

Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh
WFBF District 3 Director

Another spring with some interesting challenges.

Thank you for all your hard work and perseverance in getting the 2022

crop planted. The rain gauge read 1.2 inches of rain in the last 24 hours. There's no doubt we needed the moisture.

I'm looking forward to a busy summer with more events being held and opportunities to get together. I hope everyone will take advantage of many of these events.

Remember to use your member benefits while on your travels. Membership renewals and recruitment can be another way to get out this summer.

The WFBF Board of Directors will be visiting Washington D.C. to meet with elected representatives for the first time in two years. It will be a great opportunity to take WFBF policy to D.C. The Governmental Relations team is working on the backgrounders for your policy development meetings this summer.

The Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) had a successful event at Potosi Brewery on May 10. Thank you to all who participated and supported the event.

A group of Farm Bureau members are working with Rachel Gerbitz, WFBF Director of Sustainability Communications and Partnerships, on creating a sustainability statement for WFBF. The Public Relations team continues to field interview requests and prepare articles telling agricultures' great story of environmental practices already implemented.

We also have new awards for our YFA members. Check out the applications on the WFBF website. Applications are due soon.

Stay safe and stay informed.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner

On April 26, Ag Day on Campus was hosted by UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau. The event focused on highlighting the importance of agriculture within Wisconsin.

Students, faculty and community members sampled tasty snacks, visited farm animals and learned more about the agriculture industry.

Recently, the chapter also elected the following new officers for the 2022-2023 school year:

President: Autumn King

Vice President: Bre Boers

Secretary: Montana Sarbacker

Treasure: Ashlyn Sarbacker

Ag in the Classroom Chair:

Hannah Wiczorek

Ag Day on Campus Co-Chairs: Quincee Johnson and Rebecca Wilke

Brag About Ag Co-Chairs: Hailey Richardson and Emma McNally

Historian: Emma Lemke



To learn more about the great things these student leaders are doing throughout the year, visit the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uwplattevillefb.

District 3 Farm Bureau

FAMILY PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 31
NOON • SCHEPER PARK • COBB, WI
 (ALONG HWY 18)

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:
 ANDREW DAL SANTO - 608.214.7219
 MELISSA (DOYLE) JACOBSON - 608.574.9884

WE INVITE ALL FARM BUREAU FAMILIES FOR A FUN AFTERNOON AT THE PARK. BURGERS AND BRATS WILL BE PROVIDED. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS. WE HOPE TO ORGANIZE A GAME OF KICKBALL AND UTILIZE THE NEW COBB SPLASH PAD!



Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



The Ag in the Classroom program has been out in full force this spring. It's been a busy past few months and that's just how we like it.

In April, fourth-grade students from southwest Wisconsin traveled to Pioneer Farm on UW-Platteville's campus. Members of

Sigma Alpha, UWP's professional Women's Ag Sorority, organized Ag Day on the Farm where fourth-graders rotated among different sessions throughout the day.

Students traveled from barn to barn, learning about all things agriculture. Reading ear notches in pigs, learning about the different layers of soil while making dirt dessert and watching the robotic milkers at work were some of the highlights from the day.

Other Ag in the Classroom activities included visits to local farms, May Beef Month promotions, agriculture trivia games and essay contest celebrations.

Although, the school year has wrapped up, summer is the perfect time to get out and volunteer or speak on behalf of agriculture. Consider

volunteering and serving a delicious treat at a summer community event or local parade. Ask a local librarian to come in and read aloud an engaging book focused on agriculture during a summer library program. Scoop ice cream or pass out cheese to celebrate June Dairy Month at a local business or farmers' market. The possibilities are endless.

Whatever it is, use your Farm Bureau membership to get involved and help spread the good word about agriculture to local consumers.

If you want to brainstorm ideas or become more active in your county's Ag in the Classroom program, please contact your local coordinator or me at doylelivia@gmail.com. For resources, lesson ideas and more information, you can also visit the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom website at wisagclassroom.org.

Wishing you a safe and productive summer.



Reinsbach Named Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winner

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture. The contest is open to all fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

Students were asked to write a 100-to-300-word essay with the theme, 'What's popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'

The county Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winners, included:

Crawford County: Johanna Sime, Seneca Elementary School

Grant County: Ariana Reinsbach, Fennimore Elementary School

Iowa County: Kinley Swenson, Mineral Point Elementary School

Lafayette County: Ava Martin, Argyle Elementary School

Vernon County: Theodor Portner, Westby Elementary School

Ariana Reinsbach also was selected as the District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner. Ariana is the daughter of Kevin and Amy Reinsbach. Mrs. Emily Kamps is her fourth-grade teacher at Fennimore Elementary School.

More than 1,500 students wrote essays for the competition, which is sponsored by Wisconsin Corn, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Association and WE Energies.



District 3 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner, Ariana Reinsbach, was awarded a special plaque for her accomplishments.

Corn in Our Community – By Ariana Reinsbach

When my sister and I say "corn" we burst out laughing. One night, we were so tired while we were talking about corn she started laughing, for no reason. Ever since, it has been a funny joke.

However, corn isn't a joke. Corn plays a very important role in our community. Wisconsin even has corn as its official grain. Corn is grown on 2.97 million acres of land in Wisconsin. It was the 10th largest producer of corn in 2021. The U.S. produces nearly all of the world's corn.

There are many different types of corn. Wisconsin's animal industry depends on dent corn. Dent corn feeds all of the cows, pigs, and horses on my farm. I use dent corn specifically in corn silage and corn fodder. If it wasn't for the corn, my animals wouldn't have a healthy diet.

Animals aren't the only ones who eat dent corn. When processed, it can be made into cornmeal flour, corn chips, tortillas, taco shells, and so much more.

Though plain dent corn is a delicious snack for my animal friends, sweet corn and popcorn are a great snack for people. Sweet corn can be eaten right on the cob. Some refer to it as "corn on the cob". Many people enjoy it as a nice snack in the summer. If one doesn't want to wait until summer, then they can have a nice, warm, buttery bowl of popcorn. People can get popcorn at a movie theater or make it at home. My favorite place to have popcorn is with my sisters at the movie theaters!

Despite our jokes, corn is no laughing matter as so many depend on the grain to survive. I am proud to be a Wisconsin farmer and grow the grain that impacts the world.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



By Tammy Wiedenbeck, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

"The capacity to learn is a gift; the ability to learn is a skill; the willingness to learn is a choice." - Brian Herbert

Several events have taken place this spring that gave Farm Bureau members opportunities to learn and advance their skills in agriculture.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky,

from Feb. 25-28. About 800 young agricultural leaders from across the country attended and the conference covered consumer outreach, membership value, advocacy, outreach and education and leadership development.

Dr. Delatorro L. McNeal presented on leadership. Some key takeaways were:

- Pivot your attitude. Attitude determines altitude.
- The problem is never resources, it's always resourcefulness.
- 85% of the thoughts we have every day are negative.
- Great leaders do three things:
 1. See it as it is. Be a realist.
 2. See it better than the way it is. Be an optimist.
 3. Make it like you see it. Be an activist.
- Leadership is a toolbox; the same strategy doesn't work on everybody.
- Make a list of 10 emotions you want and feel them daily.
- When you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.
- Shift from 'I have to' to 'I get to' way of thinking.

The IGNITE Conference was held Mar. 25-26 in Stevens Point. The four conference tracks included: Communicating for Agriculture and Farm Bureau, Governance and Organization, Building Farm Bureau and Policy, Issues and Advocacy.

Hank Wagner, Founder of Wagner Leadership Training, presented on five principles to help change our lives. Those included:

- Thankfulness.
- Control your thinking. (You retain 10% of what we read, 40% if you write it down and 90% if you teach it to someone else.)
- Vision and goal setting.
- Invest in yourself. Believe bigger.
- Live a life of legacy. Add value to others.

Rick Metzger, CSP, shared some great points as well.

- "You have more possibilities than you can ever even know of. Are you going to take advantage of them?"
- If you don't implement something you learned in 30 days, you won't do it.

The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee also hosted a game show spectacular at the IGNITE Conference. It went over strategies to engage the public and ways to adapt activities for use in county Promotion and Education programs. We had a lot of fun connecting with other members.

On a local level, we hosted a May Beef Month Celebration at the Iowa County Fairgrounds in Mineral Point on May 19. The Grant County Cattlemen's Association served the meal while the Iowa County Cattlemen's Association grilled the steaks.

District 3 Farm Bureau members talked with attendees about the organization and had a door prize drawing for free memberships and grocery store gift cards. The Wisconsin Beef Council gave out beef rubs, Hilby Family Farm and The Meat Schoppe had samples and drawings for gift cards, and Bug Tussel Wireless handed out t-shirts.

Everyone was able to get a goodie bag with a cookbook and informational handouts about beef. A special thanks to everyone who helped plan and make this event happen to help inform consumers about Wisconsin's beef industry.

I look forward to the rest of the year and more opportunities to learn and grow as a Farm Bureau member.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



By Andrew Dal Santo, District 3 YFA Committee Representative

Summer is well under way and so are some new contests and awards for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau YFA program.

I hope you had a safe and productive spring. It still boggles my mind on how efficient you are when it comes to this time of year. Kudos to you.

I want to introduce and share with you some of the new programs and award applications that the WFBF YFA Committee has been working on throughout the winter and early spring months.

The first new award is the Farming for the Future Award. This award replaces the Achievement Award and recognizes members who make the majority of their income from the farm. We wanted this award to continue to recognize farmers for the great work they do without having them disclose their financial statements.

The second award that I want to touch on is the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award. This award replaces the Excellence in Ag Award and recognizes agriculture professionals who earn the majority of their income from an off-farm job/career. This new award is a great opportunity to broaden the pool of applicants and recognize those who may not have had that opportunity to apply for the previous award.

Applications for awards are due on **July 1** and can be found online at www.wfbf.com under the 'Young Farmer and Agriculturist Contests'

page. A word document also is provided on the website for members to see the questions and use as a reference before creating their online application. Members can apply as individuals or couples. Once applications are received and judged, candidates will be notified. The top four finalists will conduct an interview or presentation at the YFA Conference.

The 2022 winner in each award area will receive \$1,500 courtesy of GROWMARK, Inc., a trip to attend the 2023 AFBF Fusion Conference in Jacksonville, Florida, and be a guest of the 2023 WFBF YFA Conference.

The final award area I want to talk about is connected to the new '35 Under 35' program. The '35 Under 35' program recognizes and celebrates the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities. Nominees will be judged on criteria in one of five categories. The categories include Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Future, Sustainable Storytelling, Sustainable Service and Sustainable Self.

The goal of this program is to recognize a total of 35 individuals, with each one of the categories having top finalists. The nomination period opened **June 1** and will close on **Aug. 15**.

Nomination material will be available through the Wisconsin Farm Bureau website and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young

Farmer and Agriculturist Program Facebook Page.

Finalists and winners will be recognized during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference with an exclusive networking reception. Awards will be presented during the Farm Bureau awards program at Annual Meeting. I was lucky enough to serve on the subcommittee that helped develop the '35 Under 35' program, and I'm so excited to see where it goes.

We have been busy planning several District 3 YFA events. The YFA Brewers Game Outing was on June 26. We took a coach bus to Milwaukee for an afternoon game and watched the Brewers play the Toronto Blue Jays.

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet is scheduled for **July 28**. I'm excited to announce it will be held in conjunction with a brewery tour at Potosi Brewing Company. The evening will start with a tour and tasting, followed by dinner and the discussion meet. Please contact me if you are interested in attending or participating.

District 3 YFA is hosting a family picnic at Scheper Park in Cobb on **July 31** starting at noon. All Farm Bureau members and their families are invited to attend. We will grill hot dogs, brats and burgers and ask everyone to bring a dish to pass. There will be recreational games and activities planned, as well as the new splash pad for the kids to explore. We hope you can join us.

Thank you for everything that you do. I hope you have an amazing summer. As always feel free to reach out to me with any thoughts or questions.



YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 2-4, 2022
KALAHARI RESORT

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? JOIN US FOR FREE!

ALREADY ATTENDED? REFER A FRIEND AND WIN CASH!

APPLICATION AND DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE AT:
<https://bit.ly/ruralsponsor22>

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
Rural Mutual Insurance Company

DISTRICT 3 YFA DISCUSSION MEET & Brewery Tour
THURSDAY, JULY 28

Join your fellow Young Farmer & Agriculturist members for a fun evening at the Potosi Brewing Company. The night will start with a brewery tour and tasting, followed by dinner and the discussion meet.

5:30PM - TOUR & TASTING
7:00PM - SOCIAL & BUFFET DINNER
8:00PM - DISCUSSION MEET

For questions, to participate or to RSVP contact:
District 3 YFA Representative, Andrew Dal Santo at 608.214.7219 or dalsantoa90@gmail.com
District 3 Coordinator, Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson at 608.574.9884 or mjacobson@wfbf.com

QUESTION 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?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program

District 3 News

Counties Award Scholarships

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and of course, growing the food we eat.

Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Vernon counties are proud to support the next generation of agriculturalists and community leaders through scholarships.

This year, District 3 counties awarded a total of \$5,000 to deserving high school seniors. These counties work hard throughout the year to raise money for their scholarship funds. Many organize food stands, golf outings, promotional events and other fundraisers so they are able to invest back into their local communities.

The 2022 scholarship recipients have been involved in all facets of agriculture and will certainly be valuable assets to the industry in the future. Best of luck to the recipients as they continue their education this fall.

GRANT COUNTY



Chalee Line
FENNIMORE

VERNON COUNTY



Abigail Diehl
VIROQUA

IOWA COUNTY



Samantha Esch
DODGEVILLE



Kelly Gaffney
BARNEVELD



Emily Graber
MINERAL POINT



Katelyn Mueller
HIGHLAND



Blake Radtke
MINERAL POINT



Emma Steffes
MINERAL POINT

LAFAYETTE COUNTY



Owen Huschitt
BLACK HAWK



Rawson Meylor
DARLINGTON

2022 DISTRICT 3 COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

THE GENERAL STORE
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: CHRISTINA BENSON
815.275.4400

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

CRAWFORD COUNTY

SENECA TOWN HALL
7:30PM DINNER | 8PM MEETING
RSVP: DON BROWN
608.872.2331

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

VERNON COUNTY

GASSERS BAR & GRILL
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: ROBERT NIGH
608.606.4319

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

IOWA COUNTY

DODGE-POINT COUNTRY CLUB
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN
608.574.4565

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

GRANT COUNTY

YOUTH & AG CENTER
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: PETER WINCH
608.822.7806

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

RICHLAND COUNTY

THE PHOENIX CENTER
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: GERMAINE HYING
608.739.3367



ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTY MEETING.

Groundwater Study is Complete: Multiple Contamination Sources and Factors Identified



By Katie Abbott, Iowa County Conservationist

The Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology (SWIGG) study research team released the final report in mid-May, providing important information about groundwater quality in Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties.

The first objective was to determine the extent of contamination in the area. Researchers tested 978 samples from 816 private wells (some wells were tested more

than once) throughout the three counties in 2018 and 2019. Thirty-two percent of those samples were positive for total coliform bacteria and/or high nitrate (greater than the 10 parts-per-million Wisconsin and EPA health standard).

The next objectives were to assess contamination by human wastewater, livestock manure and pathogens. Researchers used genetic tests that can distinguish bacteria and viruses that originate only in humans, originate only in livestock or can make people and livestock ill. For these tests, 138 wells were randomly selected from those that already tested positive for total coliforms or with high nitrate. Human wastewater was detected in 64 wells, cattle manure was detected in 33 wells and pig manure was detected in 13 wells, indicating that both human wastewater and livestock manure contribute to private well contamination. Pathogens were detected in 66 of the 138 wells.

The final objectives were to identify factors related to contamination, such as well construction, geology, rainfall, septic systems and farmland.

Geology and well construction were important factors. This area has two aquifers (layers of rock that hold water underground), an upper and lower, separated by a layer of shale (which doesn't allow water to pass through it easily). The upper aquifer is closer to the surface, so water and contaminants can move into and through it more quickly. Wells that were both drilled and cased deep enough to reach the lower aquifer were less likely to be contaminated. Wells that were shorter, older or had shorter casings were more likely to be contaminated.

The likelihood of well contamination by human wastewater was higher if septic systems were closer or if there were more septic systems within a 750-foot radius (which equates to 40 acres). With one septic system, the probability of human waste contamination in a well was 44%, but rose to 79% for wells with 18 septic systems nearby.

The likelihood of well contamination by high nitrates or total coliform was higher if cultivated land or livestock farms were closer, and if there was more cultivated land within a well's 750-ft radius. The probability of high nitrates was 5% with no cultivated land within that radius and 55% with 37 acres of cultivated land. The probability of a total coliform

detection varied between 38% for wells with a livestock farm 26 feet away and 13% for wells with a livestock farm over 25,000 feet away.

Much more detail, including key points, interpretation and tables of results, is available in the summary, full report and presentation recording, which can be found online at <https://iowa.extension.wisc.edu/natural-resources/swigg>.

In general, this study has provided data showing that wells throughout all three counties are vulnerable due to the way our bedrock and soils were formed and the way water moves in this landscape. There are multiple sources of potential contamination, which can change over time.

Well owners should test their well water at least once each year and every rural landowner should be thoughtful and careful about what is rinsed, flushed, dumped, spread or sprayed on their land.

The Wisconsin DNR's website includes useful information about well testing and maintenance (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Wells/homeowners.html>) and proper disposal of hazardous waste (<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Waste/HouseholdHW.html>). Contact your local county conservation office for information about funding for well abandonment, sinkhole treatment, farm nutrient management planning or other soil and water conservation practices.

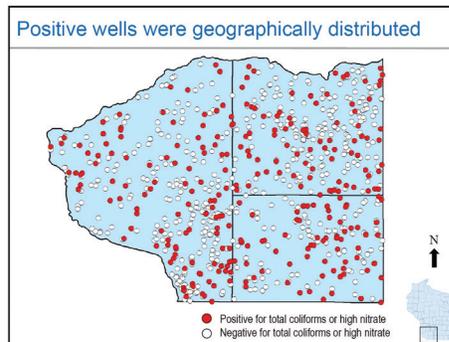
The researchers for this study were: Joel Stokdyk, U.S. Geological Survey; Mark Borchardt, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service; Aaron Firnstahl, U.S. Geological Survey; Ken Bradbury, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey; Maureen Muldoon, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey; and Burney Kieke Jr., Marshfield Clinic Research Institute.

Funding for the survey was provided by Grant, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, with additional funding from the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance, USDA-ARS, residents of Lafayette County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Survey and Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group, in addition to collaboration with researchers from UW-Madison Extension and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.



Joel Stokdyk, USGS, collecting a water sample for the study.

Considering land use in southwest Wisconsin, private well contamination tends to increase if...	
Nitrate:	
Cultivated land area nearby	<i>is larger</i>
Cultivated land	<i>is closer</i>
Livestock farms.....	<i>are closer</i>
Total coliforms:	
Livestock farms.....	<i>are closer</i>
Human wastewater:	
Septic system count nearby.....	<i>is greater</i>
Septic systems.....	<i>are closer</i>
Livestock manure:	
Cultivated land area nearby.....	<i>is larger</i>
Cultivated land.....	<i>is closer</i>
Livestock farms.....	<i>are closer</i>



Courtesy of the SWIGG final report, Stokdyk et al.

Considering well characteristics & geology in southwest Wisconsin, private well contamination tends to increase if...	
Nitrate:	
Age of well.....	<i>is older</i>
Casing depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Casing length into bedrock.....	<i>is shorter</i>
Well depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Geology.....	<i>is fractured or sand/gravel</i>
Total coliforms:	
Age of well.....	<i>is older</i>
Casing depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Casing length into bedrock.....	<i>is shorter</i>
Casing length into groundwater.....	<i>is shorter</i>
Open interval length	<i>is longer</i>
Open interval	<i>crosses aquifers</i>
Bedrock depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Human wastewater:	
Age of well.....	<i>is older</i>
Well depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Bedrock depth.....	<i>is shallower</i>
Livestock manure:	
Open interval length.....	<i>is shorter</i>
Geology.....	<i>is sandstone</i>

Members Attend WFBF IGNITE Conference

By Mary Jo Johnsrude, Crawford County Farm Bureau Member

The 2022 Wisconsin Farm Bureau IGNITE Conference was held March 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. I along with Lori Brown and Pat Dearth attended.

Four conference tracks led attendees through workshops on Building Farm Bureau, Communicating for Agriculture and Farm Bureau, Governance and Organization and Policy, Issues and Advocacy.

Our group split up and attended sessions on social media presence, membership recruitment, activities for county Promotion and Education and Young Farmer and Agriculturist programs, connecting with Ag in the Classroom, getting involved with Farm Bureau, media interviewing, the 2022 Wisconsin political landscape, the Farm Bureau policy development process, bridging generations within our membership and creating a working relationship with local leaders.

The conference closed with a program entitled, 'Drink-Steal-Swear-Lie'



with speaker Rick Metzger. He encouraged attendees to, "Drink-from the fountain of happiness; Steal-a little time to do an act of kindness; Swear-to live your life to the fullest; and Lie-down each night and thank God for our freedoms and the opportunity to follow our dreams."

If you are interested in attending this type of event, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member for more information. The next IGNITE Conference is being planned for 2024.

District 3 Hosts VFA Fundraiser

By Mary Jo Johnsrude, Crawford County Farm Bureau Member

The District 3 Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA) fundraising event was on May 10 at the Potosi Brewing Company.

The program included information provided by Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) and Keith Ripp, WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations.

This event and others throughout the state provide resources for supporting candidates who are looking out for the interests of the agricultural community in Wisconsin.

It was an enjoyable evening with Farm Bureau members and agriculture advocates.



Pictured (from left): AV, Howie and Christine Roth, Robert Nigh, Representative Loren Oldenburg (R-Viroqua) and Steve and Mary Jo Johnsrude.

CRAWFORD COUNTY
FARM BUREAU
SUMMER PICNIC
THURSDAY, JULY 21
EASTMAN PARK | 7:30PM
JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT FULL OF FOOD, FRIENDS AND FARM BUREAU UPDATES. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS AND TABLE SERVICE.

CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR
DAIRY BAR
AUGUST 25-28
Stop by the Crawford County Farm Bureau Dairy Bar for an ice cream treat and a slice of pie! 🍰
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR WEBSITE AT CRAWFORDCOUNTYWISCONSINFAIR.COM.

Farm Bureau: A Powerful and Respected Voice



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello, from northern Grant County.

Earlier this spring, we had another successful Ag Day at the Capitol where members met with their respective legislators. I was unable to attend this year, but many counties had representation at the Capitol. Our representatives like to hear what farmers have

to say.

Big changes in the last year have been attributed to supply chain issues. We have had issues getting parts, equipment, seed, fertilizer, etc. With COVID and the war in Ukraine, farmers have to work hard to overcome many struggles. It can be very stressful to deal with more than just weather. Take time to enjoy your family and relax when you can.

Grant County Farm Bureau and WFBF have been very involved in the SWIGG Study that was recently finished. This water study looked at wells in Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties. The study showed that there are more problems with wells being contaminated with septic waste than cattle; however, nitrates are still a problem.

The last thing farmers need is more expensive regulations. Farm Bureau will continue to watch the outcome of the study and be your voice if needed. Farm Bureau has a very powerful and respected voice. It comes from the members being united.

In August, we will once again have the food stand at the Grant County Fair. I can taste the pork chops and potato salad. The food stand is a major fundraiser for the county. We are always looking for help from our members at the food stand. A lot of thought and preparation from the board goes into the menu and logistics.

Our goal is to promote agriculture products and have a full meal at a reasonable price for fairgoers, especially families. Please contact me at 608.822.7806 or pwinch@tds.net if you have questions about the fair or want to help. We appreciate any and all help. Farm Bureau supports Grant County in many ways.

Shortly after the fair, we have our Policy Development Meeting to start the grassroots process of bringing policy ideas from our county members to be voted on at our county annual meeting and then possibly on to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Ideas in this organization start locally and move to the state level. Speaking of the Grant County Annual Meeting, please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, Sept. 27**. You will receive a postcard with more details in September.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

County Chairs Meeting Sparks New Ideas



On March 23, the District 3 County Chairs Meeting was held at the Grant County Farm Bureau building. County Ag in the Classroom, Promotion and Education and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee chairs were invited to attend. The meeting served as an opportunity for members to brainstorm new ideas, share helpful tips, discuss upcoming county and district activities and leave with a plan of action. These county committee chairs work incredibly hard all year long and have so many wonderful programs and events planned to keep members engaged and excited about Farm Bureau.



IOWA COUNTY

AUGUST 17 - 7:00PM - IOWA COUNTY HHS BUILDING - RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN - 608.574.4565

GRANT COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 1 - 6:30PM - GRANT COUNTY FARM BUREAU BUILDING - RSVP: PETER WINCH - 608.778.1150

RICHLAND COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 13 - 7:00PM - RICHLAND COMMUNITY CENTER - RSVP: DICK HAUSER - 608.585.4808



GRANT COUNTY FAIR
AUGUST 17-21

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the
Grant County Farm Bureau
Food Stand. Daily shifts are:
10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm,
and 6pm-10pm.

If interested in helping, contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806 or sign up online at bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand22.

Promotion and Education Update



By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Things sure have been busy around the farm and for Farm Bureau recently. It's nice to see pastures full of grass again after a dry year last summer.

Each year, Iowa County Farm Bureau awards scholarships to high school graduates. This year six recipients were selected and awarded

funds for their college tuition expenses. The recipients were Samantha Esch, Dodgeville; Kelly Gaffney, Barneveld; Emily Graber, Mineral Point; Katelyn Mueller, Highland; Blake Radtke, Mineral Point; and Emma Steffes, Mineral Point. We congratulate the graduating seniors and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The 4-H Farm Gard Event was held on May 11 at the Leix Family Farm. Fourth-grade students from Iowa-Grant Elementary School attended. These students had an exciting afternoon experiencing life on a farm and learning from local agriculturalists.

Iowa County Farm Bureau led an activity called, 'Snacking Around Wisconsin.' Students learned about the different food products that are grown and made in Wisconsin. They were very excited to receive a delicious bag of snack mix to take home with them.

On May 20, I visited Mrs. Livia Doyle's classroom and presented Kinley Swenson with a certificate and cash award for winning the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Mrs. Doyle also received a gift card for being the teacher of the winning student essay. Thank you, Mrs. Doyle, for your efforts promoting agriculture in school.

As part of May Beef Month, District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Jacobson, and I also shared information about Wisconsin's beef industry with the



fourth-grade students and played a fun trivia game to test their beef knowledge.

Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 36th consecutive year on **July 9-10** in Dodgeville. A variety of activities are being planned for the weekend.

On Saturday night, we are teaming up with Upland Hills Health for their annual Sip & Savor event at Harris Park. The night will feature tasty food and drinks from the best restaurants, bakeries, breweries and wineries in southwest Wisconsin. Live music will provide a fun and social atmosphere before the spectacular City of Dodgeville fireworks show.

Sunday will kick off with a parade, followed by entertainment, activities and food in downtown Dodgeville. The after-parade festivities will be held in the parking lot behind the Iowa County Courthouse where Iowa County Farm Bureau will serve delicious steak sandwiches. There will be several activities for the youngsters and plenty of fun for people of all ages.

We hope you will join us for this event to show your appreciation for our hard-working farmers and agriculture community.

For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit www.farmersappreciationday.com.

Have a great summer.



Swenson Selected as Essay Contest Winner

This year's Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner is Kinley Swenson, a fourth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary School.

Kinley is the daughter of Tim and Danielle Swenson. Her teacher is Mrs. Livia Doyle.

Kinley was awarded a certificate and \$50 for her outstanding accomplishment.

Her class also received an ice cream party.

Congratulations Kinley.



FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY

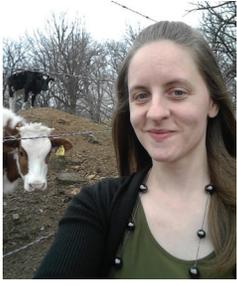
JULY 9-10

DOWNTOWN DODGEVILLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A DETAILED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS VISIT WWW.FARMERSAPPRECIATIONDAY.COM.



The Many Chapters of Life



Christina Benson
Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

As you're reading this newsletter, summer is upon us. I had an opportunity this spring to attend a local scholarship night. This had me reflecting on how we talk about life as chapters.

As one grows from high school to college or workforce, that chapter can take on many different forms. Balancing work and school or

going right into the workforce, there are lessons we learn along the way.

I think about the connections I've made over the years and the chapters I have gone through. Lessons I can say stick with me are kindness,

compassion and a serving heart for the betterment of the community around me.

Volunteering has been a constant through all of my chapters. I look forward to the Lafayette County Fair, which takes place **July 13-17** in Darlington. I invite you to volunteer with me at the Lafayette County Farm Bureau food stand or just stop by and see the different chapters the exhibitors are going through in their lives.

I enjoy seeing the excitement and smiling faces of the young exhibitors as they get ready to show for the first time, as well as the experience and knowledge demonstrated by the older exhibitors as they reflect on what they've learned and socialize with the friends they've made over the years.

No matter what chapter you're going through, I hope you have a safe and happy summer. See you at the fair.

Meet: Curt Miller, Director



Occupation: Experimenting with retirement currently. I fill some of my days with truck driving duties as needed locally, somewhat seasonal.

Agricultural background: Started farming on my parent's farm upon high school graduation (1967). That's been my life until recently renting the farm out this year.

Brief description of your family and

farm: My family includes my wonderful wife, Debbie, of 50 years. We have five married daughters and their families, a total of 12 grandchildren and one great grandson. Our farm totals 240 acres nearly all tillable. We purchased feeder cattle both Holstein and beef breeds to feed them out to a finished weight. We also marketed some alfalfa hay when available.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? Shop work to prevent down time delays. Also planting crops every year.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? My father was a prior board member, so I guess some of that rubbed off on me. I have been a member and insurance policy holder since owning my first car.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? Members need to stay in tune now more than ever with current issues, government regulations, etc. Publications and news feeds are available and every vote counts.

Preferred tractor color: I always drove red tractors.

Favorite ice cream flavor: Any flavor works for me.

Any fun facts or other info you'd like to share? My wife and I own and enjoy three classic cars for sunny day trips.



In March, YFA members from Iowa and Lafayette counties enjoyed an evening of Monte Carlo Bowling at Midway Lanes. This type of bowling was a first for many, but proved to be a whole lot of fun. Several members even mastered their 'trick shots' and went home with a few extra dollars in their pockets. All in attendance agreed the special bowling activity will have to become an annual YFA event.



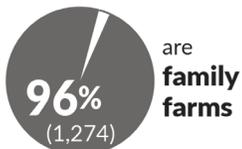
LAFAYETTE COUNTY FAIR
JULY 13-17 | DARLINGTON

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Sign up online at bit.ly/lafayettecountyfoodstand22 or contact Christina Benson at 815.275.4400.

AGRICULTURE WORKS HARD FOR ► LAFAYETTE COUNTY

**WHO OWNS
THE FARMS?**



**HOW MUCH IS
SOLD LOCALLY?**



President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

Throughout the years that I have been doing these newsletter articles, I have for the most part tried to talk about some relevant issue that could affect our farming operations.

However, this time I would like to talk about getting back to the basics. Farm Bureau, whether it is our local Richland County chapter, the state or the national level, all have

one thing in common. They are all grassroots driven and to the extent that we have that local participation, we will see the whole organization flourish.

Each year during the summer, Richland County Farm Bureau puts on

a policy meeting. This meeting is intended for any member of our county organization to attend and express your thoughts and feelings about what we are doing and/or what you feel we need to do. The more members that give the board their thoughts and situations, the better we will be able to address the needs of our members.

I know and understand that it is not easy to take some of your valuable time to attend an evening meeting, but we try to conduct the meeting efficiently as not to needlessly waste it.

This year's Richland County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 13**, at the Richland Community Center starting at 7 p.m. This is your personal invitation to give your board of directors your thoughts on what we can do better for you.

If you have any questions or concerns please call any board member or myself at 608.585.4808.

Vernon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/vernon
VernonCountyFarmBureau

County Essay Contest Winner Announced

This year's Vernon County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner is Theodore Portner, a fourth-grade student from Westby Elementary School. Theodore is the son of Blais and Rachel Portner. His teacher is Mrs. Linda Amundson.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom offers an annual essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students. Each year the topic has specific lesson plans, activities and other resources that teachers, volunteers and homeschool parents can use to teach about Wisconsin agriculture. The topic is selected after the Book of the Year is picked.

The 2022 Book of the Year is "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack" by Wisconsin author and dairy farmer, Cris Peterson. This year's essay contest topic is, "What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!"

Theodore was awarded a certificate and Culver's gift card for his outstanding accomplishment. His class also received an ice cream party. Congratulations Theodore.



Members Host Livestock Handling Training

In April, Vernon County Farm Bureau members hosted a Livestock Handling Training for emergency personnel at Klinkner Dairy.

Attendees learned how to safely move livestock in an effective manner and practiced with live animals.

Vernon County Farm Bureau is compiling a list of area farmers and resources that responders can contact and use in case of an emergency

involving livestock.

If you want to be on the list or are interested in contributing to the resource fund, please contact Travis Klinkner at travisklinkner@gmail.com or 608.633.1981.





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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Crawford County

Grant County

Iowa County

Lafayette County

Richland County

Vernon 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

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