



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report

**Robert Nigh**

WFBF District 3 Director

As I write this, harvest is at a standstill because of rain.

The 2021 crop year has sure seen its share of challenges. And similar to last year, we have seen challenges in nearly every facet of our lives.

WFBF has been continuing to work with legislators and elected officials across the state to help insure that your voices are heard.

Thanks to those who have helped get our message out. This process has been a time-consuming arduous task to say the least. Many issues had to be addressed from agriculture programs and aide to wolves and water. The list seems nearly endless.

I am excited to see what the revamped governmental relations team will accomplish for all of us.

Most county annual meetings have finished with good attendance and many policy resolutions adopted. Thanks for your attendance, engagement and hospitality.

Remember this year's WFBF Annual Meeting will be in person at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells, Dec. 3-6.

The Leaders of the Land tours showcased what we as members have known all along. We have many great success stories of environmental stewardship among our members.

Look for more stories on these events in future publications and videos. We have only just begun sharing the story of agriculture. Don't be afraid to share your story.

The new membership year is upon us. Thank you to those who helped with last year's membership efforts.

I look forward to even more joining the Farm Bureau Proud Club in the coming year. We can meet the challenge to grow our membership. Let's do it.

As always, please contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and informed.

Stewards of Community, Land and Animals

Rachel Gerbitz

WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships

Roth Feeder Pigs, Inc., is a fifth-generation farrow-to-wean swine farm in Wauzeka. AV Roth and his wife Christine love to involve their kids in the farm and always stress the importance of taking care of their animals.

"This is the land I grew up on," AV said.

Sustainability has been a pillar of the farm since AV's great-great grandfather began farming the land. At Roth Feeder pigs, it goes beyond caring for the land. They use cover crops and no-till practices to preserve their soil on the rolling hills of Wisconsin's driftless region.

AV said sustainability means having the ability to pass the farm from one generation to the next. AV wants to pass a profitable farm to his children and their children.

"If one generation isn't profitable, it breaks the chain," added AV.

Roth Feeder Pigs is making full use of every dollar. Being financially responsible is a key piece in being sustainable for future generations.

AV said caring for the people and animals he works with is just as important as taking care of the land.

"I care deeply about the animals," said AV.

AV's employees are treated like family at Roth Feeder Pigs. Many of his employees have been farming with him for decades and have built a strong relationship as a team. He encourages his employees to get involved in the community and trusts and appreciates the work they do.

Taking care of the people and treating them well translates into exceptional animal care. A core value at the heart of the team's success is the care and safety of the animals. Animals that are well cared for are happy, healthy and often times require little to no treatments or antibiotics. Antibiotic use in hog production has decreased by more than 30 percent, which lessens the cost for the farmer while promoting animal welfare.

AV goes above and beyond for his community and neighbors by controlling odor from his farm. In an air quality study, the effects of the smell from the farm were negligible. However, AV is still conscious of manure application and how that may affect his neighbors. Manure is often injected into the fields, eliminating smell and cutting down on trucks and tractors transporting manure on the road. AV avoids spreading manure on holidays or when his neighbors are having gatherings to be respectful of the community.

Applying nutrients generated at the farm to the farmland provides a cost savings and helps to enhance soil health and organic matter.

Pork producers across the nation are proud to be producing more pork than ever before with less inputs. Swine production uses 25 percent less water than 20 years ago. AV attributes the decrease in water use on his farm to improved facility management and waterer design. They use a cool cell ventilation system to keep the pigs cool in the summer, requiring less water than a sprinkler system and keeping pigs even more comfortable.

"Farmers are the original recyclers," added AV.

The water used in the cool cells is reused. Keeping the animals comfortable while remaining committed to sustainability goals is a win-win at Roth Feeder Pigs.

"We are learning what we need to do to help the environment and community," said AV. "I can't wait for the next 20 years."

District 3 News

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference

The 102nd WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be held Dec. 3-6 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

The annual meeting brings together Wisconsin farmers, agriculture business professionals and supporters to discuss top issues impacting agriculture.

One of the most important items of business at each WFBF Annual Meeting is the grassroots policy development process. County Farm Bureaus elect voting delegates who will participate in a resolution session during Monday's program to establish policy positions to guide WFBF staff throughout 2022.



Farm Bureau Proud Club Recognizes Membership Volunteers

Each year WFBF recognizes membership volunteers who have made an extra effort to promote Farm Bureau by signing up five or more new members.

The membership sign-up period was from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021.

These members will be acknowledged at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December during the Farm Bureau Proud Club Banquet on Saturday evening.

Congratulations to the following District 3 members who signed up at least five new members and continue to work hard to keep Farm Bureau strong and growing.

Tim Appell who signed up 21 new members and Christina Winch who signed up 13 new members will also be recognized as a 'Top 10' statewide membership volunteer.

Thank you to these membership volunteers for making extra efforts to promote Farm Bureau and its membership benefits.

For more information about Farm Bureau Proud Club membership incentives, please contact District 3 Coordinator Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson at 608.574.9884 or mdoyle@wfbf.com.



Christina Winch
Grant County



Katie Roth
Grant County



Leon Wolfe
Lafayette County



Mike Harms
Lafayette County



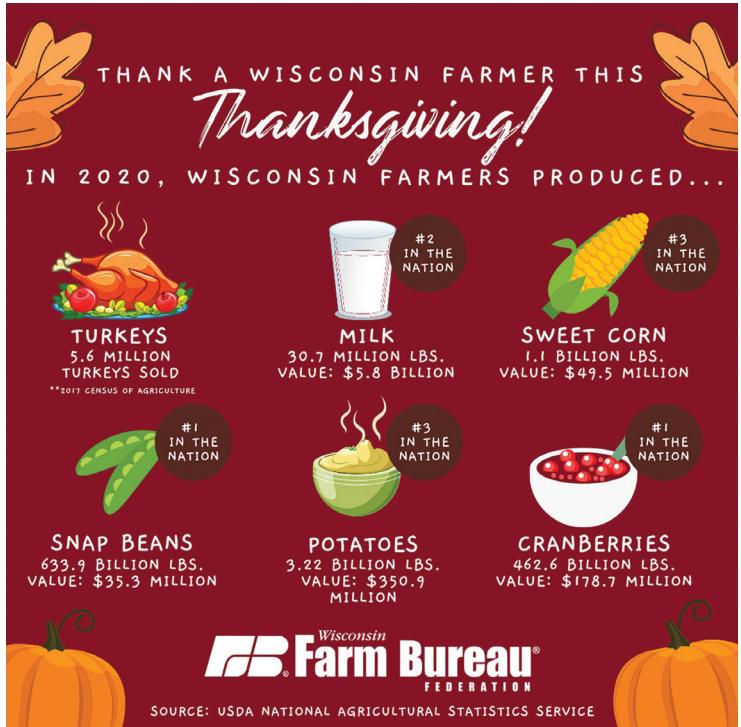
Tim Appell
Lafayette County

Tri-County Meetings Bring Members Together

Each summer the board members from the southern and northern counties of District 3 meet for their respective annual Tri-County Meeting.

In June, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties joined together at the Wisconsin Bank & Trust in Platteville. Crawford, Richland and Vernon counties met in August at the Gays Mills Community Center.

At the meetings, members heard from WFBF staff, committee representatives and District Director, Robert Nigh. The gatherings also serve as an opportunity for the counties to network, share ideas and discuss Farm Bureau business.



District 3 News

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest Topic Announced



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom is kicking off the 2021-2022 school year by announcing the Book of the Year, "Popcorn Country" written by Cris Peterson.

Each year, the Ag in the Classroom program holds an essay contest in conjunction with the Book of the Year for fourth- and fifth-grade students throughout the state. This year's essay contest topic is, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'

Author Cris Peterson offers a step-by-step examination of the history and science behind America's favorite snack. With photographs by David R. Lundquist, readers get a view of how popcorn is planted, grown, harvested, processed, tested and finally shipped all over the world. Back matter delves into the history of popcorn and how it became so popular in the United States. Accompanying lessons from the National Ag in the Classroom and the Popcorn Board are aligned to educational standards and are available online for teachers, students and volunteers to use in promoting and preparing essays.

"We are so excited to have another of Cris' books with her gifted writing and excellent photographs," said Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Darlene Arneson. "The book does an excellent job explaining how popcorn is grown and processed into one of America's favorite snacks."

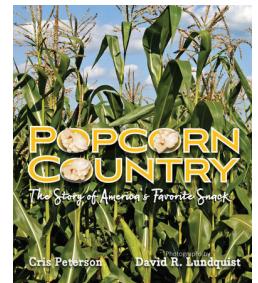
The essay contest focuses on the many uses of the various types of corn, but especially popcorn, in the snacks we eat along with their importance to Wisconsin's economy."

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and will be judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. This year students must make three references to Wisconsin agriculture. The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Essays are due April 1, 2022.

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

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class. Last year, over 1,400 students participated in the contest.

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



Meet: Jessica Brogley, Grant County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



My name is Jessica Brogley. I am the Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for Grant County. I also teach courses in educational technology in the School of Education at UW-Platteville, and I'm the host of the podcast, the Proud Rural Teacher, where I focus on sharing inspirational stories of rural education in the Driftless region of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa.

Prior to UW-Platteville, I worked in the Platteville School District, at Southwest Tech and in the Seymour Community

School District.

I live on a small farmette in Platteville with my husband, Brad, and kids, Jenna and Matthew. We raise registered Nigerian Dwarf goats and

registered Boer goats as part of the kids' 4-H and FFA projects. Matthew also sells farm fresh eggs for home delivery and Jenna works for Hill-ton Holsteins in Cuba City.

My professional career in K-12 education has always focused on creating opportunities for youth. I have been a long-time supporter of agriculture education and advocacy. I'm a member of the Grant County Dairy Promoters, a 4-H leader of the Cornelia Badgers and I'm on the board of directors for Platteville Dairy Days. If I'm not thinking about educational technology, I'm thinking about agriculture education.

I'm so excited to join Grant County Farm Bureau as the Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator. I have been busy refreshing agriculture-themed kits for teachers to check out, making connections at the state level, as well as designing digital resources for use in the classroom.

No doubt, I'm an eager advocate in agriculture education across all grade levels and thankful to be a part of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Grant County Focuses on Agriculture Education at County Fair



The Grant County Fair was held August 18-22 in Lancaster.

A highlight of the fair is the Agriculture Education Tent coordinated by Grant County Farm Bureau.

This year, Grant County Farm Bureau



partnered with the UW-Platteville School of Education. Farm Bureau members and teaching students worked together to inform fairgoers about all things agriculture.

The tent is always a big hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry.

Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit farm animals, color the wall mural and win a variety of prizes.

Thank you to those who helped and stopped by to learn something new.



District 3 News

Wiedenbeck Appointed Promotion and Education Committee Representative



Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County was appointed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Promotion and Education Committee.

Tammy is from Lancaster and serves as a Business Development Manager for Hilbert Communications and Bug Tussel Wireless Internet.

In her role, she strives to bring customized internet solutions to rural communities through wireless and cellular connections.

Along with her full-time role, Tammy is the seventh generation on her family's farm and works together with her brother's family and parents to run a beef and crop operation. She owns a percentage of the family's Shorthorn and Angus beef cows and manages her photography business on the side.

In addition to being a member of Grant County Farm Bureau, Tammy enjoys traveling, playing sports and line dancing.

She is also a lifetime member of the Grant County Cattlemen's Association, Lancaster FFA Alumni and UW-Platteville Alumni in hopes of helping support youth to stay involved in agriculture as these organizations have done just that for her.

Her reason for choosing to be on the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee is to continue pursuing the goal of sharing the story of American agriculture and keeping the younger generation involved in one of the most rewarding industries.

Tammy's term begins at WFBF's Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on Dec. 3-6 in Wisconsin Dells.

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Hosts Leadership Boot Camp

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Promotion and Education Committee is hosting a one-day Leadership Boot Camp on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Chippewa Valley Technical College Energy Education Center in Eau Claire.

The event will focus on current consumer trends related to agriculture, food and sustainability. Throughout the training, participants will learn to proactively address topics important to today's consumers.

"It's important for us as farmers and agriculturists to be aware of what's driving consumers' decisions about food," said planning committee member Brenda Dowiasch. "With that information, we can proactively address the current trends and have open, engaging conversations about agriculture, food and sustainability."

The Leadership Boot Camp is open to all Farm Bureau members, including collegiate members. Registration is \$15 and includes the training, lunch and a tour the CVTC Energy Education Center.

For more information, visit wfbf.com/leadership-boot-camp.



Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's



March 25-26

Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

Whether you are new to Farm Bureau or a seasoned Farm Bureau leader in your county, the 2022 Wisconsin Farm Bureau IGNITE Conference is for you.

This conference is designed to help members:

- Better understand how Farm Bureau works
- Learn about innovative county Farm Bureau programs
- Grow your knowledge of agriculture issues
- Network with other Farm Bureau leaders
- Become informed on roles and responsibilities within the county Farm Bureau
- Be trained to share your agriculture and Farm Bureau story
- Discover how you can engage other members to become active in your county Farm Bureau.

This highly engaging and motivating conference is open to all Farm Bureau members who are interested in igniting a spark and taking their county Farm Bureau to the next level.

Make plans now to attend!

Presented by:



District 3 News

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Andrew Dal Santo

District 3 YFA Committee Representative

Boy, did harvest feel like it came out of nowhere, didn't it?

You know what else is going to feel like it's going to be here before we know it? The annual YFA Conference.

That's right, Dec. 3-5, is going to be here soon and I for one CANNOT WAIT to see all of the familiar faces of Farm Bureau members from across the state.

The WFBF YFA Committee is excited to host '90's Country Night' on Friday evening of the conference. Put on your 'John Deere Green' and 'Boot Scootin' Boogie' your way to the Kalahari. There will also be bowling, music and other fun games to look forward to on Friday night. But look for me in the heavy starched pants and pearl snap shirt.

During the YFA Breakfast and General Session, Jeff Havens will serve as the guest speaker to help you 'Uncrapify Your Future.' As always, we will have our Excellence in Ag Presentations and Discussion Meet. A special shout out to Kent Jerrett and Tammy Wiedenbeck of Grant County and Megan Yager of Iowa County for qualifying to compete at the state level in the Discussion Meet.

I'm also looking forward to our very own Justin and Livia Doyle of On Point Auction Service hosting the Sold, Sold, Sold! workshop on Saturday. This workshop will help you build your auctioneering skills. There are also workshops ranging from cranberries to direct marketing to sustainability to potatoes, along with many others.

Again, thank you for your membership and all that you do for agriculture and Wisconsin Farm Bureau. I can't wait to see you in a few short weeks.

Have a safe and bountiful harvest.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has had a busy fall semester.

The students participated in several recruitment events, enjoyed an outing to Vesperman Farms and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau.



2021-2022 UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Officer Team; front row (from left): Hannah Lemke, Director-At-Large; Kristen Felton, Ag Day on Campus Co-Chair; and Mindy Smits, President; back row (from left): Brooklyn Hollis, Vice President; Katie Yanke, Ag Day on Campus Co-Chair; Blake Gieck, Director-At-Large; Alexis Boston, Treasurer; and Rebecca Wilke, Secretary. Not included in the photo: Brook Wackerlin, Ag in the Classroom Chair.

District 3 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on Aug. 23 at the Grant County Farm Bureau building in Lancaster.

The Discussion Meet gives YFA members an opportunity to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

This year's district topic was: How can Farm Bureau improve its effectiveness at recruiting YFA members and increasing participation in YFA programs?

There were five participants including, Kent Jerrett, Grant County; Casey Lobdell, Lafayette County; Jackie Seelow, Grant County; Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County; and Megan Yager, Iowa County.

Kent, Megan and Tammy will participate at the YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



Discussion Meet participants (from left): Tammy Wiedenbeck, Megan Yager, Jackie Seelow, Casey Lobdell and Kent Jerrett.

YFA Night on the Farm

The annual YFA Night on the Farm was held on July 18 at the Jerrett Family Farm in Lancaster. YFA members enjoyed a beautiful night for a cookout and socializing. Special thanks to the Jerrett family for hosting the event.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 16 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed six resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support general permit renewals within 90 days of submission for CAFOs.
- We support private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by providing on-site and written reviews necessary to meet clarified requirements from NR 243.
- We support the DNR reporting to the legislature regarding how many permits are applied for and issued.
- We support the research, development and implementation of a dairy growth management and other systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Federal

- We support developing and implementing a more responsive price discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to better reflect real value to milk.



- We support the research, development and implementation of a dairy growth management and other systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Don Brown, Pat Dearth, Janice Johnsrud and Mary Jo Johnsrude will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Don Brown (President), AV Roth (Vice President), Pat Dearth (Secretary/Treasurer), Lori Brown, Mike Dearth, Ron Ellefson, Craig Hromadka, Janice Johnsrud, Mary Jo Johnsrude, Steve Johnsrude and Leroy Peterson.

Dairy Stand Success

The Crawford County Fair took place Aug. 26-29 in Gays Mills. Crawford County Farm Bureau members were busy serving up delicious products to fairgoers.

The menu included pie, all sorts of ice cream treats, and new this year, grilled cheese.

Thank you to those who volunteered and supported the dairy stand.



4-H Key Award Winners Recognized



Each year, Farm Bureau sponsors the prestigious 4-H Key Award, the highest honor a 4-H member can receive. Youth receiving this award have demonstrated consistent growth in their 4-H involvement, developed and applied their leadership skills, and actively participated in the functions of their club and their community. Crawford County Farm Bureau director, Mary Jo Johnsrude, had the honor of presenting the award to this year's winners, Marie Achenbach from the Eastman Cloverleaf 4-H Club and Faye Brassington of the North Clayton Cardinals 4-H Club.

Summertime Socializing

The Crawford County Summer Picnic was held on July 15 at Eastman Park. Members enjoyed an evening featuring great food and good company. Thank you to those who continue to join us for this annual event.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 21 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 24 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support all alternative energy businesses to fund bonding that would require the businesses to pay for cleanup and restoration of the land.
- We oppose any legislation that would eliminate CAFOs.
- We support a “90-day” CAFO renewal permit window. If not approved by the “90-day” window, then the CAFO permit will be automatically renewed.
- We support all county sheriffs and state troopers completing an animal handling course.
- We support improving/updating the ports and locks along the Mississippi River.
- We support the Department of Transportation updating the driver’s education handbook to better inform new drivers on safe driving requirements around agricultural equipment.
- We support schools, hospitals and prisons utilizing underused land for vegetable gardens to grow food for their own use.
- We support tax incentives for people burning wood to heat their homes.
- We support waving the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin flag over the state capitol during June Dairy Month.
- We support eliminating the requirement that a milk producer be assigned to a licensed dairy plant to obtain a Grade A License.
- We support a voluntary carbon credit market that is instituted by U.S. public companies and reflects the supply and demand of carbon credits.
- We support a yearly audit of carbon credit markets ensuring that the price of the agricultural carbon credit reflects the full cost of farm inputs and does not inflate as the carbon credit is sold to the end buyer.
- We support the National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI) model as a national soil interpretation of soil productivity standard.
- We support requiring all solar farm projects providing evidence that the farm cannot or is not suitable for construction on lower productive soils in an area, based on the NCCPI Index, before construction begins on medium to high scored soils.
- We support the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for commercial and agricultural purposes. We support requiring an operator of a UAS to gain consent of the land operator and/or farmer to operate



in corresponding airspace, and any information or data collected or generated on a farm is the sole property of the land operator and/or farmer.

- We support all individuals who wish to operate an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) for commercial use acquire an Agricultural Aircraft Operator Certificate (AAOC) prior to any flight activity.
- We support a petition for an exemption of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) allowing for the dispensing of chemicals and agricultural products.

Federal

- We support a national security policy that prioritizes protection from cyber terrorism.
- We oppose any federal legislation that would eliminate CAFOs.
- We support the end of daylight savings time and moving to standard time only.
- We support improving/updating the ports and locks along the Mississippi River.
- We support rolling back direct subsidy payments for grain crops and adding management based payments for methods that sequester carbon, reduce erosion and improve soil health, for example, cover crops and grazing land, etc.
- We support the National Commodity Crop Productivity Index (NCCPI) model as a national soil interpretation of soil productivity standard.
- We support requiring all solar farm projects providing evidence that the farm cannot or is not suitable for construction on lower productive soils in an area, based on the NCCPI Index, before construction begins on medium to high scored soils.

Andrew Dal Santo, Paige Hampton, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Katie Roth, Christina Winch and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Peter Winch (President), Allen Johnson (Vice President), Katie Roth (Secretary/Treasurer), Josh Bailie, Andrew Dal Santo, Jason Heberlein, Kent Jerrett, Larry Jerrett, Richard Johnson, Charisse Orth, Derek Orth and Jackie Seelow.

Food Stand is Fairgoer Favorite

The Farm Bureau Food Stand proved to be a great success at the Grant County Fair again this year.

As always, the pork chop, cheeseburger and brat patty plates are a fairgoer favorite.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to work at the stand. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn’t continue to offer the delicious food that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.



Celebrating A Successful Farm Bureau Year



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

In September, we had our county annual meeting at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. We celebrated another successful year and conducted important items of business. We presented and voted on an assortment of resolutions, demonstrating the grassroots process. The resolutions that pass at the county annual meeting are forwarded on to the state and are voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting. I was also reelected Grant County Farm Bureau President.

Back in August we participated in the Grant County Fair. Each year with the help of the volunteers, we run the Grant County Farm Bureau food stand. This is our main fundraiser of the year. With having a year off, it took a little work to get things ironed out. There really is not one person in charge. We all play an important role in making it a success. 2021 was

our most successful year yet. Thanks to all that helped out and ate at the food stand.

Farm safety is one of those things that we need to keep reminding everyone about. Whether it be road safety, equipment safety and safety around livestock. We all get in a hurry and skip steps to be safe. I did that earlier this fall. I was attacked by a fresh cow. She was out to kill me. Luckily, I only sustained some bruising. It could have been a lot worse. Animals have great power and strength.

Keep in mind this winter we will be attending Ag Day at the Capitol and that Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor up to 10 members. The event is very informative and we get to meet with our representatives. Contact me if you would like to attend or want more information.

Grant County Farm Bureau had a total membership gain for the year, which was exciting to see after a very challenging year. We received a cash bonus for our efforts. Membership is one of the harder tasks for many. It takes members in order for our organization to remain strong. By renewing your dues and asking neighbors to join, it helps Farm Bureau be stronger. Plus there are so many benefits of being a member. As always, thank you for your membership.

Iowa County

President's Message

Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

Happy fall y'all. Another Farm Bureau year has come and gone. It was great to be able to get together with everyone at our county annual meeting held in September at the Dodge Point Country Club. I will once again be serving as the Iowa County Farm Bureau President.

Last year at our annual meeting, your board of directors decided to sell the building owned by Iowa County Farm Bureau in Dodgeville. It

was not profitable for us and the upkeep was becoming too much. The building committee did a great job at getting it ready and we officially sold it this summer. We are now looking into options to invest that money.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy harvest. I'm looking forward to attending the WFBF Annual Meeting in December and for upcoming events in the new year.



Iowa County Promotion and Education Update

By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Greetings. Labor Day and the Iowa County Fair marked the unofficial end of summer. Depending on where you were it was one of the driest growing seasons in recent memory.

Most people probably enjoyed the reduced lawn mowing, I included, but the crops and grass could've used some more moisture. It's actually remarkable to me how well the crops grew this year on such a rain deficit.

One benefit of the dry weather was a perfect day for the 35th annual Farmers Appreciation Day in Dodgeville on July 11. Many changes were made for 2021 after not having the event in 2020 due to COVID.

The parade had a slightly new route, but still featured a lot of fabulous participants, including a Farm Bureau entry that passed out string cheese. The biggest change was the after-parade festivities being held in the courthouse parking lot instead of at Harris Park.

There was a live band and large tents for sit down eating. Iowa Grant FFA held a cheese and milk tasting, while the ladies of the Upland Hills Health Auxiliary sold their deliciously wonderful pies.

Other festivities included: Kids' activities, face painting, pedal pulls, a petting zoo, book giveaway and so much more.

Multiple local organizations had food stands, including Iowa County Farm Bureau. We grilled steak sandwiches and served them with bags of chips. We grilled 430 steaks and sold out in just a couple of hours. It was a very successful fundraiser and we couldn't have done it without the wonderful helpers who showed up. Thanks again to those who helped.

The leaves are starting to change and that means fall is upon us, my favorite season. Who doesn't love the beautiful sights, orchards and pumpkin patches, football season, hunting season and of course harvest season? Harvest is already under way for most farmers and the dry weather has certainly helped with timeliness.

Make sure as farmers you're aware of the traffic around you while operating farm equipment on the roadways. Drivers, please put down your phones and be aware of slow moving equipment. A couple extra minutes isn't worth the lives risked when passing in dangerous spots.

I hope everyone has a safe and bountiful harvest.



Farm Bureau Supports Local Master Showman Contest

By Morgan Fitzsimmons, Iowa County Farm Bureau Member

The 7th annual Iowa County Master Showman Contest was held at the Iowa County Fair on Labor Day weekend.

The top two senior showman from the beef, dairy, goat, sheep and swine project competed for the overall title of Master Showman. The competition crowns an overall winner and runner-up. This year for the first time, two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to participants from previous years that are furthering their education at an accredited university or technical college. Master Showman Contest participants compete against one another in showing all five species, beef, dairy, goat, sheep and swine. Exhibitors are evaluated on their ability to answer questions and how well they show each species in a series of rounds. The judges rank the participants on their showing ability, species knowledge and attitude in the show ring. Each judge is experienced in showing the livestock species they are observing.

At the end of the competition, exhibitors are asked to answer a question related to the livestock industry. This allows the participants to gain public speaking experience and it serves as a tie breaker for the competition. This year's Iowa County Master Showman Contest winner was Joey Robinson from Mineral Point with Julia Searls from Cobb named runner-up.

Over the past four years, a benefit pie auction has been held at the conclusion of the competition. Participants from each species have made it a fun competition trying to raise the most money. After building a



fund, the committee was able to award two \$1,000 scholarships to past participants for the first time.

Anyone who had previously competed in the contest and is furthering their education was eligible for the scholarship award. The inaugural recipients of this award were Nathan Daniels from Cobb and Morgan Vondra from Mineral Point. In addition to the scholarships, each of the 10 participants received a \$100 cash prize for partaking in the competition. This year's pie auction raised more than \$5,000 for future scholarships and prize money. The generosity of Iowa County families involved in the livestock project has allowed this program to continue to grow year after year.

Iowa County Farm Bureau serves as a top sponsor for the Master Showman Contest. The contest committee is comprised of Iowa County Farm Bureau members, Laura Daniels, Val Gaffney, Morgan Fitzsimmons, Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson and many additional volunteers. This group is excited for the future of this contest and hopes to continue to award scholarships and awards to the very deserving youth of Iowa County.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 23 at Dodge Point Country Club in Mineral Point. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed 13 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support state funding to DATCP to collaborate with and support landowners in understanding and negotiating alternative energy contracts.
- We support the usage of the "Wisconsin Cheese" label only on products made with 80%+ of milk originating in Wisconsin.

Federal

- We support developing and implementing a more responsive price discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Order to better reflect real value to milk.
- We support the continuation of the current DMC (Dairy Margin Coverage) Program in the next Farm Bill only requesting an increase to the Tier 1 coverage level to reflect production increases due to baseline management and genetic advancement.
- We support the use of each individual farmer mailbox price in any calculation for indemnity payments for any federally subsidized dairy margin coverage protection program.
- We support modifications to the DMC (Dairy Margin Coverage) formula to better reflect the true cost of production by including the cost of supplements and fortifications in the feed calculation.

Internal

- We support the development of a landowner resource between WFBF and legal representation specializing in negotiation of energy contracts.
- We support the work of Chuck Nicholson and Mark Stephenson and urge WFBF to provide information about their research and the plans



they have analyzed to all WFBF members for review.

- We support more aggressive lobbying efforts regardless of political affiliation in office.
- We support members having more involvement in the prioritization of the policy that is lobbied for by WFBF.
- We support the work of the special committee on Dairy Growth Management and urge WFBF leadership to allow this committee to continue as the work of research and development is not complete.
- We support greater transparency when it comes to legislative issues as they arise.
- We support greater transparency when it comes to legislative issues, with the state board being brought in on impending issues not covered in the policy book to direct action in favor or against potential legislation.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Kyle Levetzow and John Meyers will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan (President), Justin Doyle (Vice President), Dan Adams (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Daentl, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow, Don Ley, Matt Limmex, John Meyers, Jason Steffes, Elizabeth Watrud and Megan Yager.

Planting Seeds Through Farm Bureau

Christina Benson

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President



When driving to an appointment the other day I got stuck behind a piece of large equipment; it made me think how long it takes for farms to get the harvest in. How sometimes it is nice to slow down, stop and look at the beauty that is the changing colors of fall.

How impressive it is that you plant a small seed at the beginning of the season, hoping it will produce and then by fall, you get to see your yields from that work you put in. How easy it is to forget to slow down and look at your accomplishments.

Hats off to everyone working on having a safe harvest, so that they can feed their animals and their communities. We know the season of winter comes often too soon.

I really enjoyed meeting as a group for our county annual meeting at the start of September to talk about the planting that Farm Bureau does. This upcoming Farm Bureau year is another way to connect with members, bringing forward ideas and concerns from our county level all the way to the state.

It's also an opportunity to network and encourage youth as they start learning about where their food comes from and grow into young adults, furthering education and possibly finding a part in agriculture's story.

Thank you for your continued membership in Farm Bureau. We will soon enough be meeting as an entire state at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Feel free to contact me at 815.275.4400 with your questions and suggestions.

I look forward to planting seeds that can grow over the next year.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 7 at The General Store in Wiota. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Josh Kamps, Lafayette County Agriculture Educator, was the guest speaker.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions.

Allen Abraham, Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Mike Harms and Joe Riechers will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Christina Benson (President), Tim Appell (Vice President), Casey Lobdell (Secretary/Treasurer), Allen Abraham, Paul Johnson, Josh Kamps, Curt Miller, Joe Riechers, Jordan Torstenson and Mackenzie Torstenson.



Food Stand Raises Funds for Educational Programs

Farm Bureau members served delicious food at this year's Lafayette County Fair. The steak sandwiches continue to be a fairgoer favorite, helping to make it one of the most profitable years yet. Funds raised from the food stand are used towards educational programs and scholarship awards for qualified individuals pursuing careers in agriculture. Thank you to the members who volunteered their time to help make the food stand a success.



President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

World Dairy Expo 2021 is now in the history books.

While the show was held in the same place it had a different look and feel. The weather could not have been better, especially if you were outside as my booth was.

But I'm afraid that also contributed to the small attendance at the show. Many local farmers were a no show. Of those who did come, they spoke of wrapping up bean harvest with most of the beans coming out of the field at 11.5 to 12 percent moisture (no drying cost).

A nice break for ever rising costs. Also, the ever present little red ribbons representing foreign visitors were hard to find. COVID travel restrictions played a big role in that segment of attendance. But the cattle were there.

These were my observations as an equipment exhibitor and only one person's perspective. One bright observation was the youth who attended as part of their school groups were well behaved and seemed to be interested in gaining knowledge about the products that I had on display.

This is refreshing as many past years seemed to be just a day to let off steam. I am not sure how big of a role farm shows play in the life of most, but there is some real discussion going on as to the future and number of shows going forward.

As our members seem to be busier in their daily lives some things like farm shows fall into lower priority. I fear that this is also happening to the participation in our county Farm Bureau membership.

Farm Bureau is a grassroots driven organization and local input is very important. We need to have new people come forward to serve on the county board as well as give their views on what policy needs we should be working on for our future. If interested, contact a board member or me at 608.585.4808. Be safe and stay well.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Oct. 13 at The Phoenix Center in Richland Center.

The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed five resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support general permit renewals within 90 days of submission for CAFOs.
- We support private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by providing on-site and written reviews necessary to meet clarified requirements from NR 243.
- We support the DNR reporting to the legislature regarding how many permits are applied for and issued.

Federal

- We support developing and implementing a more responsive price discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to better reflect real value to milk.
- We support the research, development and implementation of a dairy growth management and other systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Dick Hauser, Bill Hying and Josh Joseph will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Dick Hauser (President), Josh Joseph (Vice President), Germaine Hying (Secretary/Treasurer), Byron Hillberry, Bill Hying and Bekka Martin.

Vernon County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 28 at Gasser's Bar & Grill in Viroqua. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed six resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support general permit renewals within 90 days of submission for CAFOs.
- We support private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by providing on-site and written reviews necessary to meet clarified requirements from NR 243.
- We support the DNR reporting to the legislature regarding how many permits are applied for and issued.
- We support the research, development and implementation of a dairy growth management and other systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Federal

- We support developing and implementing a more responsive price



discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Orders to better reflect real value to milk.

- We support the research, development and implementation of a dairy growth management and other systems that provide increased dairy-industry stability and producer profitability.

Alex Bringe, Drew Hendrickson, Travis Klinkner, Dave McClurg and Ben Sherry will serve as delegates to the 2021 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Robert Nigh (President), Alex Bringe (Vice President), Scott Sherry (Secretary/Treasurer), Drew Hendrickson, Cosette Henthorne, Eldon Henthorne, Travis Klinkner, Dave McClurg and Steve Wagemester.



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