



Grassroots

District 9 News

Leaders of the Land

Rachel Gerbitz

Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships

In August, Wisconsin Farm Bureau launched a statewide sustainability series titled 'Leaders of the Land: A State Sustainability Series.' This series of nine tours took



place across the state in each of the Farm Bureau districts, highlighting diverse commodities and sustainability practices.

The farm highlighted in District 9 was Lake Family Farm, a fifth-generation farm located near Boyceville in Dunn County. The farm transitioned from dairy to cash grain in 1999. Jeff and Kelley Lake, along with their children April and Jake, grow 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans and alfalfa. They also raise a small beef herd.

The Lake family has embraced innovative management and conservation practices and are continually promoting and protecting soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat, all while strengthening the farm's bottom line.

"We believe if we have healthy soil, we will have healthy water," said Jeff.

The Lake farm is surrounded by the north and south fork of the Hay River. Jeff has worked to build up and improve the stream bank by placing stream barbs along the shoreline. These barbs promote a good, natural habitat that allows native plants to thrive. Jeff lets the river do its thing and is confident it will stay in place without losing any bank.

Having proactively prepared the soil and land through cover crops, no-till and buffer strips, the Lakes are not intimidated by large rain events. Combined with the practices they have implemented to ensure the longevity of the farm's future.

"Sustainability means we can pass the farm on to the next generation – even to our grandkids," said Jeff.

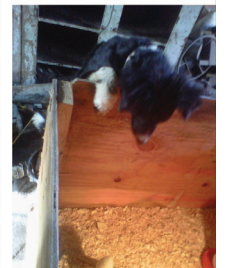
The purpose of the Statewide Sustainability Series was to offer farmers and agriculturists different perspectives regarding environmental stewardship across Wisconsin. These events aimed to bring farmers of all types together to explore how diverse sectors of agriculture achieve similar goals regarding water quality, soil health, waste management, carbon conversations and air quality.

Farm Dog of the Year

Do you have an amazing farm dog? Does that farm dog deserve recognition?

Nominate your farm dog to be recognized as the District 9 Farm Dog of the Year. Nominations can be made until **Jan. 31, 2022**, at bit.ly/FarmDogNomination.

For information, contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0795 (call/text) kmattison@wfbf.com.



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend



AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison

Early Registration Deadline: January 19

Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline.
\$60 after deadline and at the door.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Opening Program
12:15 a.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Legislative Briefing
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

If you want more information or want to attend Ag Day at the Capitol, please contact District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison at 715.418.0795 (call or text) or kmattison@wfbf.com.

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Due to Dane County ordinances for COVID-19 mitigation, masks and other provisions may be required for this event and details are subject to change.

District 9 Representation on WFBF State Committees

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau has a variety of state committees that include members from District 9. Below is a description of the committees along with who from District 9 is on the committee.

Dairy Committee

The Dairy Committee is advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. This committee reviews issues and activities at the state and national level affecting Wisconsin's dairy industry. Committee members are appointed for one-year terms and may not serve more than four consecutive terms.

District 9 members on the Dairy Committee include: Chris Owens from Polk County and Brian Douglas from Dunn County.

Dairy Growth Management Committee

At the January 2021 WFBF Board of Directors meeting, the board approved a special committee: Dairy Growth Management.

District 9 is represented by Karyn Schauf from Barron County on the Dairy Growth Management Committee.

Policy Development Committee

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process. Suggestions come from members who propose and vote on policies at county Farm Bureau annual meetings. From there, a policy works its way up to the Policy Development Committee and then delegate members vote on the proposals at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The Policy Development Committee is referred to in the WFBF by-laws and is not advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee is charged with developing the proposed public policy for consideration by the voting delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The committee reports to the delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting instead of the WFBF Board of Directors.

District 9 is represented by Tony Christopherson from Dunn County on the Policy Development Committee.

Promotion and Education Committee

The committee is a dynamic group of Farm Bureau leaders who develop, implement and promote programs that build agricultural awareness and provide leadership development to the agricultural community. They are passionate about sharing their agriculture stories and ultimately providing agricultural education for school-age students and adults of all ages. The committee helps host the annual Ag in the

Classroom essay contest and helps pick the book of the year. They also have a "Playbook" that provides resources and event ideas to county Farm Bureaus. The committee also helps plan the Ag LEAD Summit in odd years or the IGNITE Conference in even years.

Steve Mueller from St. Croix County serves on the Promotion and Education Committee.

Legislative and Political Action Committee

This committee is really two committees combined into one. The Volunteers for Agriculture® (VFA) committee is a legally constituted political action committee established by the WFBF. The committee operates under by-laws established by the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee is charged with increasing the political involvement of the agricultural community. This includes identifying and supporting candidates for state office that who are determined to be 'Friends of Agriculture.' The Legislative Committee is advisory to the WFBF Board of Directors. The committee reviews issues and activities at the state and national levels effecting Wisconsin agriculture.

District 9 members on the VFA Committee include Bob Panzer from Chippewa County and Leslie Svacina from St. Croix County.

Did you know that as a voting member, you can make a \$10 contribution when you pay your annual Farm Bureau dues?

If you choose to not to contribute, you simply subtract \$10 from the amount on the line marked 'total.' Per Wisconsin law, the name and address of anyone who contributes are reported to the Wisconsin Ethics Commission and is public record. Contributions are voluntary and not deductible for income tax purposes.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Program is for members between 18 and 35 years old. The YFA Program offers opportunities for leadership and skill development, along with the chance to meet and network with peers.

The committee coordinates the YFA contests that include the Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag. Additionally, the committee plans the YFA Conference in December.

Ben and Haily Sand from Dunn County represent District 9 on the YFA Committee.

Wadzinski Competed as Excellence in Ag Finalist



Julie Wadzinski of Barron County was named as one of the four finalists in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Excellence in Ag competition. Julie is a farm operations instructor at Northwood Technical College and is a past YFA Chair.

The Excellence in Ag award recognizes members of the YFA Program who excel in their leadership abilities and involvement in

agriculture, Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations. Other finalists included:

- Stephanie Abts of Manitowoc County. Stephanie is a dairy nutritionist at Rio Creek Feed Mill, Inc.
- Julie Sweney of Dodge County. Julie is the director of communications

and marketing at FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative in Madison.

- Kellie Zahn of Shawano County. Kellie is an agriculture agent at the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

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 made a presentation and answered questions in front of a three-judge panel during the YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 3-4.

This year's state winner will compete at the 2022 AFBF Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Young Farmers and Agriculturists Discussion Meet

District 9 held its Discussion Meet on July 29. Seven YFA members competed at the district level.

Congratulations to Julie Wadzinski and Nathan Kringle of Barron County and Kirsten Konder of Polk County who represented District 9 in the Discussion Meet in December at the YFA Conference.

The YFA Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their



speaking skills on agricultural-related topics.

Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

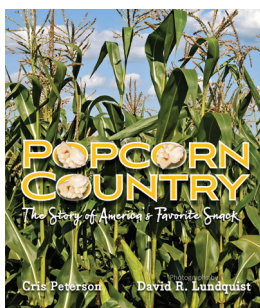


District 9 YFA members who participated in the District Discussion Meet were (from left): Lexi DuSell, Isaac Christianson, Sierra Solum, Nathan Kringle, Kirsten Konder, Julie Wadzinski and Ryan Bailey.

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by announcing the book of the year, "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack" written by Cris Peterson.

Author Cris Peterson offers a step-by-step examination of the history and science behind America's favorite snack. With photographs by David R. Lundquist, readers get a view of how popcorn is planted, grown, harvested, processed, tested and finally shipped all around the world.



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, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'

Accompanying lessons from the National Ag in the Classroom and the Popcorn Board are aligned to educational standards and are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

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

This year, students must make three references to Wisconsin agriculture. For essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities, visit wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due **April 1, 2022**.

The contest is sponsored by We Energies, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Wisconsin Corn 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 1,400 students participated in the contest.

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

POLICY PULSE

Sign up!

AG NEWswire AND POLICY PULSE

- ✓ Political updates
- ✓ Farm Bureau news
- ✓ Ag events
- ✓ Weekly updates

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

Ag Newswire
Sign up to receive a weekly update with the latest Farm Bureau, political and agriculture news directly in your inbox every Friday.
wfbf.com/communication/ag-newswire

Developing Leaders



Submitted by Sam Olson, Barron County Farm Bureau Vice President

Wisconsin Farm Bureau created its Leadership Institute over more than a decade ago in an effort to develop effective county leaders with skills enabling them to become more engaged and involved with their county Farm Bureau's and in their communities.

It is my honor to be selected to participate in WFBF Leadership Institute's Class 14. I am

Sam Olson, a Barron County dairy farmer who has served on the Barron County Farm Bureau board since 2015, first as a director and currently as Vice President. In 2012, I was involved in starting Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-River Falls.

COVID has made our Institute experience unique. Typically, five sessions are held throughout the year across Wisconsin with one trip to another state's Farm Bureau. This year, our first three sessions in the spring were held virtually. During these sessions we received training in public speaking, discovering our strengths and weaknesses, Question. Persuade. Respond training - to help prevent suicide in others, media engagement and interview training, how to engage the public about agriculture and a background on Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance.

While the virtual sessions cut down time spent on the road and away from the farm, missing out on building relationships with classmates from across the state was unfortunate.

Thankfully, we were able to meet in person for our final two sessions this fall. Our fourth session met in Wisconsin Dells. Normally, it would have been at the home office in Madison and included a Capitol tour but Dane County had rigid COVID restrictions. Here, we learned about the policy development process, the government relations team and participated in mock hearings: members from one group spoke at a school board meeting where a vegan school lunch menu had been proposed and the others spoke at county board meeting in regards to zoning and agritourism.

In the time between learning we were finally able to build better connections as classmates who, up until then, we had only seen on a screen.

Our final session took us south of the border to the land of bad drivers, Illinois. We had tours of two Illinois Farm Bureau members' value-added operations: Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. and Kilgus Farmstead.

Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. distills its own whiskey, bourbon and vodka exclusively from grains grown on their farm including corn, wheat, rye and barley.

Kilgus Farmstead diversified to accommodate those returning to the family farm by bottling all the milk from their 150 Jersey cows (including pasteurized and raw), raising and butchering Berkshire hogs and Boer goats, along with some cash-grain farming.

Both farms are able to take advantage of their close proximity to Chicago and capitalize on their high-quality, locally raised products.

We also visited Illinois Farm Bureau to learn about its structure, affiliated companies and differences in operations compared with Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Illinois Farm Bureau has a membership of more than 371,000 compared with Wisconsin's 47,000 and its staff numbers are about 10 times that of WFBF.

Beyond size and scale, there are many similarities in structure because Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization in every state. Its government relations team has unique challenges. Illinois has the most units of government of any state in the USA with 6,918.

Wisconsin came in at #10 with 3,129. And while Wisconsin is the Dairy State and that is reflected in our Farm Bureau, Illinois is dominated by corn and soybean growers, which also is reflected in its Farm Bureau.

Our final Leadership Development Action Plans are being completed as I write this in mid-November, and we are looking forward to graduation on Sunday night at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

"The only thing worse than training your employees and having them leave is not training them and having them stay."

This quote is commonly attributed to Henry Ford and the same sentiment holds true for our leaders on every level of Farm Bureau.

Putting time and money towards developing our leaders and future leaders at the county level is an investment towards the continued success of Farm Bureau in each county and across the state.

Failing to properly develop the leaders of tomorrow will lead Farm Bureau into irrelevance and will certainly be detrimental for the farmers and all those who live in rural Wisconsin.

Finally, I must thank Barron County Farm Bureau for its direct financial support allowing me to participate in WFBF Leadership Institute, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation for supporting WFBF Leadership Institute and most importantly, my wife, Brittany, for her support, encouragement and taking on extra chores while I was gone or working on projects.

Get to Know Your WFBF Staff: Steve Mason, Treasurer



Steve Mason is the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Treasurer on the operations team.

In November, he celebrated his 10-year anniversary with Farm Bureau.

Steve's primary duties include all financial aspects of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and oversight of the County Farm Bureau Services Program.

During the WFBF Annual Meeting, he can be found setting up technology for the breakout sessions and the scanners for each of the banquets as well as helping out

at registration.

Steve loves working for WFBF because it gives him the chance to work directly with Wisconsin's farmers who help to feed the world.

Steve has a four-year degree in accounting from Lakeland University.

He and his wife, Marie, have lived in Madison 20 years and have been married for 16. They have two teenagers who keep them tremendously busy.

His oldest is about to get her driver's license. Whereas his youngest is looking forward to having an additional uber in the house.

When he isn't at work he can usually be found at the rink watching his son play hockey or listening to his daughter play the piano or her violin.

When he can take a moment to himself, he enjoys lacing up the skates and playing a bit of hockey or going for walks with his wife and two dogs.

He also enjoys working on projects around the house and is constantly looking to learn a new trade.

2022 Virtual Nutrient Management Training for Farmers

The Nutrient and Pest Management Program (University of Wisconsin-Madison) is offering a virtual training for farmers interested in writing their own nutrient management plans. This training will provide both the basics of nutrient management and an introduction to SnapPlus.

The same training will be offered on 4 different dates:

☐ January 4 (Tue) ☐ February 7 (Mon) ☐ March 1 (Tue) ☐ March 15 (Tue)

Please register online at least three days in advance of the training date you plan to attend:

<https://go.wisc.edu/2024y1>



Questions?

Dan Smith dhsmith@wisc.edu 608-219-5170



Barron County

wfbf.com/about/counties/barron
BarronCountyFarmBureau

Speak Up



Karyn Schauf

Barron County Farm Bureau President

"Hard times create strong men, strong men create good times, good times create weak men and weak men create hard times."

I don't know of a time of my life that I have had more reason to ponder the truth of this quote from a postapocalyptic novel. It is my view we are currently awash in hard times created by weak men and I wonder how did we get here and so quickly?

For one who has always tried very hard to bravely speak up, defend truth and leave the world around me a better place, it is a very discouraging time. I'm sure there are many of you who feel the same way. What do we do?

My answer, simplistic as it sounds, is do what I can do. Each day when I wake up, I ask, "What one thing can I do to help right this upside-down world?" and when I go to bed, I ask myself, "What one thing did I do today?" It might be getting out my old books and telling my three-year-old grandson the real story of Thanksgiving.

It might be attending my local school board meeting. It might be writing a thank you to my legislator for a comment or vote he made. It might be risking backlash and sharing a conviction in a letter to the editor.

Simple does not mean easy. Good people with good intentions are frequently being discredited. It seems to be 'open season' on cancelling anyone with differing opinions. Fear alone silences many.

It is no different in our own Farm Bureau organization. We have long called ourselves a grassroots organization, the Voice of Agriculture. Because of that we not only have the right, but we also have the responsibility to communicate our concerns and opinions to those who represent us.

They may not always respond back with information, but they surely should always be ready and willing to hear us. Honest and open dialogs with facts and truth should be the norm. If we are not being heard, we have a couple options: vote in new people or take our membership elsewhere.

I encourage you to continue to speak up. Utilize your rights to communicate your thoughts. And if we don't allow others to discourage or intimidate us into silence, these hard times will create strong men for our future.

Blessings as you celebrate the birth of The One who always hears us.

Dairy Revitalization Plan

In February 2020, several Farm Bureau members were appointed to serve on UW's Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems as it undertook a project to research and evaluate supply management policies that would stabilize and improve dairy price.

Dairy economists Chuck Nicholson and Mark Stephenson spearheaded the research. The results of this work are now available, and Farm Bureau members are encouraged to become familiar with the results.

Visit www.dairymarkets.org/GMP. There you can watch a video with the economists who will explain their research, read their summaries and even try the concept out with an online tool in which you can insert futuristic scenarios for your operation.

Whether you have been a proponent or opponent of dairy growth management in the past, you need to become familiar so you can be part of this discussion in the future.



Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Aug. 22 at Crisly Dairy in Cumberland, owned by Kyle and Sara Mathison.

Members enjoyed a tour of Crisly Dairy led by Sara, followed by a potluck lunch and the business meeting where members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Delegates representing Barron County Farm Bureau members at the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting were Karyn Schauf, Sam Olson and Randy Cook.



Barron County Farm Bureau Vice President Sam Olson presented the resolutions for members to vote on.

Crisly Dairy Tour

Barron County Farm Bureau thanks Kyle and Sara Mathison, owners of Crisly Dairy, for opening their farm for the annual meeting.

Kyle and Sara were married in 2012 and are both graduates of Northeast Iowa Technical College, Kyle in dairy science and Sara in ag business.

They began their farming career renting Allen Hustad's barn in the spring of 2010 but in January of 2015 started exploring their options and "diving into finances" as Sara says, in efforts to make a building plan for their free-stall barn. Construction started in the spring of 2016 and was completed that fall. The barn is 176' by 64' clearspan with 114 stalls and is end/tunnel ventilated with five 73" fans.

This spring, in an effort to increase manure handling efficiency, they modified the east end of the barn and added alley scrapers, a cross channel and six-day manure storage and pump.

Mature Holstein cows reside on the west end of the barn while the Jerseys and heifers are grouped to the east.



The milking parlor, which first saw cows late October of 2016, is a Dairymaster swing 10. Highlights include highline pipeline, single pulsation technology and swiftflow units that allow one person to milk about 70 cows per hour. Somatic cell count has stayed consistently low, teat end health is great and the couple has noticed much better milkout in their fresh cows.

The Mathisons grow corn, alfalfa, wheat snap beans and cover forages. The heifers are born, raised and bred on the farm. Calves enjoy 24/7 auto feeding in a retrofitted stall barn.

They have been shipping their milk to Burnett Dairy most of their farming career where Kyle has served on the board since 2018.

Sara has served on the Barron County Farm



Bureau Board.

The farmstead was established by Kyle's great grandparents in 1909 making the Mathisons the fourth generation to milk cows.

They strive to run their business with integrity, providing the best possible care they can to their cows and young stock.

Kyle's dad, Wayne, works with them and his mom provides invaluable childcare while Sara milks.

The Mathisons work 450 acres at Crisly Dairy with 120 in their milking herd.

They have two children, Grant, age 7, and IdaRose, age 1.

Sara and Kyle say they strive to raise their kids to respect the land and the animals as they do.

Renewable Energy

By Craig Hamernik, Barron County Board Member

Wind, solar, hydro, nuclear or hydrogen ... which ones gives the most reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy?

Delivering on all three of those attributes is going to be challenging while the need for energy continues to increase.

After all, when we flip the light switch on in our house or barn, we want the lights to come on whether it is at 3 p.m. on a sunny day or 3 a.m. on a rainy night.

On Sept. 7, the Barron County Farm Bureau and Barron County Farmers Union teamed up to host an informational meeting for its members on renewable energy. Also invited were members of the Barron County Board and Barron County Township board members.

The speaker for the evening was Executive Director of the Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum Scott Coenen and team member of the Land and Liberty Coalition.

Scott gave overviews of the renewable sources listed above and gave examples of the pros and cons that have been learned by other counties, states and countries that have adapted different renewable sources.

The purpose was to provide Barron County Farm Bureau, Barron County Farmers Union members and county leaders with background information on different sources of renewable energy so that when the time comes to decide on which renewable sources are best for the county, state and country, they can make an educated decision.

With the talk of increasing the number of acres of prime farm land, not only in Wisconsin but in many areas of the upper Midwest, being converted to large scale solar farms or wind farms along with the increase in demand for energy, Farm Bureau members are encouraged to do their own research about renewable energy sources so that you can help guide your local, state and federal leaders to make sound, well-informed decisions regarding renewable energy.

To get you started, here are a few resources: www.renewwisconsin.org, www.youtube.com/watch?v=ciStd9Y2ak&t=5s and www.eurasiareview.com/30102021-why-the-pro-nuclear-movement-is-winning-oped.



Chippewa County Farm Bureau Hosts Sundae on the Farm

Sundae on the Farm was hosted by Chippewa County Farm Bureau and the Pagenkopf family of Elk Mound on June 27. Ice cream sundaes, cheese samples and milk were provided to attendees.

Sandy Acres, the Pagenkopf family, opened their farm operation to help promote dairy for June Dairy Month and their farm, which included sheep, cattle, horses and crops. They also direct market meat products. The goal of the event was to promote and build on community cooperation and make the event family focused.

More than 80 youth and 20 adults volunteered to

help the day of the event. More than 30 types of cheese were donated by four Wisconsin cheese processors.

The Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin provided educational material, fun activities for youth, the petting zoo was furnished by the host farm. The food was served by 4-H youth and adult volunteers parked cars, Farm Bureau members served guests and provided structure for the event.

Nearly 600 people attended the event. More than 250 pounds of cheese were served, more than 150 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin bags with material were given out and almost 600 sundaes were served.



Chippewa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Members of the Chippewa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 21 at the Fill Inn Station in Chippewa Falls.

Bob Panzer, Heidi Benson, Lori Gardow and Chippewa County 4-H were recognized at the

annual meeting for their contributions to Farm Bureau and agriculture in Chippewa County.

Jason Benson of Elk Mound and Rachel Rushmann of Chippewa Falls were elected to the Chippewa County Farm Bureau Board of

Directors for three-year terms.

Delegates elected to represent Chippewa County at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December were Bob Panzer, Lori Gardow and Jason Benson.



Bob Panzer was recognized at the Chippewa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting for serving as the president. District 9 Coordinator, Katie Mattison, presented him with a plaque for his service.



Heidi Benson was recognized as the volunteer of the year for her hard work to help pull off the Sundae on the Farm event. Chippewa County Farm Bureau President Bob Panzer presented her with a plaque.



Lori Gardow was recognized as the outstanding board member for all that she does for the Chippewa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



Heidi and Jason Benson accepted the award for Rural Volunteer of the Year on behalf of the Chippewa County 4-H Program.

Water Quality Workshop Series

Chippewa County Farm Bureau hosted a water quality workshop series on Sept. 8. Two separate meetings were held.

The first meeting was led by Producer-Led Program Manager Rachel Rushmann with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, which focused on the DATCP-funded Producer-Led Watershed Program. Rachel reviewed successful projects already in place in Wisconsin and discussed how Chippewa County farmers could begin a project and gave examples of what farmers could do to improve farming practices, increase farm income and improve water quality in the Chippewa Valley.

The second meeting was held in the evening and was a community discussion regarding water, soil, nutrients and agriculture. Co-Director of Discovery Farms Wisconsin Amber Radatz gave a presentation and led the discussion that included county board members, Chippewa County staff members and Chippewa County farmers.

The topic of nitrogen and improved management on farms could reduce production costs, protect groundwater and meet upcoming changes in regulations were covered during the discussion.



These meetings were the start of a conversation to bring farmers and the community together in Chippewa County to focus on working as a team to benefit the Chippewa Valley environment.

The State of Wisconsin has funded \$1 million in each of the upcoming state fiscal years to fund the producer-led watershed program.

JOHN DEERE REWARDS PROGRAM IS AN INCENTIVE FOR SAVINGS

Rick Kohn has been the store and sales manager for Mid-State Equipment in Prairie du Sac for five years. He says that the John Deere Rewards Program makes his job more enjoyable when a customer is a Farm Bureau member and can save even more money.

Recently, he helped his parents, Ron and Joan Kohn of Lodi, purchase a John Deere 835R Gator for their farm.

"Because they were Farm Bureau members, they qualified for the John Deere Equipment Rewards Program and saved an additional \$350," said Rick. "That \$350 savings more than paid for their Farm Bureau membership dues for the year."

Rick explained that the John Deere Rewards Program is a tier program.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau members are eligible for a complimentary John Deere Rewards upgrade or Platinum 1 status, which unlocks EXTRA DISCOUNTS on select agriculture and turf equipment," said Rick. "All members need to do is register and then they can explore all that the Rewards program has to offer."

Mid-State Equipment has several locations throughout southeast Wisconsin including Columbus, Jackson, Janesville, Salem and Watertown.

Rick says that he enjoys the variety of his job and that no two days are the same.

"It has its challenges, but you never know if you will help someone

purchase a \$250 chainsaw or a \$250,000 tractor," said Rick. "Customers are doing more research online especially during COVID-19, they know that they are getting a quality product and we also have a great staff in the service department if they need it."

There are some details and restrictions for the Rewards Program including the customer must be a member of Farm Bureau for 30 days and must have a valid email address.

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



"When we work with customers, we try to mention the Farm Bureau Rewards Program and usually it ends up saving them a significant amount of money."

- Rick Kohn, Mid-State Equipment store manager

MEMBER SAVES THREE WAYS WITH OFFICE DEPOT®/OFFICE MAX

**Office
DEPOT®**

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

"I have used the discount for Farm Bureau projects, but I also used it for print projects and office supplies for my job as 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 so orders directly ship to the promotion or event that I am working with without leaving my office – it's a time saver and I love to increase the efficiency of our dairy farmers' checkoff dollars by saving money on materials when and where I can."

She said that she got started using the Office Depot/Office Max benefit about eight years ago.

"Fellow Young Farmer and Agriculturist committee member Shannon Boschma told me about the discount that she saved more than 40 percent on color copies and postcard invitations," said Schaefer. "I looked into the discount and started using it immediately."

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 percent off Best-Value Products; exclusive copy/print pricing; Hewlett-Packard ink and toner discounts; and next-business-day delivery.

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.

Schaefer says that she recommends the Office Depot/Office Max benefit to fellow Farm Bureau members as well as co-workers, "because we all are looking to save time and money."

For her work, Schaefer works with county dairy promotion groups, 4-H, FFA and manages Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin's partnership with the Alice in Dairyland Program.

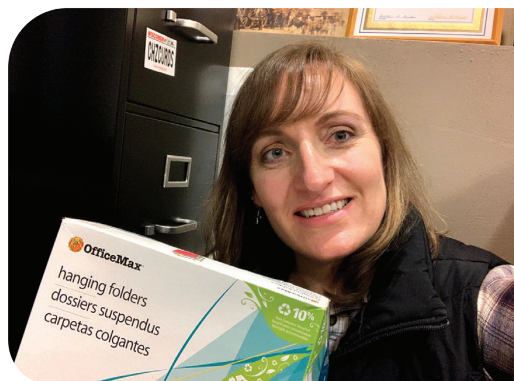
"We printed cards for a cheese promotion and my Farm Bureau membership cut the bill in half," added Schaefer. "The discount is cheaper than printing at home and I get high-quality, professional materials. Plus, the online portal makes it easy to order and shop online so even if you don't live near an Office Depot, you can take advantage of the discounts on printing and everyday office products."

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

Schaefer is a former member of the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee, winner of the YFA's Excellence in Agriculture Award and a graduate of American Farm Bureau's Women's Communications Boot Camp.

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.



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

- Beth Schaefer, Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau member

These Farm Bureau member benefits *ARE SIZZLING!*

For complete details, visit wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.



Self-employed individuals deduct 100% of their family's medical expenses through their farm or business.

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Get more information about the services Farm Bureau Financial offers from your local Rural Mutual Insurance agent. Learn more at fbfs.com.



\$500

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\$500 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO THE ARREST AND CONVICTION OF PERSONS FOR ARSON, THEFT OR CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO THIS MEMBER'S PROPERTY WHEN SIGN IS POSTED

FARM BUREAU MEMBER SERVICE

to people providing information leading to the arrest and conviction of individuals for arson, theft or criminal damage to a member's property that is posted with a Farm Bureau reward sign or sticker.



daily grain, livestock and feed input marketing advice

35%

Rural Mutual Insurance Company

With a network of more than 150 agents in 100+ locations, agents live and work in your communities, understand your needs and work as hard as you do to ensure you are well-protected.



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on brand name and generic medications



VASCULAR SCREENING DISCOUNT

Visit wfbf.com to find out more about your membership benefits!

WFBF member benefits may be changed or discontinued at anytime without notice.

Dunn County Farm Bureau Hosts Annual Meeting

Dunn County Farm Bureau held their 2021 annual meeting on Sept. 28 at Dean & Sue's Bar & Grill in Menomonie.

Members discussed a wide range of topics for potential resolutions. Resolutions passed during this meeting were forwarded on for consideration by WFBF's Policy Development Committee.

During the meeting, Ben Sand of Menomonie replaced Frank Retz on the board of directors for a three-year term and Haily Sand of Menomonie was elected to serve a one-year term as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair.

Kevin Gilbertson, Jesse Singerhouse, Tony

Christopherson and Al Shannon were selected to serve as delegates representing Dunn County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

In addition to the regular business at the Dunn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Marv and Mary Prestrud were recognized with the Dunn County Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award.

Marv and Mary have played an integral part of Dunn County Farm Bureau from serving on the board, to helping with the food stand at the fair, to helping with ag promotion in the county.

Thank you and congratulations to Marv and Mary.

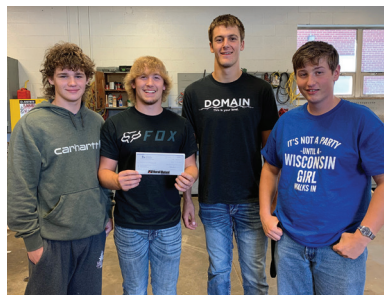


Marv and Mary Prestrud were recognized with the 2021 Dunn County Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award for all that they have done for agriculture and Dunn County Farm Bureau through the years.

Chippewa Valley Group Donates to Local FFA Chapters

Chippewa Valley Group, agents Jeff White and Geoff Liddle, donated \$10,000 to Dunn County FFA chapters.

The four Dunn County FFA Chapters each received a \$2,500 donation on behalf of Chippewa Valley Group from Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



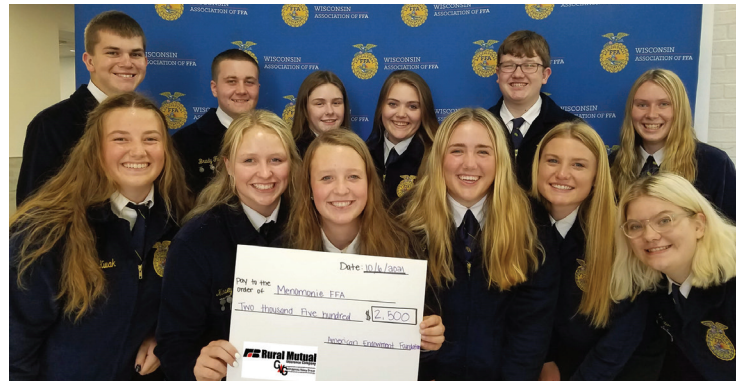
Boyeville FFA members.



Elk Mound FFA members.



Menomonie FFA members.



Menomonie FFA members.

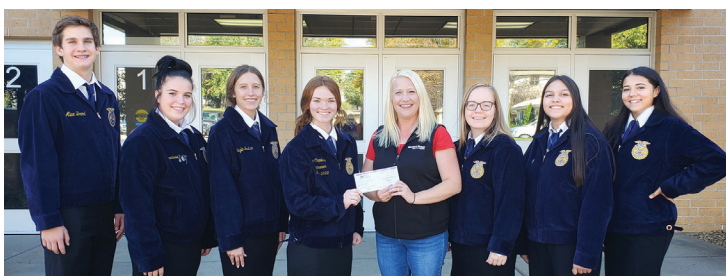
Pierce County

Saufl Donates to Local FFA Chapters

Rural Mutual Insurance Company agent Leah Saufl donated \$2,500 to Ellsworth FFA and \$2,500 to River Falls FFA. Funds were used to send

student to National FFA Convention.

"These young people are the future of farming," stated Leah.



Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Members of the Pierce County Farm Bureau held a very successful 2021 annual meeting on Sept. 23 at El Paso Bar & Grill in Ellsworth. More than 40 members and guests were in attendance to help celebrate the accomplishment of Pierce County Farm Bureau during the past year.

Members enjoyed a meal prepared by El Paso Bar & Grill. Following the meal, the business meeting was held where members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members voted Kevin Ballman of Red Wing on to the Pierce County Farm Bureau Board for a three-year term. Kevin replaces Laura Benitz on the board. Ben Anderson of Spring Valley was elected to the board for a one-year term as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair and Paige Gunderson of Beldenville was elected to



UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau officers David Foerster, Serenity Hetke and Grant Buwalda presented to the membership at the Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

the board for a one-year term as the Promotion and Education Chair.

Members also voted to have Kevin Ballman, Paige Gunderson and Travis Kopp represent Pierce County Farm Bureau and serve as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

In addition to the regular business at the



John Krings presented the 2020 Pierce County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award to Dean Bergseng. Congratulations Dean.

Pierce County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Roy Swanson was awarded the Pierce County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award. Roy is a long-time member of Pierce County Farm Bureau, has served as the Pierce County Farm Bureau board treasurer for many years and has been instrumental in the operation of the milk stand at the Pierce County Fair. Congratulations, Roy.

Polk Burnett

Farm Bureau Receives Recognition

Recently, Polk Burnett Farm Bureau was selected by WFBF as a recipient in the County All-Star Recognition program in local affairs for its Local Candidate Endorsement.

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau stepped up in the April 2020 election to show its support in some local town board races by providing endorsements in the spring election held April 6. The Polk Burnett Farm Bureau selected five towns between the two counties to offer up the Polk Burnett Farm Bureau endorsement.

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau has a vested interest in ensuring that local leaders represent agriculture's best interests, and members they wanted to do their part in making sure that town board members have agriculture in mind.

Candidate questionnaires were prepared by a committee of six Polk Burnett Farm Bureau members and sent to registered town board candidates within five very hotly contested town races. The committee met to review each of the questionnaires that were returned and made decisions on endorsements. The committee chose to make endorsement in the towns of Laketown and Osceola in Polk County and Wood River and Trade Lake within Burnett County.

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



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 written or recorded communication with members.

Farmer Institute Held November 12

Recently, Polk Burnett Farm Bureau participated in the first Polk County Agriculture Advocates Farmers Institute.

The event gave farmers and agriculturists in the area a day to network and hear from groups and organizations across the county.

Look for more information on the next Farmer Institute coming soon.



Rural Mutual Agents Austin Mlejnek, Tony Aguado and Carl Thomforhda presented about Rural Mutual Insurance Company and Polk Burnett Farm Bureau.

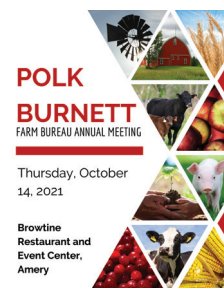
Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Highlights

Polk County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Oct. 14 at BrowTime Restaurant & Event Center in Amery.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues including wildlife, step up basis and the direction of Farm Bureau. Resolutions passed during this meeting were forwarded on for consideration by the WFBF's Policy Development Committee. As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin in Madison and Washington, D.C.

Sara Byl of Cushing and Rebekah Gustafson of Osceola joined the board of directors for three-year terms. During the meeting, delegates also were elected to attend the WFBF's Annual Meeting in December to represent Polk County Farm Bureau. Delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting were Chris Owens, Sara Byl and Rebekah Gustafson.



Rusk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Members of the Rusk County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 16 at Heart of the North Brewing Co. in Ladysmith.

Members in attendance enjoyed wood fired pizza and craft beer.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Ag Researcher John Albers.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues including wildlife, dairy and the future of Farm Bureau.

Delegates selected to represent Rusk County at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December were Terry DuSell and Paul Hetke.



St. Croix County

Meet: New St. Croix County Farm Bureau Board Members and Sisters

Name: Vanessa Achterhof

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 1

Family: Father Bruce: he is a farmer, married to Donna (stepmom); Mother: Sharon, she is an accountant; Sister: Jenna, who farms with me; Boyfriend of four years: Jamie Gunderson works in Menomonie at MAC and helps us farm in his free time.

Fun Fact: My uncle, two cousins, grandma, father and I live on the family road in Woodville.

Type of Farming Operation: My family runs a 600-cow dairy in Baldwin, Albedarned Dairy. My sister, her fiancé Paul, and I have been managing the dairy for going on three years now. We are the fourth generation to run our operation. I mainly focus on the young stock. From Day 1 of that calf's life all the way to about two years old when that heifer is ready to calve. We also raise all of our bull calves out to finishing. We run the operation alongside my father Bruce, Uncle Joey and our mechanic/life support Joe Miller.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I become involved in Farm Bureau to be more connected to my community, help promote agriculture and help the industry I love. I honestly didn't have a lot of knowledge about Farm Bureau but when I was asked to join, I said 'yes' as quick as I could. The amazing leaps that Farm Bureau has helped the agricultural industry make, the amount it gives back to the community, and all the good it does made it such an easy decision. I look forward to using my voice and passion for the industry to make difference, too. I can't wait to get more involved in Farm Bureau. I am honored to be able to discuss issues and solve problems for our county.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member?

The greatest benefits about now being a member would by far be being connected with all the fellow producers and be able to discuss the challenges, disagreements and follow up with a solution together. Being able to put my young voice and knowledge forward helps our agricultural community stay in touch with the changing times but it also gets guided in the right direction by my fellow producers. I also now have the ability to direct more of my attention to the deeper problems that are aimed at the agriculture community and put more of my energy towards trying to solve them.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? Jenna and Paul just recently started our Junior Holstein Association group again. I am sure she will tell you about it. But I help out with that every other Sunday. I help at our county fair as much as I can. With the dairy show, handing out ribbons or getting cattle ready.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry?

It is so important to be able to be more involved in the ag industry

because the industry deserves a voice. So many issues related to ag are overlooked, exaggerated or worse not understood. I think it is so important for producers to voice their perspective so our surrounding community can understand our industry more. Also, getting more connected to the community and fellow producers is so important to me.



(from left): Vanessa Achterhof and Jenna Achterhof.

Name: Jenna Achterhof

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: First year

Family: Grew up in a family of four. Dad is Bruce Achterhof and mom is Sharon Achterhof. I have a younger sister, Vanessa.

Type of Farming Operation: My family runs a 600-cow dairy farm north of Baldwin, Albedarned Dairy LLC. We milk in a double 17 parallel parlor three times a day. We raise all of our heifers and steers out on five different pastures year-round.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? I wanted to become more involved with local farming issues or concerns within in my community. I also enjoy all the community service that the Farm Bureau does and would like to become more involved.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? One thing that I have already really enjoyed is getting to know others in the farming community. We get to see issues that are not only local but statewide, too. Also, I feel like I can use the other members as mentors in my life and occupation.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? I'm the Junior Holstein Chair for our Holstein Association in St. Croix County. So, I get all the dairy kids together and practice for quiz bowl and jeopardy competitions, as well as fundraising. Then within the Holstein Association, I help with district shows and some fundraising there, too.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? The ag industry plays very important roles in every person's life. Whether is it the food they eat or the clothes they are wearing. This industry is always changing and that can make it challenging but in a good way. Most people in the ag industry never have the same day as yesterday and so the people that are part of it are built for that lifestyle. We like new challenges and finding a solution.

St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held September 19

St. Croix County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Sept. 19 at Josh and Amy Shafer's farm in Baldwin. Members enjoyed lunch catered by Peg's Pleasant View.

During the meeting, members discussed a wide range of issues for potential Farm Bureau policy. Resolutions passed during this meeting were forwarded on for consideration by WFBF's Policy Development Committee before being discussed at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau is often asked to get involved in issues affecting production agriculture and rural Wisconsin in Madison and Washington, D.C.

As a grassroots organization, it is Farm Bureau's members on the county level who create and set the policy goals of the state's leading farm organization.

During the meeting, delegates also were elected to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting in December to represent St. Croix County Farm Bureau. Delegates representing St. Croix County Farm Bureau were: Leslie Svacina, Lexi DuSell and Melanie Peterson.



Leslie Svacina presented Dave Kruschke with the St. Croix County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting.

St. Croix County Farm Bureau also recognized Dave Kruschke and Jenny Mueller with the St. Croix County Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award for all that they have done for St. Croix County Farm Bureau over the years.

Sawyer County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer
SawyerCountyFarmBureau

Bear Update

Submitted by Mike Robers, Sawyer County Vice President

The 2021 bear hunting season is in the books. This was the first season with the new zone changes. Zone B, which is mostly northeastern Wisconsin remained pretty much the same. Zones A and D changed quite a bit to reflect more forest in Zone A and Ag Land in Zone D, both are in northwest Wisconsin. Zone C is now Zones C, E and F in central and western Wisconsin.

Preliminary bear harvest numbers for 2021 are 3,802 (down from 4,306 in 2020). Zone A is the only zone that was above quota with total bear harvested: 1,227 with a quota of 1,100. Zone B: 711 with quota of 750, Zone D: 1,255 with a quota of 1,800, Zone C: 484 with a quota of 600, Zone E: 100 with a quota of 160 and Zone F: 25 with a quota of 30. The average hunter success rate was 32 percent.

By the time you read this, I will have had a meeting with the bear advisory committee, consisting of myself, several individuals from the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, a person representing the tribal nation and DNR staff to set goals for next year's bear hunt.

I will be working hard to represent your views at this meeting.



Sawyer County Annual Meeting Highlights

The 2021 Sawyer County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 30 at Riverside Golf & Recreation in Radisson.

Members enjoyed a pizza buffet and then voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Jordan Pasanen of Exeland replaced Ted Mataczynski for a three-year term on the board of directors.

**SAWYER
COUNTY**
FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday,
September 30, 2021

Riverside Golf &
Recreation,
Radisson



Superior Shores

wfbf.com/about/counties/superiorshores
SuperiorShoresFarmBureau

Superior Shores Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Held September 10

The Superior Shores Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 10 at the Vaughn Public Library in Ashland.

Members enjoyed a pizza lunch. Following lunch, the business meeting was held where members voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.



Douglas County Extension Fun Facts

HOW MANY PEOPLE
DOES AGRICULTURE
EMPLOY?

906
jobs
in the county

WHAT IS THE
ECONOMIC IMPACT?

\$23.8
million
in economic activity

HOW MUCH TAX
DOES AGRICULTURE
CONTRIBUTE?

\$2.5
million
in sales tax,
property tax & income tax

Regional Partnership Supports the Health and Resilience of the Lake Superior Basin

Submitted by Erin Burkett, Lake Superior Outreach Specialist, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center



Conservation and natural resource management is complex, and environmental challenges don't fit within political boundaries or any single organization's purview.

Land stewards and natural resource managers working in the Lake Superior basin of Wisconsin have understood this for years.

Stemming from previous regional partnerships, the Lake Superior Collaborative (LSC) was created in 2018 to coordinate protection, restoration, and climate resilience efforts in the Wisconsin portion of the Lake Superior watershed.

LSC partners include local, state, tribal and federal government agencies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations working in Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron counties.

All these groups share the common vision that the "communities and ecosystems of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Basin will be climate resilient and supported by sustained and collaborative conservation partnerships and projects."

What does shared implementation of this vision look like in practice? Communication and coordination are key to any partnership, including the Lake Superior Collaborative. LSC partners connect local priorities

with lake wide management goals set at the international level and facilitate networking and information exchange among LSC partners through a work group structure and other events. Partners also work together to identify and apply for funding opportunities that can support shared goals.

Preventing nonpoint source pollution, working with private landowners to improve land use practices and preserving and restoring fish and wildlife habitat are just a few examples of LSC projects.

LSC partners also organize and host a variety of events throughout the year, including webinars on relevant topics, field trips to area conservation or restoration project sites, and an annual symposium.

Our Spring Symposium in April 2022 will include a combination of virtual presentations, in-person field trips and networking opportunities that center the Lake Superior basin of Wisconsin. The purpose of the LSC Symposium is to share and discuss information on projects and data, provide networking opportunities among professionals working on conservation, restoration and climate-adaptive projects in the Lake Superior Basin of Wisconsin and to provide space for group input and action planning for the future.

Anyone who works or lives in the Lake Superior basin of Wisconsin is welcome to attend and learn about ongoing watershed conservation, restoration and public engagement projects.

To learn more, get involved and sign up for a monthly newsletter, visit the Lake Superior Collaborative online at LakeSuperiorCollaborative.org.



Agricultural Resiliency on Your Farm: New Year's Resolutions, 2022

Submitted by Jane Anklam, Agriculture and Horticulture Educator, UW-Madison, Division of Extension

I am aware that not all of us set intentions for the new year. Yet, this past year was a doozy.

A few well-intentioned resolutions based on what we learned may come in handy for 2022. Surely, we gained insight into our resiliency as land and water, field and livestock managers. What resolutions can we craft from this experience? I offer a few for your consideration, inspiration and encouragement.

1. Make an effort to understand impacts of stress on yourself and community. It is hard out there for those who rely on weather, markets and healthy animals as a way of life. Make a point of reading or taking part in a session on communicating in times of stress. Review these key principles at: <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/farmstress/communicating-in-times-of-stress/#principles>.
2. Plan your first and second forage cuttings based on nutrition content of the stand, not on geographic location. Forage loss is expensive. This may be the year to test forage quality on a field or two to help decide renovation, management or marketing outcomes.
3. Develop a soil testing rotation plan. Design it so that over the course of four years, you will have covered all your fields. This will help manage your nutrient budget and spread out your application costs.
4. Check out the UW Madison's Division of Extension's Livestock website at least two times per month (with a cup of coffee or glass of milk). <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu>. Read timely information on culling, reproductive health, market situation, animal well-being and nutrition. Newly available management videos and workshops are there for you to choose from.
5. Review your hay and pasture rental agreements. Develop a written agreement to forestall confusion between landlord and renter. It can solve a world of hurt. See this link for simple rental agreement templates: <https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/pricing-and-contracts>.
6. Match your animal units to the productive size of your grazing land. Contact your Land Conservation Department, Grazing Network or NRCS office to receive a pasture self-evaluation card. Be your best judge.
7. Engage youth and community in farm management decisions and impacts. Attend town board meetings. Share your perspectives as a farmer with local officials, businesses and agency representatives.
8. Be aware of the role of farmers in community and local food. What are the limitations and opportunities for a vibrant community food system on the South Shore of Lake Superior? UW-Madison, Division of Extension has a newly active Community Food Systems Program. <https://foodsystems.extension.wisc.edu>. Explore and connect. They need us.
9. Stay tuned for the next phase of 'Building a Resilient Agriculture System for Far NW Wisconsin. Focus groups will develop the research questions for agriculture resiliency based on Forage, Livestock, Community/Local Food, Indigenous Agriculture and Water Quality.
10. Select one (or two) of the above or create a 'resilient' New Year's Resolution of your own. Make it thoughtful, not anxiety provoking. Resilience comes with bending. Much health and new ideas in 2022.





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

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