

Grassroots

District 8 News

We Are Farm Bureau

**Ryan Klussendorf**

WFBF District 8 Director

Spring is coming like it or not. The days are getting warmer, the snow is melting and the sun is out longer each day. These are the guarantees of spring, but like the last two springs the unknown is looming.

This year will not be like the last or the year before that, we are starting out with record high commodity prices that could be a great thing, but we also are facing record high input costs.

Looking past the farm gate, we could be headed into World War III, and being used as the bargaining chip by our government.

Joseph Glauber, former chief economist of the USDA has repeatedly said, "In terms of agriculture being used to negotiate with other countries, there are high level instances where all presidents have used agriculture dating back to the Nixon administration."

Farmers have a history of being the bargaining chip, we must be prepared for the next chip to fall and bet to be made on our backs. So, what can we do you ask? My best suggestion is to stay educated, read news articles, watch the local and national news and control what you can by being educated on the subject.

The counties of District 8 are working together and bringing in speakers on subjects we want to be informed on. We need more ideas, that align with our policy for counties to plan these informational meetings. If you have an idea, bring it to your county Farm Bureau and it can work with other counties to bring these ideas to life.

Recently, District 8 counties worked together and held the Energy Summit. We had a large group in attendance, I will say it was extremely successful. My praise of the event doesn't come from the amount of people who attended or the information given (both were great), my praise comes from the fact we had several in attendance who asked questions, stayed engaged and looked for answers to become more informed.

We have counties that are having Dairy Together meetings to bring forward the CALS plan to dairy growth management. Our policy states we want more education on the plan and several counties have taken it upon to have these meetings. Take the time and attend to get the knowledge on how it can and will affect your and your neighbors' farms.

As we enter another spring season, remember there are no guarantees. An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. No matter what happens, the one thing that can't be taken from us is our minds. The more knowledge we have the more power we possess.

I look forward to seeing you at the meetings being planned by District 8 counties. Remember we are stronger together as members of Farm Bureau, we have a seat at the negotiating table and can stop the load before it gets too heavy to carry alone.

'Soil Your Undies and Wet Your Pollinators'

Join us for our second round of 'Soil Your Undies and Wet your Pollinators.'

Rules: Sign up by using the QR code or visit the link.

We will mail your supplies the first week of June.

In order to be enrolled in the contest you will need to:

1. Send a selfie with your flag once you have buried your undies.
2. Send a selfie with your flag and deteriorated undies one month after initial planting.
3. Email your pictures to acalaway@wfbf.com or post to your county's Facebook page.

Why should you take part in the contest? Microbes play a huge role in soil health. They act similar to our stomach digesting nutrients and providing key components for plants to grow. They can also help prevent some plant disease. Also, it's a lot of fun.

Do I need to supply my own underwear? No, to ensure the contest is fair across the board a pair will be mailed to you as part of your kit.

What kind of prize? A \$50 gift certificate to Fleet Farm.

**GO AHEAD AND
"SOIL YOUR UNDIES"**

and wet your pollinators....We wont tell.... well actually, we will that's the point of the contest!

Join us for our second round of Soil Your Undies!
Prizes will be awarded to the top "soiled undies" in each of the following counties:
Clark, Lincoln, Marathon, Portage, Price, Taylor, and Wood!

To register for the contest go to:
<https://bit.ly/2022SYU>

Local Farm Shopping Guide



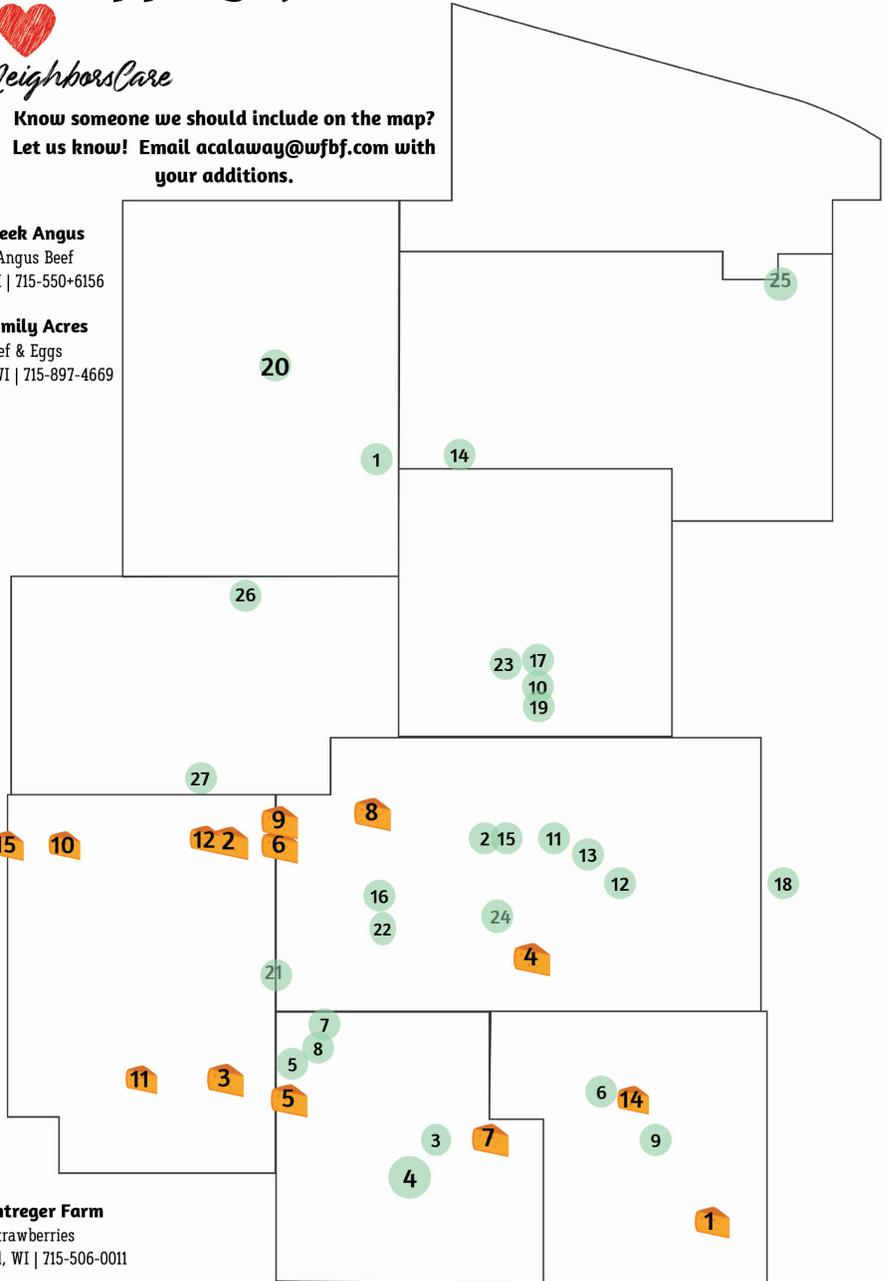
#FarmNeighborsCare

Know someone we should include on the map?
Let us know! Email acalaway@wfbf.com with your additions.

- 1 **Brantwood Bison**
Grass-Fed Bison
Brantwood, WI | 715-564-2415
- 2 **Rock Ridge Orchard, LLC**
Apples, Jams/Jellies, Pie filling, Maple Syrup, honey, and fresh bakery
Edgar, WI | 715-370-4083
- 3 **Miller's Pasture View Farm**
Pasture raised Meats:
Beef, lamb, & chicken
Arpin WI | 715-305-6576
- 4 **Sunnett Farmstead Market**
Custom Jersey beef
Pittsville WI | 715-307-1520
- 5 **Hanke Dairy Farms**
Beef: Angus/Holstein crosses, vegetables, and sweet corn
Marshfield, WI | 715-305-5808
- 6 **Feltz Dairy Store**
Milk, cheese, ice cream
Stevens Point, WI | 715-344-1293
- 7 **Seehafer Farm Creamery**
Cheese, ground beef, and milk Marshfield, WI | 715-384-5152
- 8 **Weber's Farm Store**
Milk, cream, Kefir, ground beef, ice cream, butter, and cheese
Marshfield, WI | 715-384-5639
- 9 **Hintz Farms**
Grain fed beef and sweet corn
Amherst, WI | 920-728-1303
- 10 **Eagle Rock Ranch**
Grassfed Beef
Merrill, WI | 715-218-6739
- 11 **Leist Farms Inc.**
Sweet corn and asparagus
Marathon, WI | 715-432-7919
- 12 **Zorowski Homestead**
Eggs and honey
Ringle, WI | 715-581-8870
- 13 **Sugar Hill Sugar Bush LLC**
Maple syrup
Wausau, WI | 715-573-4586
- 14 **Brigadoon Winery**
Grape, fruit, and dessert wines and soon an aquaponic greenhouse
Tripoli, WI | 715-564-2280
- 15 **Scotch and Soda Acres**
Raw Honey and brown eggs
Edgar, WI | 715-302-2311
- 16 **Ivan Borntreger**
Strawberries
Stratford, WI | 715-506-0011
- 17 **Yates Family Farm**
Grass fed beef by the cut, or quarters
Merrill, WI | 715-218-6209
- 18 **Wilson Creek Orchard LLC**
Apples
Wittenberg, WI | 715-701-2100
- 19 **Engleberry Farm**
Strawberries
Merrill, WI | 715-536-9091

- 20 **Deer Creek Angus**
Black Angus Beef
Phillips, WI | 715-550+6156
- 21 **JLB Family Acres**
Beef & Eggs
Spencer, WI | 715-897-4669

- 22 **Borntreger Farm**
Strawberries
Stratford, WI | 715-506-0011
- 23 **J&S Hempsters**
CBD Oil, Balm, cream, gummies
Merrill, WI | 715-432-0498
- 24 **Ken & Doreen Stankowski Farm**
Honey & Maple Syrup
Mosinee, WI | 715-693-6279
- 25 **James Lake Farms**
Organic Cranberries
Three Lakes, WI | 715-459-4133
- 26 **We Grow LLC**
Community Supported Agriculture Meat & Produce
Westboro, WI | 715-905-0431
- 27 **ertine Gardens & Greenhouse**
Flowers and Produce
Curtiss, WI | 715-678-2206



Cheese Shops:

- 1 **Cheese Pleasers Inc**
Bancroft, WI | 715-335-6750
- 2 **Suttner's Cheese**
Curtiss, WI | 715-223-3338
- 3 **Lynn Dairy & Protein**
Granton, WI | 715-238-7129
- 4 **Mullin's Cheese**
Knowlton, WI | 715-693-3205
- 5 **Nasonville Dairy**
Nasonville, WI | 715-676-2177
- 6 **Ray's Market**
Colby, WI | 715-223-4855
- 7 **Dairy State Cheese**
Rudolph, WI 715-435-3144
- 8 **Harmony Speciality Dairy**
Athens, WI | 715-687-4236
- 9 **Hawkeye Dairy Store**
Abbotsford, WI | 715-223-6358
- 10 **Marieke Gouda**
Thorp, WI | 715-669-5230
- 11 **Pavillion Cheese & Gifts**
Neillsville, WI | 715-743-3333
- 12 **Nasonville North Cheese Shoppe**
Curtiss, WI | 715-223-3338
- 13 **Tomahawk, WI | 715-224-2627**
- 14 **Ski's Meat Market**
Stevens Point, WI | 715-344-8484
- 15 **LaGrander's Cheese**
Stanley, WI | 715-644-2275

District 8 Students Attend FFA Farm Forum

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

"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 great 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 conference 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.



Owen-Withee FFA (from left): Spenser Schwab, Kayla Lobacz and Wyatt Wulff.



Stevens Point FFA (from left): Carmen Schultz and Jady Mocado.



Greenwood FFA (from left): Ashlee Hamm and Wyatt Thomas.



Amherst FFA (from left): Tyler Kennedy and Sawyer Stuczynski.



Lincoln FFA (from left): Lucas Prange and Brooke Conover.



Thorp FFA (from left): Rebecca Abramczak and Rachel Boehlke.

Spring Is in the Air



Ashleigh Calaway

District 8 Coordinator

I can't be the only one who loves spring. It is a sign of new beginnings and opportunity. It's also a crazy time on the farm. Trying to get all the crops in, attend the last few workshops put on by groups and for most, trying to juggle all the new life on the farm.

I think so often for those of us in the agricultural industry whether it be production agriculture or the service industry, it also is a time that we find ourselves burning the candle from all angles.

I want to encourage you to make sure you take some time to play as well. If I learned one thing from my accident last fall – don't wait for tomorrow to happen, find the joy in the moment and make sure you laugh, laugh as much as you can every chance you get.

I also think it's a time to celebrate ... celebrate making it through another Wisconsin winter and the anniversary of when I started working for Farm Bureau. 2022 marks eight years of serving as your District Coordinator. In those eight years we have accomplished so much together.

1. We created a buy local shop local map – to support and promote our member businesses.
2. We created an Agricultural Incident Guide and Field Training Program for law enforcement, first responders, fire departments and county emergency coordinators.
3. We started a #FBCares program that turned into a statewide #FarmNeighborsCare Program.
4. We provided training for Question Persuade and Respond and our upcoming COMET training. To ensure that you have the tools you need to help those in need.
5. We created a Farmer-to-Farmer program to support each other when disaster strikes. You can sign up to be a part of it at bit.ly/D8EmergencyPlan. (Can we take a moment to think about how amazing it is to have a program in place if God forbid a fire or natural disaster hits and with one call to your county Farm Bureau president you could have trucks, trailers, potential housing, feed, etc., on their way to be there for you.)



Photo courtesy of Kelly Sue Montag.

6. We hosted countless educational workshops to provide information on everything from: alternative energy, cover crops, dairy, IOH, the list goes on.
7. We strengthened relationships with our Rural Mutual Insurance agents and agriculturally-based businesses.
8. We have developed, sponsored and inspired countless members, emerging leaders, and youth to step outside of their comfort zones and become leaders within their communities through the WFBF Leadership Institute, district committees, county programs of work, sponsorship of workshops and ensuring everyone has the opportunities to succeed.

To think WE did all of this in just eight short years imagine where we will be in the next eight years. The common denominator for all of this is YOU, our valued members. YOU are the inspiration to keep pushing the envelope, to not settle and to keep moving forward.

I want to thank you for being along for the ride and I look forward to seeing where we are at eight years from now.

Agricultural Incident Guide – Livestock Handling Workshop Scheduled

In 2018, county leaders noticed a need in their communities.

They started working on a comprehensive guide in partnership with UW-Extension for law enforcement, first responders, fire departments and county emergency coordinators.

In 2019, they put the finishing touches on the guidebook and hosted their first field training day.



The committee is back to work and organizing another field training day for **Sept. 7**.

If you are interested in serving on the committee, helping with the planning process or want to participate, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or acalaway@wfbf.com.

To see the guidebook, visit bit.ly/AgEmergencyGuide.



Photos courtesy of the 2019 field training day.

Meet: Farm Bureau Member and the Person Behind The Joyful Mind LLC

Ashleigh Calaway

District 8 Coordinator

In 2020, county leadership across the district started working on a comprehensive plan to end the stigma around mental health – especially for those in the agriculture industry.

Then COVID-19 happened. When that happened, our in-person workshops, coffee chats, etc., were put on hold as we tried to pivot and adjust to the new reality.

Now, your county leaders are back at it, working to find a way to help agricultural communities and be there when you need them the most.

Part of that plan is diving into the old plan and breaking down a few misconceptions when it comes to seeking help.

To aid in that process I sat down with Carissa, the owner of The Joyful Mind LLC, a fully virtual therapy office offering mental health teletherapy to adults in Wisconsin with a focus on those in the agriculture industry.

Ashleigh: Carissa can you tell us a little bit about yourself and why you are so committed to serving the agricultural community.

Carissa: I grew up in central Wisconsin surrounded by farmers of all kinds. There were dairy and beef farmers, crop farmers, horse farmers, tree farmers and even deer farmers. My grandparents owned a dairy farm, the next-door neighbor raised pulling horses and cranberries and my parents were designated tree farmers. I grew up in the middle of it all, participating in all of it. It taught me so much about good land stewardship and my passion for maintaining a lifestyle that kept me close to the land. When I was old enough to have a job, you could find me working on neighbors' farms helping with hay, working horses or helping catch animals that went through the fences. In high school, I was active in FFA, especially in the forestry program, and interned with my high school's agriculture department. When I wasn't at school, you could find me participating in 4-H's horseless-horse program as both a participant and a mentor to young horse riders. When it came time for college, I left for Madison. Although I loved the life Madison offered, I still longed for wide-open spaces. I often came home to help my neighbor farmers, teach horse riding lessons and just spend time in the woods. I returned to central Wisconsin after completing my graduate work and started working as a mental health therapist. When my husband and I started dating, we knew that agriculture was in our future. Shortly after getting married and having our children, we were able to achieve this goal of starting our own hobby farm. This farm has been so much more than a dream for us. We have been able to help preserve the heritage walking horse breed, raise our own market animals, learn more about efficient gardening techniques, try our hand at keeping honey bees, engage in QDR and most importantly, preserve this way of life with our children. Life has a funny way of repeating itself. I'm still active in 4-H, but as a parent and a leader. I still help with selective forestry, but just on my own property. We're teaching our children how to mend fences and make hay.

Ashleigh: Carissa could you maybe explain what therapy really is?

Carissa: Maybe I'm biased, but I think therapy can be for everybody and anybody. Therapy is not only an investment in yourself, but it's an act of self-compassion and self-care that can have profound and far-reaching effects. Therapy offers a space to confront and process through our challenges and difficult emotions, and it can give us the tools to better manage our feelings of distress. Therapy can also help us improve our ability to cope with life's curveballs, build insight into ourselves and create meaningful, lasting changes that help us feel connected to our most authentic selves. That being said, therapy can be a longer-term investment, and it works best when you, the client, are invested in the process. That's

why it's so important to find the therapist and type of therapy that works best for you.

Ashleigh: How does therapy help?

Carissa: Therapy is not just for diagnosing anxiety and depression. Therapy offers a safe, non-judgmental space for you to do multiple things like:

- Work through difficult and stressful situations.
- Process feelings of uncertainty, sadness and anger.
- Receive validation of what you are experiencing.
- Learn different and new skills to help control your symptoms of anxiety or depression.
- Find ways to help you stay focused and complete tasks.
- Have an ear just there to listen.
- Discover different ways to handle stress.
- Build self-esteem.
- Help you not feel so alone
- And so much more.

Therapy is individualized to what you need and isn't a cookie-cutter process. Your therapist will work with you to help you identify the strengths you already have to help you reach goals you want to reach. It is important to stress here that therapy is always confidential, meaning what you tell your therapist, stays with your therapist. Unless you give permission to share information, let's say with your spouse or your doctor, your therapist will not share your information.

Ashleigh: Can you explain what telehealth is and maybe how it works?

Carissa: Telehealth, also called teletherapy, is an amazing adaptation that has come from COVID-19. Telehealth allows therapists to see you either by video or by phone, at the place you feel most comfortable: your home. Telehealth offers many benefits including:

- Not having to leave your farm to receive mental health services.
- Complete confidentiality and no office visits.
- More accommodating hours to meet with your therapist.

Many therapists currently offer some sort of teletherapy availability that only require you to have:

- A strong internet/phone connection.
- Downloading free apps (like Zoom) to help connect to video meetings.
- A quiet and private place to meet like a spare room, a vehicle or even your backyard.

Many insurance companies still cover telehealth appointments as part of your coverage. If it doesn't, you may have to pay out of pocket or utilize the farmer wellness program to help you cover the cost of therapy.

To learn more about The Joyful Mind, visit www.thejoyfulmind.org.



District 8 News

COMET Training: Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory

When: 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20

Where: Abbotsford Community Center, Abbotsford
Attached to the city hall and public library

Have you ever noticed a family member, friend or neighbor who is 'not themselves' lately? Unsure of how to check in with him or her?

COMET training is for you. It provides hands-on training on how to start a conversation that could be potentially emotional, tools on how to be present and supportive but not 'fix it,' and how to exit the conversation gracefully by offering resources, follow-up or next steps.

Rural communities and farm families value supporting each other in times of need and that extends to those who are in a vulnerable emotional state.

COMET training empowers you to be better prepared to support others, especially before a crisis occurs.

This training program was created in partnership with Farm Well Wisconsin, High Plains Research Network and UW-Extension.

Join in person or virtually. A meal will be provided courtesy of your county Farm Bureau.

To register, visit bit.ly/COMET22 or scan the QR code.



Sweetheart/Dog House Bowling

On Feb. 12, close to 20 Young Farmers and Agriculturists (YFAs) from across the district gathered for a night of good food, great conversation and some bowling.

If you are interested in learning more about the YFA program or how you can make sure you are on the list for the next event, please contact Aly Sosnovske at 715.219.0614.



Jeffrey and Jenna Okonek, winners of the Ag Love Story Contest.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist AWARDS

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONAL AWARD

FOR YFA MEMBERS WHO EARN A MAJORITY OF THEIR INCOME FROM OFF-FARM, NON PRODUCTION AGRICULTURE JOBS.

APPLY AT:
<http://bit.ly/fbagprofessional22>

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE AWARD

FOR YFA MEMBERS WHO EARN A MAJORITY OF THEIR INCOME FROM THE FARM.

APPLY AT:
<http://bit.ly/fbfarmingfuture22>

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
Young Farmer and Agriculturist
Program



Coming Soon

District 8 is partnering with area Rural Insurance agents and WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships Rachel Gerbitz to promote pollinator plants in residential areas.

County Farm Bureaus Host Energy Summit

On Feb. 27, about 35 members, town board members and neighbors gathered to learn from industry leaders regarding alternative energy and what is in store.

The hope for the day was to provide members with information from industry leaders to enable them to make the best decision for their farm, family or community.

This event was sponsored by: Clark County, Lincoln County, Marathon County, Portage County, Price County, Taylor County and Wood County Farm Bureaus.

The discussion and desire to host learning opportunities like the one that day started in July at our District Policy Development meeting and was brought up again at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Shortly after the WFBF Annual Meeting presidents started talking and hammering out the details for the event.



Panel members included (from left): Matthew Johnson, Field Operations Director for the Land and Liberty Coalition; Jeff Springer, Manager, Innovation and Efficient Electrification for Dairyland Power Cooperative; and Ken Ceaglske, President and CEO of Taylor Electric Cooperative.

A Battle for Your Radar



By Kim Bremmer, Clark County Local Affairs Chair

The message can never be repeated too often about the importance of you or someone representing your farm serving on your local town or county board and attending the monthly meetings.

Anti-agriculture activists have done a great job filling these positions, with harmful outcomes becoming more and more visible around the state.

Taking a quick look to our friends in Polk and Burnett counties and understanding why we should care is the perfect example.

A battle has been brewing there for over three years as a small, but vocal group of activists has partnered with a local environmental non-profit to utilize resources and craft an operational ordinance, impossible for livestock farms to comply with.

What began as an anti-CAFO movement in Ashland years before that, has moved to neighboring counties and townships, now affecting people with ~350 dairy cows.

We can no longer assume, "That will never come here," because every backyard is our own.

The anti-agriculture crowd has momentum and a platform like never before. These six towns in Polk and Burnett counties have hired legal counsel to help draft an operational ordinance and support their actions.

Aside from all local, state and federal regulations and permit requirements that farms must comply with when building and expanding, this operational ordinance includes 11 additional plans that must be accepted by your local unit of government.

To highlight a few:

- Odor and Toxic Air Pollutions Prevention Plan (assessing air quality around the farm, including air from barn fans, additional filtration requirements, guarantee of no odor, etc.)
- Local Economic Assessment Plan (assuring there will never be any negative effects on property values around your farm, assuming any negative effect is from your farm, etc.)
- Animal Population Control and Depopulation Plan (covering all details of all animal handling, with daily animal counts submitted to the township so they can monitor daily death loss and how dead animals are disposed of, etc.)
- Water Use Plan (showing estimates of all water use and a guarantee that your farm will never affect the local water table or any surrounding wells, particularly artesian wells, etc.)

The operational ordinance also requires an array of financial assurance, road bonds and reimbursement to the township for monitoring. The additional plans also need to be reviewed by a third party at the expense of the farmer, along with additional applications fees and yearly maintenance fees.

Any member of the town board has access to any part of your farm, any time of the day. All tires on every vehicle in and out of your driveway need to be washed and sanitized, and no trucks, trailers, farm equipment or deliveries can be on the road before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m., the list of demands seems endless.

Unreasonable? Yes. Impossible to get passed? No. Illegal? Likely.

But local units of government do retain some authority and the burden of proof in this issue will likely fall into a courtroom decision, when all could have been avoided with reasonable, common-sense people serving on the local boards. Stay tuned.

Cereal Treat Bars

By Courtesy of Baked with Grace. For more deserts, visit <https://baked-with-grace.com> or if you have field work meal/snack recipes that you want to share, please contact District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway at acalaway@wfbf.com.

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Total time: 45 minutes

Servings: Makes approx. 24 bars

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 3 cups mini-marshmallows

Topping

- 2/3 cup corn syrup
- 1/4 cup butter
- 10 oz. bag peanut butter chips
- 2 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 1 cup M&M's

Instructions

Bar Dough

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
2. Cream butter and sugar.
3. Beat in egg yolks and vanilla.
4. Combine flour, baking powder, salt and baking soda, gradually add until crumbly.
5. Pat into 13 x 9 inch greased baking pan.
6. Bake at 350 degrees for 12-14 minutes.
7. Sprinkle with marshmallows and bake for another 3 minutes until marshmallows are poofed up.
8. Remove from oven and cool.



Topping

1. Combine corn syrup, butter and peanut butter chips in a saucepan over medium heat.
2. Cook until melted and smooth.
3. Remove from heat and add cereal.
4. Add M&M's candies, stir until combined.
5. Spread over crust and cool until set.



Have you "herd" the news?

Lincoln County June Dairy Breakfast

Brought to you by: Lincoln County Farm Bureau -
Dairy Committee

SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH
AT THE MARC
8 AM - NOON

Did you know?

Lincoln County
Agriculture provides
\$63 million in economic
activity and is #3 in
Wisconsin's Christmas
Tree Industry

President's Message



Bill Mueller
Marathon County Farm Bureau President

The fuel prices are looming and where will they end up as the pending crop season is fast approaching?

The fertilizer prices are much higher than what they were last year, and some farmers will have to figure out what will be best suited for their operation. It seems that everything has a higher price tag than it had a year ago.

Now, is the time for a lot of meetings before the busy crop season begins for those of you who tap maple trees it is fast approaching; this is a good cash crop for some farmers.

Will milk prices stay or what will happen. When farmers make money, they are apt to spend to better their operations [or keep it in circulation] this has been an old saying for a very long time.

Another harvest season has come to an end. Thankfully, it ended with a bountiful harvest. I know that some areas were blessed with rain while others struggled to overcome drought.

In talking with farmers, it appears most of Marathon County farmers were blessed with a bumper crop. It was a reassuring fall hearing from members across the county and state that they are optimistic for the future in agriculture.

Here's to 2022, may it be all that you dream for it to be.

Did you know?

Marathon County Agriculture
provides \$2.8 Billion in
economic activity.

We are #2 in Wisconsin's dairy
industry and ranked #19 in
the United States.

We also support
11,021 jobs!

Cournoyer, Agricultural Education Instructor, Auburndale High School

Dear farmers and friends of Mill Creek Watershed,
As an Agricultural Education instructor of 21 years at Auburndale High School, I have some unique insight about the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed (FMCW) and how your endeavors inspire our youth to get active in their local communities.

This group's outreach to schools has been a benefit to schools throughout central Wisconsin. When the group invited our agriculture classes to be part of its December meeting and cover crop bus tours, the opportunity to engage students with producers was a situation we jumped at.

As our district lies within the Mill Creek Watershed, I wanted to surround my students with influences that incorporate the FMCW's aggressive efforts into their lives. The cover crop field days that were put on by the FMCW for farmers and students allowed teachers from central Wisconsin to take students of all abilities to see cover crop innovations.

In particular, three students with physical disabilities were able to participate and accommodations were made so that students were able to see and hear in real-time what Extension and seed professionals had to say.

Our students talked to the farmer group about our classroom conservation efforts. This task allowed for several of my students to speak to a group that wasn't their peers about topics they were passionate about including: precision ag, working with a forester on timber stand improvement and wetland delineation.

These students were given the opportunity to hone their public speaking skills, and for the first time, engage with adults about endeavors that our classes were pushing in conservation.

The FMCW made sure that our students had access to the Mill Creek no-till drill so that we were able to plant cover crops in our school forest test plots. Students worked with Mid-State Technical College faculty to demonstrate how to calibrate a grain drill and mix and plant cover crops in our district's field within walking distance of our high school building.

This spring members of the FMCW spoke to our class at our school forest shelter on the topic of cover crops and their importance of keeping soil on the farm. Students carried out feasibility studies with their own farming practices and used a variety of website tools and apps to calculate seed requirements, costs per acre and equipment that would be needed to conduct small scale trials.

We had the intention of building an inter-seeder, but upon researching, came upon a farmer in Iowa who built a seeder with a grain drill box and a cultivator tool bar. After comparing ideas, he offered his planter to us as he had switched to grazing from row crops and no longer used the planter. I

sent an official Wisconsin 'Thank You' cheese box from Nasonville Dairy and two students brought the planter back Memorial Day weekend.

The inter-seeder is a six-row planter that has three disk openers per corn row that drop seed between rows and incorporates just as if you were seeding. The seeder is run off a hydraulic drive operated by a precision controller that we calibrated for speed as we did not have a GPS Globe to communicate with the hydraulic drive.

In order for the students to run trials side by side, we divided the large-seed box and placed spring barley on one side and winter rye on the other. Our smaller grains were a mix of rapeseed, radish and crimson clover on one side and rapeseed, radish and red clover on the other.

Fifty percent of the seed cost was covered by the Farmers of Mill Creek Watershed Project DATCP Grant and the rest generously donated by Jay-Mar, Inc.

Trials were conducted in our sunflower patch at the Auburndale School Forest with additional trials in Milladore along Mill Creek and U.S. Highway 10.

Planting took place when corn was in the V2-V6 stage with one trial being seeded right after planting. Students obviously enjoyed planting with the tractor provided by Swiderski Implement, but also worked with Sammi Hoffman, agronomist from Jay-Mar who assisted with seed mixing and procurement.

Students will present their findings at the winter meeting of FMCW. The inter-seeder will be available, with seeding recommendations to you if you are interested in pursuing this method of soil conservation.

The FMCW outreach efforts have inspired teachers to participate and incorporate conservation efforts into classrooms throughout the watershed.

As we look forward to the new school year, we are eager to continue to inspire students in the stewardship of the organization.

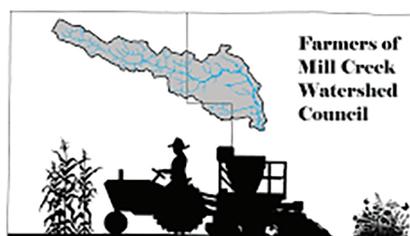
Sincerely,
Mark Cournoyer, Ag Education Instructor, Auburndale High School



Inter-seeding into corn.



Inter-seeded cover crop Auburndal Project.



Inter-seeder at Auburndale High School.



Loading the inter-seeder.

From The President

Dan Berg

Price County Farm Bureau President

Most of you reading this already know that on March 11, many Price County dairy farmers received a stomach turning phone call.

They were informed that in 4 1/2 days they would no longer be able to ship their milk. In the blink of an eye 11 small businesses, 11 farms, 11 families were seemingly on the brink of closing their doors or dumping milk until a feasible solution could be found.

It was a long three days for many, making phone calls, sending emails and gathering and sharing information to find a solution that would keep these farms producing milk while maintaining the structural integrity of the county roads.

Thankfully, the Price County Highway commissioner and the processing plant came to an agreement that allows farmers to ship milk uninterrupted and allows the hauler to travel the best routes and haul the milk produced, while staying within permitted weight limits.

We want to thank those who supported these farm families during this time of uncertainty.

We also want to thank the Price County Highway Committee and commissioner as well as Mullins Cheese for coming together and finding a solution that was mutually beneficial for all those involved.

Hopefully, this will serve as a great example of how coming together with facts and clear communication can create mutually beneficial solutions for those involved.

Taylor County

wfbf.com/about/counties/taylor
TaylorCountyFarmBureau

Meet: Eric and Rebecca Zuleger, Owners of We Grow and Taylor County Members

By Rob Klussendorf, Taylor County Farm Bureau President

The farming couple started their produce operation in 2014 after 10 years in the mink industry and a stale fur market forced either diversification or an exit from farming.

With the most valuable product from the mink farm being nitrogen heavy manure, they shifted to vegetables. After two growing seasons, the mink were replaced with varying livestock and the farm has fully transitioned to local food production.

From the beginning, their farming practices have aligned to USDA organic regulations with the plan to be certified after three years.

“As we have developed relationships with our customers and brought more and more people out to the farm to learn about our growing techniques, we have yet to put the USDA stamp on our booth. People trust us, they have embraced our transparency. Getting to know your grower is a great way to find out how your food is being grown.”

This season, We Grow will have roughly seven acres in production. The farm relies on the help of part-time employees and nine worker shares, or folks who help with the seeding, weeding, harvesting, washing and packaging in exchange for a weekly share of produce.

“The people working on the farm are the backbone of our operation. They treat the harvest like their own and most importantly, share their farming experience with others.”

About a third of all produce grown goes out to the farm's CSA membership. CSA or community supported agriculture has become synonymous for weekly farm subscription. Members pick up their weekly boxes from the farm or the farmers market. They receive eight to 12 items that are in season on the farm that week from early June to late October.

Another third goes to farmers markets where customers choose what they want, when they want. This includes custom market CSA members who prepay for a set amount and receive an incentive. The remainder goes out to wholesale accounts. Products include vegetables, pasture-raised pork, handmade soaps and eggs.

You will find We Grow at the Medford Farmers Markets on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon during the growing season. Tuesdays they attend the downtown Medford market from 1 to 5 p.m. For more details, visit wegrowfoods.com.

With 8,100 square feet of season extension growing spaces, they offer a wide range of produce as early as the first week of May through the final

weeks of October at the farmers markets.

For northern customers, We Grow produce is offered weekly through Northwoods Farm Share serving Minoqua, Rhinelander, Eagle River, Mercer and Manitowish Waters. The farm also is featured at Wildberry market in Minoqua.

When you buy from a family operation, your money stays in our area. And your purchase goes towards much more than just local food.

The farmers at We Grow take pride in a high level of community outreach including educational farm tours and work days, taking the farm to the classroom, and making donations to educational gardens.

“This is what it means to be a community supported farm. When our community supports us, we in turn give back to our community.”

NORTHWOODS PREMIERE
OPEN HEIFERS | JUNIOR STEERS | JACKPOT SHOWMANSHIP

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

TAYLOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MEDFORD WIS.
Entry fees: \$30 by May 1, \$50 after May 1 to 9 a.m. on show day
Jackpot Showmanship for ages 8-21 — \$10 entry fee — 100% payback
Grounds open Friday evening at 5 p.m. | Weigh-in Saturday 7-9 a.m.

SHOW STARTS AT 10 A.M.

2022 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth Education Clinics on Friday at 6 p.m.
- Cash prizes for top 3 showmen & top 3 steers & heifers
- Concessions & beer stand open Friday & Saturday
- Camping available: call 715-965-0200 for details
- Silent Auction
- Profiles Show Supply on site
- Farm Bureau's Steak & Egg Breakfast served 7:30-10:30 am

GRAND CHAMPION STEER & HEIFER: \$300 CASH
RESERVE CHAMPIONS: \$200 CASH
THIRD OVERALL: \$100 CASH

PRESENTED BY:
TAYLOR COUNTY Market Animal SHOW & SALE
Taylor County Fair

ENTRY FORMS AND RULES AVAILABLE AT:
www.facebook.com/northwoodspremiere
Email: taylorcountymass@gmail.com
Call/text the show secretary: 715-360-1779

Sponsorship opportunities available. For more information contact Scott Brandner, show chair, at 715-965-1192.

From the Presidents Desk



Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

All of us wear a variety of hats. Sometimes we pick them up and sometimes we leave them behind.

The fact of the matter is with less and less of us involved in production agriculture, we need to make sure we are providing a hat rack for

everyone to join the conversation and just be there to support the industry we love.

To help carry this point home. I want to talk about the Ag Venture Tent at the county fair.

Until eight years ago, this was ran strictly by Taylor County Farm Bureau. It became too costly for us to run on our own. Which led me to reaching out to the Taylor County Dairy Promotion Committee and the fair.

Little did I realize me trying to bring the program back, make it bigger and better than before would lead me to picking up another hat.

Reaching out for help led me to becoming more involved with our county fair and with the Dairy Promotion Committee.

I would like to say that helped alleviate the struggles of the Ag Adventure Tent but it didn't. We still had the financial support but lacked the manpower to make it happen. That's when I reached out to the FFA chapter, which led me to wearing another hat, as a Medford FFA Alumni member.

Thankfully, this hat came with manpower to help make our vision a reality and some new energy to make it even better.

With less than 2% of us out there we need to make sure we are all

doing our part to put our best foot forward helping others understand our industry.

At times I think we need to forget about all the hats and stand together to make sure we are doing the right things for the right reasons.

I share all of this to note how proud I am to be a part of Taylor County Farm Bureau and its efforts to ensure that we do just that.

Over the next few months you will see us out and about doing our part to ensure that the next generation knows where their food comes from and meet some of the people that help make it possible.

On **May 6**, we will be presenting to the fourth-grader students at Medford schools in the morning and in the afternoon working with teachers on C.O.W.S., Celebrating Our Wisconsin Specialties, where there will be a variety of presenters sharing what they do.

Next up will be our **May 15** Steak and Egg Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Northwoods Premier Beef Show.

After that, you will find us on **June 12** at the Taylor County Town and Country Dairy Breakfast, **June 17-19**, Gilman Dairy Days and **July 28-31** at the Taylor County Fair.

We welcome you to join in on the fun and do your part to support Taylor County agriculture.

Taylor County Farm Bureau is proud to announce we are offering a \$500 scholarship for area youth pursuing higher education.

For more information and an application, please visit wfbf.com/about/counties/taylor.



Wood County

From The President's Cab



Josh Calaway

Wood County Farm Bureau President

You can't escape it; it's everywhere you turn. It doesn't matter if you are firing up your truck in the morning, turning on the milk house or heading out for morning coffee clutch. The amount of negative news we pick up or just hear in passing, it takes a toll.

With the rising cost of fuel and inputs, I often find myself wondering how we, the agriculture community, will continue to produce and remain profitable. I worry about what that is going to do to the mental health of our farmers as they continue to struggle to hold on to their family's multi-generational farms.

My wife and I have often joked that we are not alcoholics but instead ag-holics, we both work out to support our dream of farming. The sad truth is so many in the agriculture world are in the same boat it is more common now to see one or both spouses working off the farm to provide the cash flow needed to make things work. I can only see this happening more and more.

In the past we, your county Farm Bureau, banded together and hosted #FarmerTalk sessions focused on how and where you can save money when you are on track to have more month than money. Is this something we need to bring back? What do we need to help you weather this storm?

To me losing one more farmer is one too many – I want you to know that we are here to help. If you have an idea for policy, we would love to hear it, if you have an idea for an event or heck, if you just need someone to talk to, we are here because at the end of the day, we get it. We are out there just like you are, doing our best to juggle the negative news, the high inputs and fighting to keep our dreams alive.

Changes to Soil Sample Services

The UW Soil and Forage Laboratory in Marshfield has closed and all UW soil samples are being processed at the Madison laboratory.

Due to this, the Extension Wood County office will no longer be accepting soil samples.

Staff apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

While we are not able to accept soil samples locally, we have submission forms for the UW Soil and Forage Laboratory available in our office.

Customers will be responsible for shipping soil samples to Madison at 4702 University Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53705.

If you are in need of assistance interpreting your test results or have any questions, please contact the laboratory at 715.421.8440.

If customers want to use a different facility, visit uwlaxlab.soils.wisc.edu.



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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

- Clark County
- Lincoln County
- Marathon County
- Portage County
- Price County
- Taylor County
- Wood County

We're Here When You Need Us Most



We understand that accidents happen. You can count on our local claims adjusters to support you and help rebuild following an unintended loss.

Visit RuralMutual.com to learn more and find a local agent near you.

Rural Mutual
Insurance Company