

FARM BUREAU® Connection

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Giving Time and Thanks

By Kevin Krentz, Wisconsin Farm Bureau President



Fall is a great time of year. Leaves are falling and coolness can be felt in the air. For farmers, corn and soybeans are quickly coming off the fields.

This time of year is all about teamwork. Farmers and employees collectively work long hours to get the harvest finished and do whatever needs to be done to accomplish the task.

This is no different in Farm Bureau.

Volunteers across the state work together to get what needs to be done to share agriculture with others.

For many, volunteerism is who we are. Especially for those who grew up in a rural community, it was common to grow up being involved in 4-H and FFA. It was common to spend time picking up garbage on the roadside, helping with promotions, parking cars, working in the food stand and at car washes. Don't forget caroling and baking cookies during the holidays. All these opportunities have helped shape us into the people we are. Don't ever underestimate the positive influence of giving back.

Farm Bureau has many opportunities for families and individuals to use their gifts to volunteer.

Many members have a passion for educating about what farmers do. The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program is an awesome opportunity to let those gifts shine. As an innocent plug, this program and others are sponsored by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, which you can learn more about and support by visiting wfbf.com/foundation.

Community engagement is also important for local Farm Bureaus. I hope when you think of Farm Bureau you think of local action like food stands, scholarships, engaging with local officials and county boards, and community events.

Farm Bureau is only as strong as our membership, and we have dedicated leaders making a difference to keep us strong and influential. We have members who are so dedicated to this organization that they spend time signing up new members to keep us viable and strong. I'm very proud of all the member volunteers that work so hard every year engaging new members.

Helping lead a volunteer organization can be tough and I never take our members who give their time on our behalf lightly.

I'm thankful for all our members, no matter your role. Whether it is big or small, you matter, and we are proud to have you here and sincerely appreciate your membership.

Wishing you a bountiful fall.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Member Saves Three Ways With Office Depot®/Office Max®



Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member Beth Schaefer uses the Office Depot/Office Max member benefit regularly for county Farm Bureau-related, work-related and family-related purchases and projects.

"I have used the discount for Farm Bureau projects and for print projects and office supplies for my job. I have a

home office and can easily order my copies, signs and office supplies online at Office Depot," said Schaefer who works with volunteer-driven dairy promotion programs for Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. "I can pick up my orders at my local Office Max/Office Depot and be on my way, or I can direct-ship orders directly to the promotion or event that I am working with without leaving my office – it's a time saver and increases the efficiency of our dairy farmers' checkoff dollars by saving money on materials."

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members have access to exclusive FREE discount benefits at Office Depot®/OfficeMax® to save on office essentials, ink and toner, paper, cleaning/breakroom items and more including up to 75% off Best-Value Products; exclusive copy/print pricing; Hewlett-Packard ink and toner discounts; and next-business-day delivery.

Last fall, Schaefer also tapped into the discount for back-to-school shopping.

"I received our Farm Bureau discount in addition to Office Depot's great back-to-school prices."

You can print off a discount card online and have it laminated for free at your local Office Depot store. Members also can use the discount card when ordering online.

To learn more about this member benefit, visit wfbf.savingcenter.net.

By being a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member, you qualify for benefits and services that provide a range of options that respond to the needs of farmers, families and businesses in Wisconsin.

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



Walter uses an interactive CleverTouch device to enhance his lessons and class engagement. The device is like a big-screen TV but acts like a touch-screen laptop or tablet. The Oconto Falls school district has adopted these in every classroom.

Back to School: Ag Teacher Embraces TECHNOLOGY and RELATIONSHIPS

By Amy Eckelberg

You could say that Oconto Falls High School Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor Walter Taylor has high expectations of himself and his ability to teach.

“I strive to be one of the best in the country,” Walter said in regard to his teaching program in the educational arena. He has connected with many in-state and out-of-state teachers on his teaching philosophy and dreams big when it comes to potential learning tools.

His drive and love of agriculture started at a young age because his grandma was the general leader of the local 4-H club near Howards Grove in Sheboygan County.

“I didn’t really have a choice but to be involved,” he laughed. “My grandparents were a big influence on my upbringing in agriculture.”

Now, the ag teacher is in his 10th year of teaching. He spent five years teaching at Plymouth before advancing to Oconto Falls High School.

His website, ocontofallsgazone.org, serves as the information hub for everything he does.

“I’ve always had a website,” explained Walter. “Education is not a secret, so I like to have my information where everyone can access it.”

Since he embraces technology in his classroom, COVID-19 didn’t have much impact on his teaching methods.

“The biggest change was adding Zoom and not having everyone in the same place,” he said. “It took us a little while to figure out the attendance element, but otherwise the information was already available online and the virtual pieces were already established.”

Homework, assignments, videos and resources are listed on each lesson page of the website making it accessible to students at any time. It also helps Walter and his fellow teachers stay connected. He uses the strategy of ‘hyper docs’ using Google Slides embedded into his website. For this method he coined the name ‘Learning Log.’

Like many teachers, Walter uses a CleverTouch. The device, which looks like a large flat-screen TV, allows for an interactive learning environment and, if needed, students can participate out of the classroom.

“This is my favorite tool because it allows us to do so much,” said Walter. “It has 10 different touchpoints and allows multiple people to

use it at once. Everything I teach stems from my website and is shown on this screen.”

Not only does Walter fully embrace technology, he also embraces local relationships such as those with FFA Alumni and the Oconto County Farm Bureau.

“It’s a small community when it comes to ag,” he said. “It’s really the same crew for most [agricultural] events but it’s nice because we know each other and the resources we have out there.”

By leveraging relationships locally, Walter can connect students to a variety of avenues for projects, jobs and Supervised Agricultural Experience projects.

Those SAEs are his favorite lesson to teach right now.

“It doesn’t seem that exciting – to talk about options for students to pursue for projects or potential careers but it is,” he said. “It’s a fine balance of what we need and what they are interested in. To see their gears moving on what they may want to do in the future and to see where they end up is cool. It’s fun to play a role like that.”

Walter took a different direction than he anticipated when it came to choosing a career, which might explain his passion for helping students select paths for SAEs.

To read the full story, visit wfbf.com/member-profiles/meet-walter-taylor



Walter has always enjoyed landscaping and appreciates a place such as this garden, where his students can plant a variety of plants, trees and flowers to learn from.

5 Modern Cybersecurity Trends to be Aware Of



Even the savviest and most defensive internet users who stay on top of their personal security can fall victim to online fraud or theft. The recent pandemic has led to a significant increase in identity theft as people have become more active online.

1. Be on the Lookout for Suspicious Requests

It's important to know the basic rules of how certain organizations will contact you. For example, the only way the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) contacts taxpayers is through the mail (or in-person if an official audit is taking place) – never by phone or email.

- If you receive an email, call or text from the 'IRS' out of the blue asking for confidential information such as your Social Security number, it's definitely a phishing scam.
- Do not respond to any messages and report the activity right away.

2. When Benefits Become Unbeneficial

With the unforeseen rise in U.S. unemployment during the pandemic, the IRS reports that identity thieves are using stolen identities to fraudulently collect unemployment benefits across multiple states.

Tip: The organization recommends opting into the IRS Identity Protection PIN program to help prevent thieves from filing federal tax returns in your name.

3. Prevent Your Data From Being Held Hostage

Ransomware, a type of malicious software that is designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid, is a growing problem.

Back up your data often and save treasured files such as photos and videos to a good old-fashioned flash drive or even get them developed and stored in a safe cabinet.

4. Video Games Aren't Always Innocent

With the vast improvement of video game technologies, there have been several cyberattacks, particularly during the global quarantine.

Many contemporary video games involve "in-game assets," which are personalized add-ons that enhance the gaming experience. These are typically sold within the official games' virtual shops, but some third-party sellers also offer "rarer" assets. To purchase them, a credit card number must be entered into the gaming system, but if you're not careful about from whom you download the assets, the card's information can be stolen by the hidden seller.

5. Experimental Fraud Gone Bad

Online thieves today are now emboldened to try lots of different scams to see what sticks. This 'experimental fraud' can involve anything from fake products or service offers like creating fake IDs or posing as FedEx or UPS workers. In these cases, they ask for your home address to "confirm" your order will be shipped to the right location. These companies will never call, text or email you. If you're ever contacted by a supposed big-name brand but aren't anticipating a delivery, it's likely fake.

To read the full article and more cyber protection tips, visit RuralMutual.com/insurance/cyber-security.

Thinking about a new career?



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RuralMutual.com/Careers

GOOD EATS



Glazed Apple Cookies

Recipe submitted by Amy Silver, Green County

Ingredients

Cookies:

- ½ c. shortening
- 1½ c. brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 egg
- 2 c. flour, sifted
- 1 tsp. baking soda

- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. cloves
- ¼ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 c. apples, peeled and finely chopped
- ¼ c. milk

Glaze:

- 1½ c. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- 2½ Tbsp. milk

Directions

1. Beat together shortening and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg.
 2. Sift together flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg.
 3. Stir half the dry ingredients into the creamed mixture.
 4. Stir in apples; then stir in remaining dry ingredients and milk.
 5. Place on cookie sheets and bake at 400 degrees for 10-12 minutes.
- Glaze:** Combine glaze ingredients. Beat until smooth and spread on warm cookies.

Porridge & Cranberries from Norway

Recipe shared by 2021
American Honey Queen
Jennifer Hinkel

Ingredients

- ¾ c. medium-grain white rice
- 1 ½ c. water
- 2 ½ c. 1% milk
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. honey
- 1 Tbsp. granulated sugar
- 1 Tbsp. kosher salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions

1. In a medium saucepan, add rice and water and bring to a boil. Lower heat to a gentle simmer; cover and simmer 10 minutes or until all water is absorbed.
2. Add ½ of the milk: stir, cover and leave until the consistency thickens. Add a little more milk every time the consistency thickens (approximately every 5 to 10 minutes), repeating until all the milk is used and the porridge is thick and rice is tender. The entire process should take about 45-55 minutes.
3. Add butter, honey, sugar, salt and vanilla extract; stir well. Turn off heat and serve porridge in bowls topped with a small pat of butter (optional), cinnamon and dried cranberries.

**Will keep in the refrigerator for up to three days.*



Homemade Salsa

Recipe submitted by
Sara Menard Huber,
Adams County

Ingredients

- 2 cans stewed tomatoes
- ½ bunch cilantro
- 2 cloves garlic or canned
- juice of 1 lime or 1 tsp white vinegar
- salt, to taste (2 tsp. or more, don't over salt)
- 1 jalapeno (leave seeds for more heat or use 1 habanero)

Directions

Combine all ingredients in a blender and pulse until desired consistency.

