

Grassroots

District 7 News

Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Farm Bureau Award

Waupaca County Farm Bureau members Jim and Mary Grant received the highest award Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation bestows upon its members.

Jim and Mary were presented the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 'Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau' award during the organization's Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 5.

"It is because of their dedication to the Farm Bureau organization and agriculture that I am extremely pleased to recognize Jim and Mary's distinguished service to Farm Bureau," said WFBF President Kevin Krentz.

Jim and Mary Grant have been actively involved in Farm Bureau and their community for the past 50 years. When Jim was younger, he served 10 years as town clerk, as trustee at their church and as dairy leader for the local 4-H club. He served as president of the board at FS Cooperative in Amherst. Jim also served as a delegate for the Consolidated Badger Cooperative, Morning Glory Farms and Foremost Farms.

"Jim and Mary will say that they don't deserve this award because they got more out of Farm Bureau than they ever put in," said former Waupaca County Farm Bureau President Wayne Steingraber. "They don't realize how many lives they have touched during the years of service to their church, family, community, agriculture and Farm Bureau. They don't deserve this award – they deserve so much more."

Steingraber also said that Jim and Mary had a slow start in Farm Bureau. Initially they joined the Portage County Farm Bureau but weren't



Jim and Mary Grant from Waupaca County received the Distinguished Service To Wisconsin Farm Bureau Award from WFBF President Kevin Krentz (left) and District 7 Board Member Brian Preder (right).

active because of the distance to travel to the meetings. A neighbor asked the couple to become a member of the Waupaca County Farm Bureau family. Jim eagerly agreed and was elected to the board of directors. He served 13 years as president and then as secretary and treasurer for many years. He was the greeter at county annual meetings and served as a delegate representing Waupaca County at the WFBF Annual Meeting for many years.

Kellie Zahn Wins the WFBF YFA Excellence in Agriculture Award

Kellie Zahn was selected as the winner of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Excellence in Agriculture Award at the organization's 102nd Annual Meeting on Dec. 5.

Zahn is the agriculture agent for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community where she manages the community gardens, teaches classes on gardening and food preservation and oversees the tribe's agriculture lands. She is a Certified Crop Advisor and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business from UW-River Falls.

Zahn also enjoys working on her family farm and volunteering in the community.

"This contest highlights individuals who have positively impacted Wisconsin agriculture, Farm Bureau and their communities while motivating others to do the same," said WFBF President Kevin Krentz. "Kellie is an incredible advocate for agriculture and Farm Bureau member."

The Excellence in Agriculture Award is presented to a Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 who is actively engaged in agriculture but derives the majority of his or her income from an off-farm

agricultural career. The winner is selected based on his or her knowledge of agriculture, leadership in Farm Bureau and other civic organizations.

Zahn has been a Farm Bureau member since 2012 and serves as a board member and YFA Chair for the Shawano County Farm Bureau.

Zahn will compete at the American Farm Bureau Federation's Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia in January and receive \$1,500 from GROWMARK, Inc. All finalists in the Excellence in Ag competition will receive a jacket courtesy of GROWMARK, Inc.



WFBF President Kevin Krentz recognized Kellie Zahn for winning the YFA Excellence in Ag Award.

District 7 Director Report



Brian Preder

WFBF Board Member

Winter is upon us and it gives each of us an opportunity to spend time with family and friends, and to reflect upon the previous year.

During the previous year we've seen the creation and implementation of a member created strategic plan and one of the most agricultural friendly state budgets in recent years.

What has made me most proud over the last year is the work and dedication of the members and leaders in District 7.

During the Leaders of the Land Tours, we had the opportunity to showcase and learn from fellow WFBF members from across the state. I want to thank Kellie Zahn and the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe for showing our members the impact of combining traditional and modern agriculture to serve the needs in the local community.

Kellie's service and leadership to her community, agriculture and Farm Bureau has been recognized as she is the winner of the Excellence in Ag Award and will be representing WFBF at the AFBF contest in Atlanta, Georgia. Congratulations and good luck, Kellie.

Last month, at the WFBF Annual Meeting, Kelly and Keith

Oudenhoven completed their three-year term as the representatives for District 7 on the YFA Committee. Kelly also served as the WFBF YFA Chair for 2020 representing the YFA members.

Thank you to Kelly and Keith for your dedication to serving our YFA members. I want to welcome Jake and Jennifer Hoewisch as they begin their three-year term on the YFA Committee.

Over the past year there are many more members who have served on state committees, county Farm Bureau boards, advocated for agriculture and contributed to moving WFBF and agriculture forward. Thank you for your voice, hard work and dedication over the past year.

As we reflect on the previous year, we must also Focus on the Future. Moving into the future requires an investment in ourselves. We have two members who have chosen to develop their leadership skills and learn more about WFBF.

Nicole Rabitz and Bob Fox participated in the WFBF Leadership Institute over the past year. Thank you both for taking time and making the investment in yourselves and the organization.

I wish you a happy new year and leave you with something that I'm reminded of each new year, the rear-view mirror and windshield analogy.

There are several variations, but I've always been partial to: "Focus on what's in front of you but be sure to look back occasionally to remember where you have been."

WFBF YFA Conference Discussion Meet

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

District 7 was represented in the YFA Discussion Meet at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference on Dec. 3-6 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.



Anna Jones

Anna Jones made a point during the YFA Discussion Meet quarter finals.



Riley Bricco (left) from Waupaca County participated in the quarter finals of the YFA Discussion Meet.

Policy Development Meeting



WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Kim Pokorny (far left) and WFBF Director of Sustainability, Communication and Partnerships Rachel Gerbitz addressed members at the Aug. 5 District Policy Development Meeting at the Four Seasons Resort in Shawano.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



I can tell I'm getting older, because every time I bend over to tie my shoes, I try to think of other things I can do as long as I'm down there.

If you want a book that can really tell you where you can go on vacation, just get your check book.

My budget is usually made up of a little money and a lot of estimates.

I don't ever want to retire, because then I'd have to drink coffee on my own time.

After taking a hard look at the number of hours on my old tractor, I decided I'd be better off to keep the oil and change the tractor.

It's not a cheaper tractor that farmers want. They want an expensive tractor that costs less.

Antiques are things one generation buys, the next generation gets rid of, and the following generation buys again.

Farm field trip host: Does anyone know what we call a calf after it's six months old?
Student: Seven months old.

If you can tell the difference between good advice and bad advice, you don't need advice.

Stay in touch with your inner child: finger paint more, finger point less.

WFBF Leadership Institute, Class 14 Report

By Bob Fox, Class 14 Institute graduate

Hi, I'm Bob Fox from Freedom in Outagamie County. I've been a Farm Bureau member for more than 35 years. As many other members, with raising a family, a working career and life in general, I had no time to be involved with Farm Bureau.

After retiring five years ago, I needed something to do, so I started attending Farm Bureau meetings with my dad. Five years ago a director's position opened and I was elected.

As a director, I've attended Leadership Boot Camps, Ag Day at the Capitol, Policy Development meetings, to list a few. The more I attended, the more interested I became in the political aspects in agriculture.

District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz suggested I apply for the WFBF Leadership Institute. I thought it would help me advance my leadership goals. I was accepted to be part of the 14th Class along with 13 other leaders from around the state.

Unfortunately, COVID hit, and our first three classes were via zoom. Early in January, we received a welcome box containing an iPad, books and assessments related to emotional intelligence and finding your strengths as well as a leadership book for Session 2.

During the first session, we focused on getting to know one another. We reviewed the surveys and listened to a speaker from AFBF who talked about, "Winning Ways with Words." Before our next session we were asked to write a three-minute speech on something that we are passionate about in agriculture and record ourselves giving the speech. Also, we were split into groups to do presentations on the leadership book.

Session 2 started off with speakers from WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company. After that, each group gave its book presentation. Lastly, we covered 'Bridging the Generational Divide.' Our class is made up of Gen Zs to Baby Boomers like myself.

Highlights from Session 3 Included a presentation, 'Ag Advocacy Begins with Us.' We learned about media training. We had an assignment to be completed by mid May. With our iPad, we had to make a short video using the Spark Video app. I took photos of my flower business with my grandkids helping me, and I made a slide show presentation. I explained why I joined Farm Bureau.

In June, the class was divided into two groups. The first group prepared

public comments either in favor or opposition to a proposal by a county zoning committee. The proposal would allow for more agri-tourism businesses in areas zoned agriculture. The second group prepared public comments either in favor or opposition to a proposal by its school board to go to a plant-based protein lunch menu.

Session 4 was the first session in-person. Steve Boe presented a, 'Wisconsin Farm Bureau Government Relations Overview.' We studied the Farm Bureau Policy Development Process and talked about getting involved in local government. Lastly, we did a mock public meeting.

During Session 5 we traveled to Illinois and stopped at Whiskey Acres Distilling Co. in DeKalb. They are a fifth-generation grain farm and a seed to spirit Distillery, farm of more than 2,000 acres, and about 10 percent of the grains raised is distilled to whiskey and bourbon.

The next day we traveled to the Illinois Farm Bureau office and met with Jenny Webb, member engagement manager. Jenny provided an overview of Illinois Farm Bureau structure and family of companies. Director of Member Engagement Jackie Jones provided highlights of the organization. Illinois Farm Bureau has more than 371,000 members with five groups of membership, three are like our voting members and two are like our associate members.

From there we traveled to Kilgus Farmstead in Fairbury, Illinois. They started dairy farming in the 1950s, and as times changed and their family grew, they devised ways to diversify the farm business to include more family members. They farm around 2,400 acres, have 160 Jersey cows on pasture and built an on-farm creamery to bottle the milk. They also raise goats, steers and hogs to provide a line of farmstead meats. That night we tried our hand at ax throwing. The next day we headed back to Madison. Our final assignment was to put together a personal leadership development plan based on five elements.

On Mar. 7-11, we will travel to Washington, D.C., as our final session for the WFBF Leadership Institute.

In closing, it was great learning experience, and we made 13 new friends. Thank you to Wendy Kannel for what she does for this program.

Any voting member of Farm Bureau may submit an application to participate. Each class is limited to 15 participants. This summer, the 2023 class will be selected, so watch your Farm Bureau publications for more information.

District 7 YFA Report



Jake and Jenifer Hoewisch

YFA Committee Representatives

Hello, District 7, we are excited to serve on the YFA Committee as the new District 7 YFA Representatives. It is a three-year term. Keith and Kelly Oudenhoven are retiring off the committee.

We reside in Fremont, and farm with Jake's parents at Hoewisch Homestead Dairy LLC where we milk 160 registered Holsteins.

We are the fifth generation on the farm. We have two daughters, Adalynn (three years old) and Everlee (five months old). I also work off the farm as a registered nurse at a hospital in Waupaca. Jake served as the YFA chair in Waupaca County for the past five years. Riley Bricco has taken that roll on now. During the next three years, we plan to be your outlet for any questions and looking forward to many events held in parts of District 7.

We are new in this roll and know we have lots to learn, but we are very excited to work with the other committee members and reach the goals we have set.

Our first district event will be a Green Bay Gamblers game on **March 4** at the Resch Center in Green Bay with pizza to follow at a nearby establishment. If you are interested in attending, please contact Jake at 920.810.5640 (call or text).

Promotion and Education

District 7 members attended a Promotion and Education Committee sponsored event at the Two Guernsey Girls Creamery in Freedom.

Members toured the creamery's milking and processing facilities and tasted its farm to table products.

The creamery processes the milk from its own 10 Guernsey cow herd and sells its pasteurized milk and cheese curds at farmers' markets and a retail outlet at the farm.



Members Attend YFA Conference



YFA members from District 7 attended the YFA Conference on Dec. 3-5 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions. Members from Langlade, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano and Waupaca counties networked with YFA members and attended leadership-oriented workshops.

Ag in the Classroom Kickoff



David Schneider, Oconto County, and Rena Christensen, Outagamie County, attended the Ag in the Classroom kickoff on Aug. 18 at the Farm Wisconsin Center in Manitowoc. They received the latest information and resources for teachers and Ag in the Classroom volunteers.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend



AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Monona Terrace 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	District 7 County Farm Bureaus will cover the registration fee for their members to attend. Please contact District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz at wraddatz@wbf.com.
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	

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.

Langlade County

wbf.com/about/counties/langlade
 LangladeCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



Jake Bula

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Greetings. As some of you may know my name is Jake Bula. I have served on the Langlade County Farm Bureau board of directors for the past eight years or so and for the past two years as your vice president. At our annual meeting in October, I was elected as your new county president.

I grew up in the western part of the country spending a lot of time on a few of the many potato farms in my family. I also spent a lot of my youth riding with my grandpa who was an over the road truck driver. As I grew up, I spent a lot of time on some of the fine dairy farms around the county.

I have always had a very diverse background with the different things that interest me from types of farming operations and old equipment to old semi-trucks and tow trucks to shipwrecks to playing pinball and where I spend the majority of my free time at the local dirt tracks helping on my friends IMCA sport modified team. But I always find time to help out on the farm when needed by either friends or family. I currently work a factory job in Schofield and live in the eastern part of the county with my wife Deanna and daughter Gracie.

I look forward to serving the members of the county and doing the best job I can.

Support For 4-H Programs

By Jake Bula, Langlade County Farm Bureau President

The Langlade County Farm Bureau established a committee with the purpose to support Langlade County 4-H in creating a livestock education program. Recently, the committee members met to discuss how the Farm Bureau can help. We came up with multiple ideas from the start-up of the program to the educational possibilities.

Some of the educational opportunities discussed were possible bus tours to different types of livestock operations and other business directly related to production such as nutrition and processing. This project is still in the early stages, and as it progresses we will be sure to keep you posted.

Farm Bureau Holds County Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Langlade County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Oct. 20 at the Clover Room at the County Fairgrounds in Antigo.

In addition to taking care of business, the members heard from County Conservationist Chris Arrowood, who talked about the Farmland Preservation program and the manure storage ordinance.

Speaker Peggy Winter from NRCS talked about conservation programs and funding available to landowners.



Chris Arrowood, Langlade County Conservationist.



Peggy Winter, NRCS

President's Report



Emily Cudnohosky

Marinette County Farm Bureau President and YFA Chair

Season's greetings from Marinette County. I hope this finds you well. My name is Emily Cudnohosky, and after three years of serving on the Marinette County board, I am now the new president of Marinette County Farm Bureau.

I was born and raised in Coleman, where I was very blessed to work and live with agriculture.

My journey began working on farms during the summer, which eventually led me to join Coleman High School's FFA chapter. There, I learned more about the ag industry and how I could have a successful career doing what I loved. The chapter also led me to an apprenticeship working on tractors and farm machinery.

In the past year, I graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with an associate's degree in agricultural power equipment. I used my education and experience as an apprentice to work at a job I love and feel passionate about in agriculture.

As I was graduating high school, I was given an amazing opportunity to join the Farm Bureau as YFA chair, and I've loved promoting and educating young people about agriculture.

I'm excited about what my position has in store for me. We accomplished our goals as a board last year, and I cannot wait to work towards accomplishing them in the year ahead.

Whether it be reaching membership goals, finding ways to get members more involved or simply listening to the concerns and needs of our community, these goals are the cornerstone of what makes our opportunities so great.

As we head into the next year, I can't wait to work with our awesome board of directors and community to strengthen and promote our great organization and all the Farm Bureau can do for you.

I hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a happy new year.

YFA Bowling Event

By Emily Cudnohosky, YFA Chair

On Oct. 24, the Marinette County YFA hosted an afternoon of bowling at Lena Lanes.

The event that hosted YFA members and their families, had a turnout of 10 attendees who had a great time getting to know one another while knocking down pins.

After a few rounds of bowling, we followed with a delicious pizza luncheon. We had a great deal of fun, and we cannot wait to start planning for our event in the coming year.



Members Attend WFBF Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Corey Kuchta and retiring Marinette County Farm Bureau President Chuck Rabitz served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Nicole also attended for the WFBF Leadership Institute Class 14 graduation that was part of Sunday night's awards program.

Congratulations Nicole Rabitz on completing the WFB Leadership Institute program.

Special thank you to retiring Marinette County Farm Bureau President Chuck Rabitz for his leadership as president the last two years.



(from left): Corey Kuchta, delegate; Nicole Rabitz, WFB Leadership Institute graduate; Chuck Rabitz, delegate.

Farm Bureau Fair Food Stand



Marinette County Farm Bureau and Coleman FFA teamed up to host a successful ice cream stand fundraiser during the Marinette County Fair last August. Thank you to Beaver Machine, Wisconsin Public Service and Rural Insurance Agent Jim Pickett for sponsoring and distributing coupons for ice cream sundaes.

Farm Bureau Hosts County Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Marinette County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Oct. 10 at Romy's Holiday Inn in Kelly Lake.

In addition to taking care of business, the members heard from keynote speaker Elijah Behnke, 89th Assembly District Representative, about the highlights of his first year in office and how he values the information and perspectives he gets from Farm Bureau.



President's Report



Dennis Jahnke
Oconto County Farm Bureau President

Here it is, 2022, I'm looking forward

to not going to doctor appointments.

My body finally showed the wear and tear of 72 years. I now have a pill box. Just joined the crowd, I guess. I heard the other day that by the end of the century people could live to 150 years or more. That would mean 50 different smartphones in a lifetime. Medicare eligible at 120.

Elon Musk is saying we need to have more children to ensure a steady economy. I guess eight billion is not enough yet.

We have had three of those winter wonderland snows already, but with three inches not 30. Being retired I can enjoy them as soon as the driveway is blown out.

Agriculture is a crazy adventure. Price of commodities are mostly all up, but my brother tells me fertilizer is up to triple from spring. Kinda like Charlie Brown and the football.

Have a great new year. Get vaccinated and mask when needed.

Farm Bureau Hosts County Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Oconto County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Sept. 21 at the S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant in Oconto Falls.

In addition to taking care of business, members heard from keynote speaker Dennis Jahnke who talked about representing Genex, and providing artificial insemination training to farmers in the Dominican Republic.



Dave Schneider showed his pride as members gathered for the Oconto County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Keynote speaker Dennis Jahnke from Genex talked about his artificial insemination training trips to the Dominican Republic.

Farm to School Marketing Options Available

By David Schneider, Oconto County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Wisconsin local foods database provides a viable option for local farmers to market products to schools. Link to form where farmers can sign up to be a part of the database: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYUdca47_S2SrRhS45FNKWaUXlAhVrxqZOG_0aBJnc97Egqw/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Link to form where school food service directors can sign up to be a part of the database: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWlNYERAYT_Q2qNYVocscK5O4RZ6YGGYsSmLkGa0pFcNyCw/viewform?usp=sf_link.

Education, Competition, Recognition and Policy at WFBF Annual Meeting

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau

The 102nd WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference provided Farm Bureau members from around the state to again gather in-person after having to meet virtually last year because of the pandemic.

The YFA Conference kicked off Friday evening with district meetings followed by a fun night at the hotel adventure park. It was down to business Saturday with YFA and Collegiate Discussion Meet contests and presentations by Excellence in Ag contestants. YFA members also participated in two rounds of breakout education sessions.

The WFBF Annual Meeting program began Saturday afternoon with meetings of district delegates to discuss policy issues that would be addressed at the business meeting, followed by the awards program.

Among the membership recruitment honorees was our president, Dennis Jahnke, recognized for signing up 10 new Farm Bureau members. Concurrent educational workshops in two rounds were available Sunday, following the general session. Interspersed between sessions and workshops was a trade show and silent auction, which benefits the WFB Foundation.

The conference wrapped up Monday morning with district caucuses followed by the annual business meeting. The culmination was the resolutions session at which delegates approved items to be added to the Farm Bureau Policy Book for 2022. New policy directives approved for 2022 related to establishment of carbon credit markets, certified professionals assisting DNR in meeting permit requirements, limiting the

time for determinations for CAFO permits, state support for planting cover crops, providing local government input on siting of alternative energy projects, requiring bonding for alternative energy projects to cover cleanup and land restoration, among others.

Always sure to spark impassioned debate is dairy policy and this year was not an exception. On the federal level, delegates endorsed development and implementation of a dairy price discovery tool to replace Federal Milk Marketing Orders and providing the same tax benefits for transitioning farm businesses to non-related as to related families. Delegates expressed opposition to increasing inheritance taxes and elimination of stepped-up basis. Directives affecting federal policy are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau where they will be considered for inclusion in AFBF policy.

The WFBF Policy book serves as a guide for the government relations staff as it works with the legislature and state agencies.



Walter Taylor and Ken Harter with the Taste of Oconto County cheese box donated to the WFBF Foundation Silent Auction. Taylor and Harter represented Oconto County Farm Bureau as delegates to the business meeting and served as judges for the YFA Discussion Meet.

Farm Neighbors Care Program

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Last fall, the Oconto County Farm Bureau allocated funds to fill 'goodie bags' with snacks as part of the Farm Neighbors Care program to deliver to hard working farmers out in their fields during harvest to encourage them to take a short break to fuel up their body and give their minds a rest, too.

Walter Taylor, Promotion and Education Committee chair, approached the FFA chapters in the county to help distribute the snacks to farmers in their area, and all of the chapters enthusiastically committed to helping with the program.



Oconto Falls FFA packed up and distributed snack bags to hard working farmers in their fields last October.

The Farm Neighbors Care program seeks to recognize the hard work farmers do and show them that their efforts are appreciated.

Another aspect of the program is to let farmers know that they have friends and neighbors who are there for them to help or to talk about problems and challenges that might be creating stress in their lives.

As a community service project, the Oconto Falls FFA undertook packing the snacks and beverages into plastic bags that were provided by the Oconto County Farm Bureau.

Nearly 100 bags were distributed to farmers by the FFA chapters in Oconto County.



Outagamie County

A Message From The President ...

Mike Salter

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

The WFBF Annual Meeting was completed on Dec. 6.

Outagamie County Farm Bureau had three delegates including: Bob Fox, Bernie Vander Heiden and Mike Salter. This was an in-person meeting at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in

Wisconsin Dells, which was great because we could mingle with other Farm Bureau members and renew old friendships.

The meeting started as normal with many reports. Farm Bureau's report, Rural Mutual Insurance report, YFA report and then we got into the resolutions. There were a couple of resolutions in the dairy policy area. One that wanted the milk inspector to give a 12-hour advance notice, and this passed.

A resolution that has been repeated from previous years sought to change Wisconsin's fencing law, but no change was made to our current policy supporting it as it is.

There were many other resolutions and verbiage changed. If you want an update listing of these changes, contact me and I'll get you a copy of the resolution booklet.

There was a bylaw proposal made that would limit the terms of WFBF Board Members to three consecutive terms of three-years. This was defeated and the main opposition to it was that a director takes six to seven years to fully get to know the ins and outs of how Farm Bureau and Rural Insurance operate.

Farm Bureau Hosts County Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Outagamie County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Oct. 14 at The River Rail Bar and Restaurant in Shiocton.

In addition to taking care of business, members heard from keynote speaker Rena Christensen, a teacher in Kimberly, who talked about her experiences at the National Ag in the Classroom conference in Iowa.

President Mike Salter recognized 25- and 50-year membership anniversary members, and presented the Distinguished Service to Outagamie County Farm Bureau Award to Marvin Fox and Leroy Van Asten for their dedicated service to the organization.



Kimberly School District teacher Rena Christensen talked about her experiences at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Iowa.



Ron Nelson was recognized for 50 years of membership.



Marvin Fox was recognized for his long-time service to Outagamie County Farm Bureau.

Centennial Farm Awards Presented

By Wes Raddatz, District Coordinator



A&G Huettl Farms, Inc.: Andy's great grandparents started it as a dairy farm. They worked with horses, raised pigs and grew corn, oats and alfalfa while dairying. Unfortunately, great grandpa fell to his death off a barn roof in 1941, at which time

Andy's grandparents took over. The brick farmhouse has been on the farm for all the years the farm has been in operation. They switched to grain farming in 1985 after the cows were sold at Andy's grandfather's death in late 1984. Currently, they farm the original 167 acres and rent some other land in the area. Andy and his family live on his wife's family farm north of Symco after her father's death and two uncles retired from farming. The family also farms land near Dale and north of Symco with help from Andy's parents and other relatives and friends.



Reis Farm: Grandpa Frank was from the Whitelaw area, but worked in the Antigo area during the winter months. While on a train coming back home, he saw a farm for sale out the train window. With help from his father, Ferdinand, the farm was purchased. Three years later,

Ferdinand sold the farm to Frank and his wife Barbara. They raised their seven children on the farm, until the unexpected early death of Frank. Barbara was left to raise their children and run the farm herself. Later Barbara sold the farm to her youngest son, Donald, and his wife Nell. Donald and Nell raised their six children on the farm. The farm would once again be sold to the youngest son, Dennis and his wife Darcy. They raised their two children on the farm. Ferdinand purchased 100 acres from the start. The farm is now at 99 acres. The original barn is still used for milking with several add-ons over the years, taking the milking cattle herd from 18 to 75 Holstein cows. Crops grown are corn, beans and alfalfa. Occasionally chickens and turkeys are raised in the summer months.



Nettekoven Farms: The farm originally was a dairy and the family grew alfalfa, corn and oats. Arnold and Irma Nettekoven had eight children. The next generation was Ron and MaryAnn who raised feeder pigs and springing heifers along with growing peas, sweet corn, green beans and field corn. Now, they grow corn, soybeans and wheat. The family has four children who are college graduates. They attended college with the wages they earned from helping on the farm.

CONGRATULATIONS
CENTURY FARM
AWARD
RECIPIENTS!

An Overview of the ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative



By Michelle Paustian, ThedaCare Outreach Health Specialist for Outagamie County

My name is Michelle Paustian and I'm the Outreach Health Specialist for Outagamie County with the ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative.

I grew up in rural Kaukauna and currently live in the town of Freedom. My husband and I have three grown boys and a middle-aged cocker spaniel. I enjoy being outdoors, gardening,

hiking, yard work, walking with my dog and music. My father was a Harvestore salesman and as a young girl, I remember riding along on farm calls and meeting really nice people. My uncle was a dairy farmer and sometimes we would spend weekends on his farm, which always fascinated me.

My hope is to spread the word about the Rural Health Initiative and the services offered at no cost to participants. Services include preventive health screening(s) for blood pressure, blood glucose (blood sugar), triglycerides, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI), health coaching, resources and referral information.

My vision is to improve the health, safety and well-being of farm families and those supporting agriculture. I'm really looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of the people who live in my community, Outagamie County.

You can contact me at 920.419.0925 or michelle.paustian@thedacare.org or visit <https://thedacare.org/about-us/community-health/rural-health-initiative> or www.facebook.com/ruralhealthinitiative.

Who We Are: ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative (RHI) is a non-profit, community supported, program focused on improving and sustaining the health and safety of rural families through our unique concept of 'Kitchen Wellness.' We are NOT an insurance company, NOT a government funded program and we do NOT have income limits.

Who We Serve: Anyone who contributes to agriculture (ages 18 years and older). Common participants include family farms (with and without hired staff), dairy farms (of any size), hobby and crop farms, Amish and agribusinesses. Spanish interpreters are provided, as needed.

Mission: A bridge to improve and sustain the health and safety of farm families.

Serving Shawano, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Green Lake and Marquette counties.

Rural Health Initiative
A Bridge to Improve and Sustain the Health and Safety of Farm Families

President's Report



Neil Christianson

Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Greetings and happy new year.

We had a successful Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting in September at The Gathering with a delicious brunch. There were 40 people in attendance.

One of the highlights was recognizing our 50-year members: Orvil Krueger and Tom Kuczer; and 40-year members: Gary Anderson, Darryll Olson, Patrick Rueckert and Kenneth Spreeman. We had a special recognition for Etta Ninman for being a member for 75 years, what an accomplishment.

Some of the 2021 accomplishments were:

- Sponsored six \$500 scholarships for students continuing their education post high school.
- Sponsored FFA students to the Farm Forum.
- Brunch 2021 at Nischke's Farm was a huge success.
- Donated string cheese for the Bike the Barn Quilts event the last week of

September.

- Handed out milk, string cheese and other dairy products at local parades.
- Completed the 2021 plat book.
- Sponsored Meals in the Fields.
- Sold ice cream at the Farm Bureau stand at the fair.

Your county delegates participated in the WFBF Annual Meeting in December at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells. I want to congratulate Kellie Zahn for winning the Excellence in Ag Award.

I want to thank each of you for your participation and we look forward to an even better year ahead.

Now, time to pick on my Norwegian heritage.

Ole and Lena were so excited to get a new cellular phone. Ole was to call when he was on his way home from town. Ole called Lena when he entered the freeway. "Lena put supper on, I'm on my way home." Lena says, "Be careful because I hear some nut is driving the wrong way on the freeway." "It's worse than that Lena, where I'm at there are a hundred cars going the wrong way!"

Volunteering at Shawano County Brunch on the Farm Pays Off

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch Co-Chair

The Shawano County Farm Bureau is proud to announce \$1,900 in donations to area agriculture student groups for their participation in the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm. For each volunteer sent by an organization they are eligible to receive proceeds from the brunch. This year, 16 organizations received between \$200 and \$25 for their support of the event as follows:

Shawano County Ag Ambassadors	\$200
Angelica 4-H Club	\$200
Bonduel FFA	\$200
Landstad 4-H Club	\$200
Maple Grove Countryside 4-H Club	\$200
Shawano FFA	\$200
Belle Plaine 4-H Club	\$100
Bonduel 4-H Club	\$100
Bowler 4-H Club	\$100
Gresham FFA	\$100
Pella Eagles 4-H Club	\$100
Shawano County Junior Holstein	\$100
County Line 4-H Club	\$25
Pulaski FFA	\$25
Tilleda Timberwolves 4-H Club	\$25
Waukechon Wildcats 4-H Club	\$25

Groups that provide five volunteers receive \$25; 10 volunteers receive \$100; 20 volunteers receive \$200 and any group that brings more than 21 volunteers is eligible for \$250.

Individual students who also volunteer at brunch also are eligible for scholarships for continuing education. Applications will be out in January and due in March of 2022.

Thank you to those who make Brunch on the Farm successful each year.

YFA Members Attend Timber Rattlers Game

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

The first Shawano YFA event for a couple years was a success with 16 members attending a delicious tailgate picnic and a fun and exciting Timber Rattler baseball game at Fox City Stadium in Appleton.

Congratulations to Deanna Zernicke for getting things organized. Shawano YFA co-chairs Deanna Zernicke and Skye Breitrick stepped down from the position last October and passed the YFA chair torch to Kellie Zahn.

Thank you, Deanna and Skye for your efforts to promote the Shawano YFA program during the past several years.



Sixteen Shawano YFA members and guests came for a Sunday afternoon at the ballpark on Sept. 12 to cheer on the Timber Rattlers at Fox City Stadium in Appleton.

County Fair Ice Cream Stand, A Success



The Shawano County Farm Bureau ice cream stand was a successful fund raiser and brought a lot of smiles to those attending the Shawano County Fair last September.

Farm Bureau Hosts County Annual Meeting

Byline: Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Shawano County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Sept. 26 at The Gathering in Shawano.

In addition to taking care of business, the members heard from keynote speakers Hunter Holewinski and Brady Gille from the Shawano County Ag Ambassadors, who talked about the many activities the Ambassadors

do to promote agriculture to consumers in the county.

Also present to address the group was state Representative Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel).

President Neil Christianson recognized 40- and 50-year membership anniversary members, and made a special presentation to Etta Ninman for 75 consecutive years of Farm Bureau membership.



Etta Ninman received a certificate from President Neil Christianson for 75 consecutive years of membership.



Darryll Olson was recognized for 40 years of membership.



Keynote speakers Hunter Holewinski and Brady Gille from the Shawano County Ag Ambassadors talked about their activities to promote agriculture.



State Representative Gary Tauchen.

Waupaca County

New President's Report



Meredith Paul

President

Happy new year, welcome 2022. Greetings from Waupaca County.

As I begin my first year as county president, I want to introduce myself.

I am starting my sixth year of membership and have served as a director at large for our county for the past four years. Most recently, I served as vice president for the board and got my feet wet with the workings of our board and the Farm Bureau organization at the state level.

I'm excited to bring our YFA members into the active membership and get them participating in our Promotion and Education activities locally and throughout the district and state.

As I watched the YFA Discussion Meet finals at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in early December, I was impressed with our younger agricultural leaders – they are articulate, work collaboratively for a resolution to a challenge and are extremely passionate about the future of our industry. What a great future it will be.

For me Farm Bureau has been about making connections and networking across the ag sector. I hope to bring new ideas, enthusiasm and to connect our county membership with others within our county, district and state.

I work as a Territory Sales Rep for VAS Laboratories – we provide testing services for DHI milk samples, patron milk (bulk tank) samples for cheese/dairy processors as well as water testing for municipalities and private well owners. My children keep me very busy with athletics and musical rehearsals and concerts. We have a small hobby farm with sheep, horses and chickens.

Cookie and Milk Time With Santa

By Meredith Paul and Emily Huettl, Promotion and Education Committee

On Dec. 11, the Waupaca County Farm Bureau and Promotion and Education Committee partnered with the Manawa Chamber of Commerce to promote our county Farm Bureau.

Miracle on Bridge Street is a community event in Manawa. This is the fourth year for the event, but Waupaca County Farm Bureau's first time as a stop sponsor for the participants.

Farm Bureau members baked and decorated 288 cookies for the kids to enjoy after their visit with Santa. The kids could choose from white or chocolate milk. Many smiles were seen and thank you heard from kids of all ages throughout the day.

Our own elves, Gloria and Jim Zemple picked up a box of sugar cookie dough from Greenville bulk food store. Then Santa's helpers continued with Helen and Arnie Heise and Karen Hintz earlier in the week spending a few hours in our host's kitchen baking and frosting those 288 cookies. Arnie said he was only allotted one broken cookie for taste testing, and it wasn't even with frosting. Kwik Trip in Waupaca donated a 10 percent discount for small cartons of milk for the event for the pairing. On the day of the event, it was a mother/daughter, Meredith and Olivia, duo passing out the cookies in downtown Manawa. After passing out the cookies with Santa, Mrs. Claus and the Grinch ended the events and watched a parade and dance at a gala to end out the day in town.



Gloria Zemple, Helen Heise and Karen Hintz helped Santa's elves by baking and frosting the cookies.



Waupaca County Farm Bureau helped Santa by providing milk and cookies at Miracle on Bridge Street.



Retiring President's Report

Wayne Steingraber

Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

Another successful year has gone by. I want to thank the board of directors for making this a pleasant experience for me this year. Some of the accomplishments this year have been:

1. This past year, two Key Awards were awarded to Nicole Kirchner of the Woodland Badgers 4-H and Everlah Riley of the Casey Lake 4-H. They will each receive \$100 scholarships for their efforts. If you see these young ladies, be sure and congratulate them for their hard work.
2. This year, the FFA Farm Forum was held virtually. Students from the Weyauwega/Fremont FFA participated and sent us a report on what they learned. We are unable to know if others participated in this free online event. Weyauwega/Fremont FFA received a \$100 donation from Waupaca County Farm Bureau for taking the time to participate.
3. This year, Ag Day at the Capitol was held virtually. Members were able to log in and listen to presentations highlighting key issues. They were then able to meet virtually with Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Representative Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca) to discuss ag issues that they were concerned about. I encourage you to join us at Ag Day at the Capitol on Jan. 26 and become a lobbyist for a day. It is through this

effort that we can put a local face on the issues when our WFBF staff talks with our Senator and Representative on our behalf. And believe me it does make a difference. They do remember you and recognize you throughout the year.

4. The Promotion and Education Committee, Young Farmers and Agriculturists Committee, Ag in the Classroom Committee and Fair Food Stand were active this past year and have been very successful with their programs.
5. This year, our members were recognized at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Jim and Mary Grant received the Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Farm Bureau Award for their dedication to Farm Bureau, agriculture and their community.

This will be my last newsletter article as your president as it is time for me to hand the reins of this great organization to the next generation of leaders. I will remain on the Board in an advisory position. I have enjoyed my years as president and have many great memories.

I have made many friends across the state, and I will continue to stay in touch. Farm Bureau has been a part of my life for 40 years and will continue to be part of it for many years to come. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative



By Tara Knaack, Waupaca County Outreach Health Specialist

I'm Tara Knaack, the Waupaca County Outreach Health Specialist for ThedaCare's Rural Health Initiative program.

I have more than 18 years of customer service, marketing and public relations experience. I earned an associate's degree in marketing and medical administration.

I have a passion for helping and improving the health and well-being of others. Outside of work, I enjoy spending quality time with my

husband and two children.

I love being outdoors and enjoy bow hunting, gun hunting and fishing.

ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative is a non-profit, community supported program focused on improving and sustaining the health and safety of rural families through our unique concept of Kitchen Wellness.

Kitchen Wellness provides free, convenient and confidential in-home/on-site preventive health screening with immediate test results, health coaching and referral information to local community resources.

We serve anyone who contributes to agriculture (ages 18 years and older) in Shawano, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Marquette and Green Lake counties.

Common participants include family farms, dairy farms (of any size), hobby and crop farms, Amish and agribusinesses.

To learn more, visit thedacare.org/ruralhealth.

To set up an appointment, please contact Tara Knaack at 715.250.0941 or tara.knaack@thedacare.org.

Farm Bureau Hosts County Annual Meeting

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Waupaca County Farm Bureau held its 2021 annual meeting on Oct. 5 at the Bear Lake Resort in Manawa.

In addition to taking care of business, the members heard from keynote speaker Don Schindler from the national dairy checkoff. He talked about how to effectively use social media for effective marketing and promotion.

Also, present to address the group were state Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), Rural Mutual Insurance Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Merk and WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Legee.



C&D Professional Insurance Donates



Sally Surprise and Jonathon Munoz from C&D Professional Insurance Services LLC presented Waupaca County Farm Bureau President Meredith Paul with \$1,000. The money will be used to purchase and donate local ag products and other community support projects.



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