



# Grassroots

## District 9 News

### Federal Updates



**Tyler Wenzlaff**

WFBF Director of Governmental Relations

Congress has wasted no time in getting to work this session. As leadership changed in the House and Senate so have the priorities. Climate and changing tax policy have garnered the majority of attention but the introduction of the America the Beautiful Plan and new

infrastructure investments will increasingly gain attention moving forward.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau have been busy commenting on several changes that are being proposed and we will continue to advocate on your behalf.

For a couple months we have been speculating on what changes might be made to the capital gains tax. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) introduced H.R. 2286, the Sensible Taxation and Equity Promotion (STEP) Act in the House and Sens. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Cory Booker (D-NJ), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) introduced similar legislation in the Senate. This coincides with the announcement of President Joe Biden's infrastructure package and will be used to offset the additional expenditures.

The bills treat property that is transferred by gift or at death as if it were sold for its fair-market value. This 'deemed sale' causes a recognition of gain, the amount that the asset increased in value while owned by the decedent, that is subject to capital gains taxes.

This new capital gains tax at death would be applied on top of existing estate taxes, so that both the new capital gains tax and existing estate taxes would be collected when a farm or ranch owner dies. At death, there is an exclusion of the first \$1 million of gain and transfers to a spouse would be exempt.

WFBF and AFBF are opposed to legislation that would end the stepped-up basis and impose capital gains taxes at death. President Kevin Krentz has been meeting with Wisconsin's federal delegation during the first couple months and this has been one of the main issues he has discussed.

WFBF will continue to work with our federal delegation to oppose legislation that would eliminate the step-up basis and ask that you contact your federal congressional representative and ask them to oppose H.R. 2286.

Recently the Biden Administration released the America the Beautiful Report. The goal of the report is to enroll 30 percent of America's acres in conversation

programs by the year 2030.

The report is a philosophical document that emphasizes important principles such as incentive-based voluntary conservation, protecting personal and property rights and continued ranching on public lands, but it lacks specifics.

While we appreciate that the report commits to supporting voluntary conservation efforts, the devil is in the details and we need specifics on how this plan will be implemented.

We have concerns that implementing parts of the plan could drive up land rent costs, subject farmers to burdensome reporting requirements related to private property and signal a significant extension of federal government's reach into traditionally local and state jurisdictions.

WFBF, along with AFBF, will continue to work with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to ensure individual privacy is protected and make sure the details live up to the promises made to protect American agriculture.

Wisconsin agriculture is facing numerous challenges, ever changing climate and economics is forcing producers to constantly re-evaluate their operations. WFBF is working to reduce administrative uncertainty and advocate for volunteer, locally-led conservation but we need your engagement.

WFBF provides a legislative update called the Policy Pulse. It is your gateway to what is happening in Madison and Washington, D.C., that is important to you. Please sign-up for this important service with your district coordinator and lend your voice. Collectively we can make sure Wisconsin ag is successful in the field and in the marble hallways.

### District 9 Policy Development Meeting

Get your seat at the table and let your voice be heard!

Join Farm Bureau members from District 9 for the 2021 Policy Development Meeting as we draft resolutions to be considered for 2022 Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy.

Cost: \$10/person to cover the meal

**Thursday, July 29th**

**Sleep Inn & Suites Conference Center**

5870 33rd Ave, Eau Claire

6:00pm - Registration

6:30pm - YFA Discussion Meet

7:30pm - Meal & Policy Development Meeting

Do you have an idea for a proposed policy? You can visit <http://bit.ly/2021ProposedPolicy> to submit it at any time.

For questions or to RSVP contact Katie Mattison, District 9 Coordinator, at 715.418.0975 (call or text) or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com)



# District 9 News

## Save the Date: Upcoming Events

### June

- 19 Pierce County Dairy Breakfast, Todd and Billy Jo Mark Farm
- 24 Annual Member Appreciation Picnic, Eau Galle Recreational Park
- 26 Dunn County Dairy Drive-Thru  
Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast, Sawyer County Fairgrounds

### July

- 1 YFA Excellence in Ag applications Due
- 7-11 Northern Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls
- 20-22 Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, Eau Claire County
- 14-18 St. Croix County Fair  
Volunteers needed for the Farm Bureau Food Stand
- 14-18 Barron County Fair  
Volunteers needed for the Farm Bureau Food Stand
- 21-25 Dunn County Fair  
Volunteers needed for the Farm Bureau Food Stand
- 29 Policy Development Meetings and YFA Discussion Meet

### August

- 12-15 Pierce County Fair  
Volunteers needed for the Farm Bureau Little Red Barn Milk Stand
- 16 YFA First Time Attendee Conference Sponsorship Due

### September

- 12 St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting
- 28 Dunn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

## Excellence IN AGRICULTURE



The Excellence in Agriculture 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, agricultural marketer.

Open to all YFA members ages 18-35.

Applications due by 4 p.m. on July 1, 2021

Visit the YFA Awards page at [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com) for application information and resources.

Winners will represent Wisconsin at the 2022 AFBF Convention in Atlanta in addition to prizes from GROWMARK.

## WFBF Policy Book Available

The WFBF's policy is established by our farmer members through a structured policy development process.

Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote at county Farm Bureau annual meetings. Policy ideas work their way up to the WFBF Annual Meeting each December where delegate members vote on the proposals. This process continues at the national level as well.



To view the policy book, visit [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development).

## YFA Night Out: Trace Adkins Concert

Wednesday, July 7, at 8 p.m.  
Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds

Join young farmers and agriculturists from the area for a night out to see Trace Adkins and to socialize with other YFA members.

The group will meet in the Leinie Lodge area for a social at 7 p.m., and the concert will begin at 8 p.m.

Tickets to the concert are FREE for the FIRST 10 people to RSVP. Grandstand seating is \$20 per ticket and will increase by \$5 on the day of show. General Fair Gate Admission tickets also must be purchased to enter the fairgrounds.

To RSVP by **July 5**, please contact Ben Sand at 715.308.4633 (call or text) or Haily Sand at 608.397.0046 (call or text).

Joining the group for a fun night at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair.



## District 9 Young Farmer & Agriculturist Discussion Meet

DATE: Thursday, July 29

TIME: 6:00 p.m. Registration & Appetizers

6:30 p.m. YFA Discussion Meet

7:30 Dinner & Policy Development Mtg.

LOCATION: Sleep Inn & Suites Conference Center,  
5872 33rd Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Question to be discussed:

How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YFA members and increasing participation in YFA programs?

For questions, to participate or to RSVP by July 27, contact District 9 YFA Representatives, Ben & Haily Sand, at 608.397.0046 or [Haily.Sand@vas.com](mailto:Haily.Sand@vas.com) or District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison, at 715.418.0975 or [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com).





# District 9 News

## UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau

By Serenity Hetke, UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau President

The UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau, like other organizations on campus, has had a tough year.

Although COVID-19 restrictions prevented the Collegiate Farm Bureau from having many in-person activities, members still made the most of what was available by having virtual speakers and social hours.

The most popular event for the Collegiate Farm Bureau was the largest in-person event, Ag Day on Campus on April 22. It is an annual campus-wide event that inform the public about agriculture.

The theme was, 'Every Farm Tells a Story,' and featured Alice in Dairyland who gave a presentation on ag commodities. Campus buzzed with students completing in a scavenger hunt with information on agriculture to win a t-shirt. At the end of the day, students gathered at the Falls Theater to watch "Ferdinand."

As plans for next year are starting, the Collegiate Farm Bureau officer team and members look forward to a more normal year with hands-on field trips, service projects, networking activities and more.

Some things members are excited for are the YFA Conference and Discussion Meet, in-person meetings and feed my starving children.



## Get to Know Your WFBF Staff: Lynn Siekmann, Graphic Designer

Lynn Siekmann is WFBF's Graphic Designer on the public relations team. Recently, she celebrated her 10-year anniversary with Farm Bureau.

Lynn's primary role with WFBF is designing the bi-monthly Rural Route magazine. Other duties include designing logos for events and programs, event programs and promotional materials, Ag in the Classroom materials, membership pieces and updating the WFBF and Ag in the Classroom websites.

Lynn has a bachelor's degree in animal science from UW-Madison and an associate degree in applied arts and illustration from Madison College.

She was raised on a beef farm in Sheboygan County and was involved in 4-H and FFA, showing beef cattle and dogs.

Lynn lives in Cross Plains with her husband, Ryan, his three children and their Corgi, Sherman.

*Some examples of Lynn's work that you may remember seeing.*





## Do We WALK Our Talk?



**Karyn Schauf**

Barron County Farm Bureau President

I think what has most defined who I am in my life – after claiming Christ as my Savior – is my occupation, the privilege of calling myself a farmer.

As many of you know for yourselves, it determined where I lived, in rural Wisconsin where daily I enjoyed nature's beauty; how I

lived, definitely on a schedule – if not by a clock certainly by a seasonal routine; and usually what I could or could not do, hay making for one always too precedence.

I have been blessed. And I've been so proud to be part of this fraternity. I think many of you are, too. Our job of feeding the world is very important. And so is the responsibility we've been entrusted with – being good stewards of the natural resources we use to do our job – our soil, our water, our land.

We work hard at conveying that message to consumers, our customers, our non-farm neighbors. But, do we WALK our talk?

During the pandemic, millions of Americans began to realize how critically important farmers are and how vital food security is to a nation's overall security; however, farmers cannot do our job to produce sufficient healthy food without farmland.

The U.S. holds the world's greatest concentration of fertile soil suited for growing food and other crops. And yet it continues to be paved over, fragmented or converted to poorly planned residential, commercial and

industrial uses.

Between 2001 and 2016 alone, more than 11 million acres of our nation's irreplaceable agricultural land was lost or fragmented – American Farmland Trust. That is equal to all the land in the U.S. used in 2017 to produce fruits, vegetables and nuts.

Worldwide, the expectation is a loss of about 250 million crop-production acres by 2050 when the world's population is expected to top 9 billion – Food and Ag Organization of the United Nations.

Locally, we have long believed in the importance of farmland preservation as a high priority. I kept an article from Jan. 2008 where the Town of Rice Lake planners set three goals designed to protect the town's agricultural, natural and cultural resources in the Smart Growth Plan they developed: Preservation of productive ag land, a reversal of the trend toward loss of farmland and consistent and ethical land-use decisions were their goals for the next 20 years.

Is the goal of preserving highly productive agricultural land any less important today? Increasingly complex public demands continue to be placed on ag to be sustainable, environmentally sound, regenerative.

And not surprisingly, the attractive financial benefits to convert to other uses remain a big enticement especially when those uses also seem 'important.'

Are some of those uses, like solar, more important than producing food? Unfortunately, a conversion from production agriculture is irreversible. There is often a ripple effect. It is a big decision.

As stewards of the land, what is the right thing to do? I think it's a conversation we need to have. We need to ask ourselves if we truly WALK our talk.

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Barron County Farm Bureau? The board meets the second Monday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/barron](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/barron).

**President:** Karyn Schauf

**Vice President:** Sam Olson

**Secretary and Treasurer:** David Sollman

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Mitch Hoff

**Board of Directors:** Joe Braml, Craig Hamernik, Nate Kringle and Noah Voelker.

## Barron County Fair Is A GO

The Barron County Fair is slated for July 14-18 and we need you. If you're looking for a chance to get out and see friends, have we got the opportunity for you. To sign up to help in the Farm Bureau food stand, please contact Karyn Schauf at 715.790.7203.



## Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following individuals who have been chosen to receive \$250 scholarships from Barron County Farm Bureau. We wish you the best of the luck in the future.



Henry graduated from Cameron High School and is the son of Richard and Kirsten Huth. He plans to attend either UW-Madison or Milwaukee School of Engineering and study mechanical or electrical engineering.



Kody graduated from Turtle Lake High School and is the son of Jesse and Jennie Nitchey. He plans to pursue an associates degree in mechatronic specialists.



Brook graduated from Prairie Farm High School and is the daughter of Jim and Christina Salsbury. She plans to attend Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College for business management.



## County Farm Bureau 'Thank a Farmer,' A Success

*"Kudos for sticking through the tough times."*

March 22 marked the beginning of National Agriculture Week, a time designated to recognize the amazing story of American agriculture.

This year's theme, 'Food Brings Everyone to The Table,' was a perfect opportunity to recognize and

thank those who made it possible - the farmers.

Barron County Farm Bureau invited everyone to nominate their favorite Barron County farmer to thank them for the great work they do.

Through the generosity of the Barron County Rural Mutual Insurance agents Eva Curtis, Greg

*"Embraces technology and trends but keeps the past close to his heart."*

Hayes, Tyler Holten and Christina Jacobson, 25 farmers received gift certificates to the local restaurant of their choice were awarded.

Anytime is a great time to thank the hard-working men and women who produce food that brings everyone to the table but especially during National Ag Week. Be sure to tell your favorite farmer, "Thanks."

Thanking our Farmers, supporting our local restaurants and celebrating agriculture's fantastic story makes this effort a win-win-win.

*"Passion for dairy cows and healthy crops."*

*"Always willing to help others."*

*"Dedicated"*

## Congratulations

to the following farmers who were recognized with gift certificates for

## 'Thank a Farmer:'

- David Bandli
- Steve and Ruth Butzler
- Ronald Crotteau
- John Brunclik
- Andrea Cutsforth
- Nathan Cutsforth
- Clyde and Donna Drost

- Kenny and Sally Drost
- Eric Fornell
- Dean Frisel
- Scot and Becky Hammann
- Alec Koser
- Wendy Lindloff
- Todd McGiffin

- Sonny Molls
- Gordon Nelson
- Matt Norberg and family
- Sam and Brittany Olson
- Mike, Jim and Bill Rafflesberger
- Dale and Sandy Scheps
- Chuck Solum and Wayne Solum

- Mike Stafne
- Dale and Nancy Thome
- Eric and Michelle Weber  
Plumb Line Farm
- Nathan Wirth
- Glen Wohlk

# Chippewa County

wfbf.com/about/counties/chippewa

## The Few, The Proud, The Brave

By Bob Panzer, Chippewa County Farm Bureau President

I taught agriculture and natural resources for 12 years and often had U.S. military recruiters stop by my classroom to visit and of course offer posters to go beside the pictures of cows and many different tractor brands.

The most effective poster overtime was a poster promoting the U.S. Marine Corps. They were looking for select young people who showed courage, personal perseverance and the willingness to grow and develop as a person.

Every former student that did enlist with the U.S. Marine Corps did grow and develop as a person. The post military career success of these young folks was brought about leadership taught in the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist program offers a great opportunity to learn, grow as a leader and get to know others your age that have an interest in agriculture and rural life. The program is open to members ages 18 to 35. We are looking for six to 10 young Farm Bureau members in Chippewa County to come together to form a Young Farmer and Agriculturist group in Chippewa County.

For more information, please contact me at 920.539.8728.

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Chippewa County Farm Bureau? The board meets the third Tuesday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/chippewa.

**President:** Bob Panzer

**Vice President:** Ken Sippy

**Secretary:** Julie Sippy

**Treasurer:** Stacey Miller

**Board of Directors:** Lori Gardow, Paulette Kressin, Ann Schick and Scot Smith.

## New Auburn Student Wins County Essay Contest

Chippewa County Farm Bureau received many essays written by the county's youth. The first-place winner, whose essay moved onto the district contest was Ivanna P. of New Auburn. Ivanna received a certificate and a \$15 cash prize. Her class also enjoyed string cheese and received Ag in the Classroom materials. Ms. Amy Eidahl, Ivanna's fourth-grade teacher also received the Ag in the Classroom book of the year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham, and \$100 to purchase materials for her classroom.





## It's In the Water

By Bob Panzer, Chippewa County Farm Bureau President

When I served as an UW-Extension Agent in the 1980s, I often heard the following comment, "It is in the water," as I was being driven around the county the first week with my new co-workers.

The statement would be made in reference to a certain area or community in the county. I was often advised to be careful or even to avoid the area or community.

The referenced community usually had a reputation for bad schools, corrupt local government or high crime rates. Often the community suffered from lack of investment privately and publicly as was reflected in run down looking schools, other public buildings and poorly kept housing. It seemed as nothing could turn the area around.

It may have not had anything to do with the water; but apathy and the feeling of being powerless were more likely the driving forces of the chaos.

Today often the statement, "It is in the water," is being used for another difficult and controversial topic. The topic of quality water and what forces are a threat to quality water.

Many times, statements about water quality may be believable; but with further research are not factual. The media, environmental groups

and many government officials at all levels are taking partial facts and distorting them to produce a statement that is not true. Often once a person hears these statements, they begin to believe what they heard is true, when in fact the falsehoods continue to be spread.

Do not let apathy or the feeling of being powerless stop you from getting involved.

Farm Bureau needs your time and talents as we move forward in the debate and decisions on water quality.

The Chippewa County Board is presently wrestling with a proposed Ad Hoc Water Quality Committee. The proposal would spend \$50,000 of county funds at a time when there is lack of funding for roads, fighting crime and social needs of many being impacted by illegal drug use.

The proposed committee would be made up of five county board members selected by the board chair. No stakeholders such as ag producers, health specialists, water quality specialists or lake association members would be on the board.

The truth is water quality is important, ag producers can make decisions that impact water quality, and all of us depend on high quality water.

Who do you think should be involved in the conversation of water quality and agriculture?

## Scholarship Recipients Announces

Chippewa County Farm Bureau is excited to announce that they have chosen three recipients of the 2021 Chippewa County Farm Bureau scholarships in the amount of \$500.

"We are excited to support the future generation of agriculturalists," said Chippewa County Farm Bureau President, Bob Panzer. "Congratulations to the Chippewa County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients. We wish you the best of the luck in the future."



**Kelsey Kuehni graduated from Stanley-Boyd High School and is the daughter of Jill and Scott Kuehni. She plans to attend UW-River Falls and study animal science.**



**Cayla Bingham graduated from Bloomer High School and is the daughter of Deanna and Jason Bingham. She plans to attend UW-River Falls and study horticulture with an emphasis on hydroponics and olericulture.**



**Taylor Lindsay graduated from Cadott High School and is the daughter of Tammy and James Lindsay. She plans to attend UW-Lacrosse and focus on pre-physician assistant studies.**

## Meet: Scot Smith, Board Member

Scot Smith has served on the Farm Bureau Board since 2014. Scot lives on a small acreage in the Town of Arthur. He grew up in rural Cornell and has always enjoyed living in rural Chippewa County.

Scot serves on the Board of the Town of Arthur as a Supervisor. Scot spends several days a week driving for his Amish and Mennonite neighbors.

If you have questions about Farm Bureau, please contact Scot.



## County Farm Bureau Volunteers Step-Up

Our County Farm Bureau is as strong as the members that step-up to volunteer.

The past few months the following four members have stepped-up to represent Farm Bureau members and their farming interests by serving to provide input and direct to Chippewa County regarding the proposed Ag Performance Standards Ordinance: Larry Harms, Clyde Bowe, Steve Hilger and Kevin Gilbertson.

Their input helped provide public input and representation for the farmers of Chippewa County.

Thank you to these Chippewa County farmers for serving the community. Please consider volunteering when the opportunity is there.

Did you know?

CHIPPEWA COUNTY IS

**No. 5** in Wisconsin's  
poultry & eggs industry





## Plan to Attend Sundae on the Farm, June 27

Chippewa County Farm Bureau is proud to announce that they will be partnering with Jeff and Marie Pagenkopf to host Sundae on the Farm from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 27 at Sandy Acres, 2435 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Elk Mound.

The event will include ice cream sundaes, cheese samples and a petting zoo. Wisconsin's Alice in Dairyland, Julia Nunes, also was invited.

Enjoy a few hours with your family and the farmers of Chippewa County. This is a family friendly, free will event.



## AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ► CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Chippewa County is home to diverse agriculture. Milk and grain crops contribute significantly to the agricultural sales profile.



# Dunn County

## President's Message



**Kevin Gilbertson**  
Dunn County Farm Bureau President

They say all government is local. That couldn't be truer than today with the continued push for local units of government to regulate land use and production agriculture.

As I stated in my last president's message, a focus of Farm Bureau this year

is to get counties to have a local affairs chairperson.

I want to thank Larry Bjork for stepping up and volunteering for that position. Larry serves on the Dunn County board of supervisors and is a great advocate for farmers.

We encourage members who hear about a proposed policy change that will affect farmers or rural landowners to contact Larry at [bjorklaw@yahoo.com](mailto:bjorklaw@yahoo.com), me at [kgilbertson73@gmail.com](mailto:kgilbertson73@gmail.com), Katie Mattison at [kmattison@wfbf.com](mailto:kmattison@wfbf.com) or the WFBF office so Farm Bureau can have a voice in the discussions of that proposed policy.

Along the same lines, Farm Bureau prides itself on being a grassroots organization. It is that time of year again to review and develop proposed policy for our state and national policy books.

If you have interest in being a part of this process, we will hold our annual Tri-County Policy Development Meeting in late July.

For more information about this meeting, please review the announcement in this newsletter.

Finally, we have re-started our fair food stand committee. We have had monthly meetings and are on track to have plans in place to have a 'normal' county fair with our food stand running as usual.

The food stand is our primary fundraiser for the year to financially support the programs Farm Bureau has in our county. It takes a lot of volunteers to run the this stand during the fair.

Please do your part by signing up early to work a shift. To sign up for your preferred time slot, please contact Cindy Quilling at 715.308.0506 or [quilling@wwt.net](mailto:quilling@wwt.net).

Once again thank you for being a valued member of Dunn County Farm Bureau and supporting the voice of agriculture.

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Dunn County Farm Bureau? The board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn).

**President:** Kevin Gilbertson

**Vice President:** Al Shannon

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Darryl Kovacik

**Promotion and Education Chair:** Tiffany Schaffner

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Ben Sand

**Board of Directors:** John Ausman, Carl Casper, Tony Christopherson, Doug Clark, Brian Douglas, Marv Prestrud, Dale Quilling, Frank Retz and Mark Schaffner.

## Dunn County Fair Is A GO

The 2021 Dunn County Fair will be held July 21-25 and Dunn County Farm Bureau's food stand will be OPEN.

Many hands make light work and volunteers are needed to fill shifts from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the fair.

To sign up to help, please contact Cindy Quilling at 715.308.0506 or Haily Sand at 608.397.0046. Call early to get your choice of shift. Plan to attend the 2021 Dunn County Fair.



## You're Invited: Plan to Attend the Fifth (Sort of) Annual Farm Bureau Picnic

This year, St. Croix County Farm Bureau is hosting the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic. Find the details in St. Croix County's section of this newsletter.



## Elk Mound Student Wins Essay Contest

This year, a total of 67 essays were received in Dunn County for the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest.

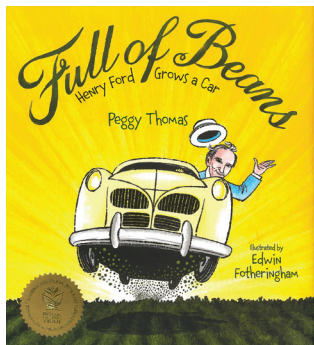
The essay contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students from across the state.

Participants throughout the county submitted essays with many different ideas relating to this year's theme: 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

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

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and were judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Reegan K. was the overall Dunn county winner from Elk Mound Middle School. Reegan's teacher is Mrs. Foiles.



Reegan's winning essay.

Have you ever wondered what kind of products soybeans make? Soybeans can be made into lots of different products. Farmers all over the world grow and harvest soybeans. Soybeans are a very common crop in Wisconsin. Soybeans don't taste very good on their own, but they are featured in a number of different everyday items. Most make the products safer and more efficient. I will show you three different examples of these products!

One product that can be made from soybeans is milk. Soy milk can be a good alternative to milk for people who are lactose intolerant. It's made by soaking soybeans in water overnight. Then you grind the soybeans to make the milk. The milk can be flavored to make it taste better for certain people.

Besides that, soybeans are included in more products too! Crayons are made with soybeans too. More specifically, soybean oil is used to make the product less toxic for young children. It also makes it easy to glide the crayon across the paper. They use the oil instead of paraffin wax, which is made from petroleum, and can be harmful. They also make crayons eco friendly. They give it a brighter color that doesn't flake.

Lastly, just like the crayon, soy can be used in candle wax. Burning soy candles can be better for the air since it is much more pure, clean and natural. Also, normal candles can build up on your walls. Soy candles won't.

Besides these products, soybeans can be made into thousands of different products. Soy is a healthy alternative to lots of things. Soy is eco friendly and it is a great crop to grow. What else can you make out of soybeans? Do your own research. You will be amazed at what you find!

## AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR

### ► DUNN COUNTY

The agriculture sector benefits the entire county. Milk sales continue to be robust in conjunction with cattle sales. Crop and livestock sales are equally divided among Dunn County farmers. Dunn County also is host to strong forage and specialty crop production, ranking among the top in the state for production of potatoes and kidney beans. The diverse and dynamic agriculture in Dunn County significantly contributes to the economic and social fabric of the community

#### HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?

**3,781**  
jobs  
in the county

#### WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?

**\$989**  
million  
in economic activity

#### WHO OWNS THE FARMS?

**96%**  
(1,236)  
are family farms

#### HOW MUCH IS SOLD LOCALLY?

**\$668**  
thousand  
sold directly to consumers

Presented by:



## Dunn County Dairy

### DRIVE-THRU

**Saturday, June 26 2021**

**10AM-2PM**

**FREE!**

Celebrate June Dairy Month a little different this year with a dairy drive thru!

Attendees will receive a kit that includes all of the ingredients needed to make grilled cheese sandwiches at home.

PICK UP YOUR KIT AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS:

**COUNTRYSIDE COOP/  
LANDMARK COOP  
E6253 628TH AVE  
MENOMONIE**

**BAIER CREEK FARMS  
E2493 S COUNTY ROAD P  
ELMWOOD**



## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Pierce County Farm Bureau? The board meets the third Thursday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/pierce](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/pierce).

**President:** Peter Kimball

**Vice President:** Travis Kopp

**Secretary and Treasurer:** John Krings

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Rylie Daggett

**Board of Directors:** Dave Bechel, Laura Benitz, Tom Campbell and Roy Swanson.

## Pierce County Fair Is Set, August 12-15

The Pierce County Farm Bureau will be operating their Little Red Barn and serving cookies, milk and Ellsworth cheese curds.

Please join us. Shifts are flexible and every hour you can help is appreciated.

If you can help, please contact Monica Krings at 715.495.6286.

Plan to attend the Pierce County Fair.



## PIERCE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPT. & RECYCLING CENTER



**RECYCLING CENTER DROP-OFF HOURS**  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY • 6:00 AM - 4:30 PM**



**PO BOX 118 • 707 NORTH MAPLE STREET • ELLSWORTH WI 54011**

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## You're Invited: Plan to Attend the Fifth (Sort of) Annual Farm Bureau Picnic

This year, St. Croix County Farm Bureau is hosting the Annual Member Appreciation Picnic.

Find the details of the event in the St. Croix County section of this newsletter.

# Polk Burnett

wfbf.com/about/counties/polkburnett  
PolkBurnettFarmBureauwi

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Polk Burnett Farm Bureau? The board meets the first Thursday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/polk-burnett](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/polk-burnett).

**President:** Chris Owens

**Vice President:** Andy Gould

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Trent Jensen

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Kirsten Konder

**Board of Directors:** Erik Melin, Jim Melin, Ken Nelson and Dale Wester.

## Luck FFA Hosts Ag on the Lawn

The Luck FFA held their Ag on the Lawn event on May 4.

A matching grant from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom made the new agricultural yard signs possible.



## Local Student Wins Drawing Contest

To celebrate National Ag Day on March 23, students were asked to participate in a drawing contest sponsored by Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom celebrating the different ways that farmers bring food to the table.

Entries could portray different kinds of foods the students liked, show what farmers, processors and others do to bring food from the 'farm to table,' share fun facts about food or show things they would like to share about food.

The contest was open to Wisconsin students in Pre-Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Recognition was given in three grade level groups: PreK-third grade, fourth-eighth grade, ninth-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mecedes from Centuria was chosen as one of the winners in the ninth-12<sup>th</sup> grade group. She received a Culver's gift card and Ag in the Classroom resources.





## County Farm Bureau Endorses Local Candidates in the Spring Election

Recently, Polk Burnett Farm Bureau stepped up and made some local town board endorsements in the spring election held on April 6.

The Polk Burnett Farm Bureau selected five towns between the two counties to offer the Polk Burnett Farm Bureau endorsement.

Candidate questionnaires were sent to registered town board candidates within five contested town races. A committee of Polk Burnett Farm Bureau members met to review each of the questionnaires that were returned and made decisions on endorsements.

The committee chose to make endorsements in the towns of Laketown and Osceola in Polk County, and Wood River and Trade Lake within Burnett County.

Postcards were sent to current members in the selected towns indicating their endorsed candidates.

Of the few candidates that Polk Burnett Farm Bureau offered the endorsement to, three of them won their race for town board and another candidate was within three votes.

The Polk Burnett Farm Bureau board has already started discussions on looking into endorsements in the spring elections in 2022 to support county board supervisors who are strong advocates of Polk and Burnett County agriculture.

Congratulations to members of Polk Burnett Farm Bureau on a successful engagement effort.



Polk Burnett Farm Bureau endorses:

**JO EVERSON, BJ GREENE, NEIL GUSTAFSON & PETER WOLF**

for Osceola Town Board

- Strong advocates for farmers and rural communities
- Committed to maintaining and improving rural roads and bridges

This is a section 11.010(10)(b)1 communication with members.

## Ag in the Classroom Awards Grants to Fund Local Ag Literacy Project

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Ag in the Classroom program has awarded \$6,898 to schools and organizations to expand agricultural literacy.

Groups, schools and organizations can apply for up to \$500 as part of the Ag in the Classroom's matching grant program to support a project, provided they have a source of matching funds.



**Career and Technical Education Agricultural Academy at Amery High School was awarded \$500 to fund their project Microgreens: Locally grown and marketed.**

The Amery Student Assisted Education Program has expanded and has set a goal to re-purpose the science departments unused science greenhouse for growing, harvesting, and marketing microgreens.

Four years ago, a business was started by a motivated student and kept up by inspired students since. What started out as a passion for growing local microgreens for the school nutrition program, has grown to marketing at local farmers markets and restaurants.

## Farm Bureau Awards Scholarship

Nate Garvey was selected to receive the 2021 Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Scholarship in the amount of \$500.

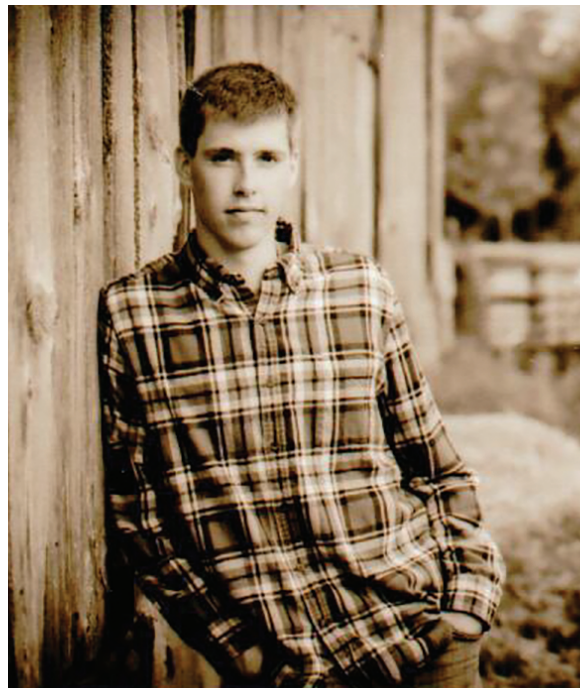
Nate graduated from Unity High School and is the son of Mike and Pam Garvey.

He plans to attend UW-River Falls to study pre-veterinary science.

Nate was involved in many school and community activities including: Basketball, baseball, football, FBLA and 4-H.

Applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and write an essay identifying what they believed were the top three current agricultural issues and propose solutions to each.

Congratulations Nate. Best of luck in your future endeavors.



## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Rusk County Farm Bureau? The board meets the first Wednesday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk).

**President:** Terry DuSell

**Vice President:** Paul Hetke

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Daniel Weiss

**Promotion and Education Chair:** Betsy DuSell

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** John Weinert

**Board of Directors:** Howard Carter and Aaron Nicholson.

## Farm Bureau Awards Scholarship

Rusk County Farm Bureau is excited to announce they have awarded Sophie Hauser a \$250 scholarship.

Sophie graduated from Flambeau High School and is the daughter of Julie and Tony Hauser. She plans to attend UW-Stevens Point to study natural resources/conservation.

Congratulations, Sophie, and best of luck in your future endeavors.



## Ladysmith Student Wins Essay Contest

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom essay contest brought in a total of 236 essays from the counties in District 9.

The essays submitted were noteworthy of praise. All entrants did a fantastic job with the topic, "How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?" The essay correlated with the book of the year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

The winning entrant was Gracie B. from Ladysmith. She is a fifth-grade student in Ms. Hanson's class at Ladysmith Elementary School.

Gracie will receive prizes for her efforts on behalf of Rusk County Farm Bureau as well as recognition from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom. Gracie's class also will receive prizes and recognition for their efforts.

### Gracie's winning essay:

"A few hundred years ago soybeans arrived in American on cargo ships from China. American farmers didn't even know what to do with the tiny little bean. Today the soybean has grown into the second most important crop in the country due to the many ways the protein packed legume could be used as food sources and in making industrial products. Soybeans actually have hundreds of uses from industrial products like engine oil or crayons to food products and animal feeds.

There are many different varieties of soybeans. A farmer needs to make an important decision of what seed to plant based on soil, climate, moisture and temperature.

One soybean equals one plant, one plant equals eighty pods, eighty pods times 3 beans each. When you do the math a farmer could get anywhere from 150-200 beans per plant! That is a lot of soybeans! Wisconsin farmers can raise 50 bushels per acre.

Wisconsin has 11,000 soybean growers enriching our way of life. Many of the soybean farms are family farms. Wisconsin ranks 13th in soybean production among the United States. Wisconsin soybean farmers grow twice as much food as their parents did using less land, energy, water and fewer emissions.

# St. Croix County

wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix  
StCroixCountyFarmBureau

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with St Croix County Farm Bureau? The board meets the first Tuesday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix).



**President:** Leslie Svacina

**Vice President:** Steve Mueller

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Jenny Mueller

**Women's Chair:** Melanie Peterson

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Lexi DuSell

**Board of Directors:** Lynn Brosi, David Kruschke, Jim Lund, Dean Mueller, Gary Peterson, Randy Roquette, Amy Shafer and Greg Zwald.

## Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipient Announced

Meggan Daniels has been selected as the recipient of a \$500 scholarship from St. Croix County Farm Bureau.

Applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and a recommendation from a teacher.

Megan is the daughter of April and Paul Daniels and was a home school student. She plans to attend UW-River Falls to study architectural and interior design.

Congratulations, Meggan. Best of luck in your future endeavors.





The St Croix County Farm Bureau's  
food stand will be

**OPEN**

at the 2021 St Croix County Fair  
July 14 - 18

Volunteers are needed to help serve up the  
fair favorites including those famous deep-  
fried Ellsworth cheese curds!

Contact Melanie Peterson at 715.505.1378  
or Jenny Mueller at 715.760.1336  
to sign up to help.

★ SAINT CROIX COUNTY ★  
**FAIR**

## Annual Farm Bureau Picnic

Dunn, Pierce and St. Croix County Farm Bureaus will  
once again team up to co-host the 4th (sort of)  
Annual Summer Member Appreciation Picnic

When: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 24

Where: Eau Galle Recreational Park  
Main Day Use  
W501 Eau Galle Dam Road  
Spring Valley, WI 54767



Items provided: Main meat and fixings,  
condiments, milk, lemonade, water and utensils.  
Please bring a dish to pass.  
Electrical hookups and bathrooms are available.  
Hope to see you there.

To RSVP, appreciated but not required, by June 22,  
please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at  
715.418.0975 or kmattison@wfbf.com.

## Field Day Planned for June 17

Western Wisconsin Conservation Council, a farmer-led watershed conservation group, will host a field day on June 17 to give farmers and agriculture professionals an opportunity to see the Agrometer self-propelled dribble bar applicator.

This piece of new technology allows liquid manure to be applied to standing corn. The event will be from 12 noon to 3 p.m. at Jon-De Farm, in the field adjacent to 2054 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Baldwin.

Agrometer, a Danish company, is providing an SDS 8000 machine for farmers to learn more about and ask questions. In addition to the demonstration, attendees will receive information about how the use of the technology might transform the way nutrients are managed in the soil with less damage to growing crops.

WWCC is a group of farmers dedicated to promoting water conservation, environmentally sound agricultural practices and community engagement. The group is composed of grain, dairy and livestock member farms in the Kinnickinnic, Rush and Willow River watersheds in Barron, Dunn, Pierce, Polk and St. Croix counties.

In a recent study, it was analyzed that farmer members of WWCC using strip-tillage and no-tillage practices on typical crop and livestock operations potentially reduce phosphorus runoff from farm fields by 44 percent and soil erosion by 48 percent. Stopping phosphorus and soil sediment from leaving farm fields improves water quality. For example, every pound of phosphorus that reaches a stream or lake can potentially feed 500 pounds of algae, degrading the waterway.

WWCC has 40 members who represent nearly 30,000 acres and 7,000 dairy animals, beef cattle, pigs, goats and other livestock in a five-county area of western Wisconsin. The group planted more than 10,000 acres of cover crops and had 20,273 acres of reduced tillage in 2020.

## AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ▶ ST. CROIX COUNTY

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

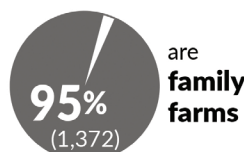
### HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES AGRICULTURE EMPLOY?



### WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT?



### WHO OWNS THE FARMS?



### HOW MUCH IS SOLD LOCALLY?



## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Sawyer County Farm Bureau? The board meets the third Monday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer).

**President:** Andrew Winiarczyk

**Vice President:** Mike Roberts

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Marty Ewert

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair:** Connor Beissel

**Board of Directors:** Dale Beissel, Ted Mataczynski and Jon Winiarczyk.

## Dairy Breakfast Set for June 26

When: Saturday, June 26

Where: Sawyer County Fairgrounds in Hayward

Celebrate June Dairy Month with the annual Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast. This event is co-sponsored by Sawyer County Farm Bureau with funds supplied by the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

A portion of the proceeds from the event goes to support the Sawyer County 4-H.

Thank you to the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and our many area business sponsors. We look forward to seeing you for breakfast.

## Superior Shores

wfbf.com/about/counties/superiorshores  
SuperiorShoresFarmBureau

## Get Involved With Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Superior Shores Farm Bureau? The board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month. To contact a member of the board of directors, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/superior-shores](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/superior-shores).

**President:** Gregg Johnson

**Vice President:** Linda Simmons

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Verne Gilles

**Promotion and Education Chair:** Robyn Lulich

**Board of Director:** Josh Huray

## Farm Bureau Awards Scholarship

Drew Tuttle was selected to receive the 2021 Superior Shores Farm Bureau Scholarship in the amount of \$500.

Drew graduated from Drummond High School and is the son of Andrew and Kelli Tuttle. He plans to attend Iowa State University to double major in horticulture and agronomy.

Drew was involved in many school and community activities including: Cross country, nordic skiing, track and field and 4-H to name a few.

He was also one of only 15 students in Wisconsin named to the Wisconsin Agriculture Youth Council, which is a committee under the direction of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

The committee's purpose is to encourage young people to engage with state government and increase their awareness of DATCP's interactions with Wisconsin's agriculture industry.

Congratulations, Drew. Best of luck in your future endeavors.



A barn in Bayfield County built in 1915, owned by Verne Gilles.

 **Superior Shores  
Farm Bureau®**





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## This Issue Contains Highlights for:

Barron County  
Chippewa County  
Dunn County  
Pierce County  
Polk Burnett  
Rusk County  
St. Croix County  
Sawyer County  
Superior Shores

# GROWING FARM SAFETY TRADITIONS

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