



Grassroots

District 6 News

WFBF Annual Meeting

In December, delegates at the 102nd annual WFBF Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will be included in the organization's policy book in 2022. Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote on policy at county Farm Bureau annual meetings.

WFBF's policy is established by members through a structured policy development process. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

On the floor, delegates discussed carbon credits. They voted to support a voluntary carbon credit market that is instituted by U.S.-based companies and reflects the supply and demand of carbon credits.

In the area of natural resources and the environment, members supported certified private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by utilizing their expertise to provide requirements that meet DNR permit requirements.

They supported all CAFO permits having a final determination within 12 months after original submittal or automatically approved by the department. In addition, they supported state funding for planting of cover crops.

On the floor, delegates discussed alternative energy. They passed a resolution proposing local government have input over the control siting/ placement of alternative energy projects. The delegates added policy supporting all alternative energy businesses to fund bonding that would require the businesses to pay for cleanup and restoration of the land.

Members support the ability to manage nuisance elk within the wildlife damage and claim program without requiring public hunting access to

private lands.

Additionally, delegates discussed and voted to support the continued education of producers on the Dairy Revitalization Plan as based on the research by the UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus:

- Supported all state indemnity payments be paid directly to producers, not to processors and not through processors.
- Supported having someone from county FSA committee sit on the land conservation committee with voting rights.
- Supported programs that emphasize innovations in product development, manufacturing and marketing strategies for all agricultural products.
- Supported the Public Service Commission holding companies accountable that receive public project funding for rural broadband.
- Opposed the use of cumulative impact studies regarding high capacity well approvals.

In the federal level, delegates:

- Supported all indemnity payments be paid directly to producers, not to processors and not through processors.
- Opposed to an increase in the inheritance tax and the loss of stepped-up basis.
- Supported developing and implementing a more responsive price discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Order to better reflect the value of milk.
- Supported the same tax benefits for transitioning the farm to non-related family succession as to related family.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist members attended the District 6 meeting.



Door County President Dan Vandertie addressed the delegate body during the resolution session at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Krentz Elected President of WFBF and To a Two-Year Term For AFBF



Kevin Krentz was re-elected president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Krentz is a dairy farmer from Berlin in Waushara County.

Krentz was first elected to the WFBF Board of Directors in 2012 to represent District 5, which includes: Adams, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Juneau, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

He is president of Krentz Family Dairy, Inc. He started his farming career in 1994 when he purchased his father's 60 cows. He grew the farm to 600 cows and 1,300 acres of crops.

Krentz and his wife, Holly, have a daughter and three sons.

Dave Daniels from Union Grove in Kenosha County was re-elected to serve as vice president and to serve a three-year term on the board representing District 1 (Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington and Waukesha counties).

Robert Nigh of Viroqua in Vernon County was re-elected to a three-year term on the board representing District 3 (Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Vernon counties).

Nine of the 11 members of the WFBF board of directors are farmers elected in each of Farm Bureau's nine districts. These nine individuals also

make up the board of directors for the Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Rounding out the WFBF's board are the chairs of WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Promotion and Education Committees, both of which serve a one-year term on the board.

Brenda Dowiasch of Augusta in Eau Claire County was elected to a one-year term as the chair of the Promotion and Education Committee and will serve as the representative on the board. She succeeds Lynn Leahy from Plover in Waushara County.

Bob Nash of Saukville in Ozaukee County was elected to a one-year term as chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee and will serve as the representative on the board. He succeeds Emily Johnson of Orfordville in Rock County as YFA Chair.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Board Directors who were not up for re-election included: Arch Morton Jr. of Janesville in Rock County, Joe Bragger of Independence in Buffalo County, Rosie Lisowe of Chilton in Calumet County, Brian Preder of Weyauwega in Waupaca County, Ryan Klussendorf of Medford in Taylor County and Peter Kimball of Baldwin in Pierce County.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau members attended the AFBF Annual Convention on Jan. 7-12.

Krentz was re-elected to serve a two-year term on the AFBF Board of Directors.

District 6 Members Attend YFA Conference

Discussion Meet and Excellence in Agriculture featured several young farmers from District 6.

Stephanie Abts from Manitowoc County competed in the Excellence in Agriculture competition making it to the final four.

Rachel Harmann and Ann Glowacki from Door County, and Erin O'Toole from Kewaunee County, competed in the Discussion Meet.

Rachel Harmann and Erin O'Toole made it to the final four.

Congratulations to our District 6 competitors.

The Discussion Meet contest is a panel discussion in which Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35 are judged on their ability to express their ideas and opinions and reach a solution on current issues affecting agriculture.

Excellence in Agriculture applicants are agriculturists who have not derived a majority of their income from a farm (that they own) for the past three years.

Examples of occupations of past finalists include: agricultural education instructor, fertilizer salesperson, veterinarian, farm employee, journalist and marketer.

Each finalist must make a presentation and answer questions in front of a three-judge panel during WFBF's Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.



Rachel Harmann from Door County and Erin O'Toole from Kewaunee County were among the final four contestants in the Discussion Meet.



Stephanie Abts posed with her Excellence in Agriculture final four Plaque.

Mark Your Calendar ...



March

31 County Early Bird Bonanza membership cut-off

April

1 Ag in the Classroom essays due to coordinators

22 District 6 Bus Tour

23 Meet Your Local Farmer

May

5-6 Sheboygan County Classroom on the Farm

June

5 Brown County Breakfast on the Farm
Brickstead Dairy Farm

12 Manitowoc County Breakfast on the Farm
Grotegut Dairy Farm Inc

18 Sheboygan County Breakfast on the Farm
Strack View Farm

19 Kewaunee County Breakfast on the Farm
Kinnard Highland Farm

July

3 Door County Breakfast on the Farm
Cherryland Dairy

20-22 Farm Technology Days, Eau Claire County

District 6 Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

On Jan. 26, nearly 200 farmers and agriculturists attended Ag Day at the Capitol.

This annual event is for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees were welcomed by Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Kevin Krentz who then introduced Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski.

Secretary Romanski encouraged farmers to build relationships with their legislators so they have a direct connection to the farm.

“Go out there and tell your story today,” Romanski said. “It’s an important one.”

Gov. Tony Evers joined the event in the afternoon and shared his appreciation for Wisconsin farmers and agribusinesses.

The governor touted his support for agriculture in the 2021-2023 budget and the investments that were made to benefit farmers now and into the future. He emphasized his investment for farmers with federal ARPA funds.

Funding for dairy processor grants and meat processing grants were also a highlight shared by the governor who said these are beneficial tools to help Wisconsin work through supply chain issues.

The governor reiterated his comments and commitment from his state of the state address regarding agricultural exports and praised the bill that was passed in December 2021.

Throughout the day attendees listened to issue briefings on farmer-led nitrate reduction initiatives, farmland preservation, truth in labeling bills, the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program, a hunting season for sandhill cranes, aboveground fuel storage tanks and wild parsnip.

Another focus of the program was a panel by industry professionals.



District 6 was represented at Council of Presidents held before Ag Day at the Capitol; (from left): Door County President Dan Vandertie, Calumet County President Simon Regan, Manitowoc County Vice President Levi Bratt, Manitowoc County President Brent Sinkula, Brown County Vice President Ray Diederich, Sheboygan County President Mark Schleicher and Brown County President Stan Kaczmarek.

The panelists talked about the importance of relationships with agricultural groups, legislators and state agencies and having a unified voice as an agricultural community.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and FS GROWMARK, Inc., were major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event, with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, included the Dairy Business Association, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Cattlemen’s Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association.



Several District 6 members met with Senator Andre Jacque (R-DePere) and Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) during Ag Day at the Capitol.



District 6 YFA Hosts Green Bay Gamblers Game

On March 4, District 6 members attended a Green Bay Gamblers game versus the Chicago Steel. Following the game, the counties hosted pizza at the D2 Sports Pub.

For more information regarding future YFA events, watch the county Facebook pages.

Interested in more YFA events? Contact the District 6 YFA chair or county YFA chairs.

District YFA Chair: Lauren VandenLangenberg, 920.205.0633

Brown County: Samantha Van Duerzen, 920.362.3045

Calumet County: Sean VanderHeiden, 920.418.4292

Kewaunee County: Mikayla Kuehl, 920.255.1807

Manitowoc County: Stephanie Abts, 920.973.6547

Sheboygan County: Nicole Schommer, 262.207.4324



Ag in the Classroom Announces Book of the Year



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.

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.

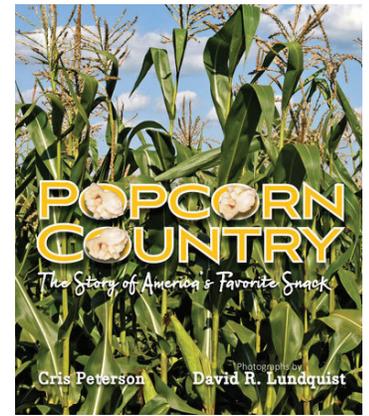
The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are located at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest.

Essays are due **April 1**.

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

Nine district winners will be selected with one being chosen as the state winner in May. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation for his or her class.

Last year, more than 1,400 students participated in the contest.



District YFA Chair Report



By Lauren VandenLangenberg

Hi. It's hard to believe that we are a few months into 2022 already. We have an exciting year planned and we are hoping to have a few more in person YFA events.

We started the year with a YFA night at the Resch Center for a Green Bay Gamblers hockey game.

District 7 joined in for this event.

The District 6 YFA and Promotion and Education Bus Tour is back for 2022. The date for this is **April 22**. If you have questions or want to reserve your spot, let District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm know. Spots are limited.

The District 6 Discussion Meet will be **Aug. 2**, the location is to be determined.

As always, please contact me with events you want in the district, fun or educational. Be on the look out for summer and fall events.

Leopold Conservation Award Applications

In his influential book, "A Sand County Almanac," Aldo Leopold called for an ethical relationship between people and the land they own and manage. The development of a land ethic was, he wrote, "an evolutionary possibility and an ecological necessity." A land ethic is alive and well today in the thousands of American farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who improve soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat.

Sand County Foundation proudly presents the Leopold Conservation Award to private landowners dedicated to leaving their land better than how they found it. They exemplify the spirit of Leopold's land ethic. In Wisconsin, Sand County Foundation presents the Leopold Conservation Award in partnership with American Farmland Trust, and state partners: Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

The Leopold Conservation Award recipient receives \$10,000 and a crystal award. Leopold Conservation Awards recognize extraordinary achievement in voluntary conservation, inspire other landowners through their example, and help the general public understand the vital role private landowners play in conservation success.

For more information, please visit www.leopoldconservationaward.org.

Application Deadline: Aug. 1. Applications can be emailed to award@sandcountyfoundation.org.

The House Passes the COMPETES Act, What Does That Mean for Mink?

By Tyler Wenzlaff, WFBF Director of Governmental Relations

In February, the House of Representatives started debate on HR 4521, America COMPETES Act.

The bill was introduced as a way to ramp up U.S. competitiveness in science, technology and manufacturing.

Unfortunately, the bill turned into a vehicle for other legislation that wouldn't normally pass by itself.

Through the process, which included more than 500 proposed amendments, an amendment was added that would ban the possession, transportation and sale of mink in the U.S.

The House passed the America COMPETES Act on a nearly party-line vote of 222-210 with two Democratic Representatives joining Republican

members voting against the bill. Before the bill goes to President Joe Biden for his signature, both chambers must pass identical versions. This means the Senate still has to vote on the version of legislation passed by the House of Representatives. In the Senate, passage will require the support of 50 Democratic Senators and 10 Republican Senators.

Moving forward, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Governmental Relations staff will work in collaboration with AFBF and other industry stakeholders to inform our Congressional delegation about the importance of mink farming in Wisconsin and how this amendment would be devastating to family farms across our state.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau will continue to inform our members about developments on this issue and provide opportunities for engagement and advocacy on behalf of Wisconsin agriculture.

You're Invited to the District 6 Bus Tour

Join us for a fun day in District 6 on **Friday, April 22.**

Board the bus at 9 a.m. and let us do the driving to three fun-filled agricultural stops throughout the district.

First stop is to Cloveredge Farms.

Started in 1945 with six cows, Cloveredge Farm is now a 500-cow dairy with eight GEA Monobox Robots.

Owned by Joe, Bernard, Roger Jason Holschbach and Valerie Maigatter the farm uses free-stall housing and grows crops on more than 1,100 acres including BMR corn silage, alfalfa, soybeans, shell corn, green beans and red beets.

Robotic milking required construction of a new free-stall barn. The old free-stall barn now houses heifers and dry cows, while the new barn accommodates the milking herd. The eight robot boxes are located in the center of the barn that features a guided flow system.

This means, cows must pass through an initial checkpoint before being granted access to the robot for milking. The gates in place scan the cows' collar. If it is time to be milked, the gate will allow her to pass into the holding area for the robot.

Second stop is to Silarian Vineyards. Their focus is high quality estate wine that is a sustainably local farmed Wisconsin product. Wisconsin wines are truly amazing and they wanted to be part of putting Wisconsin wines on the map.



They invite you to come share in their beauty, walk the vineyards and see what they are all about; enjoy a glass of wine with the backdrop of vineyards and hills filling your line of sight.

Our final stop is at Ledge Rock Hemp in Greenleaf.

2018 was the first year hemp was legal to cultivate in Wisconsin under the state pilot program.

The current partners of Ledge Rock Hemp had all grown their own crops and without much luck to find processors to help turn all of the hard work into usable products for consumers to manage their well-being, the group of growers had turned to one another to find a solution.

After several meetings, consultations, trips across the country to tour facilities, laboratories and manufacturers, the partners had developed a strategic plan to vertically integrate all of the separate grows into one extraction, processing and manufacturing facility.

With this decision, Ledge Rock Hemp was born. Staff seed, grow, harvest, extract, formulate, test, bottle, seal, label high quality, affordable hemp extracts for customers. Free samples of Hemp Extract Products will be available.

Lunch will be provided. Tour should return by 3:30 p.m. Seating is limited. Reserve your space today.

To reserve your space by **April 15**, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at 920.253.5303 or bsalm@wfbfcom.



More Than 140 Students Attend FFA Farm Forum

On Feb. 18, more than 140 high school juniors from around Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids.

"FFA Farm Forum is a time for learning and leadership," said WFBF President Kevin Krentz. "Thank you for being a part of FFA Farm Forum and for honing in on your leadership skills, learning more and investing in yourself."

The keynote speaker was Kaitlyn Riley, Director of Communications and Outreach with the Wisconsin Beef Council. Riley explored new ways to put the success of agriculture on center stage one voice at a time as advocates.

During the one-day event at Hotel Mead, FFA members attended career-based workshops including: 'Meat' Your Future in Wisconsin with Kaitlyn Riley and Matt Bayer, master meat crafter; Basics of Risk Management and Why It Matters with Mike North of ever.ag; Welcome to Jeopardy: Rural and Agricultural Edition with Melissa Ploeckelman of the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety; and A Day in the Life on a Potato Farm with Mike Leahy, Lynn Leahy and Tom Schultz of Heartland Farms, Inc.



"FFA Farm Forum is a partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA to encourage leadership development and exploration of careers in agriculture," said WFBF Director of Member Relations Mandy Ganser. "We were excited to host this for future agricultural leaders who have a passion for agriculture and a desire to learn."

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. After holding the event virtually in 2021, this year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 49th time the event has been hosted in person for Wisconsin youth.

Farm Bureau Offers College Scholarship

The Brown County Farm Bureau will award one \$500 scholarship to a student pursuing an agriculture-related degree.



Eligible applicants must be taking post high school agriculture related training or long- or short-course within the UW System or Wisconsin Technical College System. This includes the study of genetics, landscape, architecture, biochemistry, bacteriology, food industry, horticulture, environmental sciences, agriculture journalism and other agriculture-related fields of study.

Candidates for the scholarship must be a Brown County resident or student at a Brown County School, and he or she must be currently enrolled or planning to enter his or her first year of college at the time of application. Candidates need not be a Farm Bureau member.

This year the scholarship applications are digital. To obtain the link to the scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com, or 866.355.7345, or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due **April 1**.

West DePere, Bay Port and Denmark Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



West DePere FFA (from left): Remi Dantzman, Emilie Berner, Alanna Marcek and Isabelle Kinser.



Bay Port FFA (from left): Chloe Baranczyk, Trinity Mizorek, Victoria Birnschein and Michaela Vandenack.



Denmark FFA (from left): Libby Schuessler, Emma Phillips and Erin Van Pay.

BROWN COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Voice of Agriculture

Be involved in protecting the rural way of life and in fighting for the American farmer. Brown County Farm Bureau protects its 918 members.

To Promote and Educate

Provide time and talent to help at various events which aim to promote and educate members of the community on agriculture.

Strength in Leadership

The state is only as strong as the county Farm Bureaus. The Brown County Farm Bureau relies on strong county leaders. The heart of Farm Bureau is it's county Farm Bureau's.

Join the Brown County Farm Bureau Board

The Brown County Board meets the second Thursday, eight times per year Rural Office in Green Bay.

Brown County Farm Bureau
www.wfbf.com/BrownCountyFarmBureau
President Stan Kaczmarek 920-660-1938
www.facebook.com/Brown-County-Farm-Bureau



Brown County delegates and guests attended the WFBF Annual Meeting.



'Moos and Booze' basket donated by the Brown County Farm Bureau.

Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarship



The Calumet County Farm Bureau is pleased to provide a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will be attending an accredited college, university or technical school. The recipient will receive a check for \$500 following completion of his/her first semester. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.

The applicant must be from a current Calumet County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian or grandparent with a minimum of one-year active membership).

Scholarship applications are digital this year. To obtain the link to the scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345 or go the county Facebook page. Applications are due on **April 1**.

Meet Your Local Farmer



Meet Your Local Farmer is an event hosted in the Calumet County and Fond du lac Area farms in an open house style from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on **Saturday, April 23**.

This free event educates consumers about various aspects of Agriculture.

Visit one farm or all four at your own pace to enjoy a FREE family friendly event supporting local farms.

Kesler Family Farm: This farm is a multi-generational and multi-species family operation. Kesler Family Farm raises beef cattle, hogs, chickens, as well as hobby animals. Taking great pride in having one of the largest patches of rhubarb in the area. They utilize the garden's produce not only for human consumption but also for livestock treats. Throughout the year they sell beef, pork, eggs and garden produce. All together Kesler Family Farm raises the next generation of livestock, people and produce.

LaClare Family Creamery: Founded in 1978 with a foundation that is rooted in artistry, family values and hard work. A goat farm, shoppe, café and creamery featuring goat and cow milk cheeses made on site. Visitors can tour the center and learn how these award-winning cheeses are made. Check out the new garden center.

Lake Breeze Dairy: Established in 2003 by five Wisconsin farming families, 3,200 cows call Lake Breeze Dairy home. The cows are milked in a double 44-parallel parlor and there are 35 employees dedicated to caring for the cows on the farm. Visitor's will be able to board a bus to take a behind the scenes tour.

Ledgeview Farms: Established in 2008, Ledgeview Farms is a hydroponic greenhouse that produces tomatoes and English Cucumbers. The greenhouse is operated by the Deborah and Leonard Opsteen family. The seeds are started in late December. Nearly 3,000 plants are selected to be grown in the 12,000 square foot facility. The plants are cared for throughout the season by horticulturist Heather Guelig. In April, visitor's can buy tomatoes and cucumbers fresh.

Mark Your Calendars

Save the date for the 20th annual 2021 Rural Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on **Saturday, Aug. 21**, at the Hickory Hills Golf Club.

Room for 40, four-person teams. Enjoy the bucket raffle and live auction. You won't want to miss it.



Chilton Student Attends FFA Farm Forum



Brianna Meyer from Chilton High School attended the FFA Farm Forum.



Calumet County Farm Bureau was well represented at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Calumet County members took part in BINGO as one of the fun Saturday night events.



Calumet County Farm Bureau sponsored a silent auction item basket, 'I forgot to get her a gift.'

Scholarship Applications Available

The Door County Farm Bureau is now accepting applications for two \$500 scholarships.

Eligibility:

- Applicants planning to pursue post-secondary education enrolling in any type of major/program with preference given to those students intending to enroll in an agriculture or agriculturally related field. (Undergraduate degree at an accredited four-year college/university, Associate degree at any Wisconsin technical college, Farm and Industry Short Course at UW-Madison)
- Applicant or applicant's family must prove paid membership of the Door County Farm Bureau for at least one year prior to application.



This year, scholarship applications are digital. For more information, or to obtain a link to the application, please contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345 or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due on **April 1**.

My WFBF Leadership Institute Experience

By Rachel Harmann

Farm Bureau offers endless opportunities to those who are willing to step outside of their comfort zones and better themselves and the organization.

I had the honor of participating in the WFBF Leadership Institute and being pushed to learn new things about myself and further examine the workings of Farm Bureau.

WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, in-depth leadership program that challenges participants on a variety of topics including engagement, personal growth, government relations, media, agriculture issues and more.

Building a team environment with our classmates allowed each one of us to be vulnerable and open ourselves up to feedback and growth.

When we started learning about public speaking and building our messages many of us were nervous to speak in front of each other; however, by the end of our year together we were able to question each other comfortably and thoroughly on various current event topics at mock public hearings.

COVID impacted some of our sessions, and we were not able to meet in person as often as usual; however, we didn't let that dampen our experience.

We traveled to Bloomington, Illinois, to visit the Illinois Farm Bureau Headquarters and see how different state's Farm Bureaus operate. This trip really connected our class. If you ask past WFBF Leadership Institute members, they are likely to say the relationships they built are one of their top takeaways.

Being able to learn from industry experts and bring that information back to our home counties really shows how Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization.

I encourage anyone who is willing to take a step outside of his or her comfort zone to apply for the WFBF Leadership Institute and continue to be a voice for agriculture.



Meet Your Board Members

Holly LaPlant is a fourth generation dairy farmer in Door County. Her family milks about 100 cows in a tie stall barn and grow crops on about 1,500 acres. They raise all of their animals on site including the steers. Their whole family is involved in the farm; everyone pitches in wherever help is needed. This year she started her own small business selling farm direct beef from our farm.



Holly is starting her third year serving on the Door County Farm Bureau board of directors. She also is involved as the vice president of the Door County Dairy Promotion Committee and a member of the Sevastopol FFA Alumni. She enjoys being a Farm Bureau member because she greatly enjoys sharing the message of agriculture and educating consumers on where food comes from. So many people have a misguided understanding about farmers and being able to shed a positive light and provide them with the facts makes the difference. She also wants the public to see the younger generation taking an active role in our food production. Farmers can help share a message of the passion they share for animals, environment and community. Being in Farm Bureau members can bridge the gap between the 2% that feeds America. Her favorite Farm Bureau activity so far is working and help running the food stand at the fair. Door County Farm Bureau are currently putting together more events and activities for this year.

Adam Meinert was born and raised in West Bend but in March of 2020 moved to Egg Harbor with his wife Lucy. They currently live in Carlsville. He is the herdsman for Country View Farms owned by Ed and Deb Staats. They milk 400 cows and grow crops on 1,800 acres. Adam's wife Lucy is the herdsman for her parents' 60 cow, 800-acre farm in Egg Harbor, she also works at Bayside Vet. Adam is serving his second term on the board and also is the secretary for the Door County Dairy Promotion Committee as well as the Financial secretary for the Zion Lutheran Church. Adam says being a Farm Bureau member is a good reason to get together with fellow farmers. It helps him stay updated and hear about price changes and the things the public wants. His favorite Farm Bureau event so far was a district event called the Spring Fling.



Door County Member Attends AFBF YF&R Conference

By Rebecca Wilke, YFA Chair

On Feb. 25-28, I had the privilege of attending the AFBF 2022 Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

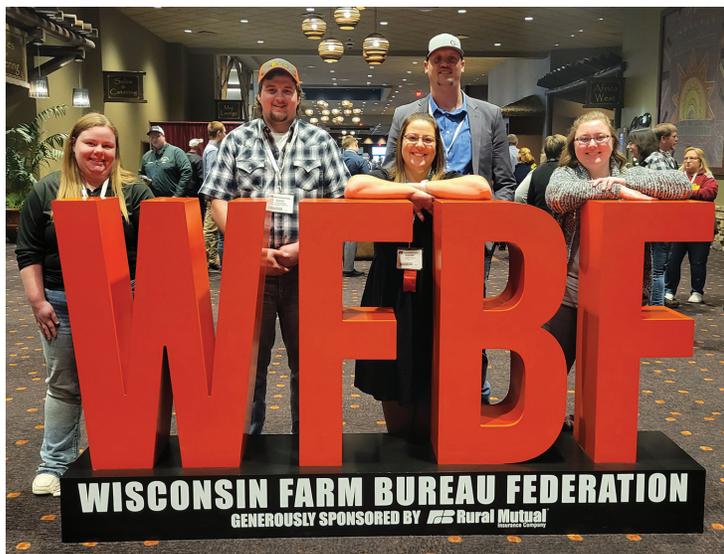
On Saturday, I got to hear from Dr. Delatorro McNeal II. He said that the problem is not always the resources that we are given, it is the resourcefulness that people are willing to seek out.

He also said that in order to innovate we have to dominate and pivot our attitude.

Later in the afternoon, I attended a session by Johanna Miller and she discussed Tough Topics in Agriculture. She said that the key formula to having these tough conversations with consumers is listen, ask and share.

On Sunday, I attended a session put on by the Farm Babe. During her session, I heard all about perception. She said th=at you control the future of your farm and whether it is successful.

On Monday, I attended a tour where I got to learn about Rootbound Farm. The owners grow vegetables on 55 acres.



Door County Farm Bureau had a great YFA turnout with two members competing in the Discussion Meet.



Dan Vandertie and Denise Plassmeyer heard resolutions on the delegate floor.



Door County Farm Bureau sponsored a basket for the WFB Foundation silent auction, 'A Taste of Door County.'

Manitowoc County



YFA members and county delegates represented Manitowoc County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



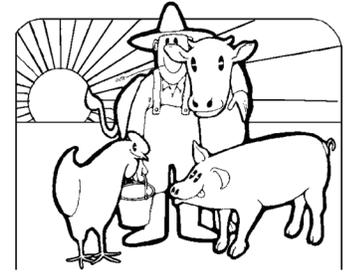
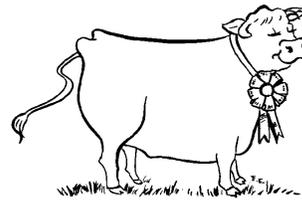
Manitowoc County board member and treasurer Mike Luebke graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute. The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.



Manitowoc County Farm Bureau donated a snowman ensemble to the WFBF Foundation silent auction. Due to the generosity of members, county Farm Bureaus, businesses and sponsors, a large selection of items are offered.

Promotion and Education Committee to Hold Coloring Contest

Again this year, the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee are sponsoring a coloring contest for kindergarten through third grades. There are two pictures: Kindergarten-first grade: Prize Winning Cow; Second-third grade: Farmer and Animal



The deadline date is **Wednesday, May 1.**

The rules are as follows:

- Crayons **ONLY** may be used.
- All requested information must be on the back of the picture: full name, age, address with city and zip code, phone number, name of school attending, grade and name of teacher.
- Each grade will have first, second and third place winners with monetary prizes being awarded.
- Coloring contest pictures become the property of Manitowoc County Farm Bureau.
- **PLEASE NOTE – PICTURES ARE TO BE COLORED AS IS – NO ADD-ONS**, i.e., people, flowers, trees, birds, sun, clouds, spots on cows/ unless that is how the picture is, no additions to clothing or anything else to the picture. This is a coloring contest only.

This contest is open to any student in a Manitowoc County school. If

your school does not plan to use this as a class project, students may enter on an individual basis.

If you have questions, please contact Cheryl Duchow at 920.901.3745.

To get a copy of the pictures, visit wfbf.com/about/counties/manitowoc.

Contest entries are to be mailed to: Manitowoc County Farm Bureau, c/o Cheryl Duchow, 415 N. Adams Street, Valders, Wisconsin 54245. Entries must be received by **Wednesday, May 1**, not postmarked on the due date.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Reminder

This year's Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students is, "What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!" In 100 to 300 words, students can explore the importance of corn to Wisconsin's economy, whether it is field corn, sweet corn, popcorn or other types grown. Students also could focus on the role of corn in many of the snacks that we enjoy.

For rules and information, visit www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest. Prizes will be awarded in early May with the first place entry going onto the district contest.

For questions, please contact Alice Petermann, essay coordinator at 920.773.2502. The essay must be postmarked by **April 1** and mailed to Alice Petermann, 310 Simon Drive, Valders, Wisconsin 54245. Best of luck, young writers.

Currently Accepting Applications for the 2022-2023 Miss Farm Bureau

Who is Miss Farm Bureau? Miss Farm Bureau is a young woman from Manitowoc County who represents Farm Bureau around the county. Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 24 as of **Jan. 1.**

What does Miss Farm Bureau do during her reign? Miss Farm Bureau is crowned in June during Breakfast on the Farm. Most of her appearances take place during summer. Appearances include area parades, County Fair, farmer's markets, and local community events throughout the county.

How do I become Miss Farm Bureau? Compete and submit the application form by **April 15**. Application is available at bit.ly/MissFarmBureau.

Questions can be directed toward Anne at 920.973.8565.



Farm Wisconsin Hosts STEM Event

On Dec 28, 2021, Miss Farm Bureau, Cassie Zutz, spent the day at the Wisconsin Farm Discovery Center for its STEM event.

She handed out pencils, stickers, milk cups and other fun items to children.

The children also learned about soybeans and products made from soybeans. The event was sponsored by the Promotion and Education Committee and helped put agriculture STEM careers in the spotlight.



Members of the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee gathered donations for The Crossing in Manitowoc.

Farm Bureau to Offer Scholarships

The Manitowoc County Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists (YFA) and the Promotion and Education Committees are each offering the Wayne Luebke Memorial \$500 scholarship to a student who is attending an accredited college, university or technical school. The recipients will receive a check for \$500 following completion of his/her first semester with the check made out to the school and student's name. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.

The applicant must be from a current Manitowoc County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian, or if the applicant is older than 21, he/she must have his or her own membership.) Associate members through Rural Mutual Insurance customers also are eligible.

This year, scholarship applications will be digital. To obtain a scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345 or visit the county Facebook page.

Applications are due on **April 1**.



Mishicot Students Attend FFA Farm Forum



(from left): Savannah Sinkula, Akaysha St. Pierre and Natalie Braun attended the FFA Farm Forum and were sponsored by the Manitowoc County Farm Bureau.

Sheboygan County

Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships

The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau is pleased to provide a \$1,000 Board of Directors Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will be attending an accredited college, university or technical school. All majors will be considered, but preference will be given to students involved with agriculture.



The Sheboygan County Farm Bureau Women's Committee also offers up to two, \$500 scholarships.

Applicants for either scholarships must be from a current Sheboygan County Farm Bureau member family (parent, guardian or grandparent).

This year, the scholarship applications will be digital. To obtain a scholarship application, contact District 6 Coordinator Becky Salm at bsalm@wfbf.com or 866.355.7345, or visit the county Facebook page. Applications are due **April 1**.

Farm Bureau Schedules Classroom on the Farm

By Kathy Salm, Sheboygan County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Hello, I am Kathy Salm, the new Sheboygan County Promotion and Education Committee Chair.

I am excited to kick off our year with our day on the farm on **May 5-6** at Majestic Crossing. We are expecting approximately 1,000 students again this year.

We are looking for help for group leaders for Classroom on the Farm. These leaders, guide a group of students through the presentations on the farm. If you are interested in helping, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/B3pNtBhRVr>.

In addition to Classroom on the Farm, we also sponsor an essay contest and award scholarships to deserving students in our county.

If you want to join our committee, please let me know. We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Rural Insurance Office in Plymouth.

Also, if you have any ideas for promotions or educational activities, we want to hear about your ideas.

Have a safe and healthy year.



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau board members at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Sheboygan County Farm Bureau donated a cheese basket to the silent auction.

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**This Issue Contains
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Manitowoc County

Sheboygan County

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