



# Grassroots

District 1 News

## Members Ignite Their Spark



**Dave Daniels**

WFBF District 1 Director and Vice President

Hello, District 1 Farm Bureau member,  
I want to share some remarks that I presented earlier this year at the IGNITE Conference in Stevens Point. I think that it would be a good lesson of what WFBF can and is doing on a statewide platform.

If you didn't know, IGNITE is an acronym. It stands for Innovate, Grow, Network, Inform, Train, Engage. What a great visual as we reflect on our Farm Bureau experiences. That conference was a way to SPARK interest, to LIGHT a fire and STOKE the leadership flames of our most involved members.

This event is a result of a strategic plan that the organization did around 2014. The goal was to develop a statewide event to gather our members together to provide resources, training and information for them to be stronger leaders. In spring of 2018, three years after we strategically said we wanted something like this, it happened. This concept was well received and won an award on the national level from American Farm Bureau Federation.

Strategically our organization's cornerstone is strong county Farm Bureaus, and county Farm Bureaus are the key for the future of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Our county volunteers are important because they are the 'boots on the ground.' As farmers, we have experienced firsthand how policies affect our farms. Those are important stories that Farm Bureau helps elevate to the policy ears who need to hear them.

As members, we have used Farm Bureau services and programs. Each volunteer has insights on what Farm Bureau can and should be doing to provide the best programming that benefits and informs members. Each person has a different set of talents and skills that can be used to accomplish Farm Bureau objectives.

The IGNITE Conference is taking those skills and talents and refining them, bring them to a whole new level.

Storytelling is a great way to communicate and engage. I'm going to tell you my Farm Bureau story.

On a warm spring day in 1982, a little after lunch, two area farmers rang my doorbell. I opened the door to Les Halladay and Bob Sheahan. They asked me if I would join Kenosha County Farm Bureau and said we'd love for you to join us at our next monthly meeting. I replied that I would join and attend the next meeting. The next monthly meeting I showed up to see what Farm Bureau was about.

You see, for the young people that are reading this, I just couldn't Google it or find the website to find out what it was all about. So, I'm at the meeting and they are going through committees and then they came

to the Young Farmer Committee. Les, who was the county president says to me, "Dave, we are in need of a chair for this committee would you be interested in that?"

Now, doesn't that probably sound familiar? That was the start of looking at the bigger picture and the opportunities that were there waiting for me.

What started as county Farm Bureau leadership turned into the Dairy Committee, Policy Development Committee and then in 2003, I was elected to the WFBF Board.

While possibly a little similar, everyone's Farm Bureau story is a bit different.

I want you to think that Farm Bureau can be an investment in yourself. We all need to take time to GROW ourselves.

How do we look at the bigger picture and be INNOVATIVE in getting large goals completed?

In what ways can you connect and NETWORK with other members to accomplish your initiatives?

How do we look at the opportunities that are before you and use this TRAINING to be the best agricultural leader you can be?

How can you help your County Farm Bureau continue to be the cornerstone of Wisconsin Farm Bureau?

Lastly, I want to thank those who took time away from their farms, homes and businesses to dedicate time to be members and leaders in your county.

I hope that planting, tending and harvesting your crops goes well in 2022.

Want the picture perfect leadership experience?

**APPLY TODAY!**

Applications are due August 15

Applications for the WFBF Leadership Institute are now available at <http://bit.ly/institute2023>

## What's Happening With Young Farmers and Agriculturists?



**Bob Nash**

WFBF YFA Committee Chair

Hello District 1 member,  
This year, the YFA is off to a great start with a spectacular turnout at our first event, which was the PBR Bull Riding at the Fiserv Forum in Milwaukee. We had 50 members in attendance to witness one of the best live shows I've been to in a long time. I am looking forward to putting it on

the calendar for 2023.

In March we had our annual Young Farmers Spring Fling held at Turner Hall in Fillmore. We had Whiskey Throttle rock the packed house with more than 400 people in attendance. It was great to get this event back and have such an energetic crowd. It was a great way to get everyone together and talk about YFA again. Thank you to the sponsors for making this possible.

We hosted a county YFA Chairs meeting at the Machine Shed in Waukesha with Wendy Kannel, Dave Daniels, myself and the county YFA chairs. We did it statewide and we had a lot of great responses on how to better equip our county chairs with the tools they need for success.

I'm excited to announce several new contests for the YFA Conference. The Farming for the Future award is replacing the Achievement Award. This award is for the YFA members who make a majority of their income from the farm, it will not require you to disclose your financials. Members can apply as individuals or as couples.

Next is the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award, this will

replace the Excellence in Agriculture Award, this award is for YFA members who make a majority of their income from an off farm job/career.

Applications are due **July 1** by 4 p.m. As the YFA Committee we have been working hard on the new applications and hoping for increased participation throughout the state. Last but certainly not least, is the 35 under 35 contest. This contest will recognize 35 YFA members who are implementing sustainability practices in different areas of their lives. The contest release date was June 1. I'm the subcommittee chair for this contest and I am extremely excited to roll this program out.

I want to thank the YFA members in District 1 for continuing their work and dedication to making YFA events successful. I know that spring planting hasn't even started yet at the beginning of May when writing this, but it's never too early to start thinking about the YFA Conference.

As a committee, we have been working and focusing on new things for the YFA Conference. We look forward to having record setting attendance.

I hope everyone has a safe summer. I hope to see everybody at an event soon.



**On Mar. 7, District 1 YFA chairs were invited to a meeting to learn about their roles and responsibilities, and to share ideas. Those who attended included Waukesha YFA Chair Brittany Renn, Racine YFA Chair Kayla Wilson, Ozaukee YFA Chair and WFBF YFA Chair Bob Nash and WFBF District 1 Director and Vice President Dave Daniels.**

## District Essay Contest Winner Announced



**Kathy Muth**

District 1 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

This year's essay contest topic was 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy.'

The essay contest was open to fourth- and fifth-grade students and essays were due to each county by April 1.

The book of the year was "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack" by Wisconsin author and dairy farmer, Cris Peterson.

Essay submissions must be 100- to 300-words in length and were judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness. This year students must make three references to Wisconsin agriculture and a new essay grading rubric was developed.

In District 1, four counties had essay contest participants. Jefferson County had 54 entries, Ozaukee County had 27 entries, Racine County had 64 entries and Washington County had 42 entries.

Each county judged the entries and sent me the county winner. From there, I had a committee select the district winner and it was forwarded on to the state for consideration to be the state winning essay.

The District 1 winning essay was written by Kathryn Sorenson from Allenton Elementary.

Stay tuned, next year's essay contest topic and book of the year will be available this summer.

For more information visit [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

**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

## Collegiate Farm Bureau's Elect New Officers

In 2010, the first Collegiate Farm Bureau was formed on the UW-Madison campus, with UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls starting their Collegiate Farm Bureau in 2012.

The Collegiate Farm Bureau has a Discussion Meet and holds meetings.

Recently, new officers were elected for the 2022-2023 school year, including some who are from District 1. Join us in congratulating the new officers who are from District 1 for the Collegiate Farm Bureaus.

- Clarissa Gross from Jefferson County, UW-Madison President
- Autumn King from Waukesha County, UW-Platteville President

- Emma Lemke from Jefferson County, UW-Platteville Director At Large, Historian
- Emma Statz from Jefferson County, UW-River Falls Secretary

Visit the Facebook pages to see what members are doing.  
 UW-Madison facebook.com/CollegiateFarmBureauMadison  
 UW-Platteville facebook.com/UW-Platteville-Collegiate-Farm-Bureau  
 UW-River Falls facebook.com/UWRiverFallsCollegiateFarmBureau



UW-Madison Collegiate Farm Bureau



UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau



UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau

## FFA Farm Forum Back in Person

The annual FFA Farm Forum was a one-day event held on Feb. 18 at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

There were a total of 145 FFA members, 48 advisors/chaperones, nine State FFA Officers and 11 presenters/WFBF staff members.

Attendees heard from speaker Kaitlyn Riley from the Wisconsin Beef Council. Her opening program was titled, 'Come One Come All Voices: Your Time to Shine as an Advocate.'

Following the opening program attendees could attend three of four possible workshops.

The workshops included:

- 'Meat' Your Future in Wisconsin presented by Kaitlyn Riley, Wisconsin Beef Council and Matt Bayer, Master Meat Crafter.
- Basics of Risk Management and Why It Matters presented by Mike North from ever.ag.
- Welcome to Jeopardy: Rural and Agricultural Edition presented by Melissa Ploeckelman from the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety.
- A Day in the Life of a Potato Farm presented by Mike Leahy, Lynn Leahy and Tom Schultz all from Heartland Farms, Inc.

Attendees enjoyed the one-day event and getting to be back in-person for this event.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA. After holding the event virtually in 2021, this year's FFA Farm Forum marks the 49<sup>th</sup> time the event has been hosted in person for Wisconsin youth.



Racine County Farm Bureau sponsored Rylee Hetland and Clarisa Palmer from Burlington FFA to the FFA Farm Forum.



Kenzie Nielsen from Lake Mills FFA was sponsored by Jefferson County Farm Bureau to attend the FFA Farm Forum.



Union Grove FFA students Cade Peterson and Brad Baker were sponsored by Racine County Farm Bureau.

## Bull Riding Event, A Success

**Bob Nash**

WFBF YFA Committee Chair

On Feb. 5, young farmers gathered at the Fiserv Forum for the Professional Bull Riding event.

Our 40-ticket block sold out almost immediately and the event was a huge success. It's been so much fun to see members in-person at events again.

If there are events that you want me to consider, please contact me at 262.617.7170.



# District 1 News

## Counties Achieve Membership Goal

Patti Wilhelme

District 1 Coordinator

Congratulations to the three District 1 counties that achieved the early bird membership goal by the end of March and received \$1,000.

Those who achieved the goal include Racine, Washington and Waukesha counties. Achieving the membership goal isn't possible without the great membership volunteers. Please join me in thanking the membership volunteers who signed new members since September.

- **Jefferson County:** Lindsay Baneck and Roger Zimmerman
- **Ozaukee County:** Lisa Gantner and Bob Nash
- **Racine County:** Natasha Hegemann, Jeff Rice, Brian Schaal, John Scott and Kayla Wilson
- **Walworth County:** Terry Papecke and Sue Thelen
- **Washington County:** John Falk, Mike Kannenberg, Mark Schaefer Sr., Scott Schreffler and Mike Strupp
- **Waukesha County:** Jay Moore and Brittany Renn

This year's membership theme is, 'We treasure our members' and our final membership incentive is for those who sign up at least 12 new members by **Sept. 30**. Thank you for being a member of Farm Bureau.



**QUEST FOR MEMBERSHIP**  
**Sail with us to San Juan!**  
**Sign 12 new members by September 30 for an entry to win a trip for 2 to the 2023 AFBF Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico.**

**We treasure our members. Thank you for your membership!**



## 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>

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
**Young Farmer and Agriculturist**  
Program

## Members Attend Council of Presidents



District 1 members attended the two-day Council of Presidents meeting on Jan. 25-26. Those who attended included (from left): Jim Renn, Waukesha Vice President; Tom Oberhaus, Waukesha President; Bob Nash, WFBF YFA Committee Chair and District 1 YFA Chair; Dave Daniels, WFBF Vice President and District 1 Board Member.

## District 1 YFA Discussion Meet & Policy Development Meeting

**Tuesday, July 19**

6:00 pm - Discussion Meet

6:45 pm - Dinner Buffet

Dinner is \$23/person. Cash bar available. YFA members who attend the discussion meet will receive a free dinner!

7:15 pm - Policy Development

Delafield Brewhaus

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 by July 5 contact:

District 1 YFA Representative, Bob Nash at 262.617.7170 or District 1 Coordinator, Patti Wilhelme at 262.689.1838 or [pwilhelme@wfbf.com](mailto:pwilhelme@wfbf.com)

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
**Young Farmer and Agriculturist**  
Program

## Alice in Dairyland Selected



The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection selected Taylor Schaefer of Franksville as Wisconsin's 75<sup>th</sup> Alice in Dairyland.

In this position, Schaefer will work for the contract year as a full-time communications professional for DATCP, educating the public about the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

Taylor Schaefer's fondest memories stem from her family's beef and crop farm, where raising livestock and serving as a youth leader in the Racine County 4-H program ignited her passion for agriculture.

Schaefer studied at UW-Madison, where she was involved in the Association of Women in Agriculture, Badger Dairy Club and the UW Marching Band.

She will begin her term as the 75<sup>th</sup> Alice in Dairyland on July 5.

## Top Ag in the Classroom Essay Winner Announced

Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom sponsors an essay contest each year for fourth- and fifth-grade students in Wisconsin.

Essay submissions were judged on content, grammar, spelling and neatness.

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

Jefferson County selected the top three essays and submitted the winning entry to the district competition, where the district winner then advanced to the state level. Fifty-four entries were submitted in Jefferson County.

This year the winning essay was written by fifth-grade student Cami Lea Shannon from West Elementary School in Jefferson. She was awarded a \$30 cash prize, four tickets to the Watertown Agribusiness Dairy Breakfast at Crave Brothers Farm and an ice cream party for her class.



The fifth-grade class at West Elementary School. The first-place winner, Cami Lea Shannon, is in the back row. The third-place winner is Orion Donnellan in the front row holding a certificate.

*Cami's winning essay.*

### Corn By-Products

Have you ever wondered what we use corn for? I mean, we can't have a popular vegetable and have it only be used for one thing! That's what I'm here to teach you about, the by-products of corn.

First, we have corn oil and cornstarch. Corn oil is made from the oil of corn being extracted from the kernels. As for cornstarch, cornstarch is a pure starch powder. Cornstarch is extracted from the corn kernels by removing the outside germ leaving behind the endosperm.

Next up is corn syrup. Corn syrup is a liquid sweetener made out of corn. It's made by breaking down corn kernels into a type of sugar called glucose. Half of the glucose is then turned into another type of sugar called fructose.

Did you know in Wisconsin corn is mainly used for feeding animals or producing ethanol? Ethanol is made by grinding corn into flour and adding it into the other ingredients. In 2020, 516 million bushels of corn were harvested by Wisconsin farmers. Most of the corn grown in Wisconsin is from Fond-Du-Lac, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green Lake, Rock, Portage, Waushara counties.

Now we're going to talk about how corn oil, cornstarch, and corn syrup are used. Corn syrup is used to sweeten things such as candy, jams, jellies, frostings, etc. It is used to enhance the flavor of the item. Corn oil is used for cooking, deep fat frying, baking, and roasting. Lastly, cornstarch is used for sauces, soups, gravies, and casseroles.

In conclusion, corn has multiple uses to create a variety of products. Without corn, it would affect us much more than just eating it, and most people don't even know that! Hopefully, now that you know about corn, you can appreciate the use of its by-products.

## Students Enjoy Fourth-Grade Farm Tour

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual Jefferson County Fourth-Grade Farm Tour was held on May 4 at the Kutz Dairy Farm in Jefferson. The event hosted 24 public and private schools, along with two home school groups with 631 students, 38 teachers and 129 adult chaperones participating.

Students visited 11 different agricultural stations spread out around the farm at 10-minute intervals. These stations were: beef/swine, sheep/goats, field to table, then and now (technology), calves, crops, careers, milking parlor, animal care (veterinarian), housing/facilities and land preservation. The stations were taught by the Kutz family, the farm staff or agricultural industry professionals, with assistance from surrounding chapter FFA members.

FFA members from surrounding areas including Fort Atkinson FFA, Jefferson FFA, Lakeside Lutheran FFA and Palmyra-Eagle FFA served as tour guides who led the fourth-grade students from station to station.

Lunch was provided to students, teachers and chaperones. Each student received a bag with an agriculture activity book, postcard highlighting the tour stations, pencils from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and Dairy Management, Inc., and a free custard coupon from Fort Atkinson Culver's. Each teacher also received the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom 2022 book of the year, "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack."

More than 20 adult volunteers from the Jefferson County Agri-Business Club, Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the Kutz family organized the event and facilitated the day. There is no charge for lunch or for any of the schools to attend.

Since its inception, the Farm Tour has educated 16,553 students and 2,531 adults about agriculture.



They did a hay versus straw experiment.



Libby Knoebel taught students about sheep.



Students touched a piglet.



Dr. Rob talked about animal care.



Thank you to the FFA members who volunteered.

## First Time Attendee at Ag Day at the Capitol

By Cyndi Pitzner, Farm Bureau Member

From the outside looking in, I always knew that Farm Bureau was involved in legislative issues. But until I attended the Ag Day at the Capitol on Jan. 26, I don't think I realized the amount of effort that is put in by Farm Bureau, Corn Growers, Dairy Business Association and the other agricultural organizations in our state.

The time and effort that volunteers and leaders of these organizations put in to keeping communication lines open with are government officials is something many of us in our day-to-day farming life may not realize.

I left Ag Day at the Capitol having a new appreciation for the legislative process and the effort it takes to keep agricultural issues in the forefront.

Thanks to everyone involved. Keep up the great work.

## Five Scholarships Awarded to Students

By Sue Marx, Scholarship Committee Chair

Farm Bureau members are dedicated to supporting students' dreams and determination.

Five students are the recipients of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship, which are paid after the scholarship committee receives the first semester grades. The students will receive \$500 that can be applied to tuition, housing, books or other educational expenses.



2022 Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship winners:

- **Julia Ball**, daughter of Tom and Tanya Ball
- **Daniella Chwala**, daughter of Jeremy and Michele Chwala
- **Gavin Clifton**, son of Jeremy and Stacey Clifton
- **Signe Kind**, daughter of Jeff and Deb Kind
- **Devin Splinter**, son of Daniel and Cheryl Splinter

Please join us in congratulating our 2022 scholarship recipients.

## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you will join us for the upcoming meetings. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration for the WFBF Policy Book. National resolutions also are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Policy Development Meeting

**Date:** Wednesday, Aug. 24

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** Insight FS, 213 E. Puerner Street, Jefferson

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 25

**Time:** 6 p.m. - Registration,

6:30 p.m. - Dinner with business meeting to follow

**Location:** Fairview Inn, 711 W. Racine Street #1, Jefferson

RSVPs are required. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

For more information about meetings, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.

## Nominations Open for Service to Agriculture Award

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors is accepting nominations for the Service to Agriculture Award.

The award was created to recognize those who are leaders while demonstrating a commitment to agriculture. The award is sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the winner will be announced at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting held in September.

Any person(s) who has exhibited leadership in the promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County is eligible. Selection will be made by these standards: (1) Focus on agriculture or rural issues, (2) Importance of an accurate message about agriculture, (3) Promotion of Jefferson County agriculture production, and (4) Educate the public about the importance of agriculture.

Nomination forms are due by **Aug. 15** and can be found on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website at [wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson).

If you have questions or need help accessing the nomination form, contact Melissa Gross at [mgross43@yahoo.com](mailto:mgross43@yahoo.com).



## County Fair Volunteers Needed

By Mary Mess, Food Stand Chair

Your help is needed **July 13-17** to work at the Cream Puff Stand at the Jefferson County Fair.

If you can spare a few hours, the shifts are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m..

The money raised goes towards scholarships. We would love to have you help in the stand.

To sign up for a shift, contact me at 920.248.1967. Looking forward to hearing from you. Thank you in advance for your help.



## 4RWI Event Scheduled in Ixonia

**Date:** Wednesday, August 17, 2022

**Location:** Kevin Griswold's Farm  
W801 Gopher Hill Road, Ixonia

### Tentative Schedule

11:30 a.m.	Welcome from host, lunch to follow
12:30 p.m.	Breakout sessions begin
1:30 p.m.	Q&A discussion with session hosts and host farm
1:50 p.m.	Closing remarks
2 p.m.	Program ends

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by **Aug. 1** to Erin Tomasik at [etomasik@wfbf.com](mailto:etomasik@wfbf.com).

## Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol



Dave Daniels (right) talked with Representative Samantha Kerkman (R-Salem Lakes) about issues that are important to agriculture during Ag Day at the Capitol.

## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you will join us for the upcoming meetings. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration in the WFBF Policy Book. National resolutions are passed at the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Policy Development Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, Aug. 23

**Time:** 6 p.m. - Registration; 6:30 p.m. - Dinner

**Location:** Birchwood Grill, 7515 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 27

**Time:** 6 p.m. - Registration; 6:30 p.m. - Dinner with business meeting to follow

**Location:** Birchwood Grill, 7515 125<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kenosha

RSVPs are required. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details. For more information about meetings, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.

# Milwaukee County

## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you join us for the county annual meeting. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration in the WFBF Policy Book. National resolutions are passed at the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Monday, Sept. 12

**Time:** 6 p.m. - Dinner and business meeting

RSVPs are required. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

# Racine County

## Raymond Elementary Student Wins Essay Contest

By Mindy Crayton, Essay Contest Chair

This year we had 64 entries for the annual Ag in the Classroom essay contest. The winning essay was by Titan Ritter from Raymond Elementary. The second-place essay was written by Isabella Steward also from Raymond Elementary and the third-place essay was written by Bennett Menken from North Cape School.

*Titan's winning essay.*

### Wisconsin's Variety of Corn

Wisconsin is one of the top-producing states in the nation. Farmers grow corn all over Wisconsin. There are about 4 million acres of corn grown in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin produced 506 million bushels of corn on November ninth 2021. Each bushel weighs about 56 pounds. There are four types of corn that Wisconsin harvest: Dent corn, Sweet corn, Popcorn, and Flint corn.

Dent corn is used for production of ethanol, as feed for livestock, and to make sweeteners. As you go outside or even go in the car to go somewhere, mostly all of the corn that you see in corn fields is dent corn.

Sweet corn is used primarily for livestock feed, ethanol production and manufacturing goods. Also Wisconsin ranked 8th in the nation for sweet corn acreage and 11th for total production.

Popcorn is what humans eat and enjoy. My family and I always sit down on the couch and watch TV while enjoying our Popcorn.

Flint corn is also edible to humans but not many people eat Flint corn most people eat popcorn. But Flint corn is also one of the oldest varieties of corn out there.

Those are the four varieties of corn and if you haven't ever tried popcorn it tastes great.

## Farm Bureau Donates Books



The Racine County Farm Bureau gave coloring books to Officer Friendly. He will hand books out along with crayons throughout the summer.

## Agricultural Ambassador Update



By Abbie Hammer, 2021-2022 Agricultural Ambassador

Hi! My journey as the Racine County Agriculture Ambassador has been great so far.

In January, I teamed up with Fairest of the Fair Kynzi Cole and attended the Bags Tournament hosted by Racine County Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Agriculturalists at County Line Hall.

To celebrate National Agriculture Week, I had the honor of visiting Raymond Elementary School to spread some knowledge of agriculture

in our community during an all-school assembly.

Then I visited a few classrooms to read a story and answer some questions.

I continue to be excited for the 100<sup>th</sup> annual Racine County Fair taking place on **July 27-31**.

I can't wait to see you there.



## First Annual Bags Tournament Held

By Kayla Wilson, YFA Chair

The Racine County YFA was looking for something to host that was open to community and allowed time for socializing and introducing others to Farm Bureau.

We thought a great way to break up the winter was to host our first annual bags tournament.

The tournament was held on Jan. 8 at County Line Hall. Union Grove FFA sold food. We had around 35 teams participate, and the feedback was great.

Everyone had a lot of fun playing bags and socializing.



## FFA Members Speak at Farm City Night

By Jeff Rice, Farm Bureau Board Member

The Annual Farm City Night was held on Mar. 28.

The speakers for the evening were members from the three local FFA chapters: Burlington, Union Grove and Waterford.



## Cream Puff Stand Needs YOU

By Jeff Rice, Cream Puff Stand Chair

Volunteers are needed for the Racine County Fair Cream Puff Stand from **Wednesday, July 27 through Sunday, July 31**.

The Cream Puff Stand is our big fundraiser. The profits from the stand are given back to the community in the form of scholarships, essay contest winners, 4-H and FFA programs, library grants and local food pantries.

To sign up, visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/racine](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/racine) or contact Kelly Malchine at 262.895.7207 or 262.492.5925 (cell) or [kmalchine@tds.net](mailto:kmalchine@tds.net).

Time slots each day run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you and thank you in advance for your help.



## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you will join us for the upcoming meetings. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration in the WFBF Policy Book.

National resolutions are passed at the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Policy Development Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, Aug. 9

**Time:** 7 p.m.

**Location:** River City Lanes, 730 Cornerstone Crossing, Waterford

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 11

**Time:** 5:30 p.m. - Registration

6 p.m. - Dinner with business meeting to follow

**Location:** River City Lanes, 730 Cornerstone Crossing, Waterford

RSVPs are required, watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

For more information about meetings, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.

## Bowling Social Is a Success

By Judy Uhlenhake, Promotion and Education Committee Chair

On Feb. 18, members of Racine County Farm Bureau gathered for pizza, bowling and fun. This was a group of young and old who attended and enjoyed a fun night.

This event is held each year to bring our Farm Bureau families together.

## Nearly 300 Students Visit Farms

By Leah Weninger, Ag Ambassador

Did you know a cow drinks a bathtub FULL of water each day? Or that a baby calf weighs about 80 to 100 pounds when it's first born? These are just some things fourth-grade students learned down on the farm.

One-hundred and forty local students got to experience a farmer's daily life at Riverback Farms. Students got to see how cows get milked in the parlor, what it takes to care for newborn calves up to weaning, a daily life of a veterinarian, and how much goes into having a well-balanced diet for dairy cows. Some of the students were blown away by how much time goes into caring for the animals and the crops every day.



John Falk explained the milking parlor to the students.



The students loved petting the calves.

Thull Farms LLC hosted one-hundred and fifty local fourth grade students. Students there got to learn about soil conservation and how soil is so important for growing crops along with protecting our clean water supply. They also got to experience the advanced technology in the dairy industry with Lely milking robots. Fourth graders were amazed by how the robot can tell how each cow is different and just place the milking unit on all on its own. They also enjoyed the 3 baby farm kittens.

It is important for kids to get a hands-on experience of a dairy farm because it is completely different than reading it in a book or watching a video. They can interact with the animals and see firsthand what a farmer does each day.



Randy Thull talked about the calves on his farm.



Fourth-grade students tried to pet the cows.

## Member Attends IGNITE Conference

By George Muth, IGNITE Conference Attendee

The 2022 IGNITE Conference was held on Mar. 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point with more than 120 attendees. The purpose of IGNITE is to: Innovate. Grow. Network. Inform. Train. Engage. The conference definitely hit on all of them.

The opening speaker was a fellow farmer, Hank Wagner, who gave an inspiring speech on leadership and servanthood and the need to see the gifts in everyone.

As a first-time attendee, I had the choice of more than a dozen insightful and informational workshops to choose from within four areas of interest. Time slots allowed us to attend four workshops.

My takeaways from those I attended include:

- **Wisconsin Political Landscape:** Wisconsin is a swing state and indicators at this time point to a red wave for the midterms. Both parties will focus on Wisconsin for November elections.
- **Policy Development 101:** A great look at the efforts and involvement of

Farm Bureau on legislative issues facing agriculture. Farm Bureau carries a lot of credibility and has a voice that gets heard.

- **Creating a Working Relationship with Local Leaders:** Great panel discussion covering landowner issues. It's extremely important to know and work with your local officials. In the end, any new regulations/laws will affect you locally. Be involved.
- **2022 Economic Outlook:** Volatile times will continue for agriculture. There is short supply in cold storage and in most commodities. Global markets and war in Ukraine will continue to affect commodities and energy.

On Friday night, we enjoyed an Improv Comedy Show.

The conference ended with keynote speaker, Rick Metger, who explained the importance of drinking from the fountain of happiness, stealing some time to do an act of kindness, swearing to live life to the fullest and lying down at night to thank God for your freedoms and the many opportunities to follow your dreams.

## Essay Contest Winners Announced

By Mariann Gundrum, Essay Contest Chair

A favorite Wisconsin author of children's books, Cris Peterson, recently wrote the book, "Popcorn Country: The Story of America's Favorite Snack."

This educational and fun-to-read book was chosen as by the American Farm Bureau as its book of the year. The book was sent to Washington County Farm fourth-grade classrooms along with information about the 2022 essay contest that correlates with the book.

Washington County received nearly 75 entries from three schools. A first, second and third place winner were selected. This year, a new rubric was implemented as a judging tool.

Entries were judged on length (100- to 300-words), content, grammar/spelling and originality.

All entrants did an outstanding job.

The first-place winner was Kathryn Sorenson from Becky Shuett's class at Allenton Elementary in Allenton. Second place was received by Marianna Fazzari from Rebekah Becker's class at St. Augustine School in Colgate. Third place went to Amelia Segher from Mrs. Zarling's class at St. Francis Cabrini in West Bend.

The first-place winner received a cash award of \$75, second place winner received \$50 and third place, \$25. Each winner also received a copy of the book. All winners and their families are invited to attend the Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting in fall to read their essays to our members.

The essay contest continues to be a great learning tool for students as they study Wisconsin agriculture and its impact to our communities and economy.

## Farm Bureau Members Attend Ag Day at the Capitol

By Carl Wolf, Ag Day at the Capitol Attendee

I attended Ag Day at the Capitol on Jan. 26, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center. After a fabulous meal, the Farm Bureau staff presented the attendees what policies the staff has been working on with our partner members to prioritize what is left of the current legislative session.

Our governor also gave some remarks, too. The Farm Bureau and legislative office staff members are always helpful and enjoy talking with people about how to direct agricultural issues. I highly recommend attending Ag Day at the Capitol, so our message gets to our representatives to show what we do and how we do it.

After our briefing, our group walked to the Capitol and separated into several smaller groups to visit with our legislators or staff members. I met with both offices of Representative Timothy Ramthun (R-Campbellsport) and Senator Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville). Both offices were very receptive

to the issues of Farmer-Led Nitrate Reduction Initiatives, increased cover crop insurance rebates, Rural Well Compensation Grant Program Changes, Producer-Led Watershed Grant Program Changes. This expands eligibility for producer-led watershed grants to allow grants to be made to producer-led groups that are made up of farmers located in adjacent watersheds.

I think it's important to communicate with your elected representatives on a regular basis so they can hear what the wants and needs of the communities they represent, and especially agriculture.



Washington County member Carl Wolf and Ozaukee County member Bob Nash posed for a photo.

## Volunteers Needed for Fair Food Stand

By Mike Strupp, Fair Food Stand Co-Chair

It is time to start planning for the Washington County Fair, **Tuesday, July 26 through Sunday, July 31**. We need approximately 200 volunteers to work in the food stand. As you know, this is the biggest fundraiser for Washington County Farm Bureau. Money raised in the stand is used for scholarships and other programs.

Those who volunteer will receive a fair pass to get into the fair, along with a complimentary sandwich, dessert and beverage before or after the shift. You do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to work in the food stand.

If you know anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Mariann Gundrum at 262.483.5114. Confirmation letters and volunteer passes will be mailed in June to volunteers. Thank you for helping at this year's fair.

### Volunteer Times

#### Tuesday, July 26

3-7 p.m., 7 p.m.-close

#### Wednesday, July 27 | Thursday, July 28 | Friday, July 29 | Saturday, July 30

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 1:30-5 p.m., 5-8:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.-close

#### Sunday, July 31

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 1:30-5 p.m., 5-8:30 p.m., cleanup crew starts at 6:30 p.m.

## Three Scholarships Awarded

By Ken Falk, Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations to the 2022 Farm Bureau scholarship award recipients.

Each award recipient is entitled to \$750 after their fall semester and scholarship requirements are met.

- Rachel Etta graduated from Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School and will be attending Marquette University
- Kevin Falk graduated from Kewaskum High School and will be attending Moraine Park Technical College
- Eric Schmidt graduated from Hartford Union High School



Congratulations to the scholarship award recipients.

If you are a high school senior or college student looking for scholarships, watch your newsletter for next year's scholarship application due in April.

## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you will join us for the upcoming meetings. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF Policy Book.

National resolutions are passed at the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Policy Development Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 25

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with details. If you want to be on the ballot to be a delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting, you must attend either the county or district Policy Development Meeting.

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, Oct. 4

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

7 p.m. - Dinner with business meeting to follow

**Location:** The Columbian, 3245 Lighthouse Lane, West Bend

RSVPs are required, watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

For more information about meetings, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.

## SILO Viewing at Hartland Fire Department

By Jim Renn, Farm Bureau Vice President

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau, along with the Hartland Fire Department, hosted a viewing of the movie "Silo" for national bin safety week. In our more non-rural area, it was an eye-opening movie. We invited other area departments to join us and we hope to let them borrow the movie to view at the stations.



After the viewing, we had a question and answer session, followed by ice cream. Of course, we had popcorn during the movie. We don't have many bin rescues in our area, but we do have plenty of bins and silos. We need to be ready when called. Our hope was to bring awareness to the importance of these types of rescues. As a department, we hope to work on other trainings for when the call comes in. We also applied for a grant for a bin rescue sleeve that we hope to hear about later this year. Brittany Renn won the movie at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December of last year.

## YFA Spring Sendoff Event

By Brittany Renn, YFA Chair

The Waukesha County YFA held a Spring Sendoff, which included an afternoon of bowling and pizza. Dan Gerrits was the winner of the bowling game. Although none of our members could bowl a 300, it was a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



We look forward to holding more events in the future. If you have any questions or want to get involved, contact Brittany Renn at 414.801.4536.

## June 30 Deadline for Scholarships

By Ken Rosenow, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau will again offer scholarships to outstanding local students pursuing higher education in 2022. As we have done over the past several years, the Waukesha County Farm Bureau will award a number of scholarships for deserving college and technical school students. The number of scholarships and the value of each have varied over the last several years because of the generosity of Waukesha County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and the importance they place on the next generation. This year there will be \$500 and \$1,000 awards available.

Applicants must fill out an application, answer essay questions and provide a photo and two letters of recommendation by **June 30**. This deadline will not be extended. The application is available on the Waukesha County Farm Bureau website at [wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha) or contact Ken Rosenow at [ken@cedarhomefarms.com](mailto:ken@cedarhomefarms.com) or 262.227.6298.

Each year this scholarship program is becoming more popular, so be sure to submit your applications on time. We look forward to receiving many applications this year.

Reminder: Application deadline is **June 30**.

## IGNITE Conference Is a Spectacular Event

By Jay Moore, IGNITE Conference Attendee

The WFBF IGNITE Conference was held Mar. 25-26 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. IGNITE stands for Innovate. Grow. Network. Inform. Train. Engage. I will tell you firsthand it certainly did all of the above. WFBF Vice President Dave Daniels kicked us off with a pep talk and then we were off to the seminar of your choice. Many great topics were covered by terrific guest speakers. From political landscape to social media and the all-important economic outlook for us farmers.



Jay Moore picked from the treasure chest because he is an outstanding membership volunteer.

The attendees, ranged from college to young farmer enthusiasts to seasoned veteran Farm Bureau members, brought the energy, networking and fun to the entire event. Hats off to the Farm Bureau staff for putting on and running a spectacular conference. If there was a theme of IGNITE to be remembered, I believe it would be Wisconsin Farm Bureau LET'S GO. See you next year.



A few District 1 members joined together for a photo at the IGNITE Conference. Those pictured include (from left): Bob Nash, Jay Moore and Dave Daniels.

## Upcoming Meetings

We hope that you will join us for the upcoming meetings. Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting and passed on to the state level for potential consideration in the WFBF Policy Book. National resolutions are passed at the American Farm Bureau level.

### County Policy Development Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, Aug. 18

**Time:** 7p.m.

### County Annual Meeting

**Date:** Sunday, Sept. 11

**Location:** Delafield Brewhaus, 3832 Hillside Drive, Delafield

RSVPs are required. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

For more information, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.



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