

# Grassroots

## District 2 News

### District 2 Director Report



**Arch Morton Jr.**

WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again, fellow Farm Bureau member.

As I write this on Oct. 4, we are in the middle of harvest season. Today is a rainy and cloudy day, so I thought I'd get this

written ahead of time. Things have been going well so far with mostly warm and dry conditions. Yields are much higher than expected considering the lack of rain during the summer. I hope your harvest went well, too.

With all of the District 2 county annual meetings in the books, I want to congratulate all six counties on a great job of planning and conducting those meetings. It was my pleasure to attend and participate in all of them. The food and the programs were excellent. I especially liked how each annual meeting involved many members with their own roles. It's great to see that much participation.

Also, it's nice to see many events getting back close to normal. This summer most county fairs, dairy breakfasts and many other events were held again, after a year off because of the pandemic. It's great to see people and do more things in-person again.

I really enjoyed the county and district Farm Bureau events and meetings. We had some very successful District 2 events in the past few months. Our YFA Discussion Meet and Policy Development meeting were very well attended. The District 2 Golf Outing also was a huge success. I really appreciate how well the members of District 2 work together and have fun together.

I want to congratulate and thank Emily Johnson (Rock County) for serving as the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Chair this year. Emily's year representing the YFA on the WFBF Board of Directors concludes in December. Great job, Emily. It's been our pleasure having you on the board with us.

Happy harvest. Stay safe. See you soon.

### YFA Contests, Conference and Serving as Chair



**Emily Johnson**

District 2 Representative and WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

The YFA contests recognize individuals on his or her accomplishments in the agriculture industry.

The District 2 Discussion Meet was held on Aug. 2 at Creekside Place in Evansville. The top three finalists selected to move on to the competition at the YFA Conference are Paige Blair (Green County), Brooke Trustem (Rock County) and Scott Timm (Green County).

Congratulations and good luck. District 2 has a finalist in the

Excellence in Ag contest. Congratulations to Julie Sweney (Dodge County).

I am looking forward to meeting more of you at the 102<sup>nd</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference held on Dec. 3-6. The YFA Conference is going to be one that you don't want to miss. Friday night, YFA has 'Gone Country,' with a 90s country-themed night.

Saturday, the Discussion Meets and Excellence in Ag presentations will be happening along with a great line up of workshops. If you have any questions about the YFA or the conference, please contact me.

2021 marks my last year on the YFA Committee. It has been a great and fast three years. I have enjoyed being on the committee, serving as the Chair and on the WFBF Board of Directors.

It has been an honor to serve you for the last three years. Thank you for all that you do as Farm Bureau members.

Congratulations to my friends Kat and Brady Peper who will represent District 2 for the next three years.



**District 2 YFA Discussion Meet participants included Paige Blair (Green County), Scott Timm (Green County), Brooke Trustem (Rock County) and Logan Frei (Rock County).**

### Current Issues Discussed During Policy Meeting

**Josh Schenk**

District Policy Development Representative

On Aug. 2, District 2 Farm Bureau members gathered in Evansville to discuss current issues and policy affecting farmers.

A variety of topics were discussed including state water quality and DNR's role, Tractor Safety Education Program updates and the NR 243 Animal Feeding Operations permit process staffing needs. Additionally, the group discussed a desire to have solar projects using productive farmland to be left to individual farmer decision and additional concern of inconsistent solar project contract prices.

## Golf Outing Fundraiser Success

By Sam Skemp, Chair

I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on the outcome of our District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser for this past year.

Before I get into the details of our activities, I want to remind you how the funds are used.

The profits from this fundraiser are divided up between the District 2 counties based on their participation in the event. For the most part, the funds raised are used for college student scholarships, Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA Program),

materials for farm safety demonstrations, agriculture promotions, Legislative and Local Affairs Committee activities, etc.

The event took place on Aug. 10 at The Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove.

We were challenged with a very hot day and high heat index but overall a fun time was had by all. There were hole events, 50/50 raffle, silent auction prizes, ball toss and a putting contest.

The outing was a best ball event with a lunch served on the course followed by a buffet of snacks during the program that followed golf.

We raised a little more than \$7,500 at this event and as stated earlier, the funds are divided up based on county participation.

The District 2 Fundraising Committee wants to thank those who participated in our fundraising events. Whether it was helping with the events, contributing prizes for the raffles and silent auctions or being a hole or lunch sponsor. We couldn't have accomplished everything without your support.

One last thing, make sure you keep an eye out for details on next year's event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



**The winning team included: Rural Mutual District Managers and Agents who cover Farm Bureau District 2 counties: Kurt Johnson, Darrin Pulsfus, Jason Bender and Graig Beckstrand (not pictured).**



**Participants enjoyed the ball toss contest.**



**The silent auction helped counties raise money to support local programs and give back to youth.**



## Glenn 'GT' Thompson Visits Wisconsin

By Ben Huber, Green County Farm Bureau Board Director

This past July several members of Wisconsin Farm Bureau had the opportunity to meet with U.S. Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson in Wisconsin.

GT is from Pennsylvania and serves as the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee. The day started with members from Wisconsin ag industry groups asking questions and discussing the legislative priorities at the state and national levels.

Our conversations centered around labor challenges and strategies being deployed to minimize issues with the H2A program. We also discussed hemp regulation, supply chain challenges affecting farmers and consumers, as well as broadband expansion and its impact on the vitality of rural communities.

We continued our discussion at Uphoff Ham and Bacon where the conversation shifted to farmer-led watersheds and conservation efforts being made by farmers across Wisconsin. The proactive approach farmers are taking to steward land and water resources were heard loud and clear, and GT engaged in meaningful conversation with all in attendance.

We spent time walking across a wheat field and looking at low



**(from left): Doug Rebout (Rock County), Jayne Nakielski (Columbia County), Congressman Glenn Thompson and Ben Huber (Green County).**

disturbance manure applications, talked about the positive and negative aspects of reduced tillage systems, and answered GT's questions about how legislative decisions impact farmers.

GT's visit and giving WFBF members the opportunity to talk about ag issues with a high-ranking federal legislator are prime examples of the influence Farm Bureau has within the legislative community.

I am thankful for the opportunity offered by WFBF, and certainly thank GT for his time. Events like these are a great example of what Wisconsin Farm Bureau is doing for their members.

## WFBF Leadership Institute Experience

By Tess Zettle, Green County Participant

The WFBF Leadership Institute had its first in-person session on Sept. 9-10. The group met at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

We started off with meeting everyone and recapping what we had done in the past sessions. Next, we discussed what we have learned so far in the program and what would be helpful to us in the next few days. We had a brief lunch and spent the afternoon discussing policy development with Steve Boe and Tyler Wenzlaff. Steve went through the process of how policy comes to be. He also discussed why it is important to vote on matters at the county and state levels.

Friday morning kicked off with breakfast and getting ready for our mock public hearing. We gave our testimony in front of our respective group (county board or school board).

Half of the class had the topic of changes to agriculture zoned areas to allow for agri-tourism businesses, and the other half had a school board



WFBF Leadership Institute participants enjoyed an interactive activity.

proposal to go to a plant-based protein school menu. It was interesting to see how we prepared and what direction we took on the topics.

Thank you to Steve Boe and Tyler Wenzlaff. They took time to shed light on very important topics and what we as leaders in agriculture can do moving forward to take action. In addition, they explained what they do every day for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

## Dane County

[wfbf.com/about/counties/dane](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/dane)  
DaneCountyFarmBureau

## Annual Meeting Highlights Book Author, Business and Fundraiser

By Scott Eastwood, Annual Meeting Co-Chair

On Sept. 9, the Dane County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. This free event for our members was attended by 51 people, of which 33 were voting members.

Exactly \$1,000 was raised through the silent auction and 50/50 raffle. We want to thank those who donated to the auction as these funds will be used for youth scholarships and ag programs.

### New Officer Elections

This year, there were three open seats on the board of directors. Of the three directors who had served three-year terms, Scott Eastwood and Tom Jelinek successfully ran for re-election to serve another term. The third director up for re-election, Dennis Jesberger was not able to secure enough votes to remain on the board. We want to take a moment to thank Dennis for his contributions to the WFBF and Dane County Farm Bureau. Even though he will no longer be a director we sincerely hope Dennis stays active with the Dane County Farm Bureau. Replacing Dennis will be Pat Canales. Welcome to the board, Pat.

### WFBF Annual Meeting Delegates

Ten delegates and two alternates were chosen to represent the Dane County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting held at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 3-6.

### Adoption of Policy Resolutions and Bylaw Changes

All policy resolutions and bylaw changes were moved for adoption and passed.

### State Policy Resolutions

We support a comprehensive review of NR 243 Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) in order



Chuck Ripp addressed a policy resolution proposed during the annual meeting.

to support current agriculture efforts to protect land and water resources based on today's agricultural technology and practices. *Natural Resources and The Environment – CAFO*

### Friend of Agriculture Award

I had the honor of presenting longtime board member Keith Engel with the 2021 Friend of Agriculture Award in recognition for his contributions to WFBF and Dane County Farm Bureau. Well deserved, Keith.



Keith Engel was presented with the Dane County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture award by president Tom Jelinek and Scott Eastwood.

### Guest Speaker

Attendees had the opportunity to hear Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman and president of Holstein USA, give a memorable presentation about current events in the dairy industry as well as share several stories from his new book "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."



Corey Geiger gave a presentation about current events in the dairy industry.

### In remembrance

As some of you may know, Rex Endres, owner of Rex's Innkeeper, passed away earlier this year. Rex was a tremendous supporter of the Dane County Farm Bureau and an outstanding partner to assist us with hosting events. You will be missed Rex.

Have a wonderful and safe harvest. We look forward to seeing you at the 2022 county annual meeting.

## A Message From The President



**Tom Jelinek**

Dane County Farm Bureau President

The last two years have proven to be quite a challenge for Dane County Farm Bureau. As a board, we have learned to meet virtually. It has proven to not always be the best, but we shall continue to move forward.

We did get to hold our annual scavenger hunt at the fair this past July. It was a huge success. People really responded to the challenging questions and gathered in an immense amount of knowledge about modern day agriculture.

The Young Farmer and Agriculturists held a joint function with Columbia County Young Farmers and Agriculturists. They had a great time at the Mallards Baseball game. We hope this will be the start of many outings in the future.

I want to thank Dennis Jesberger for his years of serve on the Dane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

In closing, we need to be ever mindful of what our elected officials are trying to pass as laws. We need to remind them that they work for us, not the other way around. I am calling all Farm Bureau members to get involved and stay involved.

Thank you.

## Meet: Pat Canales, Your New Board Director



I was born and raised in Portage, and grew up working on local dairy farms. After high school I spent six years in the U.S. Army.

After returning to Wisconsin, I worked at Alcvia Co-Op (formerly Landmark Services Co-Op) as an applicator. I am now in

agronomy sales based in Cottage Grove.

My wife Rachel and I are starting to do some grain farming and although I am just beginning my journey with the Dane County Farm Bureau, I look forward to continuing to promote the farming and agricultural industry to others.

## Summer Ag Promotions Update

By Lindsey Hellenbrand and Sarah Shimshak, Ag Promotion Co-Chairs

The Ag Promotions Committee was excited to get back out to events and interacting with consumers again this summer.

Dane County Farm Bureau was excited to be back at the Dane County Fair again this year, where we sponsored the Learning Lanes and exhibitor educational grants. We awarded five groups of 4-Hers from three clubs grants to create educational displays. We also hosted a scavenger hunt with questions from these displays and others, with a sweet reward of a cream puff or cheese curds, graciously sponsored by the Stoughton FFA Alumni stand. We enjoyed educating families about agriculture.

In August, we attended the Dane County Breakfast on the Farm at Hinchley's Dairy where we interacted with visitors by testing their agriculture trivia with the 'dairy dice.'

Committee members also were active at the Lodi Agriculture Fair during Labor Day weekend, volunteering around the fair and organizing the Barnyard Babies tent.

We are excited to continue our ag promotions efforts this fall and winter, with a goal to host our third annual milk and cookies with Santa event in December – watch the Facebook page for more information.



Ag Promotions Committee members attended the Dane County Breakfast on the Farm.

## YFA Tour and Madison Mallards Game

By Kadi Walsh, YFA Chair

In July, Dane County YFA teamed up with Columbia County for a tour of Lodi Canning Company and a night at the Madison Mallards' Duck Pond.

We had a great turn out of new, current and prospective members from Dane, Columbia and other surrounding counties.

The event kicked off with a tour of the receiving, production and storage areas at Lodi Canning Company. We are grateful to Lodi Canning Company for taking the time to show us around and answer questions about the overall production and canning process, the rich history and the future goals of the business.

After the tour, we headed to the Duck Pond for dinner, socializing and Madison Mallards baseball. Despite the Mallards' loss, it was a great evening for making new friends, catching up with old ones and relaxing at the ballpark.

I want to thank those who came to the event and I look forward to our next.



Dane County YFA teamed up with Columbia County for a tour at Lodi Canning Company.



Despite the Mallards' loss, it was a great evening for making new friends, catching up with old ones and relaxing at the ballpark.

## Ag in the Classroom Report

By Alissa Grenawalt, Ag in the Classroom Program Coordinator

### Dane County Tractor Safety Program

Dane County successfully completed a summer tractor safety program that reached 20 youth from Dane, Rock, Walworth, Sauk, Dodge and Jefferson counties.

This program was conducted as a pilot through UW-Madison to offer the curriculum content through online learning while conducting the drives in person.

Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors including: Cheryl Skjolaas, UW-Madison agriculture and safety specialist; Mike Duerst, Dane County Farm Bureau volunteer; Stoughton Fairgrounds; Ziegler Ag Equipment, Will VanderKooi; Johnson Tractor, Janesville; Jason Douglas, volunteer; Adam Travis, volunteer; Dan Ziegler, volunteer; Dane County Farm Bureau; Midwest Farm Report; UW-Extension Dane County.



Dane County completed a summer tractor safety program.

### 2021 Book of the Year Announced "Popcorn Country" by Cris Peterson

A great opportunity for Dane County fourth- and fifth-grade students. Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest, and each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that teachers, volunteers and homeschool parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture.

For your support of the Dane County Tractor and Machinery Safety Program. We had 20 youth participate from 5 counties that successfully completed this years course because of your efforts. Whether it was by teaching a session, helping at the practice or final drives, providing equipment or donating to the cause you have helped make a difference in a young person's life in becoming a safer equipment operator!

Sincerely,  
*Alissa Grenawalt*  
Ag in the Classroom Program Coordinator  
Dane County Extension

Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON  
DANE COUNTY

WISCONSIN  
AG

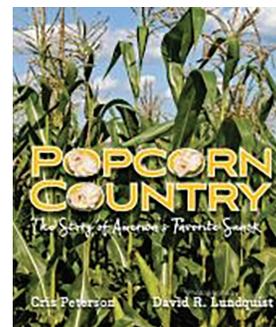
### 2021-2022 Essay Contest Topic

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

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

For essay contest information, visit wisagclassroom.org.

Deadline for the essay contest is **Apr. 1, 2022.**



## A Message From The President



**Josh Schenk**  
Green County Farm Bureau President

Over the course of the past year, we have seen significant changes occur across the industry of agriculture.

Farm Bureau continues to play a key role in leading conversations across the state and nation that will shape agriculture for the future. As members, the course of agriculture is our decision,

and with your contribution and involvement we each have the opportunity to be a part of the discussion.

A look back at the recent state of agriculture and where we are today provides a humbling acknowledgment of our challenges and proud recognition of our victories.

Our creativity and dedication as farmers can often be overlooked yet is the very reason our passion for agriculture is so great. Thank you each for all you do as farmers and agriculturists to keep our industry and community strong.

As president, I look forward to the future of agriculture and working to keep Green County Farm Bureau relevant today and prepared to lead into the future. Most importantly I thank you each as members of the Green County Farm Bureau for your past, present and future contributions.

The many hours volunteered and donations made throughout the years do not go unrecognized.

## Meet: John Dieckhoff, Board of Director



Hi, my name is John Dieckhoff and I was recently elected to be a part of the Green County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

My wife, Deb, and I live on a farm between Brodhead and Juda, where we dairy farmed for more than 20 years.

Currently, we rent most of the tillable acres, rent the buildings to our son Joel, with some help from our daughter Danielle, for custom heifer raising, while Deb and I

work at Klondike Cheese Company in Monroe.

In addition to all of this, I'm president of the Green County Fair Board and chair of the Green County Drainage Board.

While I was on the Green County Farm Bureau Board several years ago, I'm excited to return with a little different perspective on the issues of today.

Green County Farm Bureau has done a great job getting younger people involved, and I look forward to sharing my experiences and learning different skills while we address the issues that come before us.

## Annual Meeting Speakers Highlight Prescribing Creativity and Carbon Credits

By Josh Schenk, President

On Aug. 25, Green County Farm Bureau members and guests gathered at Koning Maple Lane Event Center in Monroe for their annual meeting.

WFBF President Kevin Krentz shared Farm Bureau highlights and challenges and encouraged members to celebrate our successes. Rural Mutual Insurance Company Executive VP and CEO Dan Merk provided an update of his 2.5 years as CEO, Rural Mutual giving back to the community and reported on Rural Mutual's support of the WIAA and partnering with the Green Bay Packer radio network. District 2 Director Arch Morton Jr. shared virtual events, highlights from the past year, and encouraged members to be involved in local affairs and town boards.

Special guest speakers offered great knowledge and interactive participation with members. Dr. Lara Salyer gave a presentation on 'Prescribing Creativity: Re-ignite your creative flow so you can thrive in

an uncertain world' and Insight FS Agronomy Department Manager Ben Huber provided an educational overview of carbon credits in agriculture.

Additional highlights included recognition of essay and coloring contest winners, thanking retiring director Brianna Hurley for her years of service, and presentation of the 2021 Friend of Agriculture award to Dustin Williams for his service to Green County Farm Bureau and continued leadership of Ag Education at Blackhawk Technical College.

Following discussion, members voted in favor of two policy resolutions to be included at the WFBF Annual Meeting: 1. We support prioritizing solar energy projects on existing infrastructure and 2. We oppose utilizing productive farmland for solar energy projects.

Members elected Ben Huber, Dustin Williams and John Dieckhoff to serve a three-year term as directors.

The evening was filled with conversation and company shared by longtime and new members alike.



**1. Second place essay contest winner Dalia Williams read her essay. 2. Josh Schenk presented the Friend of Agriculture award to Dustin Williams. 3. The silent auction raised money to support programs and youth. 4. Tess Zettle presented Dalia Williams with a plaque for the essay contest and Ivy Flannery received a coloring contest award. 5. Ben Huber provided an overview of carbon credits in agriculture. 6. Dr. Lara Salyer gave a presentation on 'Prescribing Creativity: Re-ignite your creative flow so you can thrive in an uncertain world.' 7. President Josh Schenk and Vice President Paige Blair led the meeting.**

## Farm Bureau Member Feature: Meet Sarah Sacker



I grew up near Monroe on my parent's dairy farm that my husband, Josh Schenk, and I now manage. After high school, I earned degrees in Dairy Science and Life Sciences Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2011. After college, I worked in ag marketing for several years before transitioning to working on the farm full-time. My responsibilities on the farm consist of managing calves, reproduction, herd health and feeding. Together with my

husband, we make crop and nutrition decisions. My favorite part about farming is being able to work outside with livestock and the diversity in the job. I don't especially enjoy officework and farming allows me to enjoy the seasons and the beauty of mother nature. While there are the everyday jobs that need to be done, different challenges and tasks pop up every day and change with the season.

This past spring I started a business called Lost Cow Flowers, where I grow and sell fresh cut flowers, bouquets, and subscriptions. As my pilot year, I started out small but was happy with the community response. I'll be opening bouquet subscriptions for next year soon so that they are available through the holiday season for purchase. Next year I'd like to focus more on sales to florists and on dahlias in particular. I've always enjoyed gardening, but I really love the process of starting seeds, nurturing them and being rewarded with the end result. It has been very rewarding to share locally

grown flowers with others. Most people don't realize that about 75% of flowers that consumers purchase commercially are imported from outside of the US. The benefits of local flowers is that they are fresher, so will have a longer product life for the end customer, and also many flowers do not ship well so variety can be limited. For more details, check out the Facebook page Lost Cow Flowers.

I joined Farm Bureau my senior year of college. I was actively involved in ag organizations on campus and wanted to find a way to stay involved in the industry once I graduated. Farm Bureau provides an easy way to connect with other farmers and agriculturalists, which I think is important as farming can be very isolating at times. One of my favorite experiences through Farm Bureau was the Leadership Institute, more specifically our trip to Washington DC. Often, it seems like agriculture and everyday life is very disconnected from the policy and lawmaking process, but while in DC we were able to see how big of a presence agriculture actually has. Of course, having a conversation with the then Speaker of the House Paul Ryan was pretty memorable too. After going through the Leadership Institute, I have a much better understanding of policy development and I really appreciate the way Farm Bureau represents agriculture and works to keep members up-to-date with important issues affecting us.

*If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue or would like to nominate a Farm Bureau member, please contact Amy Silver at [amysilver@gmail.com](mailto:amysilver@gmail.com).*

## No Cheese Days, No Problem

By Dustin Williams, Board of Director

Green County Farm Bureau took advantage of the Monroe Cheese Days event cancellation and decided to host their own fundraising event.

Originally planned as a Farm Bureau only event, it quickly turned into a collaboration, working with other area nonprofit organizations to form the brand-new Taste of Green County event.

This event was recently held at the Green County Fairgrounds on Sept. 18.

Local Farm Bureau members collaborated with the Green County Beef Producers, Ag Chest, Fairgrounds and other local vendors to host this first-time event for more than 1,000 attendees.

Farm Bureau members organized a UTV ride that started at the Green County Fairgrounds. Each UTV received tickets for rib eye sandwiches and ice cream to be consumed when they returned to the fairgrounds later that evening.

The UTV event had 10 machines and more than 20 people in attendance on the ride.

It was a beautiful day exploring the trails and rural roads of Lafayette

County. Farm Bureau members and their families had a great time exploring part of southwest Wisconsin.

This fundraiser helped Green County Farm Bureau raise almost \$600 towards promoting youth programs and involvement in FFA Farm Forum.

During the event, participants were encouraged to take in the sights and sounds and participate in the Green County Farm Bureau Selfie Contest. Riders were asked to post pictures with cheese factories, breweries, vineyards, farm animals, tractors and equipment.

Each selfie earned participants a chance to win a trip to the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. Congratulations to Karlie Klossner, winner of the Kalahari trip.

We hosted a photo contest for the day and the winner received a \$50 Culver's gift card.

We are planning a summer 2022 UTV Fundraiser on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

Please mark your calendars and save the date for next year.



Congratulations to Dustin Williams, the winner of the photo contest and the \$50 Culver's gift card.



The UTV event had 10 machines and more than 20 people in attendance on the ride. It was a beautiful day exploring the trails and rural roads of Lafayette County.



During the event, participants were encouraged to take in the sights and sounds and participate in the Green County Farm Bureau Selfie Contest.

## YFA Bean Bag Night

By Erin Marchant, YFA Chair

On July 27, Green County Farm Bureau's YFA Committee hosted a bean bag tournament for current and prospective members.

Attendees enjoyed a meal consisting of delicious brats, burgers and Scott Timm's very own sweet corn. All attendees had a great time networking with each other and learned about the various opportunities within Green County Farm Bureau and the YFA program.

Baumgartner's Cheese Store and Tavern gift cards were awarded to our first- and second-place winners Justin Fox and Joshua Schenk, as well as Wayne Gehrke and Tess Zettle.

Special thanks to Ben Huber for the burger donation; Scott Timm for grilling, donating sweet corn and providing the facilities to host the event; and the rest of the YFA Committee who helped make this event possible. We look forward to repeating this event in the summer of 2022.



Green County Farm Bureau's YFA committee hosted a bean bag tournament for current and prospective members.



## Interactive Ag Trivia Brings Fun to Annual Meeting

By Mary Hookham, Executive Director

This year's Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at the Barn on Prairie near Janesville on Sept. 27. Of the 38 people in attendance, 21 were voting members.

President Jill Uhe recognized Arch Morton Jr. as the top membership worker this year and Danial Stevens as the top Rural Mutual Insurance agent for signing new members. The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Dick and Dorothy Zanzinger; Friend of the Farm Bureau Award was presented to Jack & Dick's Feed & Garden and Trailblazer Award was presented to Jacob Bobolz.

Brooke Trustem will continue to serve as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair. Jason Bender, Mary Hookham, Emily Johnson and Josh Speich were elected for a three-year term on the board of directors. WFBF Annual Meeting delegates include: Jacob Bobolz, Steve Earleywine,

Logan Frei, Kirk Leach and Jill Uhe. Alternates are Tim Wellnitz, Josh Peterson and Brooke Trustem.

The county proposed two policy resolutions for members to vote on: 1. We oppose using government subsidies, tax incentives and credits for solar energy where it restricts production agriculture and 2. We support research on the economic viability of alternative energy sources.

Both resolutions are under the Energy – Alternative Sources section of our state policy book. Both resolutions passed.

After handling essential business, local banker and agriculture supporter Craig O'Leary hosted five rounds of trivia highlighting Farm Bureau, Rock County and Wisconsin agriculture. Members at the winning table received gift cards to Jack & Dick's Feed & Garden and Farm & Fleet.

Rock County Farm Bureau thanks the annual meeting sponsors: Mid-State Equipment, Johnson Tractor and Sauk Valley Bank.



1. Thirty-eight people enjoyed the Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting held at the Barn on Prairie in Janesville. 2 Members at the winning trivia table received gift cards to Jack & Dick's Feed & Garden and Farm & Fleet. 3. President Jill Uhe presented Arch Morton Jr. with a certificate recognizing him as the Top Membership Worker in Rock County Farm Bureau. 4. The trailblazer award was presented to Jacob Bobolz. 5. The Friend of Farm Bureau award was presented to Jack & Dick's Feed & Garden. Matt Hookham was present to accept this award. 6. Local banker and ag supporter Craig O'Leary hosted five rounds of trivia highlighting Farm Bureau, Rock County and Wisconsin agriculture.

## A YFA Year to Remember

By Brooke Trustem, YFA Chair

It has been an interesting year to start as a YFA chair. From learning the ins and outs of being involved in county Farm Bureau to planning events again after a year off, 2021 has certainly been a learning experience. The main event to highlight was the on the Farm Movie Night that even brought in members from another county. I'm looking forward to planning more 'on-farm' style events to encourage new members to join. Though this year has had its challenges, I'm excited to focus on the future and continue to with fellow Rock County Farm Bureau board members and coordinate more events in our county. Look for new professional and service events coming this fall.

## Fair Food Stand Report

By Ed Hookham, Fair Food Stand Co-Chair

Thanks to all of our volunteers. Without all of you, we could not function. I like the way we pay volunteer groups to run a shift. It's a wonderful way to make a little cash and yes, those payments are coming soon. Please let other groups know we will welcome more volunteers. We had a good year, and these numbers are approximate. If you have more questions, I will do my best to answer them. Income of \$45,000 and expenses of \$32,000. That represents about 5,900 burgers and 550 steaks and I don't know how many milkshakes. I'm looking forward to next year. Thanks again.

## Meet: Jason Bender, Board Director



Jason Bender is a Rural Mutual Agent who lives in Milton with his wife Jen and two sons.

A 14-year veteran of the Wisconsin Army National Guard and Army Reserve with a 15-month tour of Iraq in 2005 and 2006.

Aside from attending college in Madison and deployment overseas, Jason has called Rock County home for 40 years.

Jason has several years' experience selling insurance in the commercial and ag market

prior to joining Rural Mutual in 2020. Before being an insurance agent, he worked at Zalk Josephs Fabricators overseeing sales and estimating, contracts and insurance working on large projects throughout the Midwest.

Jason looks forward to serving as a Rock County Farm Bureau board director to be a better ambassador to those who are not involved in the farming community in the area. Farming makes up such a large portion of the community yet sometimes can seem to be worlds apart from the rest of the community. He looks forward to providing a practical business perspective when asked to do so.

## Ag in the Classroom Year In Review

By Sheila Everhart, Ag in the Classroom Chair



Sheila Everhart served as the Ag in the Classroom coordinator since 2012.

### Everhart Passes the Rock County Ag in the Classroom Program to Skemp

I will continue to educate consumers and promote agriculture as I serve as Interim Executive Director for Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism Association (WATA). I appreciate the opportunity to be an active Rock County Farm Bureau member. I've served many roles since 2012 including Ag in the Classroom Chair, Fair Food Stand Coordinator and Board Member.

### Stacy Skemp, Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Volunteer Coordinator

Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program welcomes Stacy Skemp, new volunteer coordinator. Stacy has served on the Rock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for six years and has been active on the Ag in the Classroom Committee for seven years.

Stacy influences many student leaders and future farmers in her roles as agricultural teacher, FFA advisor and varsity girls' basketball coach at Milton High School.



Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Program welcomes Stacy Skemp, new volunteer coordinator.

Stacy earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from UW-Platteville and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from National-Louis University. Stacy and husband, Greg have two children Bryce and Mckinely. The family also is very involved with 4-H projects.

Stacy is excited about coordinating the Ag in the Classroom Program for Rock County Farm Bureau. The Wisconsin/Rock County Ag in the Classroom program relies on volunteers to connect with teachers, classrooms and others to share information about agriculture and the resources available.

If you want to volunteer, please contact Stacy Skemp at skemps@milton.k12.wi.us. Visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website for lessons and resources.

### Nominated for Outstanding Teacher Award, Rock County Ag in the Classroom

Carmen DeKok, a seven-year participant of the County Ag in the Classroom Program has been nominated for the Outstanding Teacher Award for her accomplishments of integrating agricultural literacy into her fourth-grade core curriculum: Reading/language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. For seven years, DeKok's students have earned top honors in the county and District 2 Ag in the Classroom essay contest. DeKok has created an agricultural literacy library in her classroom so students could discover and practice reading and comprehension strategies while exploring agricultural



Carmen DeKok, a participant of the county Ag in the Classroom Program, was nominated for the Outstanding Teacher Award for of integrating agricultural literacy into her fourth-grade core curriculum.

themed texts. DeKok believes in experiential learning, not only do farmers come into the classroom

to provide hands-on lessons, her students are involved in agricultural exploratory field trips (dairy, pumpkin patches, etc.), the annual essay contest writing experiences and the resources of the classroom library help students learn new information by connecting it to their prior knowledge about agriculture, specifically where their food, fiber and fuel comes from.

Students have been able to identify agriculture as an important industry in Rock County, the United States and globally. Students are amazed at how specific technology (iPhones, tablets and software apps) can make jobs faster and easier in agriculture and how technology, computers in tractors and combines, has changed over time to help farmers provide more food to more people.

DeKok has had a consistently strong impact on her students, one such example is that each spring students ask their parents to plant gardens. As a result of DeKok exposing students to the amazing opportunities of agriculture, students have taken high school ag courses and desire to pursue agricultural careers.

DeKok, a member of the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom book of the year selection committee chose; the 2022 Book of the Year, "Popcorn Country" by Wisconsin author and dairy farmer, Cris Peterson. DeKok collaboratively suggested that the essay contest topic be, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!' DeKok, an advocate for agriculture is nominated by the Rock County Ag in the Classroom Program Committee for the Wisconsin's Outstanding Teacher Award.

### Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom: End of the Year Report 2020-2021

Ag in the Classroom Committee members include: Sheila Everhart (coordinator), Kathy Earleywine, Steve Earleywine, Emily Johnson and Stacy Skemp.

Overall Evaluation of Rock County Ag in the Classroom Committee-Great Work during a most challenging year. The Ag in the Classroom Committee has actively recorded more than 370 hours of volunteer time. The Ag in the Classroom Committee was creative. The Ag in the Classroom Committee thought outside the box. The Ag in the Classroom Committee implemented a new virtual scavenger hunt program in which community members use their cell phone cameras and social media events to learn about Wisconsin's top 20 agricultural commodities. This scavenger hunt allowed families the opportunity to be outdoors while wearing masks and practicing socially distancing during two different 14-day events in two communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Rock County student won the District 2 essay contest.



Ag in the Classroom teaches students about technology used by farmers.



Bentley Johnson, fourth-grade, District 2 essay contest winner and Mrs. DeKok.

## A Message From The President



**Mike Turner**  
 Sauk County Farm Bureau President

Hello, Sauk County Farm Bureau member. The last going on two years now was a roller coaster with what COVID has done to us, from

market volatility to not getting things we need. I have talked to people, and unfortunately, it sounds like it will get worse before it gets better.

On a positive note, for the last year we were successful in postponing the Chapter 26 ordinance changes. It was very close to being thrown out. The public hearing will be Jan. 30, 2022; to be put on a communication list to receive updates, members can contact me at 608.434.7020. We believe this could still be a bit of an uphill battle. It is very uplifting that it was at least postponed. To aid us in the conversation of this topic, in September our county hosted a 4R (Right Time, Right Rate, Right Place, Right Source) event to educate our local and state representatives on how farmers care for our land. I am optimistic that this helped at the committee and county board levels if it makes it there.

I want to thank our county Farm Bureau board for their work this year and look forward to working with them this next year. I also want to wish everyone a happy holiday season.

## Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

By Karen Reisinger, Scholarship Chair

Scholarship recipients for 2021 are Hannah Wieczorek and Rachel Lichte. Hannah Wieczorek from Baraboo attends UW-Platteville with a course of study in agriculture education and animal science.

Rachel Lichte from Baraboo attends UW-Madison with a course of study in genetics and genomics and life science communications.

Congratulations to both young ladies.

## Fair Food Stand Report

By Karen Reisinger, Fair Food Stand Chair

Sauk County Fair 2021 was, to say the least, unforgettable from the size of the crowd to the beautiful weather we were blessed with, even if it was a little warm.

Thank you to all the shift workers and to the customers for making it a very successful year. Due to the fact the 4-H food stand was not in operation, we were fortunate to be able to use their soft-serve machine.

Everyone enjoyed and appreciated a nice cup of soft serve. Please help out again if called upon.

A chair and co-chair are needed for 2022.

**Position entails:** Ordering, keeping building inspection ready and daily banking.

**Time commitment includes:** Full week of the fair plus Monday following for cleaning. The person will be compensated for fair week.

For more information, please contact president Mike Turner at 608.434.7020 or mturner88@gmail.com.



## Annual Meeting on the Farm

By Tommy Brennan, Co-Chair

Forty-four people attended the Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting that was held on Aug. 26. Of the 44 people in attendance, 29 were voting members. The meeting was hosted by Brady and Kat Peper, on their farm in their historical barn. The beautiful autumn evening and the fall decorations were enjoyed by all.

The invocation was given by Galen Alwin and a delicious meal was enjoyed by everyone. The meeting was called to order at 7:54 p.m. by Sauk County Farm Bureau President Mike Turner. Special guests were introduced including Wisconsin Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and the dignitaries from the Farm Bureau organization were in attendance.

Guest speaker, State Representative Tony Kurtz (R-Wonewoc) gave a talk about Fort McCoy and how the state budget impacts Wisconsin agriculture.

Five Sauk County Farm Bureau board seats were filled by Peter Giese, Sarah Hetke, Nancy Liegel, Craig Sandmire and Eunice Yanke. Kat Peper was elected to be the Promotion and Education chair, and Brady Peper was elected to be the Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair for a one-year term. Elected delegates for representing Sauk County at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau annual meeting include Galen Alwin, Sarah Hetke, Ken Nolden, Brady Peper, Kat Peper and Mike Turner. Alternates include Craig Sandmire, Peter Giese and Jamie Haag.

In closing, president Mike Turner thanked Brady and Kat Peper for hosting the event. The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.



Representative Tony Kurtz gave a talk about Fort McCoy and how the state budget impacts Wisconsin agriculture.



Vice President Tommy Brennan explained the policy development process to members.



President Mike Turner led the meeting.

## Zumba on the Farm

By Kat Peper, Promotion and Education Chair

Sauk County Promotion and Education and YFA Committees teamed up to host a new event in Sauk County, Zumba on the Farm. The event was held on Sept. 10 at Granite Hills Farm LLC owned by Farm Bureau members Brady and Kat Peper. The event was a huge success with about 40 people in attendance and a full barn.



(from left): Kat Peper, Brady Peper, Brenda Statz, Randy Roecker and Linda Korklewski.

The evening included a one-hour Zumba class followed by a social with grilled beef kabobs, cheese and chocolate milk.

The theme for the event was being active and refueling with high quality protein.

There were several sponsors for the event that helped make it free for participants and donations were collected for Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. We want to thank the following sponsors for supporting this inaugural event: Straka Meats, Kwik Trip, Sunrise Veterinary Services, Wisconsin Beef Council, Sauk County Dairy Promoters, Carr Valley Cheese and Cedar Valley Cheese.



Forty people participated in Zumba on the Farm.

Due to the event being such a success there are plans to make it an annual event in Sauk County.

## Sustainable 4RWI Event Hosted in Sauk County

By Rachel Gerbitz, WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships

On Sept. 24, Wisconsin legislators, state agency representatives and local officials attended the Sustainable 4RWI field day hosted by Ken Nolden at Narrow's Dairy in Rock Springs to learn about sustainable farming practices through the Sustainable 4RWI partnership.

The on-farm event highlighted practices that reduce environmental impact while maximizing productivity and profitability, and served as a platform for collaboration and communication between elected officials, farmers and agricultural retailers.

The 4R Nutrient Stewardship approach stands for choosing the right nutrient source to apply at the right rate in the right place at the right time.

The 4R method provides a framework to achieve cropping goals. Properly managed nutrients support higher crop yields, increase farmer profitability, enhance environmental protection and improve sustainability.

These best management practices optimize efficiency of nutrient use, matching the nutrient supply with the crop requirements, minimizing nutrient losses from the field.

Topics discussed during the late-September event included conservation practices, nutrient management plans, precision technology, Discovery Farms and their contribution to on-farm research and the Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group.

Sauk County Farm Bureau assisted in organizing the event.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to involve our county boards and

town officials to further the conversation about what happens on the farm every day when it comes to nutrient management," said Sauk County Farm Bureau President Mike Turner. "We are proud to highlight the work Sauk County farmers are doing to conserve the land and water."

The Sauk Soil and Water Improvement Group shared the programs their farmers are using to improve soil health. One program the group highlighted was the 'Soil Your Undies' contest. The contest served as a demonstration in soil health. In healthy soil, bacteria, nematodes, worms and other organisms will break down the 100 percent cotton underwear. The less fabric left, the healthier the soil.

Representatives from Insight FS discussed grid sampling, which helps farmers understand every inch of their soil and apply nutrients accordingly. This example of precision technology offers a cost savings and promotes efficiency by using less inputs.

Other breakout sessions offered the opportunity to learn about nitrogen stabilizers and nutrient management.

Sustainable 4RWI is a collaborative demonstration project between the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Insight FS to showcase how Wisconsin farmers and agriculture retailers can work together to sustainably manage nutrients with the 4R method. The demonstration project was led locally by host farmers, Sauk County Farm Bureau and Insight FS field staff.



Ken Nolden of Narrow's Dairy in Rock Springs hosted the Sustainable 4RWI field day.

## Meet: Sarah Hetke, Board Director



I'm excited to have been elected to the Sauk County Farm Bureau board of directors.

For those who don't know me, I grew up in a farming family in Minnesota. Much of my agriculture experience is in the swine industry, that is until I moved to the Dairy State.

My husband, Andrew worked in the dairy cattle genetics industry, which led me to work on Wisconsin Farm Bureau's public relations team.

Now, I work on Compeer Financial's marketing team with a focus on digital communications and social media.

Having been part of WFBF's public relations team, I saw the importance of active and engaged local leaders and members.

I didn't truly understand what being a grassroots organization meant until I saw county Farm Bureau members taking action to advocate with elected officials, consumers and their peers with impacts that rippled to the state and national levels.

Right now in Sauk County, we have a unique and challenging opportunity to connect with our neighbors, elected officials and regulators to advocate for fair manure store requirements.

Outside of work and Farm Bureau, I enjoy running and am part of Team Beef Wisconsin. My husband started his own dairy cattle photography business so many nights and weekends are spent traveling to farms and shows.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Sauk County Farm Bureau board. I'm excited to get started.



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