

Grassroots

District 7 News

District Director Report



Brian Preder

District 7 WFBF Board Representative

Summer is in full swing and county Farm Bureau members have been busy promoting Wisconsin agriculture; from dairy breakfasts and parades to county fair activities.

In June, graduates of the WFBF Leadership Institute traveled with the board members to Washington, D.C., to advocate for Wisconsin agriculture.

During the week-long trip, we met with staff at AFBF, United States Trade Representative Office, UK Embassy, Humane Watch and the Fertilizer Institute.

Members met with Congressional Representatives and Senators to discuss topics ranging from delisting the gray wolf, the importance of the Wisconsin mink industry and trade to the impact of the SEC Rule (The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors) would have on Wisconsin farmers.

District 7 was fortunate to have two graduates from the leadership institute class. Thank you to Nicole Rabitz (Marinette County) and Robert Fox (Outagamie County) for advocating and promoting Wisconsin agriculture.

The topics and policy we advocate for in Washington, D.C., and Madison start at the county level. We are in policy development season for WFBF. It's that time of year when each county Farm Bureau holds its annual policy development meetings.

The policy process is an important part of WFBF's grassroots structure. Policy development starts at the county level where members can develop policy, that once passed at the annual meeting policy session, will guide the lobbying efforts of WFBF. As a voting member, be sure your voice is heard and get involved in your counties upcoming policy development meeting.

While members across the state are beginning their work on policy development, the Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) has been busy evaluating candidates in the upcoming election. The VFA is our state Political Action Committee (PAC) made up of 18 members from across the state, two from each district. VFA endorses candidates who understand the importance of Wisconsin agriculture.

Recently, we held our District 7 VFA fundraiser event in Shawano at Stubborn Brothers Brewery. Members heard from Representative Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel), Assembly Agriculture Committee Chair and Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), also Senate Agriculture and Tourism Committee Chair, about the importance of Wisconsin agriculture and the role WFBF has at the state capitol in developing ag legislation.

I want to thank the host committee members who made the event possible, the members who attended and those who has contributed to the VFA.

I'm excited to see you throughout the next several months at your county annual meetings and at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in December for the WFBF Annual Meeting. Until then, continue building relationships and sharing the needs of Wisconsin agriculture.

Ag in the Classroom District Essay Contest Winner

By Kari Riley, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

Kari Riley and Arnie Heise delivered ice cream treats and popcorn prizes to the classes that participated in the essay contest last spring and to the winner and runners up in the contest.

Later, county essay contest winner, Sylvia Spear, was chosen as the district winner and presented with a plaque and a huge bag of popcorn on May 27. Her class also was given some special Ag in the Classroom prizes from WFBF Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaefer.



Waupaca County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Kari Riley and members, Arnie and Helen Heise, presented Sylvia Spear with a plaque and bag of popcorn for being selected the district winner in the essay contest. Sylvia's teacher also received some Ag in the Classroom materials from WFBF in recognition of Sylvia's winning essay.



Kari Riley and Arnold Heise presented popcorn prizes to the winner and runners up in the county essay contest; (from left): Sylvia Spear, first place, and runners up, Brooklyn Koelbl, Alexis Hendrickson, Clay Mars, Hazel Anaya, Carter Amador-Ratliff and Emily Otis.

WFBF Leadership Institute, Class 14 Report

By Nicole Rabitz, WFBF Leadership Institute Graduate

I'm a member of the WFBF Leadership Institute, Class 14, that had the privilege to travel to Washington, D.C.

As part of the institute class, the culmination of the program is to go to Capitol Hill and advocate on behalf of agriculture.

We used the leadership skills that we were taught throughout the program while at Capitol Hill.

I'm proud to say I met with our local Representative Mike Gallagher (R-Wisconsin) and Senators Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) and Tammy



Nicole Rabitz (center) was part of the effort the WFBF Leadership Institute class members took part in while in Washington, D.C.

Baldwin (D-Wisconsin).

I spoke with Representative Gallagher and Senator Johnson as well as some of their staff.

As an institute graduate, I felt confident enough to speak on the issues that concern agriculturalists in Marinette County and Wisconsin.

I recommend considering the WFBF Leadership Institute if you want to meet new people, build your public speaking and leadership skills, as well as, an opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C.



Nicole Rabitz (second from left) and other institute trip participants and WFBF Board members from the 8th Congressional District met with Congressman Mike Gallagher (center) in his Washington office.

Ag in the Classroom at Old Plow Days

By Roseann Hoffman, Langlade County Farm Bureau Local Affairs Co-Chair

We started on May 7 at Ol' Plow Days held at the Polar Recreational Park by the Northwoods Tractor Club. A long-standing event showcasing a living history of farming days gone by. Old tractors and plows, thrashers, shellers and planters. Chainsaws almost too scary to look at, a petting zoo, craft vendors, food and music.

Along with the traditional Farm Bureau display and handouts, we also had hands on 'Oobleck' and 'Gluep' making. What is that? They are the first two experiments in the Soybean Science Kit provided by Ag in the Classroom.

We had individuals of all ages receive a fun lesson in polymers, with the aid of glue, borax and baking powder.



Ag in the Classroom materials and Soybean Science Kit experiments were featured in the Langlade Farm Bureau display at Old Plow Days In Polar.



Roseann Hoffman coaches participants in the creation of the bizarre substance, oobleck, from corn starch and water.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator



So much of my money goes to balance the budget, I don't have any budget to balance.

Teacher: "I hope I didn't see you looking at Fred's test paper."

Student: "I hope you didn't see me either."

How much difference is there between a wild horse and a tame horse? Only a bit.

If the world keeps getting smaller every day, why does the cost of a postage stamp keep going up?

What's a Steering Committee? Two backseat drivers.

I wasn't nervous at all when I asked the boss for an advance on my salary. I was very calm and collected.

I think I've reached a 'metallic age.' I've got gold in my teeth, silver in my hair and lead in my pants.

If you cross a four-leaf clover with poison ivy, will you get a rash of good luck?

Take a lesson from a clock: It passes the time by keeping its hands busy.

Stop playing at being so serious and start playing seriously.

Fish Farming for the Future in District 7

By Rachel Gerbitz, WFBF Director of Sustainability, Communications and Partnerships

Bill West is the owner of Blue Iris Fish Farms and past president of the Wisconsin Aquaculture Association. Bill raises perch and develops research to contribute to Wisconsin aquaculture. Blue Iris Fish Farm is a grow-out facility in Black Creek whose focus is to grow fish for consumption.

Bill previously worked as an environmental consultant in the water and wastewater discipline. His limnology background has served him well over his 25 years of perch research and development.

The 40-acre farm that is now Blue Iris was obtained as a conventional farm field. The original three-acre pond was filled with rain and snow melt. Since the first pond construction, an additional eight ponds were dug. Three of the ponds hold water while six drain slowly and are replenished annually. Allowing the ponds to drain annually helps to eliminate unwanted species such as plants, unwanted fish, snails and other critters. The farm is in an area of mostly clay soil, which will hold water even on a hill.

Bill has dedicated years to perch research. He has developed hatching and feeding protocols to enhance efficiency and economically get fish to market. Bill obtained grant funding from the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Fund (SARE) to support his research. He also has worked with the North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) to test a vaccine for perch.

Bill found great success in working with a fish vet to test the perch vaccine. This vaccine protects the fish from disease. The vaccine utilizes immersion technology.

“We can vaccinate 100,000 fish with one bottle of vaccine,” said Bill, “Twenty minutes and they’re all vaccinated.” Depending on the dosing protocol, the immunity from the vaccine may last for years. This is ideal for breeding stock to carry the next generation. “You want a really healthy fish to carry the next generations,” Bill said.

Bill utilizes both outdoor and indoor rearing techniques in pond feeding and pond-side tank culture that mimics indoor recirculating aquaculture system (RAS). This system combines all the benefits of ponds with all the benefits of RAS.

The pond-side tank system uses a clarifier and aeration system to remove waste before the water goes back to the ponds. Clarified waste flows through a sand and gravel filter that then circulates back into the pond.

The tanks and ponds complement each other. Bill incurs no input cost while fish are in the pond.

Bill raises his fish in a controlled environment (pond-side tanks) to maximize consistency and minimize disease threats. Grubs are a common occurrence in open pond culture. Rearing fish in pond-side tanks reduces the presence of grubs and makes them more appealing and market-ready.

Bill also has used grant funding to develop organic fish food, convert empty manure pits into fish operations and develop protocol for feed-



training perch.

When Bill first started raising fish, it took almost three years to raise the fish from egg to market size. He has since reduced that time frame to 10 months by developing a more efficient and cost-effective feeding method to accelerate fish growth. Farm-raised fish can result in a significant increase in fillet yield.

Bill creatively uses various household items as tools for fish farming. “Whenever I go shopping, I always look around,” shared Bill. He uses household items like sump drains, dorm laundry baskets and waste baskets to handle his fish. Repurposing and innovating household items is a creative piece of Bill’s sustainability story.

Bill has worked hard to sustain the fish farming industry in Wisconsin. He is passionate about sharing projects with area schools and helping connect them with grant funding to run a successful aquaponics system.

Bill wants the students to have a positive learning experience with aquaponics. He sends top-tier fish so the schools will achieve the best possible results. Then he helps connect the schools with the right resources to make the program successful.

Bill’s advice to anyone interested in starting his or her own aquaculture business is to spend what you can afford and do your own research.

“All the work I do is intended to get the interest in farmers; I want to help farmers work through the details,” said Bill.

Bill feels that the Wisconsin landscape lends itself well to fish farming. Empty farm buildings are ideal locations for aquaculture tanks. Bill can assist in converting abandoned manure pits to build a new aquaculture system.

“My goal in life is to train people how to get started,” shared Bill.

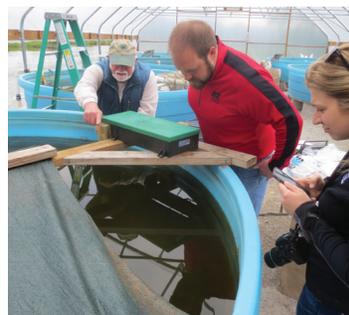
His focus is on training people and sharing his knowledge of fish farming. His years of research and training assist in starting up the industry and sustaining it for the future.



Aquaculturist Bill West explained his outdoor pond system to District 7 Board Director Brian Preder.



Bill West showed how his indoor and outdoor ponds function.



Bill West (left) demonstrated one of his fish-feeding innovations.



ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative

By Michelle Paustian, Tara Knaack and Dawn Dingeldein, Rural Health Initiative Health Specialists

The ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative continues with our mission: "To improve and sustain the health and safety of rural families by empowering each person to live their unique best life," in Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties.

Our program is based on the concept of 'Kitchen Wellness,' where services are brought to participants and provided outside the traditional healthcare setting. We provide in-home or on-site visits to serve farm families, their employees and anyone living in a rural community.

Services include preventive health screenings, including: blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol, body mass index, Hemoglobin A1C testing, health coaching, education and referrals at no cost to participants.

We have some exciting additions to our team to include Anne Menzies, a registered dietitian and diabetic educator and two advanced practice registered nurses.

With these additions to staff, the Rural Health Team has plans to expand our offerings to include home and virtual provider visits, an additional focus on disease prevention, medication review and evaluation and referrals for chronic conditions to promote health in the rural space.

We also will make fecal immunochemical testing, a screening test for colon cancer, available to our participants in the near future. To be connected with an outreach health specialist in your county, contact the main office at 715.524.1488.

Meet Lesley Fuerst, Nurse Practitioner-Certified



My name is Lesley Fuerst, I am a board-certified family practice nurse practitioner. I earned my graduate degree from the UW-Oshkosh. I served in the U.S. Air Force as a nurse for eight years and have been working in the rural health setting for the past 10 years. I grew up in rural Freedom and live in New London with my husband and two

teenage children.

Growing up and living in rural communities taught me that there are several barriers that can occur when a patient does not live near a clinic or hospital.

The Rural Health Initiative is an amazing benefit that focuses on keeping our rural patients healthy by bringing care virtually and in resident's homes with an emphasis on chronic disease prevention and management, finding primary care services, acute care needs and wellness.

Lesley will primarily serve our rural population in Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca and Waushara counties.

Meet Lisa Hoger, APRN



My name is Lisa Hoger and I am a nurse practitioner with the ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative. I grew up in Madison, and attended UW-Madison for my bachelor's degree, nursing, and my master's degree, nursing.

It is when I moved to Ripon 20 years ago, that I fell in love with rural health care. This passion led me to earn my Doctorate of Nursing Practice from Rush University in Chicago, focusing on population

health in our rural communities. I'm not the only one in my family who has followed their love of rural life.

My youngest daughter works on a dairy farm and my son-in-law is an agronomist for a co-op.

I look forward to taking my passion and using what I have learned to improve the health and wellness of our rural communities. After 26 years of being in health care, it is an amazing feeling to still be doing what I love. I think this makes all the difference in the world to the people I care for.

Lisa will primarily serve our rural population in Green Lake, Marquette and Winnebago counties along with the Ripon community and helping as needed in Farm Bureau District 7.

County Policy Development and County Annual Meetings



POLICY DEVELOPMENT TIME!

Attend Your County Farm Bureau's Policy Development Meeting

- LANGLADE COUNTY - WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 7:00 P.M.
INSIGHT FS OFFICE BOARD ROOM, ANTIGO
- MARINETTE COUNTY- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 6:30 P.M.
COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL AG DEPARTMENT ROOM, COLEMAN
- OCONTO COUNTY - TUESDAY AUGUST 30, 7:00 P.M.
S&S HOMETOWN RESTAURANT, OCONTO FALLS
- OUTAGAMIE COUNTY - THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 7:30 P.M.
BLACK CREEK TOWN HALL, BLACK CREEK
- SHAWANO COUNTY - THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 7:00 P.M.
SHAWANO COUNTY FAIR OFFICE, SHAWANO
- WAUPACA COUNTY - TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 8:00 P.M.
MANAWA CITY HALL, MANAWA



COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

Save the date for your county!

- Langlade County - Wednesday October 9, 7:00 p.m.
Antigo Town Hall, Antigo
- Marinette County - Sunday October 9, 6:00 p.m.
Romy's Holiday Inn, Kelly Lake
- Oconto County - Tuesday September 27, 7:30 p.m.
S&S HomeTown Restaurant, Oconto Falls
- Outagamie County - Thursday October 13, 7:30 p.m.
Location to be determined
- Shawano County - Sunday September 18, Noon
Shawano County Park Pavilion, Shawano
- Waupaca County - Tuesday October 4, 7:30 p.m.
Bear Lake Dance Hall, Manawa

President's Report



Jake Bula
Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy! As I write this, it is just after the Fourth of July. I can't believe we are halfway through summer already.

It seems like just yesterday was our county's local Breakfast on the Farm at the Schuessler Dairy.

I'm happy to report the massive success of that event. I was able to be there the entire time and spoke to many Farm Bureau members and potential members, and the response was very encouraging.

As I drive around, as my grandpa used to say, "Checking the crops," everything seems to be growing very nicely and before we know it, we will be right in the middle of harvest season and the next thing we know our county annual meeting will be upon us. I encourage each and every county member to attend.

This year we will have Karen Gefvert, WFBF innovation and engagement strategist as our guest speaker.

Karen has been with Farm Bureau for a number of years in a few different positions. I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual meeting.

In closing, I want to remind you as we approach harvest season to stay safe and alert. Until next time.

What's New With the IRS

By Darlene Eckerman, Langlade County Farm Bureau Local Affairs Chair

Waiting. Waiting. Waiting. Whether for 2020 refunds, 2019 and 2020 amends, retention credit or even 2021 refunds. Waiting on the phone or just being told by an automated reply, "We are too busy, please call back." Staff have announced they are caught up to 2020, sort of.

Retention credits for payroll for 2020 and 2021. If you are an S corp or a farm with payroll, did you take advantage of the retention credits? Call your payroll company or tax preparer.

For 2020, the credits are 50% up to \$10,000 per eligible employee, for 2021, it is 70% up to \$10,000 each of the first three quarters, again per eligible employee, which is most of them.

COVID Sick Pay Credit: There are a number of different categories - actually had it, out for quarantine or off as a caretaker. Up to 80 hours, maximum \$511 per hour in a specified time frame. This is a very under-utilized credit with small businesses.

2021 Tax Returns: If filed correctly and used direct deposit, you should have received your refunds quickly. If requesting mailed refunds or errors, the Tax Advocate Service reports delays.

The IRS website has been updated to show the status of the last three year's tax returns.

Wisconsin Department of Revenue: My experience is they have been quick to issue refunds, but someone is checking Wisconsin Homesteads and Wisconsin FPC, WRA and they are not always correct. Watch the letters from them, especially Wisconsin H.

Wisconsin DOR also has a, "Where's my refund?" to use and then you can email if you need more information. Wisconsin responds promptly.

If you have questions, you can contact me at eckermantax@gmail.com.

Ag Education at Breakfast on the Farm

By Roseann Hoffman, Langlade County Farm Bureau Local Affairs Co-Chair

Langlade County's Breakfast on the Farm was held on June 18 on the Schuessler Dairy. 2,000 attendees were served scrambled eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, cinnamon bread, cheese curds, milk and ice cream. Plenty of activities to keep everyone entertained and an educational tent to help inform the public.

Farm Bureau was under the tent with our display. This time we included the My American Farm video game kiosk where youth explored online games to learn more about math, healthy living, English, geography and more while exploring agricultural topics. We also churned butter using a vintage glass handheld churn and several pint jars. Butter was a huge success as both adult and youth learned just how easily butter is made.

Still to come is our Beef Promotion, Music in the Park fundraiser and fall pasture walk to round the summer off.



The butter making part of the Farm Bureau display at Breakfast on the Farm was a big hit. Roseann Hoffman, Jake Bula and Tony Koss made the display happen.

County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Bev Brecklin, Langlade County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

By the time you are reading this article, I will have done the beef promotion in mid-July at the Pick 'N Save store in Antigo.

The store preferred it not to be held close to July 4 as they may be short of beef.

Another place that the Langlade County Farm Bureau is promoting beef is at Music in the Park, which was held on Aug. 4. We tried the beef promotion at Music in the Park in June 2021 as we served BBQ beef. So, that seems to be working well for us.

I'm hoping that everyone is having a great summer. It won't be long before another fall harvest season, but let's not rush things.

Until next time.



Finger Family Farm Hosts Successful Breakfast on the Farm

By Corey Kuchta, Marinette Breakfast on the Farm Chair

A record 5,150 people attended the Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm at the Finger Family Farm south of Peshtigo on June 26. The previous record was 4,750.

Beautiful weather and easy access off a highway helped make for a great turnout. People ate at the parlor facility under tents and then took a hay wagon ride or short walk to the heifer facility across the road to enjoy ice cream, DJ, baby animals and a big kids' activity area.

Several Farm Bureau board members and their families volunteered at the breakfast to help make it a successful day.

Chairperson and Farm Bureau board member Corey Kuchta said, "Breakfast on the Farm continues to be one of the best ways to get families

out to the farm to educate them on how farmers care for their animals, their land and their community and how important agriculture is to all of us. The Finger Family was awesome to work with to showcase all four of those aspects to everyone who attended."

Next year, the Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm will be held at the Van De Walle Farm in Crivitz on June 25.

The food list consisted of:

5,000 cartons of milk	85 gallons of milk	200# of cheese
500 cartons of juice	20 gallons of maple syrup	162 gallons of ice cream
2 pallets of water		
1,500 pounds of eggs	200# of beef sticks	
500# of pancake mix	6,000 donut holes	



Shane Geise operated the handicap shuttle.



Nicole Rabitz (center) kept the coffee service going.



Marinette County Farm Bureau Vice President Chuck Rabitz drove one of the shuttles to bring visitors from the parking field to the ticket line and serving area.

5,150 Visitors Served.



Marinette County Farm Bureau President Emily Cudnohosky and YFA Committee Chair Trevor Van Drisse covered the serving line.



Cindi Wautier shuttled visitors from the milking parlor to the calf raising area.



Marinette County Farm Bureau Board Member Corey Kuchta (right) chaired the Breakfast on the Farm event.

Marinette Fair Food Stand

By Cindi Wautier, Fair Stand Committee Chair

Here's the Scoop.

We NEED your help during the county fair in the Marinette County Farm Bureau stand scooping ice cream.

Volunteer by messaging us at our Facebook page: Marinette County Farm Bureau or wautier@coleman.k12.wi.us to sign up.

The fair is in Wausaukee on Aug. 25-28. Any help is greatly appreciated.



President's Report



Dennis Jahnke

Oconto County Farm Bureau
President

Greetings from Oconto County. Took a trip to Baraboo several weeks ago and it proved how variable

the weather can be in Wisconsin. In three hours, I saw corn almost knee high and fields not planted.

Should have been corn just out of the ground here and knee high in Baraboo but Mother Nature has her own ideas. We went from near drought to too much rain in two weeks. I don't remember flood warnings all over the state in years past. My brother lives in the Driftless Area (Richland Center-Gays Mills) and they have flash floods several times a year instead of one every several years. Times they be-a-changing.

Should be a decent year for agriculture. Prices for every commodity are up from previous years. Costs are up too but should be offset by high sales prices. I choose to be optimistic. Have a good summer.

Oconto Breakfast Display



Oconto County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair Walter Taylor (left) and WFBF District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz set up a display at the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm to promote Farm Bureau and educate consumers. 4,500 people attended the event on June 12.

YFA Bowling



Oconto YFA members participated in the District 7 YFA bowling event held last spring in New London.

Farm Bureau Policy Development Process Begins

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee Chair

Oconto County Farm Bureau members are invited and encouraged to participate in the Oconto County policy development meeting that will take place, **Tuesday, August 30**, at 7 p.m. at the S&S Hometown Restaurant in Oconto Falls. This meeting is the start of the process that will guide WFBF government relations staff in their work with legislators and agencies to address concerns of Farm Bureau members.

Many times people feel their voices and opinions are not heard by policy makers. The problem can be overcome when like-minded people collectively make their desires known to policy makers. That describes the Farm Bureau policy development process.

Does it matter? WFBF government relations staff tell us it does. On issues related to agriculture an organization the size and state-wide presence of Wisconsin Farm Bureau has the ear of legislators, the governor and agency administrators. Farm Bureau often also works in concert with agricultural commodity groups and other general agriculture organizations that further strengthens the impact on rural and agricultural policy issues of common interest.

Recent successes in Farm Bureau policy priorities include:

- \$129 million in increased funding for rural broadband infrastructure included in 2021-2023 state budget.
- Authorization of meat processing grant program in 2021-2023 state budget and program established by WDATCP
- \$15 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds allocated to additional grant programs to grow the state meat processing industry, and recruitment, training and support of meat processing workers by Governor Evers.
- \$2 million in funding for grants to farmer-led watershed initiatives in 2021-2023 budget for conservation and best management practices demonstration projects.

Resources on policy issues are available on the WFBF website at www.wfbf.com. Click on the Policy menu at the top of the page to download the 2022 WFBF Policy book, Policy Development, backgrounder fact sheets prepared for discussion at county meetings, and information on priority Wisconsin and federal agricultural policy issues. Members without personal or public library internet access can contact me at 920.604.1044 (text or leave a voice mail message) to receive any of the pieces mentioned.

County Farm Bureau Brat Fry Fundraiser

By Dennis Jahnke, Oconto County Farm Bureau President

We had our second brat fry on July 8. We started in rain but ended up as a sunny 75 degree day. We sold more hamburgers than brats, which was not normal.

Lots of good conversations with folks as usual. It proved that people are appreciative of our efforts as the tip jar was full.

Nice day. Nice folks. Great food. Made money. The proceeds help out the budget so there are more funds available for the Ag in the Classroom resource book donations, and YFA and Promotion and Education programs.



Dennis Jahnke (left) and Ken Harter kept the hamburgers and brats coming for the July brat fry.



(from left): Walter Taylor, Dennis Jahnke, Ken Harter and David Schneider operated the June 3 brat fry fundraiser.

Ag in the Classroom Is More Important Now Than Ever Before

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

The following is my introduction as the recipient of the AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award.

David Lee Schneider is a farmer from Oconto County and shares his knowledge of the agriculture industry by passing it down to younger generations. David explains this is the joy of my life. A lot of people have a passion on what they do at work and David has a super passion. David is teaching 273 students about agriculture at the Howard Suamico School District's summer school program. The WFBF AG IN THE CLASSROOM materials are an awesome resource.

David was recently awarded AmeriCorps Member of the Year for 2022, for the work he's put in with the students of all ages. "It's humbling," Dave said of his experiences.

David is trying to prepare children for the future by teaching them how to plant, grow, and harvest crops on the school grounds.

David explains that about 1% of society are direct producers of agricultural



Dave Schneider received the AmeriCorps Member of the Year Award by Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes.

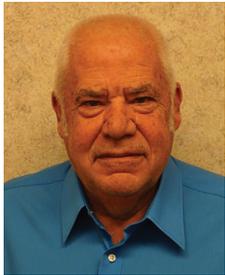


Dave Schneider helped kids build a trellis for growing vegetables.

products, so that means that 99% are not. He is trying to ensure all the kids know how to make their food and where it comes from. David is very grateful for the children as they've given him more joy than he can handle. David explained that he wouldn't change this for anything.

Outagamie County

A Message From The President



Mike Salter

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

If you watch TV, are active on social media, or listen to radio you know this year is an election year. Farm Bureau has a political action committee made

up of 18 Farm Bureau members from all around the state called the Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) where they interview the candidates to see what they know about farming and farm programs. Some of the candidates they will endorse and some of them will also be supported with money for their campaign or campaign ads from the VFA. This does not mean you have to vote for them, it's just that the VFA Committee members agree that candidate is the most knowledgeable and supportive of agriculture in a particular race.

We have two recipients of the Outagamie County Fair Century Farms award this year. Tackling Farm, which has been in the same family for 150 years, and Voight Acres will receive centennial farm awards at the Outagamie County Fair. The Outagamie Farm Bureau sponsors the cost of an attractive centennial farm sign for each of the recipients.

The plaque presentations, which include reading a short history of the farm and family, will take place on Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. on the commercial exhibit building stage at the Fairgrounds. Please join us there to recognize these farm families for their great achievement. If you know someone that has a centennial farm, we will have applications available for next year.

Breakfast on the Farm Hosts More Than 5,700

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

On June 12, the 34th annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm was held at Mike and Mary Van Rossum Dairy Farm located in Kaukauna. The breakfast was very successful and estimated attendance was 5,750.

Attendees enjoyed a hearty breakfast, tractor rides, farm tours, antique tractors, petting zoo and children's activities including a scavenger hunt, pedal pull tractor pull, coloring station, the Outagamie County Farm Bureau My American Farm video games kiosk and much more.

Many thanks to Mike and Mary Van Rossum for opening their farm to host this event and to our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't do this without you. Mark your calendars for next year, **Sunday, June 11, 2023**, for the 35th annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm, which will be held at Al and Nicole Van De Hei Dairy Farm located near Seymour.

Octoberfest Cream Puff Booth Report

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Octoberfest Booth Chair

Appleton's Octoberfest will be held on **Saturday, Sept. 24**, and we will get busy starting at 6 a.m. with setting up our cream puff sales booth and ending the day at 6 p.m. when we can begin to take things down. We need volunteers starting at 6 a.m. setting up the booth and preparing the cream whipping and puff shell filling tent for the day.

This is Outagamie County Farm Bureau's only fundraiser for the year. The money raised is used to support programs in the county, i.e., 4-H, FFA and Adventures in Dairyland program (elementary school ag education program co-sponsored by the County Farm Bureau and the County Dairy Promotion Association) to name a few.

So, on **Sept. 24** can you volunteer a couple hours to help work setting up, selling cream puffs, or preparing them for sale? To volunteer call Bernie Vander Heiden at 920.766.9377.



Volunteer to promote dairy products and raise funds for Outagamie County Farm Bureau promotion and community support programs.

President's Report



Neil Christianson
Shawano County Farm Bureau President

The Brunch on the Farm was a huge success again. I want to thank the Viergetz Family for hosting this year, and the volunteers for helping make the brunch successful. More details regarding the brunch are in this newsletter.

I want to mention that our Shawano County Farm Bureau annual meeting will be held at

12 noon on **Sunday, Sept. 18**, at The Shawano County Park Pavilion. Invitations will be sent soon.

Presently, I'm on the WFBF Dairy Committee representing District 7. We are discussing recommendations for the next farm bill.

Next, we will be gearing up for the Shawano County Fair and the Farm Bureau Ice Cream Stand. We are looking for volunteers to work the stand.

I hope you are having a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all at the county fair.

Now it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage.

Ole bought Lena a piano for her birthday. A few weeks later, Lars inquired how she was doing with it. "Oh," said Ole, "I persuaded her to switch to a clarinet." "How come?" asked Lars. "Vell," Ole answered, "Because with a clarinet, she can't sing."

Until next time.

Shawano Brunch on the Farm Scholarship Recipients Announced

By Kristi Fielder, Donations Committee Chair

Shawano County Farm Bureau hosts Brunch on the Farm. The event brings between 3,500 and 5,500 community members to a dairy farm. This is an opportunity for people to learn about dairy farming and agriculture in a real-life setting. Brunch on the farm isn't possible without sponsors and volunteers. One of the ways Shawano County Farm Bureau is giving back to those volunteers is to offer up to six \$500 scholarships each year to a student who volunteers at Brunch on the Farm.



Dane Adams graduated from Shawano High School. His parents are Mark and Amy Adams. Dane will be a freshman at UW-Stevens Point studying forestry. Dane wants to work for the Wisconsin DNR and be a wildland firefighter. Working the land with his dad and uncle gave him an appreciation and passion for wildlife and forestry. Dane has been in several leadership positions in FFA including his most recent role as president. He is an Eagle Scout along with other honors in Boy Scouts.

Additionally, Dane was a track and cross-country runner, active in his church and member of the National Honor Society.



Skye Breitrick, daughter of Scott and Kerry Breitrick from Bowler will be in her second year at UW-Green Bay majoring in psychology. Each year 10,000 farmers commit suicide, and she wants to help fight the battle against mental illness among farmers. Skye has been an active leader in 4-H from elementary school and served on the Farm Bureau board through high school. She volunteered at Brunch on the Farm since she was old enough to 'stand in the way,' a

joke, for a role her dad gave her while he ran the cooking tent at brunch.



Hannah Cerveny, daughter of Jeff and Heidi Cerveny in Gresham, grew up loving animals. She will be a freshman at Brigham Young University studying animal science to be a large animal veterinarian. Her goal is to open a vet clinic around Gresham to be able to provide vet service in an area where the closest clinic is about half hour away. Hannah presided as FFA president for the past two years, has served on student council, teaches youth group and is a highly awarded athlete in volleyball, basketball and track.



Kaylee Ferfecki grew up working on her family's dairy farm. She is the daughter of Kurt and Susan Ferfecki in Cecil. She will be a freshman at Northeast Iowa Community College majoring in dairy science pursuing knowledge in genetics and dairy management to use on her family farm. Kaylee has managed a herd of 30 dairy goats for more than 10 years. Kaylee is active in 4-H and FFA competing in Dairy Quiz Bowl, showing and judging dairy cows and goats and holding several leadership positions. She also is a member of

the Wisconsin Holstein and Brown Swiss Associations. Kaylee enjoys helping at Brunch on the Farm because it is a volunteer role supporting an industry she loves.



Dylan Ruechel, son of Rodney and Becky from Pulaski, will be in his third year at UW-Platteville majoring in civil engineering. Dylan's goal is to work for an ag construction company after his work experience at P&D Sales and Service sparked his passion for engineering and building. Dylan held many leadership roles and won many awards in 4-H,

FFA, Ag Ambassadors, National Honor Society and volunteered for these organizations as well as American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. In college he is in the American Society of Civil Engineers in which he competes in the Steel Bridge Competition.



Hayley Wolf, daughter of Tom and Debbie Wolf in Cecil, will be a freshman at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College studying diagnostic medical sonography. With a slight heart murmur she has taken an interest in the medical field to be able to help others in situations like hers. Hayley was active in 4-H since grade school and held leadership roles including president for two years. In high school, she was involved in FFA, youth group, National Honor Society, Student Council, volleyball, basketball and Students Against Destructive Decisions. Hayley has helped in numerous

roles at Brunch on the Farm since 2015 including pushing cars out of the mud in 2021.

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm Report

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch on the Farm Co-Chair.

Triple D Dairy LLC was the site of a delectable dairy day for the 38th annual Shawano County Brunch on the Farm on June 26.

While the event was certainly an A+ here is our 'Triple D' round-up of the event:

Delicious: All the chairs were filled by 8:30 a.m. with guests enjoying brunch. Our classic eggs, sausage and hashbrown meal served with cinnamon bread, cheese and milk was topped

off with Culver's sundaes.

Delightful weather brought people out in droves topping 4,500 plus guests at our event to explore a day on the farm. From farm tours, polka music and a towering bale pile, families found something exciting to do at brunch. Thanks for the inspiration, Oconto County Farm Bureau.

Dedication: Brunch on the Farm could not be possible without our dedicated committee, volunteers, sponsors and host family. Thank

you to those who support our event with time, donations and generous hospitality. It would not be possible without our 250 plus volunteers who make the event possible.

Check out our recap video on the Shawano Farm Bureau Facebook page to relive the day's events.

If you are like us and can't wait for next year, please share your nominations for the 2023 and 2024 Brunch on the Farm hosts to Christa Hoffman at shawanobrunch@gmail.com.



More than 4,500 people attended the 38th annual Shawano County Brunch on the Farm.



Triple D Dairy LLC owners David, Connie, Jacob and Erin Viegutz celebrated their 150 farming anniversary.



Guests toured the 500-cow dairy farm on guided wagon tours led by the Shawano County Ag Ambassadors.

Shawano County BRUNCH ON THE FARM

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1% MILK SPONSORS		

SHAWANO COUNTY BRUNCH ON THE FARM

Host Farm Nominations

Know a beautiful farm?
Have a recent expansion you want to show off?
Want to be part of agricultural education in our community?

Email your nominations for 2023 and 2024 Brunch Hosts to shawanobrunch@gmail.com

Wisconsin Ranks Second

Milk Production 30.7 billion pounds

Milk Cows 1.3 million

Shawano County Fair Ice Cream Stand Report

By Kerry Breitrick, Shawano County Farm Bureau Fair Stand Committee Chair

Hello, Shawano County Farm Bureau member. Shawano County Fair is rapidly approaching. Mark your calendars for **Aug. 31 through Sept. 5.**

I want to thank those of you who have volunteered in our ice cream stand in the past. At your earliest convenience, please review this year's schedule and secure your time slot. Feel free to contact me with any questions or for assistance with signing up. You can reach me at 715.851.4713 or breitricks_scott_kerry@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Visit www.signnupgenius.com and look for Shawano County Fair Farm Bureau Ice Cream Stand 2022.



Shawano County Farm Bureau
Young Farmer and Agriculturalists

TOUR AND TASTING

at Hammen Family Orchard and Winery

Sunday, September 11th at 1:00 pm
W4794 County Road E Bonduel, WI 54107

RSPV TO KELLIE ZAHN TEXT 715-853-9624
OR EMAIL KELLIE.ZAHN12@GMAIL.COM

First Dairy Agstravaganza Is a Success

By Kaisha Nash, Agstravaganza Committee Member

The first ever Dairy Agstravaganza was held June 25 at Whitetail Valley Dairy in Waupaca, hosted by Ruth, Brad, Jensen and Griffin Trinrud who own and operate the farm.

The public was welcome to experience farm life and enjoy an educational experience to learn where dairy products originate and how a farm operates. It is safe to say the Dairy Agstravaganza was a successful event.

There were raffle baskets and silent auction items, free Cedar Crest ice cream, live music by Rob Anthony Music, the Wittenberg Lions Cheese Curd truck, the Rustic Java coffee truck, old tractors on display, children's activities, a pedal pull, barrel tractor rides and Alice in Dairyland made an

appearance.

There also were farm tours on tractor-drawn wagons that showed visitors how the Whitetail Valley Dairy/Beef farm functions. Visitors could see how the cows are cared for and how much dedication and affection the Trinrud family has toward their cows.

In an effort to keep the same traffic going to the Breakfast on the Farm, which was hosted by the local FFA at the Waupaca County Fairgrounds, the Agstravaganza was designed as a lunch event on the farm. Burgers, brats, pickles, chips, string cheese and drinks were served.

The event happened thanks to the volunteers and donations brought in from local businesses and friends.

We look forward to more years of Dairy Agstravaganzas on other Waupaca County farms.



Calves and cows are always a hit with kids and grown-ups alike.



The kids pedal tractor pull was very well attended part of the event.



Visitors also could participate in a shuttle wagon tour of the farm with guides explaining about its current operations and history.



The Rural Health Initiative was one of many vendors those attending the event could visit.

Waupaca Fairest of the Fair Plans

By Jena Schoneck, Waupaca County Fairest of the Fair



Hello, my name is Jena Schoneck and I'm your newly elected, 2022 Waupaca County Fairest of the Fair. I'm a 2021 honor graduate from Mid-State Technical College with an associate's degree in business management.

One fun fact about me is I've shown dairy cattle for 12 years. I'm excited to see the wonderful exhibits and awesome events at the fair.

I'm looking forward to promoting our fair in parades, through social media and any event I attend. One other thing I'm looking forward to is getting to know more people, and to see the current and newcomers at the fair.

Throughout the summer, I'll promote the fair alongside our current fairest, Makya Schroeder before I'm officially crowned during the fair. I can't wait to see you in Fairadise, Aug. 24-28 at the Waupaca County Fair.

Waupaca Farm Bureau Supports 4-H Key Awards

By Penny Tank, Waupaca County 4-H

The Waupaca County 4-H Program thanks Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company for their support of the Wisconsin 4-H Key Award. Annually, two to three Waupaca County 4-H members are chosen to receive the prestigious Key Award, one of the highest recognitions a 4-H member can receive.

The youth receiving this award are ones who have demonstrated consistent growth in 4-H involvement, developed and applied leadership skills and actively participated in club and community.

Key Award recipients are high school students with at least three years of experience in 4-H and one year as a youth leader. They are chosen through an application and submission of 4-H record books in September. In addition to the award, Waupaca County Farm Bureau provides a \$100 scholarship to the selected youth.

Seeking Volunteers

By Kaisha Nash, Fair Stand Committee Chair

It's almost time for the Waupaca County Fair. The theme is, 'Meet Me In Fairadise' and runs from **August 24 through August 28**.

Are you looking for a way to support farmers and agriculture? We have the perfect position for you. The Farm Bureau is looking for your support, and hopes that you volunteer a few hours of your time in the food stand.

We are expecting high traffic at the fair and will appreciate all the help we can get to keep the food stand running smoothly. Thank you in advance.

Working in the food stand is a guaranteed good time. There is always something to work on, laughs to be had and you get to meet and work with other friendly, fun and fantastic Farm Bureau members. If you work eight plus hours, your annual Farm Bureau dues get waived.

Your skills are needed. There are volunteer positions for cooks/fryers, order takers and general kitchen help (washing dishes, opening new packages of food, wrapping sandwiches, etc.). Whatever your strengths are, we have a spot made for YOU. There are slots for each hour we are open during the day, so please sign up for as few or as many as you're able.

We are looking forward to working with you this year, all volunteers, Farm Bureau members or not, are welcome. Sign up using this link, which also will be sent via email: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA4AA2AA5FB6-2022.

For questions, please contact me at 920.716.5623 (call or text) or kaishanash@gmail.com.



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