



Grassroots

District 1 News

Moving Closer to Normal

**Dave Daniels**

WFBF District 1 Director and Vice President

When we started 2021, I think we can agree that we were hoping to get back to normal. We didn't quite get there yet, but we are getting closer.

As an organization, moving to virtual meetings was a big step for Farm Bureau. Some may think going to virtual meetings was taking a step backward but being able to accommodate everyone was a good

thing. Evaluating the change and incorporating it with in-person meetings will enable more participation from our members around the state in the future.

The 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting is being planned as an in-person meeting at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells. It's not just an annual meeting; it's a time to rekindle friendships and catch up with people who we haven't seen in a few years from around the state. Most of all, we will discuss the 2021 crops and of course the weather, in addition to the policy development session. I hope to see many of you there.

Some of the new services for 2021 is a renewed commitment to communication. Have you read the Policy Pulse? The Policy Pulse is a new tool, via email, that discusses what and how our policies are moving forward in Madison and in Washington, D.C. This publication compliments the Ag Newswire, which is an email that is sent on Fridays. This communication is focused on agriculture news and highlights upcoming events. If you don't receive Ag Newswire or Policy Pulse but are interested, please let me know.

A new project this year was Leaders of the Land: A State Sustainability Series. Each district hosted a tour in August or September highlighting diverse commodities and sustainability practices. The purpose was to offer farmers and agriculturists different perspectives regarding environmental stewardship around Wisconsin.

The tour in District 1 was on Aug. 30. Thank you to the owners of Gwenyn Hill Organic Farm and Gardens for the educational day. If you weren't able to attend a tour, you can see some of the videos on the WFBF website.

Our new Chief Administrative Officer Kim Pokorny has been working with the WFBF Board of Directors and staff on what a Farm Bureau member will look like in the future and what our organization will look like. She has been with us for more than a year. I hope you can meet her soon.

This year, we had state committee meetings held on Dairy, Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) and Policy Development. Representing District 1 on these were Peter Muth and Ben Harbach for VFA; Mark Mayer, Rick Roden and Carl Wolf for Dairy; and Renee Schaal on the Policy Development Committee. Also, Kathy Muth represents District 1 on the Promotion and Education Committee. Bob Nash is chair-elect for the YFA Committee.

We appreciate you and all members for taking the extra time to help move Farm Bureau forward. Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member.

Leaders of the Land Tour Held in Waukesha

On Aug. 30, members from throughout the state gathered at Gwenyn Hill Farm LLC for the Leaders of the Land: A State Sustainability Series tour. The tour was led by Linda Halley and Ryan Heinen.

On the tour, we learned about Gwenyn Hill's holistic approach to sustainability. At Gwenyn Hill, they believe farmland and conservation land are one in the same and are working to integrate the land and cattle through rotational grazing and experimenting with different grasses. We also heard from Neal Maciejewski from Clean Farm Families watershed group. He talked about different ideas, practices and lessons learned about their conservation efforts.

One tour was held in each of the nine districts throughout the state.



Members walked through the pasture to see what is planted and learned more about the cattle.



Linda Halley gave a general overview of their farm.



Ryan Heinen gave a great tour and explanation for his sustainability practices.

Bring People Joy

By Kathy Muth

District 1 Promotion and Education Committee

And just like that ... another year is behind us. A year unlike any other. I've always been a believer of laying out a good sound plan and staying nimble for any unforeseen challenges or opportunities.

When I married a farmer, my new mother-in-law gave me some invaluable advice about farming and farm life, "Always stay flexible." Looking back, that was some of the best advice. I'm so glad I took it and lived it. This past year allowed me to really 'flex' my flexibility. I'm sure it has for you, too.

As farmers we frequently ride the roller coasters of weather, prices and ever-changing regulations. And then there is the perpetual list of consumer preferences, demands and misconceptions about food, farmers and farming practices. It can anger and frustrate us when we try so diligently to educate but don't see the change. So, what do we do?

We become the source of truth. The touch of reality. The open window into our world. Maybe it's a baby bite of information on what it really takes to raise a calf, or a recipe to try a new dairy product. Or maybe it's a trip to your farm or a quick conversation while out socializing. We walk the walk so we can talk it like no other. Don't get bogged down with key messages or politically correct terms, just tell your story. No one has one like yours, and it's a good one.

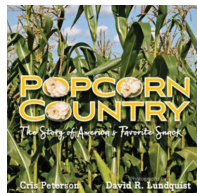
Few people have any extended family on a farm anymore so the disconnect to agriculture gets further removed all the time. Here's where we fit in. Why not become the family they can adopt. Recently, a good friend asked that of me. They wanted that place, that family where they can come and experience everyday life on the farm. No hype, no entrance fees, no strings attached. Just family hanging with family. Living and learning our farm life a little bit at a time.

I was touched to think that she would even ask. But what a profound way to connect. Our family just got bigger and yours can, too. Get adopted.

That brings me to another thought that a fellow Farm Bureau member shared. She always had a mission to educate people about farming and has done an extremely good job of it. But now after some consternation, she is changing her mission to bringing people joy through farming. I let that thought resonate with me and realized that's the perfect mission. It's the same reason we farm, it brings us joy. Why not share that joy with others. Educating and promoting will seep in to the realm of joy. Joy is contagious. It bubbles up and can't be contained.

Get ready to spread some joy with Wisconsin Ag in the Classrooms book of the year, "Popcorn Country" written by Cris Peterson.

In conjunction with the book of the year, fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state can enter the essay contest. The essay contest topic is, What's popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy.'



YFA Conference and Discussion Meet

By Bob Nash

District 1 YFA Committee

It's been a crazy year. A few years ago when I started on the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Committee, I always had a goal to eventually become the chairperson.

I am excited to say that I'm current chair-elect and will officially be the YFA Committee Chair starting at the YFA Conference in December.

I'm excited for the YFA Conference. We will be in-person and things will be back to normal. The YFA Committee has been busy planning for the best weekend of the year. We are excited to welcome YFA members ages 18 to 35 to the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells from **Friday, Dec. 3, to Sunday, Dec. 5.**

The Friday welcome dinner will be 90s Country Music theme, so make sure you bring your cowboy boots and hat.

On Saturday, you will have a chance to watch Discussion Meets, participate in workshops and much more.

Throughout the weekend you will have a chance to bid on items at the Silent Auction, network with YFA members and other Farm Bureau members and meet new friends.

Also, I want to thank those who competed in the district Discussion Meet and congratulate those who are moving on to the state competition. We held the Discussion Meet in conjunction with the district Policy Development Meeting and it was neat to see how many Farm Bureau members came to watch the Discussion Meet. I am excited that our Farm Bureau members value and support our young farmer program.

The topic for the district contest was, How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YFA members and increasing participation in YFA programs? The five contestants had a great discussion on this topic.

Those who are moving on to the state competition include Whitney Rathke, Darren Riskedal and Jim Waldron.

Please wish these members the best of luck as they move on to the state competition.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming YFA events.



Discussion Meet contestants (from left): Whitney Rathke (Ozaukee County), Leah Weninger (Washington County), Jake Roden (Ozaukee County), Jim Waldron (Racine County) and Darren Riskedal (Jefferson County).

COVID: Excuse or Opportunity?

By Patti Wilhelme

District 1 Coordinator

Have the last 18 months been your excuse or your opportunity?

I like to think that I have used the obstacles as an opportunity to grow, to try new things, to expand my knowledge.

Looking back, I think we have similar ways in which we had new opportunities and learning experiences.

- Those who work in an office may have had the opportunity to work from home, even if you didn't have the best internet. You had the opportunity to spend more time with your family because you weren't traveling to and from work each day. You made it work with kids at home while you were working.
- Spending more time with your immediate family members and household was an opportunity to learn and have fun trying new things. Relationships were strengthened. It gave everyone a chance to learn new things by reading books or using YouTube as a way to learn.
- As Farm Bureau members, you had the opportunity to be involved in

new virtual ways. We accelerated the virtual options for board meetings and other events. We hosted the 2020 WFBF Annual Meeting and delegate session virtually. Board meetings were held by conference call or video meeting via Microsoft Teams. COVID advanced all of our skills with virtual meetings. Though it's not always preferred, and we could agree that we would much rather have in-person meetings, I see virtual meetings an option if you have a meeting scheduled and there is a snowstorm coming. This new platform has advanced our skills to allow us to have virtual meetings in the future.

Regardless of how you look at the last 18 months, I hope that you can reflect and dwell on the positive. Think about what you learned, how you have grown and how your family has come together.

I want to thank you for being a Farm Bureau member. There are more than 47,000 Farm Bureau members in Wisconsin and I thank you for being a committed and dedicated member. Thank you for attending your county annual meeting and for letting your voice be heard in creating policy for Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Test negative, stay positive.

Membership Wrap Up

By Patti Wilhelme

District 1 Coordinator

Congratulations to those counties who achieved a voting or total membership gain at the end of the membership year. Unfortunately, WFBF did not have a gain in membership this year. The membership year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, so it's not too early to begin signing up new members.

Congratulations to the following counties who achieved a voting gain: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha counties. Congratulations to Ozaukee County for also achieving a total member gain.

Also, I want to thank the hardworking District 1 membership volunteers.

- **Jefferson County:** Lindsay Baneck, Larry Holzheuter, Libby Knoebel and Kendall Riskedal all signed one new member.
- **Kenosha County:** Tim Edquist and Kevin Muhlenbeck signed one new member.
- **Ozaukee County:** Becky Assmann and Kurt Schoessow signed one new member. Bob Nash and Neal Maciejewski signed two new members. Bob Roden signed three new members.
- **Racine County:** Jeff Rice and Keith Jacobson each signed one new member. Jim Waldron signed two new members.
- **Walworth County:** Terry Papcke signed five new members.
- **Washington County:** Ken Falk and George Muth signed two new members. Allen Dornacker signed three new members. Scott Schreffler signed five new members. Mike Strupp signed 10 new members.
- **Waukesha County:** Rob Schuett signed two new members. Lloyd Williams and Tom Oberhaus signed five new members. Jay Moore signed up 13 new members.

Anyone who signed more than five or more new members will be recognized at the WFBF Annual Meeting in the Farm Bureau Proud Club.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member. Each county decides the amount that will be charged for county dues. Here is a breakdown of District 1 counties and the yearly dues amount.

Where Can I Find My Membership Number?

For certain Farm Bureau member benefits, you may be asked to provide your Farm Bureau membership number. The following are ways to find your membership number:

- You can call the Farm Bureau office at 608.828.5575 or your District Coordinator Patti Wilhelme at 262.689.1838.
- On the mailing label of your Rural Route magazine. When you get your Rural Route, take note of the numbers above your name and address. The six digits is your membership number.
- Your membership number appears on your renewal notice and if you renew online, you need to enter your membership number.

If you want a membership card, we can provide you with one. The card has a space to write your name and membership number to keep in your wallet.

- **Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, Waukesha counties:** \$55
- **Walworth County:** \$58
- **Racine County:** \$60

Do you know where your dues go? Your dues are helping the state and county conduct programs and goes towards your membership to American Farm Bureau. Check out the listing of your dues amount below.

- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation = \$40
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Services Program = \$3
- American Farm Bureau Federation = \$5
- Accidental Death Policy = \$1
- County Farm Bureau = remaining amount between \$6-\$11

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau.

If you have questions about your membership dues, how to read your billing statement or if you know someone who wants to join Farm Bureau, please contact me at pwilhelme@wfbf.com.

101 Years Celebrated at Annual Meeting

By Melissa Gross, Jefferson County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer

Fifty-nine people were in attendance, which included 33 voting members, at the 101st Jefferson County Annual Meeting on Sept. 26 at Fairview Inn. The delicious dinner was catered by Hoggin' Cake.

Following dinner, the meeting began with a moment of silence for two prominent individuals who passed away recently: Dan Poulson and Vicki Raatz.

Voting members passed resolutions, elected directors and voted on delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Directors who have been elected to a three-year term included: Melissa Gross, John Morris, Tyler Troiola and Roger Zimmerman. Ashley Schlender was elected to a one-year term as Promotion and Education committee chair, and Lindsay Baneck has been elected to a one-year term as YFA committee chair.

Directors who retired from the board included: Bob Halser, Hope Kinderman and Sue Marx. We thank them for their years of service to the Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors.

Seven delegates also were elected to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Those elected were Dawn Jones, Steve Jones, Eugene Mess, Mary Mess, Randy Mitchell, Tony Schadt and Roger Zimmerman. Karen Schadt will attend as an alternate.

Following elections, the Service to Agriculture award was presented to Culver's of Johnson Creek, Lake Mills and Whitewater.

Sue Marx announced the scholarship recipients. Lindsay Baneck provided a history of the 100 years of Jefferson County Farm Bureau, followed by numerous other reports.

We had a great county annual meeting and are looking forward to the year ahead.



President Randy Mitchell led a great meeting.



Board members set up a very nice 100-year display.



Tony Schadt presented the resolutions.



Steve Jones presented the names for the election of directors and delegates, and gave the Insight FS report.



Executive Vice President and CEO of Rural Mutual Dan Merk attended the annual meeting and gave the report on behalf of Rural Mutual.



Representatives Barbara Dittrich (R-Oconomowoc) and William Penterman (R-Columbus) and Senator Stephen Nass (R-Whitewater) gave brief remarks.



Dave Daniels provided comments on behalf of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

AFBF Vice President Visits Jelli's Market

On Aug. 27, American Farm Bureau Vice President Scott VanderWal and his wife Michelle toured two local agricultural businesses.

The first tour was at Jelli's Market in Helenville and the second tour was at Crave Brothers in Waterloo.



Those who toured Jelli's Market included (from left): Jefferson County President Randy Mitchell, AFBF Vice President Scott VanderWal and his wife Michelle, WFBF President Kevin Krentz and his wife Holly, District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr., and those from Jelli's Market included Jody and Steve Knoebel and Lindsay Baneck.

Highlights of 100 Years of Jefferson County Farm Bureau

By Lindsay Banek, YFA Chair

During the county annual meeting, I talked about the highlights from the past 100 years. We hope you will enjoy learning a bit about Jefferson County Farm Bureau's 100-year history.

- Jefferson County Farm Bureau was documented on paper as being formed on July 27, 1920, with Mr. Ernst Nass as the first president.
- In 1969, Farm Bureau sold 973 cream puffs for 25 cents each at the Jefferson County Fair. In 2021, we sold 984 cream puffs for \$4 each.
- In 1958, Custard Pie contests were held in June, this was the beginning of Farm Bureau's Dairy Promotion activities.
- In August 1955, the Farm Bureau Association of Women sold American Flags to people because they believed there should be a greater display of patriotism among the people of our country.
- The Jefferson County Young Farmers Committee was formed in January of 1969 with James Erb as chairman, Norm Uglov as vice-chairman, Tim Dettmann as secretary/treasurer and Roger Anderson as chair of the program committee.
- Farm Bureau testified in court and successfully stopped the fraudulent sale of Epsom salts as a battery rejuvenator.
- Jefferson County Farm Bureau celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 27, 1971, at Hartwig's Gobbler in Johnson Creek.
- Howard (Dan) Poulson was elected President of the Wisconsin Young Farmer's Association in 1960, and later became the state Farm Bureau president. He was one of the most distinguished members from Jefferson County in its history.

- The first plat book was published from Farm Bureau in 1963 with Rockford Map Publishers.
- In 1956, the Women's Committee was formed.
- Vicki Raatz was the first (and only) women elected president of Jefferson County Farm Bureau in 1989 and held that position for many years to come.
- In 1956, there was a Cleaning Committee formed from the Women's Committee. This was in exchange for free rent for the meetings.
- In 1971, John Mathwig led a project to sell oranges and grapefruit from Florida in exchange for cheese from Wisconsin. Originally it was \$5.50 per carton.
- Kathy Cashmer became the state Farm Bureau Queen in 1983 and Dave and Jean Ward were the State Outstanding Young Farmers that same year.
- The Board of Directors approved the purchase of a building at the Fair Park for our food stand. It cost \$5,845.73 and included a fridge and freezer. The building was later taken back by the county fairgrounds.
- The first fourth-grade farm tours were given in 1994 and 700 students from the county attended the tour at St. Coletta's Farm in Jefferson.



Lindsay Banek presented Jefferson County Farm Bureau fun facts.

After 100 years, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau mission is the same, to be a voice for farmers and a vision for agriculture. Here's to another 100 years of Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

Service to Agriculture Awarded to Culver's

By Melissa Gross, Jefferson County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer



This year's Service to Agriculture Award goes to three local franchise restaurants in Jefferson County.

These family-friendly restaurants are known for their cooked-to-order butter burgers,

hand-crafted fresh frozen custard and Wisconsin cheese curds.

Besides serving quality food with great customer service, the Culver's in Johnson Creek, Lake Mills and Whitewater also are known for their support of Jefferson County agriculture.

Each of these restaurants have held numerous Scoopie Nights or Share Nights for their local FFA chapters and 4-H clubs.

I personally have had the privilege of working with the Johnson Creek Culver's with our 4-H Club promoting Wisconsin dairy with Culver's and Cows. They embraced the idea of having activities and calves in their parking lot along with a Scoopie night.



The Lake Mills Culver's also supports FFA chapters and 4-H clubs. Even this year with COVID, the Lake Mills Culver's welcomed our 4-H club to promote June Dairy Month with a share night and allowed us to hand out dairy bags and balloons.

Culver's in Whitewater also has supported the Palmyra Eagle FFA and local 4-H Clubs. These are some examples of their support locally.

On a larger scale, Culver's restaurants celebrate young agricultural leaders with their annual Scoops of Thanks Day fundraiser.

During this event, you receive a single scoop of fresh frozen custard in exchange for your \$1 donation to local FFA chapters or other local agricultural education organizations.

The Thank You Farmers Project is a way to thank the people who grow and raise our fresh, wholesome food, but at the same time is all about ensuring there's enough food to serve the growing population.

Culver's also is a proud sponsor of the Wisconsin Farm Discovery Center and Cows on the Concourse.

It is my pleasure to present the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Service to Agriculture Award to Culver's of Johnson Creek, Culver's of Lake Mills and Culver's of Whitewater.



The Culvers of Johnson Creek was in attendance at the meeting to receive their award.

Float Makes It to Numerous Parades

This summer, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau float made it to numerous parades.

Roger Zimmerman pulled the float with his truck in the Lake Mills Town and Country Days parade in June. Tony Schadt was in the Watertown Fourth of July parade with the float. Randy Mitchell pulled the float in the Ixonia Town and Country Days parade. In September, Steve Knoebel pulled the float in the Gemuetlichkeit Days parade.

Watch for us in parades again next summer.



Steve Knoebel enjoyed pulling the float.



People lined the streets for the Town and Country Days parade.



There was perfect weather for the Watertown Fourth of July parade.



Waving to those watching the parade.

Thank You Fair Volunteers

By Mary Mess, Food Stand Committee Chair

Thanks to those who helped make the fair stand a success. The money is used for scholarships. We sold more than 82 dozen cream puffs, on those cream puffs we used 138 quarts of cream. We also sold 24 three-gallon containers of vanilla ice cream, 13 three-gallon containers of chocolate ice cream, 80 gallons of chocolate milk, 25 gallons of white milk and 100 pounds of strawberries from Jelli's Market.

If you want to get in on the fun, keep next July open for the county fair. Watch the newsletter next May for signing up to work.

Thanks again, many hands make light work.



Melissa Gross serving hot fudge sundaes.



Ready to serve cream puffs, ice cream and milk.



Fair Royalty cream puff eating contest.



Lindsay Baneck and Michaela Slind volunteered during the fair.

Jefferson County Board of Directors

After the Jefferson County annual meeting, the board of directors held their re-organizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Randy Mitchell, President
- Tony Schadt, Vice President
- Melissa Gross, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Insight FS office in Jefferson. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President Randy Mitchell at 414.899.4822.



The Jefferson County board of directors, front row (from left): Tony Schadt, Melissa Gross and Randy Mitchell; middle row (from left): Sue Andersen, Ashley Schlender, Lindsay Baneck and Dawn Jones; back row (from left): Tyler Troiola, Steve Knoebel, Scott Schultz, Eugene Mess and Steve Jones; not pictured John Morris and Roger Zimmerman.

Sheriff Beth Speaks at County Annual Meeting

By Kim Muhlenbeck, Promotion and Education Committee Chair

The 100th Kenosha County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 21 at Birchwood Grill. There were 19 attendees, 13 voting members, who enjoyed hearing from Sheriff David Beth and other reports.

Voting members voted on two local resolutions, four state resolutions and one national resolution. All the resolutions passed and will be forwarded on to the local, state and national levels for consideration.

Voting members also voted on the board of directors and delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting. Ben Harbach and Wes Hawkins were elected to three-year terms on the board of directors. I was elected to a one-year

term as Promotion and Education chair and Greg Springer was elected to a one-year term as YFA chair. Those elected to be delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting included Tim Edquist and Kevin Muhlenbeck.

Guest speaker Sheriff Beth talked about the civil unrest and riots in Kenosha County last year. They had 1,800 National Guard in the county during that time. On the third night they had U.S. Marshals and FBI in the county, a total of 3,000 people helping and working together with local, state and federal officials was key to saving Kenosha County.

Reports were heard from Dave Daniels from Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Graig Beckstrand from Rural Mutual.

Overall, a great annual meeting.



A great crowd at the annual meeting.



Guest Speaker Sheriff David Beth talked about the civil unrest and riots.



District 1 Director Dave Daniels gave his report.



Rural Mutual District Agency Manager Graig Beckstrand provided a report.

Kenosha County Board of Directors

Following the Kenosha County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their re-organizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Kevin Muhlenbeck, President
- Tim Edquist, Vice President
- Dan Kevek, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President Kevin Muhlenbeck at 262.206.4140.



The board of directors include (from left): Dan Kevek, Tim Edquist, Kevin Muhlenbeck, Kim Muhlenbeck and Wes Hawkins; not pictured Ben Harbach and Greg Springer.

Kenosha County Sponsored Golfers



Kenosha County Farm Bureau, along with Dave and Kim Daniels, sponsored a team at the Ag Open. Those who golfed on the team included: Sam Hawkins, Dave Daniels, Maxx Daniels and Dirk Daniels.

Milwaukee County

wfbf.com/about/counties/milwaukee

County Annual Meeting Held at Benny's Café

By Patti Wilhelme, District 1 Coordinator

Nine members and guests attended the Milwaukee County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at Benny's Café on Sept. 13.

District 1 Director Dave Daniels reported on behalf of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. He mentioned that the WFBF Annual Meeting will be in-person at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in December.

He also talked about the Leaders of the Land: A State Sustainability Series tours that were held throughout the state.

District 1 Coordinator Patti Wilhelme congratulated the county on achieving a voting gain in membership. She mentioned the Ag in the Classroom book of the year and essay contest.

District Agency Manager Ken Bosman mentioned that Rural Mutual received an A+ rating from AM Best for the fourth consecutive year. For 13 consecutive years Rural Mutual also is a Ward's Top 50 insurance company.

Rural Mutual did refund auto policies during the pandemic, a special dividend was given to policy holders, along with the farm dividend to farm policy holders.

Voting members elected the directors and officers, along with the delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

We hope that more of you will join the annual meeting next September.

Farm Bureau Is Here to Help

By Henry Kiesow, Milwaukee County Vice President

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau meets quarterly and invites you to attend upcoming board meetings. The board of directors will help you.

Do you have thoughts on Farm Bureau policy? Or do you need help from the Farm Bureau at a town board meeting? These are things your local Farm Bureau can help with.

If you need help from an agriculture organization, or want to be more involved, please contact me at 414.732.7242.

Milwaukee County Board of Directors

During the Milwaukee County Annual Meeting, the following board members were elected:

- Scott Ninnemann, President
- Henry Kiesow, Vice President
- John Napientek, Secretary and Treasurer
- Elroy Honadel, Board of Director

The board meets quarterly. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President Scott Ninnemann at 414.617.2960.

Racine County

wfbf.com/about/counties/racine
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Success of Past Year Celebrated at County Annual Meeting

By Jim Hanson, Racine County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer

Racine County Farm Bureau held the 74th county annual meeting on Sept. 14 at River City Lanes in Waterford.

During dinner we enjoyed a pictorial review of some of the events of the past year. After the dinner buffet, President John Scott led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed members and guests.

The business meeting followed, including resolutions and elections. The resolutions were presented by Keith Jacobson, all the resolutions passed.

Scott Davel ran the election of the board of directors and delegates. Those elected to the board for three-year terms included: Scott Davel, Keith Jacobson and Brian Schaal. Judy Uhlenhake was elected for a one-year term as Promotion and Education chair and Kayla Wilson was elected YFA chair.

Those elected to be delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting included Tim Schmidt, Judy Uhlenhake and Kayla Wilson. They will attend the WFBF Annual Meeting on Dec. 4-6 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

Jeff Rice reported on a successful year for the cream puff stand at the

county fair. He thanked everyone for their help.

Promotion and Education Chair Judy Uhlenhake reported on library grants and introduced Abbie Hammer as the new Ag Ambassador. Abbie is excited to tell the story of Wisconsin agriculture. Judy encouraged members to spread the word about scholarship opportunities available to Farm Bureau families.

District 1 Director Dave Daniels spoke of some of the issues and opportunities Wisconsin Farm Bureau is working on. He highlighted two new email tools, Ag Newswire and Policy Pulse, to keep members up to date on issues. Also, new this year were in-person tours in each district of the state, highlighting the diversity and sustainability of Wisconsin agriculture. You can check out the tours on the WFBF website.

Graig Beckstrand gave the Rural Mutual Insurance report, giving special mention to the farm dividends paid out to policy holders and community support spearheaded by Rural Mutual agents throughout Wisconsin.

Kevin Malchine, GROWMARK board member, gave the Conserv FS report. He thanked members for their patronage and said it was a good year. GROWMARK is seeking a general manager.

Adjournment and door prizes concluded this year's Racine County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



President John Scott led a great meeting.



Attendees enjoyed the meeting.



Kevin Malchine reported on behalf of Conserv FS.



Abbie Hammer, 2021-2022 Agricultural Ambassador, enjoyed meeting new people.



Jeff Rice talked about the cream puff stand.



Scott Davel ran the election.

Ag Ambassador Excited to Showcase Ag

By Abbie Hammer, 2021-2022 Agricultural Ambassador

Hello! My name is Abbie Hammer and I'm the 2021-2022 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador. I'm extremely honored and grateful to have been selected for this position so I can showcase the importance of agriculture in our society.

Although I do not live on a farm, I have an extremely strong background in 4-H (youth member and now an adult leader), and I enjoy helping on my family friend's farms. Because I do not live on a farm, I'm looking forward to bringing a new point of view to the Ag Ambassador

position as I'm more of a consumer of agriculture products than a producer.

Currently, I'm a fourth-year student at UW-Whitewater where I'm studying special education. I am so excited for where the position of Agriculture Ambassador will take me and for the wonderful experiences it will bring me.

Follow my journey and invite your friends to 'Like' and follow me on the Racine County Agriculture Ambassador Facebook Page @racinecountyag.



Thank You Fair Volunteers

Thank you to the fair volunteers for helping in the cream puff stand.



Racine County Board of Directors

Following the Racine County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their re-organizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- John Scott, President
- Jim Waldron, Vice President
- Jim Hanson, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the second Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President John Scott at 262.994.4324.



Board members include, front row (from left): Judy Uhlenhake, Jim Waldron and Jim Hanson; back row (from left): Keith Jacobson, Brian Schaal, Jeff Rice, Scott Davel, Kayla Wilson and John Scott.

Adopt-A-Highway Brings Young Farmers Together

By Kayla Wilson, YFA Chair

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee is participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program and is responsible for litter control on Highway K from Gunderson Road to Highway S.



We are committed to picking up litter on this road at least three times per year between April 1 and Nov. 1. If you want to help, please contact me at 262.208.6401.

Team of Four Golfed at Wisconsin Ag Open

By Jim Hanson, Racine County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer

Racine County Farm Bureau sponsored four golfers to participate in the Ag Open at the Oaks Golf Club on Sept. 14.

Kevin and Kelly Malchine, Al Jaspersen and Jim Hanson made up the fearsome foursome in the annual Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation fundraiser.

More than 100 golfers participated.



Jim Hanson, Al Jaspersen, Kelly and Kevin Malchine enjoyed the day on the golf course.

Members and Fair Volunteers Gather at County Annual Meeting

By Ken Falk, Washington County Farm Bureau Secretary and Treasurer

Washington County Farm Bureau members and fair volunteers gathered at the 78th Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Sept. 30 at The Columbian. There were 130 people in attendance.

Voting members voted on local, state and national resolutions, along with the board of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Those who have been elected to the board of directors include John Falk, Mike Kannenberg, Peter Muth, Barbara Schulz Kluever and Mark Schaefer Jr.

Delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting include Ken Falk, Barbara Schulz Kluever, Peter Muth, Randy Thull and Carl Wolf.

Mariann Gundrum introduced the top three essay contest winners and

they each read their winning essay. She also announced the 2022 essay contest theme and book of the year.

The 31st Friend of Agriculture Award was presented to Doug Hein. Mike Strupp presented membership awards and the fair food stand report.

Other reports were given by the following: District 1 Director Dave Daniels, WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Kannel, District 1 YFA Committee member Bob Nash and Rural Mutual district Agency Manager Ken Bosman.

Attendees also heard from County Executive Josh Schoemann who thanked farmers for the work that they do. Additionally, Senator Duey Stroebel and Representative Gundrum were given a few minutes to speak.

We have one of the largest county annual meetings in the state and are proud of our members and fair volunteers.



1. President Peter Muth ran the meeting. 2. Vice President Randy Thull led the resolutions portion of the evening. 3. Mike Kannenberg led the election. 4. Mariann Gundrum introduced the essay contest winners. 5. Mike Strupp presented membership awards and gave the fair report. 6. Josh Schoemann, County Executive, talked about his relationship with the agriculture community.

Very Successful Fair Food Stand

By Mike Strupp, Food Stand Committee Co-Chair

With nice weather throughout the fair, we had a very successful fair. I am thankful for the turnout of volunteers, which made everything run smoothly.

Thank you to Mariann Gundrum and her daughter Pam for organizing the daily schedules; to the shift leaders and committee members for volunteering their time during the fair; to my co-chair, Bill Hinckley, for putting in many hours.

While we downsized our menu, we still served 800 grilled cheese sandwiches, 4,880 quarter pound hamburgers, 1,296 cream puffs and 1,875 ice cream sundaes.

Again, thank you for your help. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Doug Hein Receives Friend of Agriculture Award

By Randy Thull, Washington County Farm Bureau Vice President

I was honored to present the Friend of Agriculture Award to someone who has helped many farmers, and someone who was always willing to go the extra mile for agriculture.

Doug Hein has always supported agriculture through his involvement with the Washington County Fair Park Board. He also was a part of the Washington County Dairy Committee and past member of the Washington County Dairy Breakfast on the Farm Committee. He, along with those that he worked with, coordinated and served ice cream at the Washington County Breakfast on the Farm. He coordinates and treasurers the Market Animal Sale at the Washington County Fair. He was past treasurer for the Village of Newburg and from October 1989 until April 2021, he was an ag lender at the State Bank of Newburg.

Please help me in congratulating the 31st Friend of Agriculture Award winner, Doug Hein.



Randy Thull presented Doug Hein with his award.

Washington County Board of Directors

Following the Washington County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their re-organizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Peter Muth, President
- Randy Thull, Vice President
- Ken Falk, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the fourth Thursday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President Peter Muth at 262.689.2536.



Washington County Board of Directors include: front row (from left): Ken Falk, Peter Muth and Randy Thull; middle row (from left): Barbara Schulz Kluever, Mike Kannenberg, George Muth, Carl Wolf and John Falk; back row (from left): Mark Schaefer, Tyler Hetebrueg and Mark Schaefer Jr.

Two Scholarships Awarded

By Ken Falk, Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to the 2021 Farm Bureau scholarship award recipients. Each award recipient is entitled to \$750 after their fall semester and all scholarship requirements are met. Congratulations to this year's

scholarship award recipients: Macy Ragsdale attending UW-River Falls and Emily Gehring attending Moraine Park Technical College.

If you are a high school senior or college student looking for scholarships, watch your newsletter for next year's scholarship application due in April.

Waukesha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha
WaukeshaCountyFarmBureau

Annual Meeting Celebrates Success

By Ryan Brueggemann, Waukesha County Farm Bureau Secretary

One-hundred and two years were celebrated at the Waukesha County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Sept. 12 at the Delafield Brewhaus. Thirty-seven attendees enjoyed a delicious meal and meeting. The meeting started with a moment of silence for Dave Bartholomew, Jim McCarthy and Dan Poulson.

Voting members passed resolutions, elected directors and elected delegates to the state annual meeting. Those who were elected to a two-year term on the board included: Sean

Beres, Dan Downing, Dave Morris, Charlie Oberhaus, Tom Oberhaus, Jim Renn, Ken Rosenow and Dave Swan. Two one-year terms were elected on and include Promotion and Education chair Jay Moore and Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair Brittany Renn.

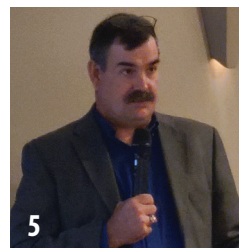
Delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting will be Ryan Brueggemann, Jane Craig, Tom Oberhaus and Jim Renn.

The guest speaker was WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships Rachel Gerbitz who talked about her role with Farm Bureau and sustainability.



We also heard from District 1 Director Dave Daniels along with WFBF President Kevin Krentz, Dasha Schopen from Rural Mutual and Jeff Mallow from Insight FS.

Overall, we had a great annual meeting and we look forward to seeing you again next year's county annual meeting.



1. The guest speaker Rachel Gerbitz. 2. WFBF President Kevin Krentz spoke at the meeting. 3. President Tom Oberhaus led a great meeting. 4. Insight FS Board President Jeff Mallow gave the Insight FS report. 5. Jim Renn presented the resolutions. 6. Ryan Brueggemann ran the election.

Waukesha County Board of Directors

Following the Waukesha County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their re-organizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Tom Oberhaus, President
- Jim Renn, Vice President
- Ryan Brueggemann, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the first Thursday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, please contact President Tom Oberhaus at 262.337.1386.



The board of directors include (from left); Charlie Oberhaus, Ron Williams, Dave Swan, Ryan Brueggemann, Jane Craig, Scott Porter, Chris Mommaerts, Dave Morris, Dan Downing, Bob Stigler, Brittany Renn, Jim Renn, Tom Oberhaus and Sean Beres; not pictured include Jay Moore, Ken Rosenow, Rob Schuett and Tony Weber.

Scholarships Announced

By Ken Rosenow, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau Scholarship committee was pleased to be able to award scholarships to several very outstanding students in 2021.

Those who will receive the scholarship include Amara Bugenhagen, Katharine Bugenhagen, James Dowd, Brianna Jones and Emily Udulutch.

These outstanding students will be receiving their awards after we receive their fall semester grades. The future of agriculture looks very good with this group of tomorrow's agriculture leaders, all coming from our own Waukesha County.

If you see any of these students make sure to congratulate them on their commendable achievement!

Look for information on next year's scholarships in upcoming newsletters, our county Facebook page and the website.



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