event Keeps Farmers Connected

On March 24, more than 250 farmers and agriculturists met virtually for Ag Day at the Capitol. The annual event is for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees listened to prerecorded welcome messages from Governor Tony Evers and Secretary-designee of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Randy Romanski.

The governor shared that Wisconsin farmers are the state's past, present and will be the future.

"That's why it is critically important to me and to the success of our state that we invest in and support our farmers and farm families," Evers said.

The governor said that his budget proposal contains new and additional grant funding to encourage innovation, market development and job creation in the meat and dairy sectors, including creating and funding the Wisconsin Initiative for Agricultural Exports, which will boost export opportunities for Wisconsin's world-class products.

During the event, Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Kevin Krentz addressed the virtual crowd and encouraged members to share their stories with legislators in their meetings and throughout the year.

"It's important that they hear directly from you and how an issue is impacting you, your farm and your community," said Krentz.

Secretary-designee Romanski highlighted the governor's proposal to provide support for Wisconsin's meat processing industry by providing funding for meat processor grants to help expand and modernize, meat talent and development program to help support the industry's workforce

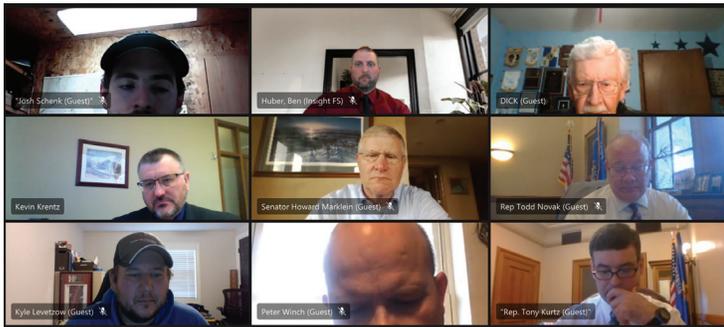


development and the meat inspection program by funding 6.0 additional full-time state meat inspectors.

"We learned during COVID-19 just how important it is to ensure a resilient meat and dairy supply chain," said Romanski. "The governor's budget prioritizes that with programs that will help keep Wisconsin's meat and dairy supply chains moving, building our processing work force for the future and ensuring that DATCP has resources it needs to keep up with the industry."

Attendees listened to issue briefings on increased funding for broadband expansion, providing farmer grant programs for nitrogen optimization projects, addressing meat processing infrastructure, transportation funding, well remediation, wildlife damage, truth in food labeling and a host of other bills including farmland preservation tax credit and the Wisconsin initiative for agricultural exports and dairy processor grants.

Another focus of the program was support for agricultural nitrogen legislation. Attendees were asked to encourage legislators to support grants to farmers for the implementation of on-farm projects that are designed to reduce nitrate loading to groundwater. Additional legislative concepts discussed include advocating for improvements to DNR's Well Compensation Program and creating a Cover Crop Insurance Premium Rebate Program.



### DISTRICT 3 YFA DISCUSSION MEET & Brewery Tour

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 6**

Join your fellow Young Farmer & Agriculturist members for a fun evening at the Potosi Brewing Company. The night will start with a brewery tour and tasting, followed by dinner and the discussion meet.

**5:30PM - BREWERY TOUR & TASTING**  
**7:00PM - SOCIAL & BUFFET DINNER**  
**8:00PM - DISCUSSION MEET**

For questions, to participate or to RSVP contact:  
 District 3 YFA Representative, Andrew Dal Santo at 608.214.7219 or dalsantoa90@gmail.com  
 District 3 Coordinator, Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson at 608.574.9884 or mdoyle@wfbf.com

**QUESTION TO BE DISCUSSED:**  
 How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YFA members and increasing participation in YFA programs?

Sign up!

### AG NEWSWIRE AND POLICY PULSE

- Political Updates
- Farm Bureau News
- Ag Events
- Weekly Recap

**Policy Pulse**

Stay up to date on the latest legislative news affecting you.  
<http://bit.ly/PolicyPulseSignUp>

**Ag Newswire**

Sign up to receive a weekly update with the latest Farm Bureau, political and agriculture news directly in your inbox every Friday.  
[wfbf.com/communication/ag-newswire](http://wfbf.com/communication/ag-newswire)

## Promotion and Education Committee Update



**Krista Klinkner**

Promotion and Education Committee Representative

I hope your summer is off to a good start. For May Beef Month, the members of the Promotion and Education Committee submitted their favorite beef recipes to be shared in the Rural Route.

Meatballs are one of my favorites and are good for a family year-round. Also, a new favorite during

fieldwork season are Fatayer, which is basically ground beef, cheese and hash browns baked in a roll. They are farmer Travis approved because they are mess free for on-the-go tractor meals.

As we ease back to in-person activities, Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom will be hosting some virtual trainings, two in-person Back-to-School Kick-offs and attend several events.

### Back to School Kick-Off #1

Aug. 18 - Wisconsin Discovery Center, Manitowoc

**Presenters:** Abigail Martin and Darlene Arneson

### Back to School Kick-Off #2

Aug. 24 - Valley Museum, Eau Claire

**Presenters:** Darlene Arneson and Museum Education Directors/Staff

For more information and additional updates, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Facebook page and website.

### Meatballs

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef
- 10 crackers
- ¼ cup sour cream
- ¼ teaspoon: salt, pepper, parsley, basil, garlic powder and onion salt

#### Directions

1. Mix thawed meat and all ingredients.
2. Make desired size meatballs and place in baking dish.
3. Cook covered at 350°F for 30 minutes. Uncover and cook additional 10-15 minutes or until brown.
4. Enjoy. This recipe is easily doubled, tripled and so on.

### Jo's Fatayer from Magnolia Table

- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil (I substitute with butter.)
- ¼ cup minced white onion
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 2 cups thawed, frozen shredded hash browns
- 2 cups bagged grated Cheddar cheese
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more as needed
- 3 (16.3-oz.) cans refrigerated Pillsbury biscuits
- All-purpose flour, for the work surface
- 4 tablespoons (½ stick) salted butter, melted

#### Directions

1. Position racks in the top third and middle of the oven and preheat the oven to 350°F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large sauté pan, heat the oil or butter, over medium-high heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring often until soft, about 3 minutes. Add the beef and cook, stirring often to break up the meat, until no longer pink, about 6 minutes. Stir in the hash browns, cheddar cheese, 2 teaspoons salt and the pepper. Stir until well combined. Taste and adjust the seasoning. Set aside.
3. Open the cans of biscuits and separate the dough into individual biscuits (24 total). Dust a work surface with some flour. Roll out each biscuit to a roughly 5½-inch round.
4. Working with one round at a time, place about ¼ cup meat in the middle, leaving a roughly ½-inch border all around. Bring the sides of the dough up in three parts and pinch together the three seams from the base up to the top center so that the package forms a triangle. It is ok if the meat peeks through at the top.
5. Continue to fill and pinch all the biscuit rounds, arranging the pies on the prepared baking sheets as you form and placing close together so that the biscuit rounds fit.
6. Brush the tops with the melted butter and sprinkle a little kosher salt on the top. Makes 24 fatayer; or 8 to 10 servings.

## Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Training Offered

By Christina Winch, Grant County Farm Bureau Member

Living in a rural community, it is common to have youth working on farms who did not grow up on the farm. Others may choose to work on a different farm to get experience.

According to Wisconsin Act 455, Section 10, Section 346.925, "No person may direct or permit a child under the age of 16 years to operate a farm tractor or self-propelled implement of husbandry on the highway unless the child has been certified under s. 36.25 (32) (a) 2 as successfully completing a tractor and machinery operation safety training course that is equivalent to the requirements, other than age, specified under 29 CFR 570.70 to 29 CFR 570.72."

UW-Extension offers the Wisconsin Safe Operation of Tractor and Machinery Program throughout the state. It's a 24-hour training that also meets the child labor requirements in agriculture under the Fair Labor Standards Act, pertaining to the employment of youth ages 14-15 on

farms not operated by their parents or guardians. Youth as young as 12 are allowed to take the class, but they will not be issued their certificate until they are 14 years old.

For information on trainings, visit [fyi.extension.wisc.edu/tractorcert/2021-2](http://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/tractorcert/2021-2). We found it beneficial for our children to go through the training even though most of their work is on our farm. There have also been adults with no farming experience go through the class. Safe operation of farm equipment is important at all ages. Enroll your children, employees or even yourself today.



## What is Ag in the Classroom?

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how food and other common daily products are grown, produced and harvested both locally and around the world.

The Ag in the Classroom program strives to share the importance and large impact agriculture has on Wisconsin's growing economy. Ag in the Classroom seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information about our state's and nation's largest industry: AGRICULTURE.

Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of local educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in today's ever-changing world.

In my role as an educator, I try to find ways to weave agriculture activities and lessons into our existing curricula throughout the entire year. In the fall, my students and I make applesauce and learn how apples are grown, cared for and harvested in orchards around the state. We learn about Wisconsin's state fruit, the cranberry, and its large impact on Wisconsin's agriculture economy. The students enjoy learning how to make butter and are always surprised to find out how easy and delicious it is.

During the winter season, we learn about Christmas tree farms and the years of labor and love it takes to grow the 'perfect' tree. We explore how the technology and machines used on farms are always changing and improving the lives of farmers and the livestock and crops they raise. We briefly discuss and learn about the different types of soils found throughout our state and how certain crops or foods grow better in certain types of soil.

This activity is always followed up with two of my favorite lessons: 'A Slice of Soil' where students compare an apple to our earth and recognize that only a small percentage of our earth's surface is usable topsoil and 'Dirt Dessert' where students use some yummy ingredients to make an edible soil profile, gummy worms and all.

The springtime is usually followed up with a field trip to a local farm (in non-COVID years) where students see first-hand the hard work, care and pride farmers put into their land and farm. Students might get the opportunity to see how calves are fed or how goats are milked. Students observe cows chewing their cud and licking the silage from their nostrils. They see up close just how big and powerful farm machinery is.

When visiting a farm, students take in the sights and smells in utter amazement. The amount of information they learn from spending just a few hours of time with farmers, producers and agribusiness leaders will forever leave a lasting impression on their life.

Additionally, my school is fortunate enough to have a large school garden. The spring is the time of the year where students head outside to prepare the beds for springtime planting. Students cross their fingers that their hard work will reward them in the summer and fall. Throughout the summer, the students visit the garden with their families and tend to the weeding and harvesting of their crops. From this experience, students see first-hand the amount of work and time it takes to grow and harvest their own food.

These are just some of the many ways I try to bring agriculture to life in my classroom. If you would like ideas on how you can get involved in your county's Ag in the Classroom program, please contact your local coordinator or me at [doylelivia@gmail.com](mailto:doylelivia@gmail.com). For more information, resources or lesson ideas, visit [wisagclassroom.org](http://wisagclassroom.org).



## Varo Named Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. The contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

Students were asked to write a 100- to 300-word essay with the theme, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

This year's District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner is Grace Varo. Grace is the daughter of Wade and Hannah Varo. Madalyn Welsh is her fifth-grade teacher at Seneca Elementary School.

A total of 1,461 students wrote essays for the competition sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Association, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and We Energies.

Grace received a prize package including a plaque, books about soybeans, Culver's gift card, Agriculture Fast Match game, trivia cards and an "I Love Soybeans" mug.



*Grace's winning essay:*

### How Do Soybeans Economically Help Wisconsin?

Did you know there are 11,000 soybean growers in Wisconsin? I wonder how those soybeans economically help Wisconsin. There is a lot of production in farming and marketing, but what are the soybeans used for after that?

### Soybean Production in Farming

As the soybean prices rise the farmers have been able to buy better and more equipment. With that equipment they can produce up to 80 pods, which makes more high protein and oil for animal feed and other resources. That is how soybeans help in farming.

### How does production in marketing help Wisconsin?

Animal agriculture is a soybean farmer's #1 customer. Animal agriculture encompasses mainly dairy, beef cattle, hogs, broilers, turkeys, eggs, sheep and aquaculture. The impact is important too. According to [midwestfarmreport.com](http://midwestfarmreport.com) soybeans sell for \$8.30 a bushel. That means according to [wisoybean.com](http://wisoybean.com) that job impact throughout the economy - 111,000 jobs, impact on total output in the economy - \$1.6 billion, impact on household income - \$2.9 billion, impact on income taxes paid - yielded \$765 million, and impact on property taxes paid - \$307 million.

I live in Crawford County Wisconsin. I live on a farm and so do my grandparents. My grandpa has been a farmer pretty much his whole life and so has his dad. Farming is how they make a living and I'm sure there are a lot more people that are the same way. That's how I know soybeans are important.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



**Andrew Dal Santo**

YFA Committee Representative

Spring has sprung and what a spring it has been. As we roll into June it looks like there are a lot of transitions headed our way. From seeds to seedlings and wet holes to dry pockets there is a lot that we could talk about relating to this 2021 spring.

For me personally, the most exciting thing would be the fact that we are actually planning events that are

IN-PERSON. That almost feels like a new term, in-person. The YFA Committee has been focusing on these exciting in person events following the end of May.

I have been busy planning this year's District 3 YFA Discussion Meet scheduled for **Aug. 6**. I'm excited to announce it will be held in conjunction with a brewery tour at Potosi Brewing Company. The evening will start with a tour and tasting, followed by dinner and the discussion meet. If you are interested in attending or participating, please contact me.

The Excellence in Agriculture Award application is available on the WFBF website and is due July 1. The award judges participants on their involvement in agriculture, leadership ability, involvement and participation in Farm Bureau. Applicants derive a majority of income from an off-farm career. Examples include agriculture teacher, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee or agricultural marketer. I encourage interested and qualified members to apply.

For those who have been following the Wisconsin YFA Facebook Page, we have been holding virtual monthly events. In March, we had Sara Menard from District 5 host a St. Patrick's Day cook along. In May, I hosted a virtual grilling event in promotion of Beef Month.

I went through the process of grilling beef kabobs and shared facts and trivia. I was lucky enough to get some awesome beef swag from the Wisconsin Beef Council and with the help from Bug Tussel/AT&T I was able to give away a three-burner gas grill. We had more than 20 participants on the live-stream and now have more than 1,000 views. Thank you to those who signed on to watch.

Again, I thank those in District 3 and around the state for your patience and understanding as this past year has been somewhat challenging to say the least, but here we are today in the midst of getting back to the term 'normal.' As always, please contact me at 608.214.7219 with questions or activity suggestions.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

## 2021 DISTRICT 3 COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

### LAFAYETTE COUNTY

THE GENERAL STORE  
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING  
RSVP: CHRISTINA BENSON  
815.275.4400

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

### CRAWFORD COUNTY

SENECA TOWN HALL  
7:30PM DINNER | 8PM MEETING  
RSVP: DON BROWN  
608.872.2331

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

### GRANT COUNTY

YOUTH & AG CENTER  
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING  
RSVP: PETER WINCH  
608.822.7806

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

### IOWA COUNTY

LOCATION TBD  
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING  
RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN  
608.574.4565

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

### VERNON COUNTY

GASSERS BAR & GRILL  
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING  
RSVP: ROBERT NIGH  
608.606.4319

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13**

### RICHLAND COUNTY

THE PHOENIX CENTER  
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING  
RSVP: GERMAINE HYING  
608.739.3367

### YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST CONFERENCE

December **3-5** December



CHECK OUT THIS OFFER FOR FIRST-TIME ATTENDEES!

If you've never attended this event before, Rural Mutual wants to sponsor you and a guest. Just complete the sponsorship application at <http://bit.ly/RuralSponsor21>. You may apply as an individual or as a couple, but don't delay - only 50 double-occupancy rooms are available. The deadline to apply is **August 16!**

If you are a Farm Bureau member age 18-35 and are selected for sponsorship, Rural Mutual will pay the conference registration fee for you and a guest and two nights lodging at the Kalahari Resort. If selected, you will be notified by September 17, and additional details regarding the conference will be emailed to you with a conference registration form that you will be required to complete.

**Refer a Friend & Get Entered to Win \$1,000!**

For any YFA member who refers a first-time attendee, their name will be placed in a drawing for \$1,000. The winner will be selected during the Friday evening banquet.

*(You must be present at the Friday evening banquet to qualify.)*

APPLY TODAY AT: <http://bit.ly/RuralSponsor21>



**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY MEETING.**

## Farm Bureau Scholarships Awarded

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and of course, growing the food we eat. Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties are proud to support the next generation of agriculturalists and community leaders through scholarships.

This year's recipients have been involved in all facets of agriculture and will certainly be valuable assets to the industry in the future. Best of luck to the recipients as they continue their education this fall.

### GRANT COUNTY



**ALLISON ADRIAN**  
Platteville High School



**COLIN MERWIN**  
Iowa-Grant High School



**HALIE SCHWAB**  
Platteville High School



**KAELYN WEIGEL**  
Platteville High School



**RANDALL WINCH**  
Fennimore High School

### IOWA COUNTY



**MYA MCCARTHY**  
Iowa-Grant High School



**KAYLA SHEMAK**  
Highland High School



**JESSICA VINGER**  
Dodgeville High School

### LAFAYETTE COUNTY



**CHASE GRAHAM**  
Darlington High School



**PAYTON GRATZ**  
Darlington High School



**OLIVIA ISELEY**  
Argyle High School



**LAUREN JONES**  
Darlington High School



**MEGAN LARSON**  
Argyle High School



**VICTORRIA MEYLOR**  
Darlington High School



**KATIE RIECHERS**  
Darlington High School



**MADISON RUSSELL**  
Shullsburg High School

## Ag in the Classroom Update

By Mary Jo Johnsrude, Crawford County Farm Bureau Member

'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?' was the theme for this year's essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students.

Crawford County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Pat Dearth, visited the schools in our area and provided contest rules, materials (lessons and activities) and a copy of the 2021 book of the year "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. The book shared how Henry Ford used soybeans for cars, food and even clothing. There were 28 entries turned in by the April 1 deadline. All the entries came from the Seneca Elementary School students in Madalyn Welsh's and Jessica Dworschack's class.

The winning essays were written by Grace Varo, first place; Lily Payne, second place; and Brecklyn Schlee, third place. The top three students



received monetary prizes, along with a special treat for their classrooms. The teachers received gift cards as a thank you for encouraging their students to participate.

The essay contest is an annual event that is offered in schools in our state as well as



to home schooled students. Each year a new theme is selected. Essays must be 100- to 300-word in length and can be either hand-written or computer generated. They are judged on content, grammar, spelling, originality and creativity.

This fall, watch your newsletter for information about next year's topic. Please encourage your children to enter this contest.



**CRAWFORD COUNTY**  
FARM BUREAU  
**SUMMER**  
**PICNIC**

**THURSDAY, JULY 15**

EASTMAN PARK | 7:00PM

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT FULL OF FOOD, FRIENDS AND FARM BUREAU UPDATES. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS AND TABLE SERVICE.

**CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR**

**DAIRY**  
**BAR**

**AUGUST 26TH-29TH**

While you're at the Crawford County Fair, be sure to stop by the Farm Bureau Dairy Bar for an ice cream treat and a slice of pie! If you'd like to donate a pie, please contact a Crawford County Farm Bureau board member or simply drop it off at the fair.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR WEBSITE AT [CRAWFORDCOUNTYWISCONSINFAIR.COM](http://CRAWFORDCOUNTYWISCONSINFAIR.COM)

## Share Your Voice Through Farm Bureau



**Peter Winch**

Grant County Farm Bureau President

A lot has happened in the last year. Even with COVID-19 and the change in the government leadership, farmers are still some of the most optimistic people in the world. We are planting crops and will be harvesting hay throughout the summer not fully knowing what the status of the markets will be.

Now, more than ever, is your voice through Farm Bureau very important. As we proceed things will never be the same. Farm Bureau is a respected organization that is listened to at the state and federal levels.

Farm Bureau has done a great job communicating our needs with the legislature and our governor. We must take it one day at a time. As things open up, please be safe and respectful of people.

Fairs will be totally done different as in the past. There will be a Grant County Fair this year and the food stand will happen as in the past with some minor changes. I can just taste the pork chops and potato salad. The food stand is a major fundraiser for the county.

We are always looking for help from our members at the food stand.

A lot of thought and preparation from the board goes into the menu and logistics. Our goal is to promote agriculture products and have a full meal at a reasonable price for all fairgoers, especially families. If you have questions about the fair or want to help, please contact me at [pwinch@rds.net](mailto:pwinch@rds.net).

Please make sure to save the date for the Grant County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, Sept. 21**, at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. You will receive a postcard with more details in September. The meal will start at 7 p.m. with the meeting to follow.

During the county annual meeting, we will start the grassroots process of voting on resolutions to be forwarded to the state to help the directors, staff and lobbyists provide a clear statement of what Farm Bureau stands for. We begin generating resolution ideas at the policy development meeting.

The Grant County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. on **Thursday, Sept. 2**, at the Farm Bureau building in Lancaster. All members are welcome to attend.

Again, all Farm Bureau policy starts locally. If passed it is forwarded to the state and possibly on to the American Farm Bureau Federation. It really goes to show you that we can have a voice in what's going on.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

## Grant County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Jackie Seelow, Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

I hope planting season went well and that everyone has been experiencing good growing weather. With the restrictions lifting and life slowly getting back to normal, we will be planning more YFA events so that we can get together again.

Earlier this spring, we hosted a BINGO and pizza night. About 20 members attended. We had gift cards and lots of kid's summer toys for prizes. It was great to see everyone again.

On July 18, we will host the annual Grant County YFA Night on the Farm. It will be held at the Jerrett Family Farm outside of Lancaster. The entire family is invited to attend. We will grill out and the meat will be

provided. Please bring a dish to pass.

The Grant County Fair will be back this year and that means we will be running the Youth Ag Tent. We are looking for volunteers to help with set-up, tear down and oversee

the tent during the fair. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering.

Another event that we are just in the beginning stages of planning is a UTV ride. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for more details on a date and location.

If you have any questions or have ideas for other fun events, please contact me at 608.632.1714 or [jackie.seelow@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.seelow@gmail.com). Have a fun and safe summer.



**Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
Young Farmer  
and Agriculturist  
Program**





GRANT COUNTY FAIR  
AUGUST 18-22

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the Grant County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Daily shifts are:  
10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm,  
and 6pm-10pm.

If interested in helping, contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806 or sign up online at [bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand](http://bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand).

GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU

# NIGHT *on the* FARM



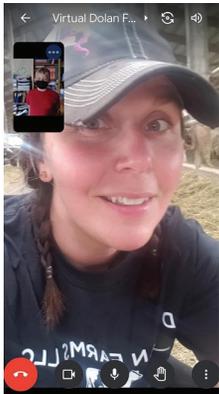
SUNDAY, JULY 18 | 5:30PM  
JERRETT FAMILY FARM

(11792 COUNTY ROAD K - LANCASTER, WI)

JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING SOCIALIZING WITH YOUR FELLOW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS. THE MAIN COURSE WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH TO PASS. THE WHOLE FAMILY IS INVITED TO ATTEND!

TO RSVP CONTACT JACKIE SEELOW AT 608.632.1714.

## June Is Dairy Month



By Krista Dolan, Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Happy June Dairy Month. It's one of my favorite months of the year. It is usually a very busy month with school ending, hay season arriving and the beginning of summer on the farm.

Did you know that June Dairy Month started out as a way to distribute extra milk during the warm months of the summer as a grocery/milk promotion and has since continued on? I love sharing information about our dairy farm on social media with people who aren't familiar with the lifestyle or even with those who are. The excitement behind showing people where their food comes from makes them extremely interested in what we do.

Recently, I had the opportunity to do a virtual farm tour for my youngest son's class. I have a background in teaching, so

this is a passion of mine. I much prefer to give a tour in-person, but learning to adapt to situations and with useful technology, we were still able to provide the students with information about the dairy farming life. Thanks to Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin we were able to provide them with a fun goodie bag as well.

June has 30 days, so I encourage you to find a way to observe dairy month. Here are some ideas:

- Have an ice cream sundae party.
- Host a cheese tasting event for your friends.
- Visit a local dairy farm or if you are a dairy farmer invite people out either in person or hold a virtual tour.
- Drink milk with your meals and add dairy products to your shopping list.

## FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY

JULY 10-11  
DOWNTOWN DODGEVILLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A DETAILED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS VISIT  
[WWW.FARMERSAPPRECIATIONDAY.COM](http://WWW.FARMERSAPPRECIATIONDAY.COM).

## Promotion and Education Update



By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Hello again from Iowa County. It was a very busy and pleasant spring for farm work. Hopefully everyone had a quick and successful planting and calving season.

Things are starting to open up again after the pandemic and restrictions are being loosened. We are hoping we can start scheduling

more in-person events again for Farm Bureau.

Each year, Iowa County Farm Bureau awards scholarships to high school graduates. This year three recipients were selected and awarded \$250 for their college tuition expenses. The recipients were Mya McCarthy, Livingston; Kayla Shemak, Highland; and Jessica Vinger,

Dodgeville. We congratulate all of the graduating seniors and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 35th consecutive year on **July 10-11** in Dodgeville. A variety of activities are being planned for the weekend. On Saturday night, we are teaming up with Upland Hills Health for their annual Sip & Savor event at Harris Park. The night will feature tasty food and drinks from the best restaurants, bakeries, breweries and wineries in southwest Wisconsin. Live music will provide a fun and social atmosphere before the spectacular City of Dodgeville fireworks show. Sunday will kick off with a parade, followed by entertainment, activities and food in downtown Dodgeville. New this year, the after-parade festivities will be held in the parking lot behind the Iowa County Courthouse. There will be several activities for the youngsters and plenty of fun for people of all ages. We hope you will join us for this event to show your appreciation for our hard-working farmers and agriculture community.

For more information and a schedule of events, visit [www.farmersappreciationday.com](http://www.farmersappreciationday.com). Enjoy your summer.

## County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner

This year's Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner is Jaelyn Pete, a fifth-grade student from Iowa-Grant Elementary School. Jaelyn is the daughter of Brian and Shonda Pete.

Her teacher is Mrs. Jessica Sigg. Jaelyn received a certificate and \$25 for her outstanding accomplishment.

Congratulations, Jaelyn.



## Join the Grassroots Process

Mark your calendars for the Iowa County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting at 7 p.m. on **Tuesday, Aug. 17**. This meeting gives members an opportunity to make their voice heard and help develop resolutions to be voted on at the county annual meeting.

For more information about the grassroots policy development process and issues of interest, visit [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com) and click on the 'Policy' tab.

# Lafayette County

## Summertime in Lafayette County



By Christina Benson, Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Summer is here. Time for vacation, visiting family in other states and haying season.

Life sure does fly by on the farm. Getting ready to do a season of planting, harvesting or day-to-day chores, summer for most farms means you have to plan well in advance to try to have time for a little break. One of the breaks may be going to fair, checking out a

field day or helping a neighbor do custom work.

Lafayette County offers lots of different types of activities to do in the summer. One of my favorites is the Lafayette County Fair, which takes place **July 14-18** this year. I hope you stop by the fairgrounds and enjoy the activities, animals, food and seeing the neighbors you might not have seen in a while.

The fair food stand is one of the things that introduced me to Farm Bureau and I would love the opportunity to visit with you about how you joined Farm Bureau. Have a safe and happy summer.

Hope to see you at the fair.



LAFAYETTE COUNTY FAIR  
JULY 14-18 | DARLINGTON

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Sign up online at [bit.ly/lafayettecountyfoodstand](http://bit.ly/lafayettecountyfoodstand) or contact Christina Benson at 815.275.4400.

## President's Message



**Dick Hauser**

Richland County Farm Bureau President

As I sit down to write this message, I find myself working on a topic that will be of interest to the majority of the Farm Bureau members in Richland County and also to many in District 3.

As many of you who know me would expect it has to do with BEEF. Whether you are a dairy farmer or a traditional beef producer we have all faced challenges in the last year and a half. First it was the shutdown of the many large packing plants and then the crash of the market price. That was followed by the inability of finding a place to get an animal processed at a local locker as more consumers reached out to find meat locally. Now, the frustration is growing even more as we see the price of beef rising at the store level for the consumers and yet have not seen the price the producer receives move. It was encouraging to see an article about six or seven major agricultural organizations getting together (several who seem to

oppose each other more often than not) to start an investigation as to why the price the producer is receiving has not followed the retail market price. This trend has been ongoing for some time now and seems to have its roots in the consolidation of the processing part of our industry.

We now have only four major companies who control the bulk of the beef processing in the United States and it would be hard to believe that there is no collusion going on. When historically the packer margins have been in the \$300 area per animal and now it has been documented that those margins are hovering in the \$1,000 area per animal.

I find it interesting that while NCBA has attempted to keep an open dialog ongoing with the major packers by having them as members of their organization, one of the big four, JBS, sometime last year suspended its membership and now has canceled it completely. It seems as though making money is more important to JBS than the welfare of the industry.

As I am finishing this message, I heard on the news that JBS was hacked and that they were shutting down the plant at Green Bay. As a conclusion, it is my hope that the organizations will continue to work on this issue and I would hope that each of us as individuals would keep encouraging our leadership to work for an equitable solution.

# Vernon County

## Conservation Corner



By Ben Wojahn, Vernon County Conservationist

Fields are planted and hay is being cut in Vernon County. We are not in a drought and no major flooding, so we can count our blessings so far this season. I had the honor of presenting to the Vernon County Farm Bureau recently. It is so nice to be meeting in person again. Many of the same good-looking faces I remember. And those who had trouble making it to meetings on time before COVID, well... it's good to see not much has changed.

We can't talk about Vernon County without talking about flooding. Several major research studies are currently under way. The study is looking at solutions or as the federal level calls it 'Preferred Alternatives' for the breached dams in the Coon Creek and West Fork of the Kickapoo Watersheds.

Public listening sessions for that study are going to be at the Cashton Town Hall on June 22 and the American Legion in Coon Valley on June 23. Both begin at 5:30 p.m. It is very important for the farmers' voices to be heard. Additional studies are taking place on the Kickapoo to look at upland land practices for reducing the impacts of flooding.

Progress is being made, albeit a bit slow, on a revision of our county manure storage ordinance. A team of advisors is largely made up of farmers, and the spirit going into the process is of cooperation, caring for the land and not burdening our farmers.

Plenty of nutrient management cost-share funding is available. Technical assistance for conservation is severely limited and the waiting list very long. Our one technician has more than 100 interested landowners who unfortunately he cannot get to. We continue to work with our partners, in particular Farm Bureau, to seek more funding for technicians to serve our farmers.

Farmer-led groups continue to gain popularity. Tainter-Creek farmers

are getting back to regular meetings. A Coon Creek group is starting to form and we are hearing of interest in other watersheds. Farmers getting together, chatting and taking the lead is a trend that is good for the land and for our farmers. The Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department looks forward to helping foster more groups.

Every time I have a chat with Farm Bureau, we see how closely intertwined farming and conservation really are. From education and outreach to policy, young farmers, field days and caring about water and soil, I am encouraged to know that my local farmers have my back and that they trust me to have theirs.

I value and look forward to a great and continued friendship and partnership with our local Farm Bureau leaders. Many thanks to you.



**This Issue Contains  
Highlights for:**

**Crawford County**

**Grant County**

**Iowa County**

**Lafayette County**

**Richland County**

**Vernon County**

# GROWING FARM SAFETY TRADITIONS

Rural Mutual has been protecting farms across Wisconsin for over 85 years. We believe in protecting the families and children in our farming communities through farm safety initiatives.

Visit [RuralMutual.com](http://RuralMutual.com) to find safety resources, learn about insurance trends, request a quote and find a local agent.

