



Grassroots

District 5 News

Krentz Re-Elected WFBF President



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.

Kevin 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.

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



President Kevin Krentz addressed attendees during his president's address during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

District 5 Coordinator Report



Becky Hibicki

District 5 Coordinator

920.517.2445 or bhibicki@wfbf.com

As we start 2022, many of us have set goals of things we want to accomplish in the new year; however, I don't think we can set goals without recognizing the achievements made in the previous year.

As your district coordinator, I continue to be amazed at the quality of county Farm Bureau board members and volunteers we have who continue to work hard promoting and being passionate about agriculture in their counties.

The silver lining of COVID is that it pushed counties to be more innovative and creative in conducting their program of works. That innovation continues as counties continue to examine current programs and brainstorm new ways to conduct activities. I enjoy seeing county leaders implement new programs and appreciate the opportunity to help support counties throughout the year.

We also have some amazing volunteers who work hard to make this happen. First, I want to recognize our county Farm Bureau presidents: Adams County, Kay Olson; Fond du Lac County, Reuben Hopp; Green Lake, Pete Badtke; Juneau, Kip Weber; Marquette, Aaron Wachholz; Waushara, Mike Leahy; and Winnebago, Amanda Volp. All seven of our county Farm Bureau presidents do a great job in their respective county leading their county Farm Bureau.

In my role, I work closely with county Farm Bureaus to help the members achieve membership goals. We had nine members sign five or more new members and were recognized as part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club at our WFBF Annual Meeting.

Congratulations to Kay Olson and Lynda Bula of Adams County, Aaron and Jim Wachholz of Marquette County, Dave Wilke of Green Lake County, Kevin Krentz of Waushara County and Reuben Hopp, Steve Sabel and Trayton Greenfield in Fond du Lac County.

Thank you for your continued support of members and as always, if you know of anyone who would benefit from a Farm Bureau membership, please ask them to become part of the Farm Bureau family.

I'm excited to see the counties in District 5 set goals this new year and to watch our member volunteers accomplish great things in 2022.

"Set your goals high, and don't stop until you get there!"

- Bo Jackson, former professional American baseball and football player

District 5 YFA Members Attend YFA Conference



More than 50 Young Farmer and Agriculturist members from District 5 attended the YFA Conference on Dec. 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells. District 5 YFA members who attended include: Collin Bays, Sara (Menard) and Jeff Huber, Joe and Christine Duscheck, Emily Franke, Amber Groth, Sean Wilke, Jenny Leahy, Kenzie Powers, Sara Tolley, Chad Bruss, Natasha and Jordan Paris, Brian Bires, Sally Turpin, Jordan and Kaycee Bittleman, Josh and Amanda Knoch, Erica Oakes, Chris Smith, Robin Smith, Victoria Smith, Aaron and Vicky Wachholz, Ana McCourt, Grant Buwalda, Miranda Ewald, Paul and Joanna Jarvis, Mike and Lynn Leahy, Ryan and Sam Nowak, TJ Beck and Carley Chapin. Erica Oakes, Amber Groth, Sean Wilke, Kenzie Powers and Miranda Ewald attended the conference through the Rural Mutual Insurance Sponsorship Program for first-time attendees.



Mental Health FIRST AID
from NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL WELLBEING



Mental Health First Aid

for the farming community and those who serve them

Just as CPR teaches you how to help someone having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to help someone experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. This skills-based course helps you identify, understand, and respond in crisis and non-crisis situations.

COST:

FREE

QUESTIONS:

For questions or assistance, including help accessing high-speed internet or a computer, call 608-339-4237

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

Part I is a Self-Paced Online Module

Part II is a Live Instructor-Led Skills Course

FRI, JAN 28 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm on Zoom

REGISTER AT:

<https://go.wisc.edu/420143>



The North Central Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Center: Engaging Programs to Support Producer Well-being (NCFRSAC) is based upon work supported by USDA/NIFA under award number 2020-70028-32728. Mental Health First Aid trainings are offered through the Wisconsin Rural Opioid and Stimulant Engagement (WiROSE), funded by SAMHSA to address opioid and stimulant prevention, intervention, and recovery. WiROSE is a project of the Extension Health and Well-being Institute”

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin–Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

District 5 YFA Snow Tubing



Sunday, February 6

Nordic Mountain

W5806 County Rd W, Wild Rose, WI 54984

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$24



An RSVP and prepayment is required.

RSVP by January 23 to Sara (Menard) Huber at
318.572.9731.

Pizza to follow at the Trading Post in Mt. Morris.
Farm Bureau will cover the cost of pizza.

District Promotion and Education Update



Lynn Leahy

District 5 Promotion and Education Chair

Greetings, District 5. I hope that you and your families and friends are having a productive and healthy winter.

It was wonderful to see many of you at the WFBF Annual Meeting and I look forward to working with you in 2022.

The Promotion and Education Committee hosted our fifth Leadership Boot Camp Training Series on Nov. 13 at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire.

Our boot camp training series was developed to provide additional leadership training that only requires half a day to a day of time commitment each year.

Our goal is to provide members with cutting-edge information, tools and resources to continue being leaders and advocates in our agriculture community.

The topic addressed current consumer trends related to agriculture, food and sustainability. Presenters included Dana Rady, Wisconsin Vegetable and Potato Growers; Rachel Gerbitz, WFBF; and Adam Wehling, Chippewa Valley Technical College. A brief tour of the Manufacturing Education Center was the final activity for the wonderful day.

The Promotion and Education Committee will have a couple of planning and goal-setting meetings through the winter and early spring of 2022. If you have questions or ideas for the committee, please send them my way. We are gearing up for an exciting year ... if COVID doesn't have other plans for us.

2022 will mark my sixth and final year on the Promotion and Education Committee. If you or anyone in your county is interested in the position or has questions, please contact me. Nomination forms will be available in July.



Lynn Leahy at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Plan to attend
Ag Day at the Capitol!
Register soon.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend



Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Monona Terrace and Community Convention Center • Madison

Early Registration Deadline: January 19

Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline.
\$60 after deadline and at the door.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 12:15 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

To register, visit bit.ly/2022AgDayRegistration.

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

Thank You to Our Sponsors:



Due to Dane County ordinances for COVID-19 mitigation, masks and other provisions may be required for this event and details are subject to change.

Bays, Paris Represent District 5 in YFA Discussion Meet



Adams County Farm Bureau member Collin Bays and Green Lake County Farm Bureau member Natasha Paris represented District 5 in the YFA Discussion Meet contest on Dec. 4-5 during the YFA Conference. The YFA Discussion Meet contest gives members (ages 18-35) a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

Counties to Offer Scholarships

Several District 5 county Farm Bureaus offer scholarships. To request a scholarship application, please visit the county web pages or email District 5 Coordinator Becky Hibicki at bhibicki@wfbf.com.



Adams County: \$100 for graduating high school seniors. **Deadline:** June 30; wfbf.com/about/counties/adams.

Fond du Lac County: Numerous scholarships for graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in post-secondary education. **Deadline:** April 1. wfbf.com/about/counties/fond-du-lac.

Juneau County: \$250 scholarship for graduating high school senior. **Deadline:** April 1; wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau.

Green Lake County: Scholarships for graduating high school seniors. **Deadline:** March 15; wfbf.com/about/counties/green-lake.

Marquette County: \$250 scholarship for graduating high school senior. **Deadline:** April 1; wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette.

Waushara County: Gordon Krentz Memorial Scholarship and the Jim and Charlotte Bleskey Memorial Scholarship. **Deadline:** April 1; wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara.



Stay up to date on the latest legislative news affecting you.

An e-newsletter to keep Wisconsin Farm Bureau members up to date on the latest policy and legislative news and other happenings in the governmental relations division.

SIGN UP HERE:
<http://bit.ly/PolicyPulseSignUp>

Ag Day at the Capitol Set For March 24

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Information



Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth and fifth-grade students.

Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities, and other resources that teachers, volunteers and homeschool parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. The topic is

selected after the book of the year is picked. The 2022 Book of the Year is "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack" by Wisconsin author and dairy farmer, Cris Peterson.

This year's essay contest topic is, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'

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

This year students must make three references to Wisconsin agriculture and a new essay grading rubric was developed.

The essay contest rules, lesson plans and sample classroom activities are available on the Ag in the Classroom website. Essays are due **April 1**.

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

For more information, please contact your county Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Coordinator.

Adams County: Kay Olson, 608.572.1429

Fond du Lac County: Mary Runge, 920.960.3176 or Kelly Pollack, 608.333.1427

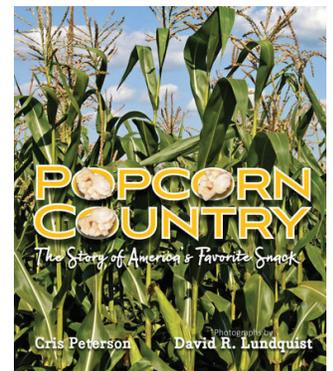
Green Lake County: Linda Swanke, 920.299.6027

Juneau County: Tonra Degner, 608.553.1256

Marquette County: Victoria Wachholz, 608.369.2644

Waushara County: Lynn Leahy, 608.558.9713

Winnebago County: Rebecca Poppy, 920.312.0970



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2022

More than 200 delegates at the 102nd 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 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 support certified private sector professionals to be allowed to assist the DNR by using their expertise to provide requirements that meet DNR permit requirements. They support CAFO permits having a final determination within 12 months after original submittal or automatically approved by the department. In addition, they support 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 WFBF's 61 county Farm Bureaus:

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

On the federal level, delegates:

- Support 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.
- Support developing and implementing a more responsive price discovery tool to replace the Federal Milk Marketing Order to better reflect the value of milk.
- Support the same tax benefits for transitioning the farm to non-related family succession as to related family.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to AFBF for consideration.



Adams County Delegates (from left): Kay Olson, Jeff Huber and Jean Bartz.



Green Lake County Delegates (from left): Dave Wilke, Jim Hebbe and Pete Badtke.



Juneau County delegates (from left): Kip Weber and Brian Bires.



Marquette County delegates (from left): Amanda Knoch and Aaron Wachholz.



Waushara County delegates (from left): Paul Jarvis and Mike Leahy.



Winnebago County delegates (from left): Linda Mullins, Amanda Volp and Charlie Knigge.



Fond du Lac County delegates (from left): Dale Theel, Steve Sabel, Reuben Hopp, Jim Kelroy, Chris Pollack, Janet Clark, Earl Sippel and Roger Grade; not pictured: John Ruedinger.

A Message From The President



Kay Olson
Adams County Farm Bureau President

We have had another challenging year due to the COVID pandemic. Our challenges will continue as the Omicron strain has arrived. I know there are many views on getting the vaccine. Whatever your views are, I would just encourage you to be honest to those you are around

and not let them believe you were vaccinated when you are not. This is so they can protect themselves and family and friends. I say this because we never know who has an immune issue and that is whom I believe we should protect.

Since COVID started, we have been having our meetings virtually. We will continue having meetings virtually until the board feels it would like to have in-person meetings. If you want to be included in our meetings, contact me and I will send you the link. Please email your request.

We continue to try and get new members and encourage our current members to re-join and get their dues in on time. Our first deadline for membership will be fast approaching.

At the WFBF Annual Meeting, Adams County was recognized as a County All Star Award winner for our support of the local tractor safety program. We had a display highlighting this program.

We also had a great group of YFA members attend the YFA Conference.

I wish you a blessed new year. Stay healthy and be safe.



YFA members (from left): Jeff Huber, Sara (Menard) Huber, Emma Hamilton and Collin Bays.



Sara (Menard) Huber serves as the District 5 YFA Chair.

Fond du Lac County

A Message From The President



Reuben Hopp
Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

Welcome to 2022. We have finished 2021 and are wondering what 2022 will bring.

2021 I'm sure was difficult for some of you. Maybe it was a tough financial year, maybe a severe illness, maybe you lost a dear friend or family member, maybe you were affected by the storms that ripped through the area during the summer; however, we must remain

positive and look forward to 2022, whatever it may bring.

For the most part, 2021 was a year of blessings as well. Crops yielded well. We had plenty of moisture, and not much flooding. As far as the county Farm Bureau, we celebrated our 100th anniversary with a great celebration. We had a great turn out at our county annual meeting and had a great group attend the WFBF annual meeting.

I want to congratulate Kevin Krentz on being re-elected WFBF President. We thank him for all he does for WFBF and District 5.

We had three members qualify for the Farm Bureau Proud Club by signing at least five new voting members. I signed six, Steve Sabel signed five, and once again, Trayton Greenfield was recognized as WFBF's top membership work by signing 33 new voting members.

Maintaining and growing our membership numbers is important. If

you know of anyone who would benefit from a Farm Bureau membership, please let me know and someone from the board would be happy to contact them about joining.

I'm looking forward to working with our county board in this coming year. My goal as a county is to reach as many young people as possible about the importance of agriculture.

It was encouraging to see such a great group of YFA members attend the YFA Conference.

We do this through our county Ag in the Classroom, YFA and scholarship programs. We offer scholarships for graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in post-secondary education.

Wishing you the best in 2022.



Trayton Greenfield (right) pictured with WFBF President Kevin Krentz was once again recognized as the WFBF's top membership worker.



Fond du Lac County YFA members at the YFA Conference.

Rural Mutual Agent Mike Immel Recognized



Rural Mutual Insurance agent Mike Immel was recognized as the top agent for signing Farm Bureau members. Mike's agency signed more than 100 new members. Mike (right) is pictured at the WFBF Annual Meeting awards banquet with WFBF President Kevin Krentz (left).

No Pizza Fundraiser

The YFA Committee has decided not to have a pizza fundraiser in 2022.

Thank you to those who have supported the fundraiser in the past.

Watch the next newsletter for upcoming YFA activities.

If you want to get involved in the YFA program, please contact Jenny Leahy at 920.979.3213.



Green Lake County

A Message From The President



Peter Badtke

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Hello Green Lake County Farm Bureau members. I hope all is well with you as we begin 2022.

Just a couple of highlights. At the end of last year during the WFBF Annual Meeting, Natasha Paris made it all the way to the Final Four in the YFA

Discussion Meet.

Also, Chad Bruss graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute in December.

Congratulations to Natasha and Chad for your accomplishments.

If you are interested in the WFBF Leadership Institute, please let Becky or me know and we can get you enrolled.

Dave Wilke, Jim Hebbe and I served as delegates for the county at the WFBF Resolution Session, voting on grassroots policy that affects the way we farm.

Please plan on attending Ag Day at the Capitol on Jan. 26. Registration information is in this newsletter on how to register. This is one of my favorite events we participate in and have an impact on our legislators in Madison.

The day starts with a briefing of issues affecting agriculture presented by leading speakers followed by a nice lunch. Afterwards we go and visit our legislators and discuss issues important to us.

Thanks again for your continued membership.

Natasha Paris Reflects on YFA Discussion Meet

By Natasha Paris, Green Lake County YFA Chair

This year at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, I competed in the Discussion Meet for the final time. This was my fourth time competing at the state level. I entered Discussion Meet at the district level for the first time five years ago because I was told that the meals of those who competed at the District Policy Meeting and Discussion Meet would be paid for, and I was on the fence so it sealed the deal. I really had no idea what I was doing, but it went well enough that I made it to state. I am grateful that for the first three years I had Jenny Leahy as the member of our district who knew what she was doing to look up to, until I learned how to really play the game for myself.

Last year, I competed virtually and made it all the way to the Finals. While I didn't mind the virtual format and appreciated the rounds being spread out over weeks, it was nice to be back in person this year. I also was able to focus solely on Discussion Meet this year as last year I was in Discussion Meet and Excellence in Ag, but I won Excellence in Ag in 2020 so that was a weight lifted off this year.

I went into the weekend really hoping for a top four finish, and my hours of prepping were rewarded. While I didn't win, I am very happy with how I did and know that I put in my best performance ever in my final year of eligibility. It was great to be able to leave it all on the big stage on Sunday morning.

I am grateful for the opportunities Discussion Meet has given me to deepen my knowledge of Farm Bureau, ag policy and communication. A huge thank you to GROWMARK, Inc., for its sponsorship of the contests each year, I now have a nice collection of jackets thanks to them. Finally, the best part of Discussion Meet has been making new friends and becoming a part of the Farm Bureau family.

Thank you to everyone in Green Lake County and District 5 who has supported me along the way.



Natasha Paris competed in the Final Four round of the YFA Discussion Meet.



Natasha Paris was named a top Four Finalist in the YFA Discussion Meet held on Dec. 5 during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.



Farm Bureau Member Chad Bruss Graduates From WFBF Leadership Institute



Chad Bruss (right) pictured with WFBF President Kevin Krentz graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute program during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.

Chad's thoughts on the WFBF Leadership Institute program:

The WFBF Leadership Institute has been a great experience to be able to grow and

build my leadership skills. It has been a fun time getting to know others with the same interests and gain a lot of connections through all the experiences that we have done. It has been a great way to learn more about Farm Bureau, and what they do every day and what it truly offers to its members. It has been a learning experience and will help me become a better member and leader in my county Farm Bureau, as well as making



Green Lake County Board member Chad Bruss was one of 14 members to graduate from the WFBF Leadership Institute program.

me a better person.

The institute makes a person more well-rounded and improves the skills that you may not even know you are lacking.

It has been a fun filled year, and I look forward to wrapping up our experience in Washington, D.C., in March.

Juneau County



A Message From The President



Kip Weber

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

Greetings, Juneau County Farm Bureau member. I hope all is well for you and your family as we begin the new year.

2021 was a better year than 2020 and I am hopeful that things will continue to get

back to normal.

The Juneau County Farm Bureau board of directors started meeting in person again, after meeting for several months virtually. Thank you to agent Thong Xiong who allowed us to meet at his office on Union Street in Mauston. Thong closed his office at the end of 2021 and is now only working out of his Wausau area office. Thank you, Thong, for the support you gave the Farm Bureau while you were working in Juneau County.

Agents Nate Feala and Lindsey McKenna's offices are located at 123 Division Street in Mauston. Agent

Jim Wehinger located in Adams is servicing Rural Mutual clients in Juneau County. Feel free to reach out to any one of these agents for your insurance needs.

Brian Bires and I served as delegates for the



(from left): Kip Weber, Heidi Weber, Brian Bires and Sally Turpin attended the WFBF Annual Meeting.

county at the WFBF Annual Meeting, which was held Dec. 4-5. My wife Heidi and Sally Turpin also attended the WFBF Annual Meeting from Juneau County.

County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Tonra Degner continues to promote the Ag in the Classroom book of the year and fourth- and fifth- grade essay contest. It is great to see the level of participation our county has in the essay contest each year.

Also, Juneau County Farm Bureau board member Carl Degner passed away in November.

Carl was a long-time board member, officer and had served as a county delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

His leadership and dedication to agriculture will be deeply missed. Please keep Carl's wife Tonra and their family in your thoughts and prayers.



Juneau County YFA members Sally Turpin, Cody Britzman and Brian Bires at the YFA Conference.





Meet: New Board Members Kelly Green and Amy VanderMark



Name: Kelly Green

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: I have been a member for several years and also remember my dad being a member.

Family: Married to my husband Tony, we have two children Payton, 10, and Parker, 7.

Type of Farm: Our family farms together what is our 'home' farm in Elroy. I was born

and raised on a dairy farm, but, then one day I decided to show two steers. Which then led me to a sale at Riley Farms where I was working at the time, where I bought my first two show heifers at their sale. I fell in love with the whole process. My cow Gracie, I had for 16 years. She never missed a calf. Today, our family has about 20 plus cows, steers and heifers. We also have raised some pigs, chickens, dog, cats and two ponies. We also raise our own crops corn, soybeans, and alfalfa. I farm with my brother David, and sister Amy, as it takes all of us to make our farm work. Our getaway is our farm - it's what we call 'quality time' together - we help each other with the day-to-day chores and field work. When we have time, we garden and grow our own vegetables.

Any Other Occupations? Yes, I work at Wisconic formally Tailor Made Products in Elroy in Human Resources. We are a plastic injection molding company. I also sell Mary Kay products – God first, family second, career third.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? Well, honestly my dad, Rodney Knuth, was involved in Farm Bureau for many years. So, I guess it's my turn for the next generation to get involved. I became involved to have a voice in farming. It's important that the people who are doing the work every day or have done it are making the decisions. Things change every day; farming is tough enough; we need to keep in the know and



Name: Amy VanderMark

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: Two years but our farm/family has been members for 30 plus years.

Type of Farm: I farm with my brother, David Knuth and sister, Kelly Green on Silver Star Farm LLC just outside of Elroy. Our parents bought the

farm in 1982 and we milked cows until 2000. Currently, we crop farm; growing corn, soybeans and alfalfa and we have a herd of Angus beef cattle, which we raise all replacements and feed out our steers for local customers for meat. We also raise pigs for pork, chickens for eggs and have a garden. We are blessed to be able to work together as a family.

Any other occupations? I work for Mill Haven Foods, a private company owned by the Slater family in New Lisbon, where I am the transition director. I sit on the executive team and help with the management of some of its other organizations.

Why did you become involved in Farm Bureau? As the agricultural community continues to get smaller and smaller, I firmly believe it is our duty as producers to ensure that we are telling our story and helping educate folks that are making policies that affect us. Our family has always been active in making sure that we tell our story and our father instilled this in us to make sure we are helping control our destiny and not sitting by the sidelines complaining if we don't like what is being done.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? I just learning about all the benefits of being a member are but I look forward on hearing more about policies that are being looked at becoming law and having a voice in these decisions. I also look forward to its educational forum, Ag in the Classroom and some of the discounts we get being a

member. make sure policies are kept that are attainable. We need to continue to educate the world about where are food comes from.

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a member? I believe the contests; Discussion Meets can hugely impact individuals in our farm industry. I unfortunately wasn't involved in it; however, the one year I did sit through, and it was very impactful. I think this is important to keep the younger generation interest in Farm Bureau. Keeping the young farmers involved expressing their ideas and opinions on current issues in our ag industry is important to keeping them engaged. I also think the Ag in the Classroom has been huge. Farm Bureau continues to provide this education essay contest for area schools. It educates the importance of ag to all ages. Farm Bureau helps provide resources, or helps with ag field trip locations, and educational resources to the classroom. There are many member discounts, but I think Ford, Case IH, Caterpillar and John Deere are a plus.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? I volunteer in our community wherever is needed. I am a Sunday school teacher at our local church Grace Lutheran from preschool to high school youth group. I also help when can with our local 4-H club. I have worked at some mobile food pantries. I am part of the West Central SHRM.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? To be a voice for the farmers.

Please share the various events, programs you have served on/with, committees you have been a part of with Farm Bureau. I have attended most annual meetings through the years. I attended a WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions as a young farmer. I have eaten pie at the Juneau County Farm Bureau pie and ice cream farm stand. I am looking forward to getting more involved.

member.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? I have been involved in coaching livestock judging at Brodhead-Juda FFA for the past four years, helping with Lindina Busy Bees 4-H Club and Grace Lutheran Church committees and volunteer.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? Our numbers as producers continue to get smaller and our roles to feed the world continues to increase in demand. Many times, we are pulled in different directions but at the end of the day it is important that speak up to educate not only our customers but the individual setting policies that will affect not only us but the next generation that will be farming our fields.



A Message From The President

Aaron Wachholz



Marquette County Farm Bureau President

Happy 2022, Marquette County Farm Bureau.

What a blessing to open a new year that is fresh and ripe with opportunity and adventure.

I challenge you to help make 2022 an even better Farm Bureau year than the year just past. We are living in what most call uncertain times, but I would be so bold as to say it is and can be a great time of renewal, character strengthening and fresh outlooks.

WFBF just finished the year with its annual meeting in early December. The theme was 'Focus on the Future.' That theme was very evident and the direction for Wisconsin Farm Bureau was never so clear.

The cooperative has been successful for 102 years. Speakers, workshops and our cooperative's leaders addressed ideas, work ethic, policy and the integrity that has brought WFBF to where it is today. We must keep a firm hold on these as we continue forward, but we must also embrace new leaders, new ideas and new obstacles to stay focused on the future.

The next 100 years will be very different than the past, but together we can adapt to the new challenges and keep Wisconsin agriculture thriving.

The same holds true here in Marquette County. We have been blessed throughout our almost 80 years as an organization with sound leaders who battled through other uncertain times that threatened its very existence.

Let's focus on the future with the same

patient dedication and diligence, but with new resilience, creativity and unity. More than ever before, Marquette County agriculture needs to prosper, grow and unite. We are so few in number, yet we affect everyone in this county and our nation. We grow the food, feed, fuel and fiber that everyone needs. So, let's tell the awesome and intriguing story that we play a part in every day.

As many of you know, our county's board has changed significantly with veteran directors retiring and three new directors joining the board. I am encouraged by the fresh ideas and drive that the 'new blood' has brought to the board.

I am excited by the plans being formulated by our Promotion and Education Committee. Its goal is to promote different commodities, products and foods that Marquette County is known for, focusing on a different item each month. It will surely add clarity to our story as members teach, promote, educate and celebrate Marquette County agriculture. Why not get involved and plan to attend more Marquette County Farm Bureau events? Invite those you know and those with whom you do business to become part of the Farm Bureau family.

We've got a great story to tell. Share it.

A great group of YFA members represented the county at the WFBF YFA Conference held in December. Thank you to those who attended. May God bless and keep you, all my friends.



Marquette County YFA members at the YFA Conference.

Promotion and Education

By Victoria Wachholz, Promotion and Education Chair

Hello, Marquette County Farm Bureau members.

Our Promotion and Education Committee has set an aggressive goal of hosting one educational or promotional event each month.

For the month of January, we will host a demonstration on sourdough. We will be talking about the history of sourdough, how to make a sourdough starter and then tasting some of the delicious items that you can create with sourdough.

In February, we have planned a wine, cheese and chocolate tasting at Lunch Creek Winery in Neshkoro. There we will be sampling some of Lunch Creek's local wine, paired with some specialty cheeses from Mullin's Cheese and enjoy delectable chocolate. So, bring your sweetheart and enjoy on Feb. 12.

In March, we are looking to schedule a tour of a maple syrup farm and learn the process of making syrup.

Come and have some fun and learn something new with Marquette County's Promotion and Education Committee.

Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Tasting

Time and Date: 12 noon-3 p.m., Feb. 12

Location: Lunch Creek Winery
W1845 County Road E
Neshkoro

Drewry Farms Maple Syrup Tour

Date: Mar. 26

Time: Still to be decided

Location: Drewry Farms
N4396 Blueberry Lane
Plymouth

A Message From The President

Mike Leahy

Waushara County Farm Bureau President

Happy new year.

There's something exciting being developed by your Waushara County Farm Bureau.

A committee lead by Sara Stelter and made up of members Adam Jones, Miranda Ewald and Lynn Leahy are developing the Waushara County Farm Bureau Educational Ag Resource Manual.



This resource, which will be available online and distributed to area schools, will supply member contact information and resource material that teachers, in these schools, can use to incorporate real life ag into their lessons. Be it through local speakers, tours or interviews.

This resource is the first step in connecting our members and community stakeholders in an ever-widening rural urban divide.

So, watch your mailboxes and inboxes as we continue to develop the contact list.

If you want to be included, please contact Sara at stelterfarmsllc@gmail.com.

Exciting things are coming.

President's Report



Amanda Volp
Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

And just like that another year has flown by. Welcome to 2022 Farm Bureau my friends.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health going into the new year, and that you spent the holiday season in person with loved ones.

I always enjoy the new year, it is a time where we can start fresh, try something new and find ways to better ourselves in the process.

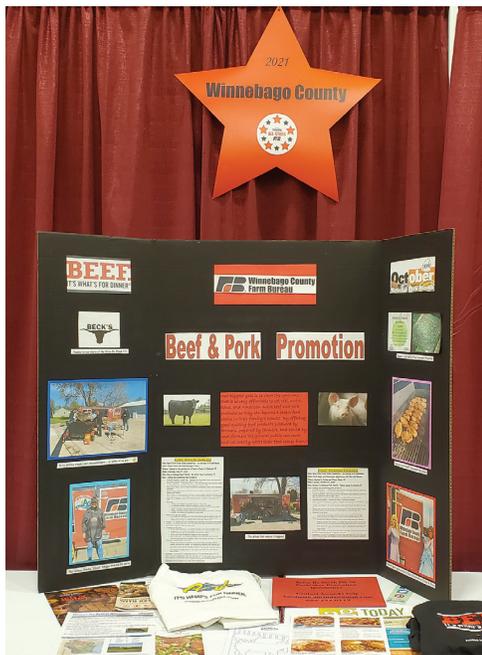
I challenge you to set big goals and strive to accomplish the goals in this new year.

Thank you to our members who attended the 102nd WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference the first weekend in December in Wisconsin Dells.

This year Winnebago County was honored to receive a County All Star Recognition Award in the Consumer Outreach category for our Drive by Steak Fry and "Pork"tober Promotion events.

As an award-winning county, we displayed a small booth explaining our beef and pork promotions at the WFBF Annual Meeting and the county was awarded \$500.

Thank you to our county members on the Promotion and Education Committee who made this happen.



Our Dairy Promotions Committee continues to work hard organizing a variety of events that promote dairy products.

In December the county donated butter to an Omro High School family and consumer education class.



Winnebago County Farm Bureau Vice President Charlie Knigge delivered butter to teacher Cindy Morse's family and consumer education class.

The Winnebago Dairy Promotion Committee was busy promoting butter this holiday season. We did a social media campaign that included holiday recipe posts that coincided with National Promotion days such as National Cookie Day, National Brownie Day and National Cupcake Day. Our Cookie and Cupcake posts reached more than 30,000 people.

We also put together a butter campaign with a local high school economics teacher. We donated butter facts for the curriculum as well as a case of butter for the students to use during their baking activities in class.

A highlight event of the year is coming upon us, Ag Day at the Capitol. It is on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

This is a great opportunity for members to hear about the latest agriculture issues from state leaders and walk to the Capitol to meet their representatives face to face.

Your voice can be heard and will be appreciated by those who sit in Madison on our behalf. It is crucial that we in the industry keep our representatives informed of what farmers are doing and the challenges faced so they are not misled or misinformed.

Farmers are two percent or less of the population, so many people and special interest groups assume they know what is best for us, even though they have little contact with farmers and little experience on a farm.

It is up to us to speak for agriculture, so please join me and other Winnebago County members at Ag Day at the Capitol. If you believe that there are agriculture issues in Winnebago County that need to be addressed, please contact me or one of our members on the county board.

Cheers to a new year full of bountiful harvests, good health and fun. God bless you.

Fall Pork Promotion Event a Success

By Amanda Volp, Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

For National Pork Month our county rolled out another fabulous "Pork"tober Promotion event, held the first two Saturdays in October.

Our gracious and supportive host, Petals and Plows, in Ripon welcomed us back for a second weekend after our first weekend went over with a hit.

Special guest appearances by Cinderella, Elsa and Spider-Man took place the second Saturday while Petals and Plows hosted its Not So Scary Halloween event, with more than 170 kids registered.

Our featured menu items this year included:

- Pork chop on a stick with homemade applesauce and a pint of Lamers milk.

- Melty hot ham and cheese on a Kaiser roll with potato chips and a pint of Lamers milk.

New this year, we had a Pork Promotion Raffle, where tickets were purchased for prizes including pork chop bundles, a five-pound ham, pork breakfast combo of bacon and sausage, corn maze passes and free pumpkins from Petals and Plows.

Thank you to our homemade applesauce makers Joni Volp and Bonnie Kriha, and Beck's Meats for supplying the pork products and meat raffle items.

Thank you to those who attended and made the event a success. We look forward to another "Pork"tober Promotion in 2022.

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Highlights for:**

- Adams County
- Fond du Lac County
- Green Lake County
- Juneau County
- Marquette County
- Waushara County
- Winnebago County

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