

Grassroots

District 6 News

WFBF Annual Meeting Goes Virtual



Without an in-person WFBF Annual Meeting, Farm Bureau got creative with how to reward Farm Bureau Proud Club members. Rosalie Geiger signed five new members to receive this gift box filled with Wisconsin products from each district.

More than 200 delegates during the virtual 101st WFBF Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will be included in the organization's policy book in 2021. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

Changes to the 2021 dairy policy include support for elimination of size and calorie restrictions for milk/dairy products in milk vending machines in schools.

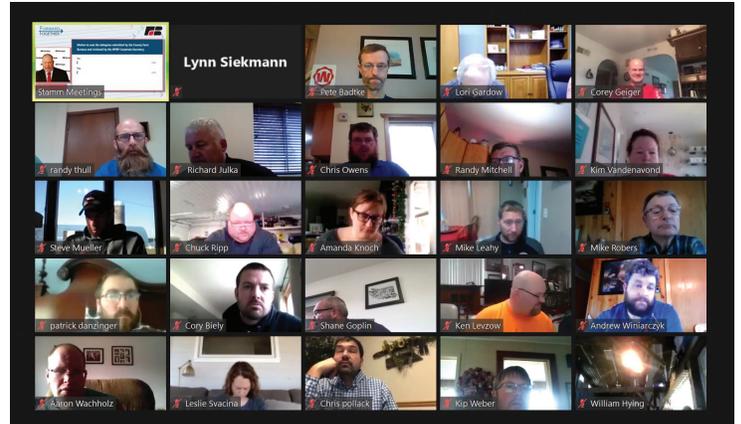
There also was support for overhauling the dairy pricing system that would benefit the farmer by aligning farm gate prices with retail and wholesale prices. Delegates reaffirmed existing policy for dairy farmer profitability including research and development for growth management, Grade A dairy farm equipment transitions and opportunities to remedy high plate counts.

Changes were made to WFBF policy regarding meat processing including support for the creation of a meat processing facility tax credit to increase the capacity and availability of local processors and retailers. There also was support for creation of incentive programs to encourage students to pursue careers in meat processing.

Delegates supported developing a grant program to help local butcher shops upgrade to federal inspection standards and to also help new start up processing plants including on-farm processing.

On the delegate floor, members supported a state program to provide technical resources, funding assistance and low interest loans for the development of new, or upgrade of existing local, smaller-scale slaughter plants, meat processing plants and other small, local food processing facilities. They also supported the state adding more meat inspectors to allow for increased local meat packing and slaughter plant capacity.

With the pandemic bringing to light the need for rural internet connectivity, delegates supported additional appropriations and accelerated implementation of expanded high quality cellular, broadband, fiber optic and telecommunications coverage in rural areas to enhance rural education and agribusiness needs. Additionally, delegates voted to support federal policy to provide broadband availability to everyone.



More than 200 delegates joined virtually to vote on policies for 2021.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also supported:

- Increased availability of natural gas in rural Wisconsin.
- Requiring individuals and entities digging in road right of ways or easements to notify property owners before digging.
- Farm to School programs to promote buying local foods and education of food production, nutrition and the environment.
- Increased education efforts of modern agriculture and food production at the elementary and secondary levels.

On the federal level, delegates supported:

- Increasing the butter fat content from 80% to 82% for the federal order butter standard.
- Clarification and standardization of food expiration terms, by the FDA, to reduce needless food waste.

District 6 delegates gathered at Farm Wisconsin. Brent Sinkula took the floor to give comments on a proposed resolution.

Krentz Elected President of WFBF and to the AFBF Board of Directors



Kevin Krentz was elected president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Krentz is a dairy farmer from Berlin in Waushara County.

Krentz was first elected to the WFBF Board of Directors in 2012 to represent District 5, which includes: Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

Kevin is president of Krentz Family Dairy, Inc. He started his farming career in 1994 when he purchased his father's 60 cows. He grew the farm to 600 cows and 1,300 acres of crops.

Kevin and his wife Holly have a daughter and three sons.

Dave Daniels from Union Grove in Kenosha County was re-elected to serve as vice president.

Arch Morton Jr. of Janesville in Rock County was re-elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 2 (Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk counties).

Joe Bragger of Independence in Buffalo County was re-elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 4 (Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe and Trempealeau counties).

Rosie Lisowe of Chilton in Calumet County was re-elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 6 (Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc and Sheboygan counties).

Nine of the 11 members of the WFBF board of directors are farmers elected in each of Farm Bureau's nine districts. These nine individuals also make up the board of directors for the Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Rounding out the WFBF's board are the chairs of WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Promotion and Education Committees, both of which serve a one-year term on the board.

Lynn Leahy of Plover in Waushara County was elected to a one-year term as the chair of the Promotion and Education Committee and will serve as the representative on the board. She succeeds Darby Sampson from Jackson County.

Emily Johnson of Orfordville in Rock County was elected to a one-year term as chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee and will serve as the representative on the board. She succeeds Kelly Oudenhoven of Outagamie County as YFA Chair.

Kevin was also elected to serve a one-year term on American Farm Bureau's Board of Directors at the AFBF Virtual Conference in January.

Mark Your Calendar ...

Upcoming Events

March

31 County Early Bird Bonanza Membership cut-off.

April

1 Ag in the Classroom essays due to essay coordinators

June

6 Brown County Breakfast on the Farm, Collins Dairy

13 Manitowoc County Breakfast on the Farm, Vogel Family Farm

19 Sheboygan County Breakfast on the Farm, Devin Acres

20 Kewaunee County Breakfast on the Farm, Augustine Dairy

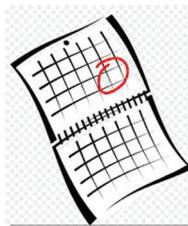
27 Door County Breakfast on the Farm, DeFere Family Farms

July

20-22 Farm Technology Days, Eau Claire County

August

4 District 6 Discussion Meet, Wilfert Farms



2021: It's a New Year



Rosie Lisowe

WFBF District 6 Director

Farm Bureau started the year with the virtual AFBF Annual Convention.

WFBF had 130 members participate in sessions and two YFA members competed in AFBF

Young Farmers and Ranchers contests: District 2 member Julie Sweeney made it to the Sweet 16 Round and District 5 member Natasha Paris made it to the Top 10.

The virtual platform for the AFBF Annual Convention provided more Farm Bureau members with an opportunity to listen to AFBF leaders, presenters and learn from workshops.

I enjoyed viewing the caucus meeting and voting delegate session. Participants could see how the organization works and the discussion was very interesting. For example, delegates discussed and supported the need for small local processing facilities.

Four WFBF members were named to AFBF's Issue Advisory Committees including: Peter Kimball of Baldwin was selected to serve a two-year term on the water committee; Dave Daniels of Union Grove continues to serve his two-year term on the farm policy committee. Don Radtke of Merrill continues to serve on the agricultural labor committee; Robert Nigh of Viroqua also continues to serve his two-year term on the animal care committee.

Also, President Kevin Krentz was elected to serve a one-year term on AFBF's Board of Directors.

Farm Bureau memberships fuels our organization and our member benefits fuel new and current members. For example, Ford is offering Farm Bureau members a \$500 bonus cash on the purchase or lease of a new Ranger, F-150 or Super Duty®

For more information about Farm Bureau member benefits, visit wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.

One of the issues that WFBF's Governmental Relations team has focused on is a wolf hunt season, which after much discussion took place in February.

Farm Bureau leaders, staff and members provided testimony regarding the severity of wolf attacks on farms how it affects their farming practices and families.

WFBF staff continue to help counties with local affairs. District coordinators are asking members to volunteer in each county so that more county specific issues can be addressed. With more information, better decisions can be made at the local level. Farm Bureau depends on information from you at the county level.

Senators, Representatives and Congressional delegates continue to hear from Farm Bureau staff regarding the state budget, Paycheck Protection Program loan options, broadband and COVID-19 impact on the agriculture industry. There is no shortage of discussion on these topics and the WFBF staff continues to emphasize the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau staff will continue to work for you and grow our organization stronger.

District Promotion and Education Update



Kathy Duescher

Promotion and Education Committee Representative

We are looking forward to getting back to work in 2021. The Promotion and Education Committee thanks Darby Sampson, Kay Gilbertson and Jacki Moegenburg as they retire. We welcome new committee leaders including: Kathy Muth, Brenda Dowiasch and Steven Mueller. We congratulate new Promotion and Education Committee Chair Lynn Leahy.

Moving into the new year we are looking forward to events of 2021. Starting with the Ag LEAD Summit that was held virtually on March 12. Keynote speakers were Paul Wesselmann, 'The Ripples Guy' and Hannah Thompson-Weeman with the Animal Agriculture Alliance. It was a great conference with tons of helpful information.

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year is "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. It also is the AFB Foundation for Agriculture's book of the year. Each year, an essay contest is held in conjunction with the book of the year. The essay topic is 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?' For more information, please contact your county Ag in the Classroom chair or Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com. Essays are due April 1.

Watch the WFBF Ag in the Classroom Facebook page and YouTube channel for a weekly "Training Tuesday" video. Each week a new topic is covered that typically would have been discussed during an in-person training. All Training Tuesday videos are available to view on YouTube by searching for 'Wisconsin AITC' and selecting the "Training Tuesdays 2020" playlist.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee "Playbook" was updated and copies were mailed to county Promotion and Education chairs. The latest version is available at wfbf.com/programs/promotion-and-education/playbook. The "Playbook" consists of events, programs and activities submitted by county Farm Bureaus throughout Wisconsin. The purpose of the "Playbook" is to provide counties with ideas and resources for planning activities and events.

If you or your county are planning an event in 2021 and need help or materials, please contact me. Wishing you a healthy 2021.

Childhood Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet

The updated and redesigned 2020 Childhood Agricultural Injuries Fact Sheet is the most popular resource on the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety website. It can be found at <http://marshfieldresearch.org/Media/Default/NFMC/PDFs/ChildAgInjuryFactsheet2020.pdf>.

Leading reported sources of fatalities involved transportation (47 percent), which includes tractors and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), and contact with machinery (20 percent). Other notable statistics on occupational injuries among youth:

- From 2001 to 2015, 48 percent of all fatal occupational injuries to young workers occurred in agriculture.
- Since 2009, youth worker fatalities in agriculture have exceeded all other industries combined.
- Young workers are nearly 8 times more likely to be fatally injured in agriculture compared to all other industries combined.

"There is no central database on childhood agricultural injuries," said Bryan Weichelt, Ph.D., who led the fact sheet initiative. "In putting together this fact sheet we drew upon the best available data from a variety of sources."

Currently, a 2021 fact sheet is being worked on.

To monitor, explore or subscribe to the latest injury reports, visit www.aginjurynews.org.

District 6 Members Compete During YFA Conference

Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag and Achievement award featured several young farmers from District 6.

Stephanie Abts from Manitowoc County competed in the Excellence in Agriculture contest making it to the Final 4.

Lauren Kostello from Manitowoc County, Erin O'Toole from Kewaunee County, Joe Roberts from Sheboygan County and Rachel Harmann from Door County competed in the Discussion Meet.

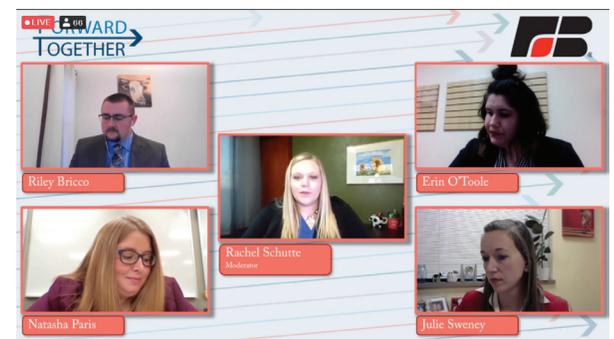
Joe Roberts made it to the Final 8 and Erin O'Toole made it to the Final 4. Congratulations to our District 6 competitors.

The Discussion Meet contest is a panel discussion in which Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions and reach a solution on current issues affecting agriculture.



Excellence in Ag award applicants are agriculturists who have not derived a majority of their income from a farm (that they own) for the past three years. Examples of occupations of past finalists include: agricultural education instructor, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee, journalist and marketer.

Each finalist must make a presentation and answer questions in front of a three-judge panel during WFBF's Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.

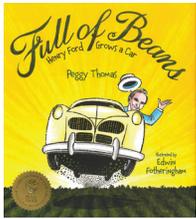


Erin O'Toole from Kewaunee County competed in the Final 4 of the Discussion Meet.



Stephanie Abts from Manitowoc County competed in the Final 4 of the Excellence in Ag contest.

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year Announced



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom kicked-off the 2020-2021 school year by announcing the Book of the Year, "Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car" written by Peggy Thomas and illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

Thomas' book also is the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Book of the Year and has an educator's guide developed for it. Accompanying lessons aligned to educational standards and Wisconsin educational resources are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

This topic will enable teachers and students to use the Soybean Science Kits to learn about how soybeans grow and connect to science.

There is so much behind the Henry Ford story and his connection to

agriculture. The book looks at how Henry Ford grew up on a farm and searched for ways to use soybeans in the car plant, in his diet and in other ways. The essay contest focuses on how soybeans continue to be used and how they impact Wisconsin's economy.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

For essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities, visit wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due April 1.

The contest is sponsored by Wisconsin Soybean Association, We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class. Last year, more than 1,500 students participated in the contest.

Questions about the book or essay contest can be directed to Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com.

District YFA Update



Lauren Kostello
YFA Committee Representative

Hi, my name is Lauren Kostello. I was born and raised in Ashland on my family's dairy and beef farm. Currently, I reside in Bonduel with my fiancé, Timothy.

I am a graduate of the UW-River Falls with a bachelor's degree in agriculture business with a dairy science emphasis.

After college, I accepted a position at Investors Community Bank. This year will be my sixth year.

Outside of work, I serve on the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau board of directors, actively serve on Breakfast on the Farm committees, serve on Young Farmers and Agriculturists Committee and I'm active in my family's beef operation.

I enjoy camping, trail riding with my horses and riding my Harley.

YFA Working to Support Members

Unfortunately, we weren't able to host an event at a Gambler's hockey game this year.

The county YFA chairs are still working to plan events for the coming months. For more information, visit the county Facebook pages.

Interested in more YFA events? Contact the District 6 YFA chair, or any county YFA chair.

District YFA Chair: Lauren Kostello, 920.205-.0633
Brown County: Samantha Van Duerzen, 920.362.3045
Calumet County: Gloria Kesler, 920.284.2991
Kewaunee County: Mikayla Kuehl, 920.255.1807
Manitowoc County: Stephanie Abts, 920.973.6547
Sheboygan County: Nicole Schommer, 262.207.4324
Sheboygan County: Ashley Oberreich, 920.838.2775

Virtual FFA Farm Forum Held

By Mandy Masters, Director of Member Relations

We are excited to announce materials for the 2021 Virtual FFA Farm Forum are now available.

Materials were sent to agriculture teachers throughout the state and also are available at wfbf.com/events/ffa-farm-forum.

Highlights of the 2021 Virtual FFA Farm Forum include:

LIVE FFA Officer Chats: The Wisconsin FFA Officers held three LIVE virtual chat sessions on Feb. 19 using Zoom. Each live chat featured a different guest speaker.

Pre-Recorded Videos: We reached out to farmers and agriculture experts across the state to prepare video presentations about Wisconsin's diverse agriculture industry. Topics include aquaponics, pig farming, soil sampling, entrepreneurship, insurance, and of course, a little bit about Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Lesson Plans: Each pre-recorded video was paired with at least one

supplemental lesson plan or activity. We encouraged ag teachers to use the suggested lessons as a complementary activity to the videos. The lessons also can be used at any time throughout the school year that best fits their classroom schedule or lesson topics.

Photo Contest: We wanted to see how ag teachers and students were using the virtual FFA Farm Forum materials.

Students or teachers could submit a selfie, snapshot of his or her screen or classroom photo for a chance to win some sweet treats from Culver's. Teachers who submitted a classroom photo also were entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift card to use at the National Ag in the Classroom online store.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact me at mmasters@wfbf.com or 608.828.5702.

Next year, we look forward to seeing you in person at Hotel Mead on Feb. 18-19, 2022.



AFBF Policy Review

By Tyler Wenzlaff, WFBF Director of Governmental Relations

On January 14, delegates to the American Farm Bureau gathered virtually to set the 2021 farm policy. Wisconsin joined more than 350 other delegates to debate some of the most hotly contested issues within agriculture to determine which direction policy will go for the next year.

Some of the most debated issues followed closely with the issues that were most affected by the COVID virus and market disruptions. Livestock and workforce issues dominated the conversation as members voted to request an additional livestock market study focused on regional mandatory minimum cash trade to achieve robust price discovery. This would be the third study on the issue.

Livestock issues have been prevalent for years but COVID emphasized the need for greater transparency as the virus disrupted supply chains across the country. A renewed focus on smaller, more locally sourced meat has resulted in butcher shops being inundated with excess animals further backing up the production line. Delegates sought to address the issue as multiple states brought similar amendments looking for a grant program to expand those small shops.

Workforce shortages continue to plague the ag industry and delegates focused their attention on policies that would address the issue. Multiple states brought amendments seeking to bring specifics to the H2-A policy looking for a 'complete overhaul' of the program. Ultimately, delegates approved policy that looks to make

the program "more effective, affordable and broadened to provide visa workers for both seasonal and year-round agriculture."

Even when dairy isn't the headline issue, it's never far from people minds. Arizona brought multiple amendments looking to address their unique market. Arizona has about 80 dairy farms that belong to the same co-op, which is a far cry from Wisconsin's more diverse dairy industry. Never-the-less, Arizona was a vocal proponent of allowing farmers pooling in each Federal Milk Marketing Order to determine which pricing method is appropriate between skim-fat and multiple component pricing. Delegates had a strong discussion on component pricing and the importance to the dairy. States across the country spoke to how regional differences in prices need to be taken into account. Wisconsin's delegates agreed that the issue needs greater discussion which the Dairy Committee may need to address.

Six of Wisconsin's federal policies were added to the 2021 AFBF Draft Policy for consideration by the delegate body. They ranged from increasing butter fat in butter to including alfalfa in a producer's base acres and developing a grant program to help small butcher shops. All of Wisconsin's changes were accepted by the delegate body.

The 2021 Farm Bureau policy is now set. 2020 was anything but normal and farmers across the country faced extraordinary circumstances. While we can't hope to address every issue, the ones that received focus

dominated a year like no other. Consumer confidence in the American farmer is an all-time high, a renewed focus on locally sourced food and a rebounding world market is leading to optimism that 2021 could be an extraordinary year and Wisconsin will continue to be at the forefront of the American farm revival.

Wisconsin Federal Policy Adopted by AFBF Resolutions Committee

- 238 National Dairy Program
 - o 1.2.1.19. (We support) Changing the Federal Order to increase butter fat in butter from 80% to 82%; and
- 238 National Dairy Program
 - o 2.1.7. (We support) The removal of the rBST-free label from all milk products.
- 239 National Farm Policy
 - o 9.1.56. (We support) An additional category for alfalfa in producer's FSA base acres;
- 340 Food Quality and Safety
 - o 8.28. (We support) Clarification and standardization of food expirations terms (i.e., best by, sell by, use by) to reduce needless food waste.
- 358 Inspection and Grading of Meat, Poultry and Seafood Products
 - o 9.23. (We support) Developing a grant program to help local butcher shops upgrade to federal inspections standards and to also help new start up processing plants including on farm processing.
- 402 Energy
 - o 9.2.8. (We support) The increased availability of natural gas in America.

Local Affairs Positions Are Vital

The Local Affairs chair is an incredibly important role for County Farm Bureaus. This individual(s) will be a resource for local members when a local issues arise and to bring them to the county Farm Bureau Board's attention.

He or she also will be the local point of contact for Wisconsin Farm Bureau to provide them with a weekly local affairs report that will identify agricultural issues that are happening in the county and neighboring counties.

The county local affairs chair will play a pivotal role in engaging Farm Bureau at the local level and creating a strong Farm Bureau presence with local units of government.

District 6 Local Affairs Chairs

Brown County: Ray Diederich, 920.360.2178

Door County: Dan Vandertie, 920.493.7564

Calumet County: Simon Regan, 920.912.7270

Manitowoc County: Levi Bratt, 920.378.5018

Sheboygan County: Mark Ramel, 920.980.4211

Virtual Support Groups for Farmers and Farm Couples

In a continued effort to help Wisconsin farmers access mental health resources, the Wisconsin Farm Center at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection is launching a series of virtual farmer support groups. The support groups started in February.

Support groups will be offered at different dates and times:

- 8 p.m., fourth Monday of every month
- 1 p.m., first Tuesday of every month
- 8 p.m. on the third Thursday of every month (for farm couples)

The groups are open to farmers and spouses at no cost. Participants can live anywhere in Wisconsin and must register in advance. Each session will be 60 to 90 minutes and will be held on Zoom. Sessions will be limited to 20 attendees per session, with a couple counting as one attendee.

Sessions will be led and moderated by peer leaders that are farmers who have experienced stress and anxiety while operating their own farm. A licensed mental health provider with extensive experience in serving farmers will also be on-hand at each session to offer additional support as needed.

For more information or to register, visit <https://FarmCenter.wi.gov>.

DATCP's farmer support groups are made possible by funding provided in Governor Tony Evers' 2019-2021 biennial budget and approved by the state legislature. It is one of several new initiatives developed by the Farm Center in response to increased challenges faced by the agricultural industry. Other initiatives launched in 2020 include a podcast, QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer) trainings, an expanded counseling voucher program, a 24/7 hotline, and free tele-counseling sessions.

Tractors



One of the greatest threats to an operator is rollover. Although new tractors have rollover protective structures, please wear your seatbelt.

- Proper training for all operators.
- Lower hydraulic equipment before dismounting.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Conduct safety checks each time the equipment is used.

Emergency Preparedness



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PTO Safety



While these tips sound obvious, they are good reminders.

- Never step over a PTO (Power Take Off) shaft.
- Always replace guards.
- Always disengage the PTO before leaving the seat.
- Never grip a PTO guard while the shaft is turning.
- Keep children away.

FARMS

Always i

Proper Clothing



Loose clothing is a common cause of injury.

- Wear tight-fitting clothes.
- Keep cuffs buttoned and shirts tucked in.
- Remove loose jewelry and keep long hair tied back.

Fire



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Every member of a farm family and hired workers should be trained in life-saving techniques including first aid and CPR. Make sure everyone knows where to make emergency calls.

Install an emergency information box with a detailed map of the farm, emergency contacts and MSDS (material Safety Data Sheets) of all chemicals stored on the farm. Keep a well-stocked first aid kit that includes a tourniquet.

Highway Transportation



Driving or carrying equipment on state and county roads is one of the most dangerous farming operations.

- Make sure traffic is clear before left hand turns.
- Adjust mirrors to have clear view of traffic.
- Check lights and turn signals.

SAFETY

in Season

Field Operations



Injuries that occur when an operator is in a field, alone, can leave a worker stranded with no help for hours.

- Make regular calls to let someone know where you are, if you miss a regular call-in, someone should call to see if you are OK.
- Do not clear clogged equipment while it is running.
- Control vegetation that can hide hazards.

Prevention tips can reduce the risk of fire and the extent of damage.

Keep ignition sources away from combustible material. Install best fire and smoke alarms. Make sure you have proper fire extinguishers in barn, shops and sheds.

Invite local fire department to your farm to inspect and find best access routes to buildings.

Livestock Handling



General precautions when handling livestock:

- Be alert.
- Carefully approach animals.
- Leave yourself an exit path.
- Avoid quick movements.
- Be patient.
- Always consider mature males and nursing females dangerous.

Farm Bureau Offers College Scholarship

The Brown County Farm Bureau will award one \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing an agriculture-related degree.

Eligible applicants must be taking post high school agriculture related training or long- or short-course within the UW System or Wisconsin Technical College System. This includes the study of genetics, landscape,

architecture, biochemistry, bacteriology, food industry, horticulture, environmental sciences, agriculture journalism and other agriculture-related fields of study. Candidates for the scholarship must be a Brown County resident or student at a Brown County School, and they must be enrolled or planning to enter their first year of college at the time of application.

Candidates need not be a Farm Bureau member.

Scholarship applications are digital this year. To obtain the link to the scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345, or visit county Facebook page. Applications are due on April 1



Eat Your Veggies

By Stan Kaczmarek, Brown County Farm Bureau President

As we would hear our mothers say, "Eat your Veggie's."

For those of us who live, work and farm in District 6, we are home to the first commercial cannery in Wisconsin. Started in 1883 by Albert Landreth in Manitowoc, it still exists today as Lakeside Foods. In 1931, Wisconsin had 170 canneries, today it fewer than 20.

Harvesting has come a long way from hauling the pea vines on a wagon to the local viner station, to cut and windrow the vines in the field (cutters were usually mounted on tractor, so you learned really fast at how good you could drive tractor backwards) to then picked by Hamachek Pea Combine, which were built in Kewaunee, being pulled by a farm tractor, by far this was the most boring job I have done in my life.

Today, peas are harvested with self-propelled pod stripper combines, that can run 24/7 and even dump on the go, and can linked together in field through global positioning system so they can get take full header swaths to most efficient harvesting job. The average pea harvest is about 35 days long.

Snapbeans or green beans were hand-picked until the late 1950s and early 1960s when mechanical harvesters came along. Then we picked two wide 36- to 40-inch rows at a time. I drove a two-row Chisholm Ryder harvester in the late 1970s, notice no cab, no radio. Lighting was poor at best and the belly float was your foot riding on that log chain that went across the operator's platform, when the chain got looser, you needed to raise the belly pan up or you could get hung up and spin the tractor out in the loose ground. Today we harvest four or five rows depending row width and variety. Lighting is awesome today with light-emitting diode lights. And operators have air conditioning, heat and a radio and citizens band radio for directions from the crew bosses. When I starting picking back in 1970s when your dumpcart was full you went the truck and dumped on it. Today when harvesters get full a dumpcart pulled tractor comes around takes beans from the harvester and dump cart goes to the truck and the harvester resumes harvesting. It takes six full harvesters to fill a semi-trailer to come into the processing plant.

Sweet corn was hand-picked also until the early 1960s when special version of a International Harvester 234 picker was made, it had no husking bed. They were mounted on tricycle front tractors and we picked wide rows 36 to 40 inches wide. I remember they were useless in the mud, getting pushed through mud holes one foot on each brake and holding the steering wheel straight, and raising the white flag up if you plugged to alert the push tractor to stop pushing. Sorry Nascar fans, the race usually had more than one lap left. Then came the Uni corn picker and we picked four rows and we had rear wheel assist, it just got you stuck a little deeper. As sweetcorn has gone to 30-inch rows and most planting with GPS the harvesters also adapted using GPS. As the four-row harvesters faded like the sunset along came six-row corn headers, then the eight-row folding corn headers and last summer Seneca Foods in the Central Sands had two, 12-row OXBO corn harvesters working, it takes two dumpcarts to keep up with that harvester with it running at four to five miles per hour while harvesting.

I have many more stories to tell of my days working for the vegetable industry, and I will share them on another day. Things have changed over the years in the field crews with new harvesting equipment that basically requires less labor.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE
Veggie Harvesting

Then...

2 ROW BEAN PICKER

PEA COMBINE

PEA VINE CUTTER

Now...

BEAN PICKER

PEA COMBINE

BEAN PICKERS

Haunted Corn Maze Is Fall Fun

By Gloria Kesler, YFA Chair

Fall is a wonderful time of year to celebrate the hard work of summer. This year due to not having a county fair we celebrated the labors of summer in a different fashion, scaring people.

Calumet County Farm Bureau hosted a haunted corn maze at Polly's Pumpkin Patch in Chilton. Owners Polly and Gary operate an ag-venture hot spot for locals and tourists to take advantage of. Their farm is well known for its corn maze, pumpkin, patch and apple cider donuts.

Polly's Pumpkin Patch invited Calumet Farm Bureau to host a Haunted Corn Maze on Halloween Night. Farm Bureau members and volunteers dressed in costume with hopes of scaring guests as they completed the 15-acre maze. Some of our spooky scenes included live scarecrows, chainsaw chasers, wicked witches and creepy crawlers.

By the light of a full moon on Oct. 31, our event was a success, scaring more than 200 people. Our accomplishments of a great turn out and happy maze goers are credited to our volunteers and our host Polly's Pumpkin Patch, thank you to those who helped.



Meet Your Local Farmer

The Calumet County Farm Bureau is hosting its annual Meet Your Local Farmer event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 24.

The purpose of the event is to give families an opportunity to visit farms in Calumet County and to learn about the food the farm produces. It gives the consumer the opportunity to meet the local farmer, learn about farming practices and have a chance to see things close up.



This year, the farms that will be participating include: Kesler Family Farm (beef); Lake Breeze Dairy (dairy cows); LaClare Family Creamery (dairy goats and cheese production) and Ledgview Farms (hydroponic tomatoes and English cucumbers). There may be a few more stops but organizers are waiting for confirmation.

Families may stop in any of the farms during the open house hours.

For more information, please visit Calumet Farm Bureau's Facebook page.

Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship

The Calumet County Farm Bureau is pleased to provide a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will attend an accredited college, university or technical school. The recipient will receive a check for \$500 following completion of his or her first semester. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.

The applicant must be from a current Calumet County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian or grandparent with a minimum of one-year active membership).

Scholarship applications are digital this year. To obtain the link to the scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345 or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due on April 1.

Mark Your Calendars

Save the date for the 26th annual 2021 Rural Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 21, at the Hickory Hills Golf Club.

Room for 40, four-person teams. Enjoy the bucket raffle and live auction. You won't want to miss it.



Scholarship Applications Available

The Door County Farm Bureau is now accepting applications for two, \$500 scholarships.



Eligibility

- Applicants planning to pursue post-secondary education enrolling in any type of major/program with preference given to those students intending to enroll in an agriculture or agricultural-related field. Undergraduate degree at an accredited four-year college/university, associate degree at any Wisconsin technical college, Farm and Industry Short Course at UW-Madison.
- Applicant or applicant's family must prove paid membership of the Door County Farm Bureau for at least one year prior to application.

This year, scholarship applications are digital. For more information, or to obtain a link to the application, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 866.355.7345 or bsalm@wfbf.com or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due on April 1.

Rhubarb Cobbler

Ingredients

- 4 cups sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb
- 1 package (3oz.) raspberry gelatin
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1 package yellow or white cake mix (regular size)
- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- Ice cream, optional

Directions

Place rhubarb in a greased 13x9" baking dish. Sprinkle with the dry gelatin powder, sugar, and cake mix. Pour water evenly over dry ingredients. Drizzle with butter. Bake at 350° F for one hour or until rhubarb is tender. Serve with ice cream if desired.

Recipe courtesy of Destination Door County.



Manitowoc County

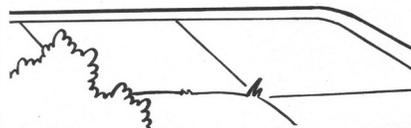
Promotion and Education Committee Hosts Coloring Contest

This year, the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee are again sponsoring a coloring contest for kindergarten through third grades.

There are two separate pictures: K-first: Lamb and second-third: Milk truck

The rules are as follows:

- Crayons ONLY may be used.
- All requested information must be on the back of the picture – full name, age, address (with city and zip code), phone number, name of school attending, grade and name of teacher.
- Each grade will have first, second and third place winners with monetary prizes being awarded.
- Coloring contest pictures become the property of Manitowoc County Farm Bureau.



The milkman drives a milk truck to deliver the milk.

Please Note: Pictures are to be colored as is – NO add-ons, i.e., people, flowers, trees, birds, sun, clouds, spots on cows/ unless that is how the picture is, no additions to clothing or anything else to the pic. This is a coloring contest only.

This contest is open to students in a Manitowoc County school. If your school does not plan to use this as a class project, students may enter on an individual basis.

If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Duchow at 920.901.3745.

To get a copy of the pictures, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/manitowoc.

Mail contest entries to:
Manitowoc County Farm Bureau
c/o Cheryl Duchow
415 N. Adams Street
Valders, WI 54245.

Entries must be received by **May 1**, not postmarked on the due date.



To get a full-size coloring pages, visit the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau web page and download it.

Farm Bureau to Offer Two Scholarships

The Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists and the Promotion and Education Committees are each offering a \$500 scholarship to a student who is attending an accredited college, university or technical school.

The recipients will receive a check for \$500 following completion of his or her first semester with the check made out to the school and student's name. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.

The applicant must be from a current Manitowoc County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian or if the applicant is older than 21, he or she must have his or her own membership.) Associate members through Rural Mutual Insurance customers also are eligible.

Scholarship applications this year will be all digital. To obtain a scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345, or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due on April 1.

YFA Committee Update

By Stephanie Abts, chair

Winter greetings to everyone. The Manitowoc County YFA committee recently wrapped up there 2020 year with the conclusion of our wreath sale. Our annual wreath sale was on pace with other years. Orders were delivered all around the county to both residential homes and businesses. Sprang's wreaths and trees out of Two Rivers does a nice job every year making our wreaths.

In the month of December, the annual convention took place. Even though, we were unable to meet in person, a lot of virtual activities were planned from the middle of November onward. Lauren Kostello competed in the discussion meet and Stephanie Abts competed in the Excellence in Agriculture contest. Both did a great job representing our county. During the virtual convention, YFA members enjoyed listening to the contests, discussion meets, a trivia night, and a contest called "Be the Babe"; where members took a shot at being a radio announcer for their chance to win \$500.00!

On another note, watch for Lauren Kostello to be representing our district on the state YFA committee!

Looking ahead to the new year, 2021, we will be taking it one month at a time. Right now, we are focusing on planning our annual Breakfast on the Farm to be held at Vogel Family Farms. The YFA organization always helps out that Sunday and prior to the breakfast. In addition to Breakfast on the Farm, we are also planning to help out at the Manitowoc County Fair food stand and Kiddie Showmanship. Watch for more information on these events in the near future.

Promotion and Education Committee

By Rosalie Geiger and Cheryl Duchow, Co-Chairs

We have been pretty lucky this winter with minimal cold weather and snowstorms, but with the forecast of another snowstorm in less than a week with extremely cold weather to follow, is winter really beginning? Well if it is, let's hope it is short-lived.

Hoping everyone is healthy and happy with a few months into the new year.

Last year truly was a challenge to say the least. Even though we could not have our meetings, the work of the Promotion and Education Committee continues.

Again, we will sponsor an essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students with the theme being 'How have Wisconsin soybean farmers fueled Wisconsin's economy?'

We also are sponsoring a coloring contest for K-first and second-third grade students.

For the high school graduate or college student, we are offering a \$500 scholarship for furthering his or her education.

All contests will have more information elsewhere in this newsletter or online. If you are interested, please check it out.

For our Miss Farm Bureau Contest, we are using applicants from last year, because we did not

have a contest, due to COVID. Therefore, we felt it was not fair to have someone reign and not be able to do any activities. We then asked our reigning Miss Farm Bureau if she would continue her reign for another year and she graciously agreed.

Hoping that COVID will soon be behind us and we can get back to a normal year.

The Promotion and Education Committee welcomes new members at any time. If you are interested in what we do, please consider joining us.



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarships

The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau is pleased to provide a \$1,000 Board of Directors scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will attend an accredited college, university or technical school. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.

The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Women's Committee also offers up to two, \$500 scholarships.

Applicants for either scholarships must be from a current Sheboygan County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian or grandparent)

This year, scholarship applications will be digital. To request a scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345 or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due April 1.





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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Brown County

Calumet County

Door County

Manitowoc County

Sheboygan County

Strong Wisconsin Reputation

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