



# Grassroots

District 2 News

## District 2 Director Report



**Arch Morton Jr.**

WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again. I hope that you are doing well and have had a successful planting season.

I've always been impressed with the way Farm Bureau has been able to work with other agricultural organizations, and all types of local, state and national associations. I've had the pleasure these past few months to be involved in many of these types of events and meetings.

One great example of this is Ag Day at the Capitol. This year it was held in late January. Many agricultural organizations, along with Wisconsin Farm Bureau sponsored and participated in this event. This gave many farmers and agribusiness people a chance to talk to our representatives about issues that are important to us.

Members of our Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors have had meetings and attended conferences with many other groups recently. In February, we visited the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (formerly known as Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board) office in Madison. We learned more about how they are promoting dairy products. It also was good to talk about ways that we could work together.

The same day we traveled to DeForest for the Yahara Pride Watershed Conference. We saw presentations on different conservation practices. One of the presenters was Tony Peirick, who farms near Watertown. Tony is very active in this group and has spoken many times at these types of events. He also is on the Dodge County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Tony did an excellent job of explaining the use of cover crops on his farm.



**In March, District 2 Board Director Arch Morton Jr. attended the Yahara Pride Farms annual meeting. Topics discussed included greenhouse gas emissions, planting green and program funding and projects.**

In late March, I attended a dairy growth management meeting in Cashton. There were three of these identical meetings in northern and western Wisconsin. Dairy farmers and others that were interested could participate in the one that was closest to them. These were sponsored by several county Farm Bureaus in northern and western Wisconsin, along with many county Farmers Unions.

In April, we had another joint meeting with the Wisconsin Towns Association. We usually meet with them three to four times per year to discuss issues that are important to both organizations. Three of us on the WFBF Board of Directors and two of our governmental relations staff met with six representatives of the Wisconsin Towns Association.

It's always a benefit to us, when we work together and build these relationships. I'm very proud of the way Farm Bureau and many other organizations collaborate for the common good. I've only listed a few examples here. There are many more groups that we are proud to be associated with on the county, district, state or national levels.

Keep working together and building those relationships. Hope to see you soon.

**WANTED**

**BOARD DIRECTORS AND DELEGATES**

Calling those interested in becoming a board member or being selected as a voting delegate. Board member expectations include attendance at county Farm Bureau monthly meetings and assistance in leading committee work.

Monthly board meetings are as follows:

- Dane County Farm Bureau meets on the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Madison.
- Green County Farm Bureau meets on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Monroe.
- Rock County Farm Bureau meets on the fourth Monday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Footville.
- Sauk County Farm Bureau meets on the first Thursday of the month beginning at 7 p.m. in Baraboo.

Voting delegate expectations include attendance at the annual Policy Development meeting and vote as a county Farm Bureau delegate on Monday of the WFBF Annual Meeting on Dec. 5 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

If you are considering one of these opportunities, please contact the following board member by county:

- **Dane:** Kadi Walsh | 608.547.6658  
kadencewalsh@gmail.com
- **Green:** Dustin Williams | 608.391.0238  
dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu
- **Rock:** Mary Hookham | 608.751.4720.  
mmhookham@gmail.com
- **Sauk:** Craig Sandmire | 608.963.6645  
craigsandmire@gmail.com

## American Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Update

Andrea Brossard

AFBF Promotion and Education Vice Chair

### Target Training, April 7-9, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Hosted by AFBF Promotion and Education Committee

Target Training is a premier consumer engagement training for Farm Bureau members from any state who are passionate about sharing agriculture with the public. This event occurs every other year (even years) with a different theme that focuses on inspiring and equipping farmers and ranchers to successfully convey the significance of agriculture and bridge the gap between field and fork.

Join for engaging sessions, networking events and consumer outreach skill-building focused on this year's theme of Promoting Positive Perceptions.

Target Training offers an opportunity for members to take their consumer engagement and leadership to the next level. It's critical that we build on the high level of trust consumers have in farmers and ranchers and help them better understand where food, fiber and fuel come from.

During the conference we heard from presenters including Donna Moening, speaker and trainer, Center for Food Integrity, Jim Bair, president and CEO, U.S. Apple Association; Johnna Miller, senior director, media & advocacy training, AFBF; and Jordan Henry, director, leadership and organizational training, AFBF. And keynote speaker, Ryan Goodman, a cattle rancher known as @beefrunner, who loves ultra-distance trail running. He has been effectively sharing his unique agricultural perspective for more than a decade, from writing for CNN's food page to facilitating the Masters of Beef Advocacy program.



During the YF&R Conference, Andrea Brossard (far left) served on a panel that discussed the differences between the Women's Leadership Committee, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the Promotion and Education Committee, and the benefits of working together to create programming and materials to build strong leaders and a voice for the future of agriculture.

In addition,



American Farm Bureau staff and Promotion and Education committee members.

pre-conference tours were held, and the committee organized a sock drive bringing in over 400 pairs of socks to be distributed throughout the Minneapolis area. Allan Law from the Minneapolis Recreation Development was present to handle the sock donation and distribution.

### Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference, Feb. 25-28, Louisville, Kentucky

The American Farm Bureau Federation hosted the 2022 Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Feb. 25-28, at the Omni Louisville Hotel. Highlights of the conference include inspiring speakers, hands-on learning sessions, local tours and the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

During the conference, I served on a panel that discussed the differences between the Women's Leadership Committee, Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee and the Promotion and Education Committee, along with the benefits of working together to create programming and materials to build strong leaders and a voice for the future of agriculture. I also served as a sweet 16 judge for the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

"This conference was a great opportunity for young farmers and ranchers to meet and help take their leadership and advocacy to the next level," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "New ideas and energy are so important to the future of farming and Farm Bureau."

On Saturday night of the conference, attendees headed to the Kentucky Derby Museum for an evening of fun, music, networking, and all things related to horse racing.

## District Essay Contest Winner Hails From Green County

By Kari Schoenike, District Promotion and Education representative

This year's essay contest topic was, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!' The topic is based off of the book of the year, "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack," written by Wisconsin author and dairy farmer Cris Peterson.

This year, Autymn Norton, Juda School fourth-grade student, was selected as the Farm Bureau District 2 essay contest winner.

Great job focusing on the economic impact of corn in Wisconsin.

Thank you to all of the 2022 Ag in the Classroom essay contest participants and congratulations to Autymn Norton

Enjoy reading her winning essay.

### What's Popping in Wisconsin?

What's popping in Wisconsin? Corn. Corn is the biggest crop grown in Wisconsin. There are several varieties of corn, such as Field Corn, Sweet Corn, and Popcorn.

Wisconsin ranks 8th in the U.S. for growing popcorn. Popcorn needs to be heated from 400 to 460 degrees Fahrenheit to pop. The popcorn kernel has water inside. When the kernel is heated pressure builds up and it pops. When popcorn pops it completely turns inside out. I like eating popcorn.

Wisconsin also ranks 10th in the U.S. for growing field corn as a grain. If you take the ear and the stalk of field corn and grind it up, you get silage. Wisconsin ranks 1st in the U.S. for growing corn used for silage. Field corn makes up more than 90% of the corn in Wisconsin fields. Field corn is also known as "dent corn."

Finally Wisconsin ranks 3rd in the U.S. for sweet corn processing. Sweet corn is the type of corn that people eat or grow in their gardens. Sweet corn can be eaten on the cob, frozen, or canned. The ears have to be harvested before the seeds begin to harden. When I was little, I peeled the husks off ears of corn with my grandma.

Corn is also used in making ethanol. In the U.S. 90% of ethanol that is produced uses corn as an ingredient. Researchers report that ethanol burns cleaner than gasoline. 37% of corn grown in Wisconsin is used to make ethanol.

As you can see, corn is a very important crop in Wisconsin. You may not know it, but corn is all around you, in baby food, cake mixes, chewing gum, condiments, antibiotics, ethanol, glue, paint, plastics, and fabrics. That's what's popping in Wisconsin.

## 26TH ANNUAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU GOLF OUTING



Brought to you by Columbia, Dane, Dodge,  
Green, Rock and Sauk County Farm Bureaus

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2022**

**THE OAKS GOLF COURSE, COTTAGE GROVE**

**9:00 a.m. Registration**

**9:45 a.m. Ball Toss**

**10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**

Box lunch provided.

Awards, 50/50 Raffle and Auction to follow.

**Cost:** \$100/individual or \$400/foursome

**Join us RAIN or SHINE!**

**SEVERAL HOLE IN ONE PRIZES PLUS HOLE  
PRIZES, PUTTING CONTEST AND BALL TOSS!!**



**Support WI Farm Bureau District 2 County Farm Bureau programs on one of the finest public courses in the area!  
Enjoy 18 holes of golf, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and more!**

**For questions, please contact committee chair Sam Skemp at 608.444.9537 or [sskemp1@charter.net](mailto:sskemp1@charter.net).  
Complete details and online registration can be found at [eventregisterpro.com/event/d2countyfarmbureau](http://eventregisterpro.com/event/d2countyfarmbureau)**

### Invest in Yourself Through the WFBF Leadership Institute



By Kat Peper, WFBF Leadership Institute Participant

I moved to Wisconsin the end of 2015 and not long after joined Sauk County Farm Bureau to meet other farmers and agriculturists in the area.

I was quickly roped into being co-chair of our county YFA committee and became more involved. I heard a lot about the WFBF Leadership Institute

and knew that I wanted to participate in the program.

When it was about time for the next round of applications to open it was decided that the program was going to start being offered every other year. So, I waited another year and eagerly applied for the next group and was accepted. I have participated in other leadership programs back home in California but knew this one would help me to learn more about myself as a leader and about Wisconsin agriculture.

My institute experience was a bit different than previous classes. COVID decided that it wasn't going to go away as quickly as people thought and the first half of the year was spent virtually. Although virtual may have not been the preferred method, my fellow class members, WFBF staff and the presenters made the best of it.

The program is broken into multiple multi-day sessions. I enjoyed the sessions but really enjoyed the ones where we got to practice what we

learned. The session on media interviews was phenomenal with Johnna Miller from AFBF.

Learning how to keep control of the interview and how to create sound bites is something that I will use as I continue to advocate for agriculture.

Then we got to practice being interviewed, and let me tell ya, it's a bit harder than you may think. Our first in-person session also was one of my favorites. It was great to finally meet the rest of my classmates in person. This session was more on policy development, and we had the opportunity to conduct mock public hearings. It was especially helpful for me as I was speaking at public hearings on changes to manure ordinances in Sauk County.

WFBF Leadership Institute is a great investment in yourself, and I encourage you to jump on the opportunity and apply. Not only did I learn how to be a better leader in Farm Bureau and my community, but I have made lifelong friendships with my fellow institute classmates.

Also, don't be afraid to ask your work or county Farm Bureau to help sponsor you to participate.

You don't know until you ask, and many people want to help you grow and develop your leadership skills.



## District 2 Young Farmers and Agriculturist in Action



**Brady and Kat Peper**

District 2 YFA Representatives

Hello, District 2.

In February, we held a meeting with the county YFA chairs in the district. It was intended to be in person, but the weather had other plans and we ended up having to go virtual. All county chairs attended, and we had great discussions on what is going on in everyone's county and in the district. We believe that we have the best county chairs in our

district and look forward to some great events being planned throughout the year in our counties.

At the end of February, Brady and I attend the AFBF YF&R Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This was our first time attending a national convention. If you have an opportunity to attend the Fusion Conference, we highly recommend it.

It is a fun way to meet people from across the country involved in many different aspects of agriculture. There also is much to learn and take away from the speakers and breakout sessions. There are tours and you can see different kinds of farming and ranching. Next year, it will be in Jacksonville, Florida, which would be a great place to get away from the Wisconsin winter for a few days.

In April, we hosted our first event, which was YFA Night at the Rodeo. It was a PRCA rodeo held in The Coliseum at Alliant Energy Center in conjunction with the Midwest Horse Fair. We got to see your typical events like bull riding and barrel racing as well as some great performances by the rodeo clown, clinicians and even a guy doing somersaults over a charging bull. It was a great turnout, and much fun was had by all.

We also have some other events in the planning stages. Stay tuned to your county Facebook pages and WFBF YFA page for updates on events.

We have set a date for our District 2 Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting. The date is **Monday, Aug. 1** and will be held at the Verona Town Hall. Dinner will be provided. Come and give the Discussion Meet a try. Then stay and participate in the policy development meeting.

This year WFBF updated the YFA awards. We have the Farming for the

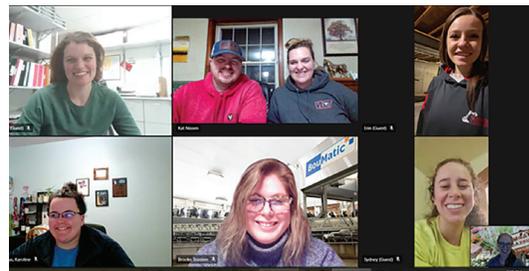
Future Award, which replaces the Achievement Award. This award is for farmers that derive most of their income from the farm.

We also have the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award, which replaces the Excellence in Ag Award. This award is for ag professionals who earn most of their income from an off-farm job.

One thing to note is that these are now WFBF specific awards, and the winner will not be competing at AFBF, but will have the opportunity to attend Fusion Conference in Florida. If you know of anyone who is deserving of these awards, encourage him or her to apply or send their names our way.

Lastly, we are looking forward to getting out into different areas of our district and attending county annual meetings this summer and fall.

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions, comments, concerns or ideas of district-wide events you want to see happen. We hope you all have a great spring, summer and growing season.



District 2 YFA chairs met to discuss events. Top left photo clockwise: Kadi Walsh (Dane County), Brady and Kat Peper (District 2 YFA Representatives, Sauk County), Erin Mullett (Green County), Sydney Endres (Columbia County), Brooke Trustem (Rock County) and Karoline Twardokus (Dodge County).



Members enjoyed YFA Night at the Rodeo.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist AWARDS

APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

**OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

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

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

**FARMING FOR THE FUTURE AWARD**

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

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

### District 2 YFA Discussion Meet & Policy Development Meeting

**Monday, August 1**

6:00 pm - Dinner  
6:30 pm - Discussion Meet  
7:30 pm - Policy Development

**Verona Town Hall**  
7669 County Road PD  
Verona

Topic to be discussed: Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the "fence rows" on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?

**For questions, to participate or to RSVP contact:**  
District 2 YFA Representatives - Kat & Brady Peper  
209.639.1715 | [katnissen@yahoo.com](mailto:katnissen@yahoo.com)

## A Message From The President



**Tom Jelinek**  
Dane County Farm Bureau  
President

Welcome to the Dane County Farm Bureau portion of the district 2 newsletter.

Dane County Farm Bureau has been gearing up for the fair. This year, we will once again be sponsoring the learning lane and the scavenger hunt.

These events have been very educational, challenging and fun for the participants. Through these programs, we have been able to educate the general, non-farming public on the essential industry agriculture.

Dane County Farm Bureau also welcomes Darlene Arneson as our Ag in the Classroom volunteer. She is doing a wonderful job of helping educate the students in Dane County about agriculture.

In closing, Dane County Farm Bureau encourages you to get informed and involved in the 2022 elections that will take place this November. Remember, an informed vote is essential for our government to work correctly. Get educated and vote, it's your duty as a citizen of America.

## Meet: Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Co-Chair



By Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Co-Chair

I am Darlene Arneson and our family lives near Stoughton on my husband's home farm.

I have been involved in agricultural literacy all my life as a 4-H and FFA member,

agriculture education teacher and I started the Dane County Ag in the Classroom program about 30 years ago.

I served as the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for the state for the past 15 years.

Recently, I volunteered to help Dane County Farm Bureau with its Ag in the Classroom Program and look forward to working with students, teachers and our agriculture partners as Dane County develops their Ag in the Classroom plan for the future.

If you want to get involved with the program as a teacher or volunteer, please contact me at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608.873.7209.

## Student Scholarship Deadline Is July 1

Are you a Dane County Farm Bureau member currently attending college and looking for a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to help with your fall courses? Please review application criteria and deadline date below:



1. Applicants or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a member of Dane County Farm Bureau.
2. Applicants must have completed one year of advanced education after high school before they apply. High school seniors are not eligible.
3. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in an agriculture program.
4. Applications must be completed in full and submitted by JULY 1. Incomplete applications or applications submitted after July 1 may be disqualified. Scholarship presentations will take place at the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting in September.
5. Applicants will need to submit proof of fall registration with this scholarship application.
6. Previous scholarship recipients cannot apply again for the scholarship.
7. Judges will use the following criteria for evaluation: Academics 50 percent; activities and awards 30 percent; and need 20 percent.
8. \$1,000 scholarship.

Please return completed form by **July 1** to: Nicole Hibbard, 9615 Harvest Moon Lane, Apt. 217, Verona, Wisconsin 53593; hibbardnm@gmail.com. For the Dane County Farm Bureau scholarship application and more information, please visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/dane](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/dane).

## YFA Members Tour J. Henry & Sons

By Kadi Walsh, Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

In March, Dane County YFA had a wonderful time touring J. Henry & Sons in Dane. We were fortunate to hear from Joe Henry himself as we explored the rickhouses, the bottling room and tasted some delicious bourbon.

We also learned more about the seed corn and crop production side of the farm, which produces the grains used to make their bourbon.

We are grateful for the opportunity and hospitality offered at this local business.

Please stay up to date on the Dane County Farm Bureau & YFA's Facebook page for upcoming events and opportunities.



YFA members Marisa Walsh, Sarah Shimshak, Shawn Neary, Kadence Walsh and Eric Senkowski enjoyed the YFA event.



Joe Henry provided an educational tour of J. Henry & Sons for the YFA group.



## Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

**Date:** Wednesday, July 13

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** The Oaks Golf Course

**Address:** 4740 Pierceville Road, Cottage Grove



You are invited to participate in a policy development meeting on **Wednesday, July 13**, beginning at 6 p.m. as part of Dane County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau policy is established by farmer and agriculturist members to guide the organization's position on specific legislation and rules.

Each year Dane County Farm Bureau members develop, discuss and vote on resolutions addressing local, state and national issues facing agriculture. State and national resolutions are discussed and voted on by delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting and AFBF Annual Convention.

With more than 46,000 members representing aspects of agriculture, WFBF is a respected voice for agriculture with legislators, the Governor, state agencies, the media and other ag organizations. This is an opportunity for you to express your ideas about policies that would be beneficial to agriculture not only in Dane County but around the state.

Dinner will be provided. We appreciate your participation in this important event. Please RSVP by **Monday, July 11**, to Sam Skemp at 608.444.9537 or [sskemp1@charter.net](mailto:sskemp1@charter.net). If you want to review the 2022 Farm Bureau policy book, visit [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development).

## FFA Farm Forum Experience Shared



Wisconsin Heights FFA members shared their FFA Farm Forum experience at a recent board meeting. Dane County Farm Bureau sponsored Wisconsin Heights FFA members to participate in FFA Farm Forum held in February.

## Annual Meeting Set for September 8

Mark your calendar for the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting set for **Thursday, Sept. 8**.

The meeting will take place at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. Chuck Spencer, GROWMARK Executive Director of Corporate and Government Relations, will be our keynote speaker.

Postcard invitation with complete details to follow in August.

# Green County

## A Message From The President



**Josh Schenk**

Green County Farm Bureau President

As fewer people become farmers and the disconnect from land and animals grows, the need to share our story continues to be ever so important.

Being a Farm Bureau member is much more than the perks or policy representation. Membership supports the heritage of how farmers care for the land and support the community in which they live and work. This may look different today than to generations of the past but at the heart is the same.

Providing opportunities for youth to learn about agriculture or individuals to advance beneficial skills are a couple ways we reinvest in the community. A big part of being a Farm Bureau member is in the friendships and connection to agriculture that brings each of us together.

Recently, I met with Farm Bureau members and farmers alike for a discussion about farming with the Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes. We discussed obstacles faced by farmers and each topic had an interrelated effect on rural communities. That being said, I ask members to continue to share with others why being a farmer is important to you and why agriculture is so important to our rural communities.

## Farm Bureau Member Feature: Meet Mary Schmidt

By Amy Silver, Green County Farm Bureau Secretary/Treasurer

Mary Schmidt farms southeast of Monroe with two long-time farmhands, seasonal part-time help and the help of her three daughters, Melisa, Michele and Samantha.

Together they grow corn, soybeans and alfalfa while raising beef, swine and rabbits. Mary enjoys working outside and being able to share farm experiences with her grandsons. One of her favorite parts about farming is when the cow/calf pairs come home in preparation for the winter ahead.

Mary has been a Farm Bureau member since the 1980s and is also involved in GFWC Monroe's Woman Club currently serving on the board of directors. She has lived in the Monroe area most of her life and boasts about how enjoyable and supportive the community of Green County is.

*If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue or would like to nominate a Farm Bureau member, please contact Amy Silver at [amygsilver@gmail.com](mailto:amygsilver@gmail.com).*



## Policy Meeting to be Held on June 28

By Josh Schenk, Green County Farm Bureau President

**Date and Time:** Tuesday, June 28, at 7 p.m.

**Place:** Blackhawk Technical College, Monroe Campus Ag Building  
210 4th Avenue, Monroe

Members have the opportunity to discuss issues and successes we are experiencing as farmers in Green County. Guidance from these discussions helps to lead the organization's role in government policy surrounding agriculture.

## Green County Farm Bureau UTV Ride Saturday, June 11

**11 a.m. Meet at Green Co. Farmstand | W6010 Melvin Rd. | Monroe, WI**

**Cost: \$25 per person, payable at start of event**

**RSVP to [gcfbrsvp@gmail.com](mailto:gcfbrsvp@gmail.com) by May 31 to reserve your meal.**

*Join us for a ride through the beautiful rolling hills along the Cheese Country Trail and experience some of the sights and sounds of Southwest Wisconsin. Come for the camaraderie, music, games, and fun. We hope to see you there!*

### Planned Activities

**11:30 a.m. Depart from Farmstand**

**12:30 p.m. Boxed Lunch provided at The Vault, South Wayne, WI**

**3 p.m. Cork Down Saloon, Blanchardville, WI**

**4-5 p.m. Return to Monroe. Participants are welcome to stay or plan an alternative route home.**

**Games and activities will be at each of the stops and encouraged throughout the ride.**

**\*\*Participants will need to ensure their UTV/ATV is properly licensed in the state of WI for travel on WI public roads and trails. GCFB encourages all drivers and riders to follow all WI DNR rules regarding the safe operation of UTVs/ATVs on the road and trail system. Green County Farm Bureau (GCFB) is not responsible for accidents. For questions, please call or text Dustin Williams at 608-391-0238.**

## Transportation and Supply Chain Testimony

By Ben Huber, Green County Farm Bureau Board Director

This past February, I testified in front of the Special Committee on transportation and supply chain. There isn't one of us who isn't impacted by supply chain constraints either within our farm businesses, ag businesses or simply as everyday consumers.

Several of the presenters talked about the long-term ramifications of our inaction today, and the reality of what's necessary to help Wisconsin solve our transportation and supply chain problems.

My testimony was centered around the impact to agriculture and the food/fuel supply chain. I spoke about the trucking, labor and logistics shortfalls our industry is facing, as well as outlined several impacts of each along the supply chain.

These challenges, like many others, won't be solved by one strategy or by one person, but rather by people putting aside their differences and working together to find amicable solutions. We offered some basic solutions and left room for additional dialogue in the future.

As Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) says, "If you're not at the table then you're on the menu," and putting agriculture at the table was the goal of our testimony.

This certainly isn't an opportunity that came along all by itself. This opportunity, along with many others, came because I'm a member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Whether you're a lifelong member, or just getting started, being involved in ag policy development and helping shape the future of agriculture is a noble cause that WFBF helps facilitate at the state, local and national levels.

I'm thankful for the opportunity offered by WFBF and to Keith Ripp for allowing me to represent farmers and agriculturists during these challenging times. Opportunities like these are a great example of what Wisconsin Farm Bureau is doing for their members, and how YOU can get involved.



**Ben Huber, right, testified in front of the Special Committee on transportation and supply chain.**

## Annual Meeting Scheduled For August 31

By Josh Schenk, Green County Farm Bureau President

**Place:** Koning Maple Lane Event Center, N3051 WI-81, Monroe

**Cost:** \$15 at the door

**Details:** Registration - 6:30 p.m.

Meal - 7 p.m.

Meeting/Entertainment - 7:30-9 p.m.

Join fellow Green County Farm Bureau members at the county annual meeting for an evening of food, friends and fun.



International agricultural journalist and author, Corey Geiger is excited to be a part of the evening's entertainment and share his new book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."

Silent auction proceeds from the evening support agriculture programs sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau.

See you there.

## Members Present to PAS Group

By Erin Mullett, YFA chair

This spring, Green County Farm Bureau members Erin Mullett of Compeer Financial, Ben Huber of Insight FS and Carmen Montgomery of the Argyle School District spent time speaking with the Professional Agricultural Students (PAS) Club at Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe. Topics ranged from careers in crop insurance, agricultural lending and agronomy, to existing programs for young and beginning farmers as well as hot topics in agriculture, such as carbon credits and potential impact to the industry.



Erin, Ben and Carmen shared their personal experiences within Farm Bureau and discussed how the PAS group members could start by getting involved with some of the upcoming county and district level activities. It was a great experience for members Erin, Ben and Carmen to connect with the next generation of agricultural leaders.

## Save the Date: Annual YFA Bean Bag Night

By Erin Mullett, Green County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

**Date:** Tuesday, July 26

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** Scott Timm's Shop

**Address:** W6010 Melvin Road, Monroe

Come join the Green County Farm Bureau YFA for a relaxed, fun night of burgers, brats and bags. Connect with YFA members, learn about upcoming opportunities for involvement and show off those corn hole skills.

All current and prospective District 2 YFA members are welcome.

RSVP to YFA Chair Erin Mullett at 815.990.5496 and follow Green County Farm Bureau on Facebook for more details leading up to the event.



# Rock County

wfbf.com/about/counties/rock  
RockCountyFarmBureau

## WFBF Hosts IGNITE Conference

By Brooke Trustem, Rock County Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

In March, I had the privilege of attending the IGNITE Conference in Stevens Point and dare I say, it truly ignited my goals for 2022 and what I hope to accomplish personally and professionally with Farm Bureau.

I attended sessions focused on sustainability and membership involvement. WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships Rachel Gerbitz shared an inspiring message on how we can talk about sustainability and what our personal message is, mine being "As a sixth-generation farmer, I want to continue our farm for another six generations." Later that evening, we heard from Dave Daniels, WFBF Vice-President, about his time with Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Later we enjoyed a comedy performance.

The Saturday general session was focused on volunteering Farm Bureau VIPs. We learned from Robin Kinney, Membership and Marketing Director, Minnesota Farm Bureau, about how we can engage our VIPs in service and committee work and encouraged us to think beyond our normal perception of a Farm Bureau member.

I attended two breakout sessions on Saturday focused on recruiting members and YFA involvement in general. Experienced membership superstars shared their strategies on how they have recruited members to their county Farm Bureaus and where we should start ourselves. In the YFA session, we discussed how to keep events simple and inviting to anyone interested in Farm Bureau. By keeping it more low-key, we are able to have a casual conversation about benefits of Farm Bureau and opportunities new members can truly get out of joining our organization.

Thank you to the WFBF staff for putting together such a fabulous event.



## Farm Bureau Offers \$500 Scholarships

The Rock County Farm Bureau will offer student scholarship applications for members and member's children who are at least in their second year of college or technical school.

Scholarship funds are raised through sales at the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair. The applicant, or a member of the applicant's family, must work in the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the 2022 Rock County 4-H Fair in order to be eligible for scholarship.

Scholarship applications are available on the website at wfbf.com/about/counties/rock or from Stacy Skemp at skemps@milton.k12.wi.us. Applications must be submitted by **Aug. 15**.

For more information or questions, please contact Stacy Skemp at skemps@milton.k12.wi.us or message on Facebook at Rock County Farm Bureau.

## Annual Meeting Set For September 26

By Mary Hookham, Rock County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Chair

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 26

**Time:** Mixer and Registration - 6 p.m.

Dinner - 7 p.m.

Call to Order - 7:45 p.m.

**Location:** The Barn on Prairie, 5828 S. County Road G, Janesville



After receiving rave reviews about The Barn on Prairie after last year's annual meeting, members will again enjoy an evening there with speaker Corey Geiger.

Corey is managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman magazine and a local author.

As the business meeting is called to order, the board will hold its annual board of director election, WFBF delegate selection, affiliate reports, policy development discussion and other items of business.

Formal postcard invitation to come in August.

Rock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors hope to see you.

## Policy Development Discussion Scheduled for August 17

By Kirk Leach, Rock County Farm Bureau Policy Development Chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau policy development committee will meet at 7 p.m. on **Wednesday, Aug. 17**, at the LaPrairie Grange Hall, 3610 S. LaPrairie Town Hall Road, Janesville.

The purpose of the meeting will be to propose and discuss additions and changes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policy books. Please come with thoughts and concerns on such topics as solar projects, watershed management and issues affecting your farm or agriculture in general.

The WFBF Policy Book is available in hard copy from me or visit [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development).

There will be a limited number of copies available at the meeting.



## Fair Food Stand Plea for Help

By Ed Hookham, Rock County Farm Bureau Food Stand Chair

Hooray, the fair is coming. Preparations are being made for the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair and we need your help. The fair will be **Tuesday, July 26, through Sunday, July 31**.

We need volunteers for multiple shifts. Shifts will run from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. with a few people needed earlier and later to open and close. We need eight to 10 people per shift.

The shifts are shorter this year with hopes of fitting into busy schedules better.

If you have a group that wants to take a full shift, talk to me about compensation. We are happy to help your group make money by helping our group. Contact me at 608.751.3005 or [jndsfeed@gmail.com](mailto:jndsfeed@gmail.com).

Thanks, and see you at the fair.



# Sauk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sauk  
SaukCountyFarmBureau

## A Message from the President



**Mike Turner**

Sauk County Farm Bureau President

Hello, Sauk County Farm Bureau member. It sure has been an interesting start to 2022. The cold weather sure has put a damper on everything, and the wind hasn't helped either. On the bright side we are finally getting some moisture in the ground.

As many of you already know, this year has been rough on my family and farm with a machine shed fire back in January. I want to thank everyone who reached out during the weeks that followed asking if we needed anything and to everyone who donated to the fire fund that my sister and cousin set up.

When an event like this happens it really makes you sit back and reflect on memories from the past and to reflect on how supportive your community really is. For me the memories of riding with my grandpa on the tractors he bought new, including the first tractor ever on this farm,

to many stories being shared about my dad with the tough 1066 he used to pull. All these memories/stories bring a smile but also a tear for the sentimental values being gone.

The other thing to remember is we are lucky to be in Sauk County. Some days we might think farmers stand alone, but in reality, we have a number of community members who stand right beside us without us even knowing it. Again, I want to say **THANK YOU** to everyone who reached out or donated. It really means the world to my family.

Now, on to more important Farm Bureau items that I want to get out. The county board has been watching what the Land Resources Department has been doing. We have heard of some farmers having trouble with the Chapter 26 rule with the way they are being enforced.

If you are having problems with the department, please contact a board member to share your concern. We have built a working relationship with the committee and county board members, which is great.

In closing, I again want to thank you on behalf of my family, hope you had a great spring and if you have any concerns in the county relating to agriculture, please reach out.

## FFA Farm Forum Sponsorships Awarded



Baraboo FFA and River Valley FFA members shared their FFA Farm Forum experience at a board meeting.



Sauk County Farm Bureau helped sponsor FFA members to participate in FFA Farm Forum held in February. Board directors are pictured with Baraboo FFA and River Valley FFA members they supported.

Hey Kids,

It's time to find and connect the dots. What shape is it? When you figure it out enjoy some dairy products including milk, cheese, yogurt, butter or ... ice cream.



## America's Dairyland

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland...and a leader in the production of top-quality milk! Do you know more cheese and butter come from Wisconsin than any other state in America?? What does Wisconsin look like? Connect the dots and see.



## Sauk County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients Announced



**Nolan Culbertson, Sun Prairie**

Currently, I am a second semester freshman at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, pursuing my bachelor's degree in conservation biology. In addition to my studies, I'm also a starter on the university's lacrosse team as a defenseman. In my spare time, I enjoy hunting, fishing and cleaning up natural areas. I'm looking forward to acquiring the knowledge at the university level and applying it to my future employment to make a difference in our natural world.

**Ethan Hillebrand, Lone Rock**

I'm a senior attending River Valley High School. Activities that I've been involved in are fall/spring trap for six years, FFA for five years, football for four years, track for three years, basketball for one year and wrestling for one year. Throughout these activities I've learned skills, including leadership, teamwork and accountability. I'm an employee at Prem Meats & Catering in Spring Green, my hometown. At Prem Meats my job involves take and bakes, assembling Traeger Grills and packaging. Something I enjoy doing is raising pigs and goats on my grandpa's farm along with my family. My family and I attended multiple fairs to compete with our livestock that we raised. I'm enrolled at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College where I will be in the Electrical Power Distribution Program. Post college I plan to do an apprenticeship to become a telephone lineman or electrical lineman.



**Rachel Lichte, Baraboo**

My name is Rachel Lichte, and I'm a junior at UW-Madison studying genetics and genomics and life sciences communication. I grew up in Baraboo, but my dad's side of the family (Dan Lichte) lives in Reedsburg, owning and operating DLichte Family Farm. There I spent many weekends and summer days helping my dad, uncles and grandpa with feeding the calves and keeping them company in the tractor. After coming to college, the values and experiences that I learned on the farm stuck with me and gave me a perspective on agriculture unique to many of my peers who did not grow up helping on a farm. A strong work ethic has given me the drive to complete my goals of one day becoming a genetic counselor in the future. This scholarship will help me fund my continuing education.



Congratulations scholarship recipients!

## Ag in the Classroom Visits



Dana Westedt reviewed the essay topic 'What's popping in Wisconsin?' with fourth-grade students at Pine Ridge intermediate school.



Merrimac Charter school collecting maple sap.



Fun day at St. Luke's School in Plain with the Wheel of Agriculture, Ag Trivia. They were all winners and received halos and apples.



Merrimac Charter School is weaving yarn. One of the students made a little purse.



The students were excited about the wheel of agriculture, Ag Trivia.



Boiled down sap.



Teacher Jenna McCann poured the sap that was collected into a pitcher.

## Wanted: Fair Food Stand Volunteers

By Brady Peper, Sauk County Farm Bureau Fair Food Stand Chair

Hi, my name is Brady Peper and I'm the new chair for the Sauk County Farm Bureau food stand committee. I have been on our county board for five years and serve as the county YFA chair and local affairs committee chair. I'm looking forward and want to make this first year a smooth transition for all involved. We are looking for volunteers to help work the food stand at the Sauk County Fair. The fair runs from **July 11-17**. Each day is split into two shifts from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 4:30 to 10 p.m.



If you want to volunteer, please contact me at 608.415.3752. Thank you for your Farm Bureau involvement and I look forward to hearing from you.

## Annual Meeting Set For August 25

Please join us in conducting our Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 25

**Time:** Registration - 6:30 p.m., Dinner - 7 p.m.

**Location:** Granite Hills Farm, LLC  
 E7187 County Road W, Rock Springs

There will be a free catered meal. Remember to get your reservation in promptly when you receive your postcard invitation in July.

## Sponsor Presence at Flapjacks for Farmers

By Tommy Brennan, Sauk County Farm Bureau Vice President

The Baraboo FFA Chapter hosted its third annual Flapjacks for Farmers and Friends breakfast on Feb. 19, dine-in or drive-thru style in front of Baraboo High School.

The breakfast included pancakes, sausage, eggs and cheese for \$4. Donations were split between the farmers in Kentucky for help after the tornados, and to the Baraboo Fire Department for grain bin entrapment training.

Sauk County Farm Bureau had a table and presence during the breakfast, and it was hosted by Vice President Tommy Brennan, Treasurer Galen Alwin and Promotion and Education Chair Kat Peper. Brady Peper, YFA chair, joined later in the morning to round out those who participated. We had a very nice display explaining what Farm Bureau does locally, statewide and nationally.

We had several members visit with us at the booth, and we believe our presence there will lead to future new members.



As a sponsor of Baraboo FFA's Flapjacks for Farmers, Sauk County Farm Bureau board members Galen Alwin, Kat Peper and Tommy Brennan set up a display during the event.

**This Issue Contains  
Highlights for:**

**Dane County  
Green County  
Rock County  
Sauk County**

# We Support Wisconsin Farmers

**\$2.5** **MILLION TO BE  
PAID OUT IN 2022**



For the sixth year in a row, we are rewarding our farm policyholders for their commitment to Wisconsin agriculture through our Farm Dividend Program.

Learn how you may qualify for up to a 5% dividend at [RuralMutual.com/farmdividend](https://RuralMutual.com/farmdividend)