

Grassroots

District 2 News

District 2 Director Report



Arch Morton Jr.

WFBF District 2 Director

Hello, again fellow Farm Bureau members. I hope that you are having a great fall season.

It was nice to see many of you at your county annual meetings in August and September. All six of them were very well planned and interesting. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to attend and participate in all of them.

One of the things that I talked about at the county annual meetings is the Candidate Training Program that WFBF will be hosting. I want to mention this again for the benefit of those of you that weren't able to attend and as a reminder.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau will host this training at the office in Madison. It will be taught by staff members of American Farm Bureau. This will be conducted in September of 2023. Twenty-five candidates, along with their spouse and a campaign manager, for a total of 75 people, will be able to participate. This will be a one-and-a-half-day program. It will be geared towards members who are running for anywhere from local to state offices.

We need more of you who understand agriculture to be involved with town and county boards, and other elected offices such as our Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate. I hope you will consider running and applying for this program.

Have a safe and successful harvest season.

Looking Ahead with Promotion and Education



Kari Schoenike

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee,
District 2 Representative

In June 2022, the Promotion and Education Committee convened for our summer meeting.

We used this opportunity to learn from Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin about consumer insights and how the committee can best spend its time and efforts reaching consumers.

As a result of our training, the committee is working on a Faces of Farming video series to feature farmers and agriculturists from across each district. The video series will be released across WFBF social media platforms and used in additional promotional initiatives.

The Promotion and Education Committee has been hard at work planning the 2023 Ag LEAD Summit. This event is focused on promoting leadership, engagement, advocacy and development to Farm Bureau members as well as agriculture enthusiasts and supporters.

The 2023 Ag LEAD Summit will be hosted in Fond du Lac and will feature powerful speakers, engaging sessions and networking opportunities.

Planning also has begun for the Promotion and Education activity stage at the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting. Make sure to stop by.

Stay tuned for upcoming District 2 Promotion and Education Committee events including a Commodity 5K, an education series, and more.

I look forward to continuing to serve District 2 and connecting with the Farm Bureau members of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk counties.

Farm Bureau Members Engage in Policy Discussion



Members discussed timely ag issues and policy resolutions during the District 2 Policy Development meeting held on Aug. 1 at Verona Town Hall.

**LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE...
MEMBERSHIP EDITION**

IT TAKES A TEAM!

"It Takes a Team" is the theme for the membership year 2022-2023. This year's membership campaign is putting districts against each other head-to-head to see who can hit their membership goals.

Introducing the District 2 membership mascot:

YFA Contests, Twilight Barn Bash and Conference to Engage Members



Kat and Brady Peper

WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee,
District 2 Representatives

Twilight Barn Bash

A new district event that we hosted this year on Sept. 10 is the Twilight Barn Bash. We enjoyed hosting a fun night with other farming friends before

we got knee deep into harvest season.

Everyone was asked to bring a frozen pizza that we baked for supper, and The Farmer Angel Network provided ice cream for dessert. A great time was had by all visiting and playing games.

We want to thank the following companies for sponsoring the Twilight Barn Bash: Compeer Financial, WCCU, Schwarz Insurance, Lime Ridge Ag Supply, Rural Mutual agent Jared Nelson, Agrigold and Sunrise Veterinary Services.

YFA Contests and Awards

We held our district Discussion Meet on Aug. 1 in conjunction with the district Policy Development meeting. We had five members compete

in a great discussion on member engagement. Congratulations to Sarah Hetke, Erin O'Toole and Brooke Trustem who will be moving on to the state competition in December.

We also had two YFA members selected as finalists for the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award, Julie Sweeney and Amy Silver. District 2 will be very well represented at the YFA Conference. This year, the YFA Committee launched a new YFA award, 35 under 35 award. Kat served on the subcommittee for this new award, and we look forward to honoring these folks at the YFA Conference in December.

YFA Conference

Speaking of the YFA conference, we hope to see you there. We worked hard on the entertainment, workshops and speakers. Friday night is 'Thrifty Shop' theme where we hope to see your best thrift shop outfits while we dance to Dueling Pianos. There are some great workshops from line dancing to diversified crops. Braxton Neilson is our keynote speaker, and trust us, you do not want to miss his speech.

We have really enjoyed getting out into all the counties in District 2 for your annual meetings and meeting many new people.

Please contact us at any time with ideas of events and things you want to see in our district.



District 2 Twilight Barn Bash



District 2 YFA held a Twilight Barn Bash on September 10 at Granite Hills Farm LLC.



Twilight Barn Bash participants baked frozen pizzas for supper. The Farmer Angel Network provided ice cream for dessert.



There were five participants in the District 2 YFA Discussion Meet contest held on Aug. 1 at the Verona Town Hall. Front row (from left): Sarah Hetke (Sauk County), Erin O'Toole (Dodge County), Brooke Trustem (Rock County); back row (from left): Logan Frei (Rock County) and Josh Gerbitz (Dodge County). Sarah, Erin and Brooke were selected to represent District 2 in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau YFA Discussion Meet in December.



Discussion Meet participants discussed the topic: 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?

District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser

By Sam Skemp, District 2 Golf Outing Chair

I want to take this opportunity to give you an update on the outcome of our District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser for this past year.

Before I get into the details of our activities, I want to remind you how the funds are used.

The profits from this fundraiser are divided up between the District 2 counties based on their participation in the event. For the most part the funds raised are used for: college student scholarships, Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program, materials for our farm safety demonstrations, agriculture promotions, legislative and local affairs committee activities and more.

The event took place on Aug. 9 at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. The weather was perfect for a golf outing, and everyone enjoyed the day.

The activities for the day included: hole in one prizes, hole events, 50/50 raffle, silent auction prizes, ball toss and a putting contest.

The outing was a best ball event with a lunch served on the course followed by a buffet of snacks during the program, which followed the golf.

We raised more than \$8,000 dollars at this event. As stated earlier, the funds are divided up based on county participation.

The District 2 fundraising committee wants to thank those who participated in our fundraising event. Whether it was helping with the events, contributing prizes for the raffles and silent auctions or being a hole or lunch sponsor, we couldn't have accomplished everything without your support.

One last thing, make sure you keep an eye out for details on next year's event. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Rural Mutual Insurance Company representatives enjoyed supporting the 50/50 raffle.



The District 2 golf outing fundraiser was held on Aug. 9 at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove.



Golfers participated in the putting contest.



Sam Skemp, golf outing chair, thanked sponsors for their support.



The silent auction helped raise funds that go directly back to each county Farm Bureau to support local programs and sponsorships.



This year's winning team includes Sauk County Rural Agents: Madeline Pulsfus, Daryl Pulsfus, Darrin Pulsfus and Ashley McNeely.

WFBF Leadership Institute Capstone Trip to Washington, D.C.

In June, WFBF members and staff were in Washington, D.C., representing Wisconsin farmers. The trip marked the completion of the WFBF Leadership Institute, a year-long leadership training program available to Farm Bureau members. Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation on June 8. The issues discussed were dairy labeling legislation, the harmful impacts of an agency rule and thanked the federal delegation for the work to protect mink farming and delist wolves in Wisconsin.

"Participating in the Leadership Institute has given me the opportunity to expand my personal and professional abilities," said Rock County Farm Bureau member Logan Frei. "It has opened doors like this opportunity to come to D.C. to speak with legislators on agriculture issues and build my confidence in continuing to be an advocate for agriculture."

In addition to meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation, Farm Bureau members also toured Arlington National Cemetery, George Washington's Mount Vernon and enjoyed a night tour of the national monuments.



Kevin Krentz (WFBF President), Kat Peper (Sauk County), Logan Frei (Rock County), Mark Pocan (Congressman Wisconsin District 2), Tess Zettle (Green County) and Arch Morton Jr. (WFBF District 2 Director) discussed issues facing agriculture.



A Message From The President



Tom Jelinek

Dane County Farm Bureau
President

As fall approaches and we in the agricultural community get ready to harvest the fruits of our labors, we need to be very thankful for our health and safety.

As the growing season is coming to a close, we can be very thankful for all the blessings that we do enjoy.

I believe that it would be good for all of us to reflect and be grateful.

This past year has been quite challenging as we are adjusting to a (hopefully) post COVID era.

Dane County Farm Bureau hosted several events such as YFA, the winter meeting and the District 2 Golf Outing.

Thank you to those who attended these events and helped at them.

Thank you to Nicole Hibbard and Caleb Karls for their years of service to Dane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.

Oregon Safety Day

By Mike Duerst, Safety Committee Chair

Oregon fire and EMS put on a safety day at the fire station on May 7.

Dane County Farm Bureau took its farm display for kids to look at. This became the most popular safety thing there when we turned it into a toy box for the kids to play in. It was great fun.



Ag in the Classroom

By Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Chair

A New Logo

Dane County Farm Bureau has a new logo thanks to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom! Watch for it as we share lesson plans, go to events and activities and promote our essay contest.



Weekly Facebook Posts

In October, we will be starting a new series of weekly posts and phasing out the Monday Markets, Working Wednesdays and Farm Fact Fridays. We will focus on the new essay contest, curriculum and lesson plans and teacher resources.

Book of the Year and Essay Contest

I scream, you scream, we all scream for the 2022 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year ... "Tales of the Dairy Godmother - Chuck's Ice Cream Wish." Learn what happens when a young boy meets his Dairy Godmother and wishes for all the ice cream he could eat ... grab a copy and a spoon and dig into a dairy-good tale and discover what exactly goes into a scoop of ice cream. "You're Gonna Need Milk for That - Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." The 2023 fourth- and fifth-grade essay contest writing prompt will honor our state's largest agriculture industry - dairy.

Essay entries are due April 1, 2023. As details about the state's contest come out, we will send information to county teachers about our county contest, ways to obtain the new book and upcoming events. Please share Ag in the Classroom information with your teacher friends and encourage them to contact me at Arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608.873.7209.

YFA Trivia Nights

By Kadence Walsh, Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

It's been a bit of a slow start trying to get the Dane County YFA program built up over the last few years, but we're working on it.

Last fall, we planned to team up with Columbia County YFA for a fun family night at Treinen Farm, but the weather had other plans; we ended up having a relaxed evening networking and watching the Packer's at KD's Bar and Grill in Lodi. Over the winter, several members and other interested individuals got together at Mr. Brews in Waunakee for some friendly competition at Trivia Night. Finally, in the spring, members got together for a tour of J. Henry & Sons distillery. As a district, the YFA chairs are sharing events with each other for better promotion and opportunity for members from the whole district to attend county events.

It has been a great network of individuals, sharing ideas and helping spread the word about events. Looking forward to next year, I'm hoping to have more regular trivia nights at Mr. Brews in Waunakee the first Tuesday of every month. Hopefully the consistent schedule and relaxed agenda will bring more members to the event.

In addition, I'm excited to plan other events focused on Wisconsin agriculture, networking, leadership development and fun with the Dane County YFA members. As always, you can stay up to date by liking the 'Dane County Farm Bureau & YFAs' Facebook page.

Meet: Heidi Smith, New YFA Chair



Hi. My name is Heidi Smith, and I'm a credit officer at Compeer Financial. Although not from a farm background, my passion for agriculture has grown through organizations such as FFA, Collegiate Farm Bureau and others. After graduation from UW-Platteville, I served as the Randolph County Farm Bureau manager in Illinois prior to my employment with Compeer. I'm excited to serve as the new YFA Chair as I enjoy Farm Bureau, the ability to network with others and the learning and development opportunities while advocating for the industry I'm passionate about.

County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

By Scott Eastwood, County Annual Meeting Co-Chair

On Sept. 8, the Dane County Farm Bureau hosted its county annual meeting at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. Attendance was up significantly from last year with 68 total people in attendance, 37 of which are voting members.

Jeremy Skemp and Sam Skemp were reelected as board directors. Caleb Karls has chosen to not seek re-election; we want to thank him for his efforts as a board member, particularly as it relates to our Ag in the Classroom program. In Caleb's place, Kadence Walsh joins the board as a director. Heidi Smith was elected to serve as our new Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) chair.

Nine delegates and two alternates were selected to represent Dane

County at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Those in attendance also were treated to a group of excellent presenters. Taylor Schaefer, our 75th Alice in Dairyland, discussed her experiences promoting agriculture throughout Wisconsin. Our keynote speaker was Chuck Spencer, executive director of government relations for GROWMARK, Inc. Chuck gave an engaging talk about the growth of the GROWMARK system as well as key political issues to be aware of in the upcoming election.

Finally, Rochelle Ripp Schnadt, agricultural marketing professional at C.O.nxt as well as a local farmer and voice for the agricultural community served as emcee for the evening.

This free member event is one of the many reasons to join the Farm Bureau. Thank you to our speakers and those in attendance.



Members support Dane County Farm Bureau through the silent auction and 50/50 raffle.



Ashlyn Sarbacker received her scholarship certificate from President Tom Jelinek.



Dorothy Deans received her scholarship certificate from president Tom Jelinek.



Taylor Schaefer, our 75th Alice in Dairyland, shared her experiences promoting agriculture.



Rochelle Ripp Schnadt served as emcee for the evening.



Members enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new friends.



The Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on Sept. 8 at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.

Promotion and Education Celebrates Agriculture

By Sarah Shimshak and Lindsey Tjugum, Promotion and Education Co-Chairs

This summer the Promotion and Education Committee was busy meeting consumers at several events. To kick off the summer and celebrate National Dairy Month, we attended the Dane County Breakfast on the Farm at Haag Dairy where we interacted with visitors by testing their agriculture trivia with the 'dairy dice.' We also handed out goodie bags with fun and educational activities for children to take home.

In July, we attended the Dane County Fair, where we sponsored the Learning Lanes and exhibitor educational grants. We awarded a group of 4-Hers from the Waunakee Whirlwinds money to create an educational display for their poultry exhibit. We also hosted a scavenger hunt with questions from this display and others, with a sweet reward of a cream puff or cheese curds, graciously sponsored by the Stoughton FFA Alumni.

Earlier in July, committee members also were active at the Lodi Ag Fair, volunteering around the fair and organizing the Barnyard Babies tent.

4-H Key Award Presentation



On July 24, Mike Duerst, Dane County Farm Bureau Board Director, presented a Dane County 4-H Key Award to Mary Jane Bauer during the Dane County Fair.

Green County

A Message From The President



Josh Schenk

Green County Farm Bureau President

Green County Farm Bureau had a great year promoting and supporting agriculture! Young Farmers & Agriculturists held their annual cookout and bags tournament that was an entertaining evening of networking and getting to know other young agriculturists in Green

County. The Promotion & Education committee had another great year of participation in elementary age coloring and essays contests, Rural Safety Day, and Family Farm Adventure Tent at Cheese Days in Monroe. We supported various 4-H youth and showman awards at the Green

County Fair as well as continued sponsorship of the livestock pavilion and many other 4-H and FFA programs throughout the year. These programs are supported by membership and multiple fundraising events: UTV Ride, District 2 Golf Outing and Cheese Days fundraisers. Green County remains active within Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation with many members attending Leadership Institute and competing in state YFA competitions. Green County Farm Bureau is a great organization, and much thanks goes to individual and business sponsors as well as Insight FS and Rural Mutual Insurance Company for their continued support. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a Farm Bureau member you can help them join easily on the WFBF website. We look forward to another great year in 2023 and wish all of you a happy holiday season of spending time with friends and family

UTV Ride Raises Nearly \$500

By Dustin Williams, UTV Event Committee Co-Chair

Green County Farm Bureau members organized a UTV ride on June 11. The ride started at the Green County Farmstand at 11 a.m. The Farmstand is owned and operated by Farm Bureau member Scott Timm.

The route included parts of the Cheese Country Trail and some of the township and county roads in Lafayette County. The ride went through Monroe, Browntown, South Wayne, Argyle, Wiota and Blanchardville. Participants were provided a delicious box lunch at The Vault in South Wayne. The ride then proceeded to the Cork Down Saloon in Blanchardville.

Almost 20 people enjoyed a beautiful day exploring the trails and rural

roads of Lafayette County, including a stroll through Yellowstone State Park. This fundraiser helped Green County Farm Bureau raise almost \$500 to promote youth programs and involvement in FFA Farm Forum.

During the event, participants were encouraged to take in the sights and sounds and participate in the Green County Farm Bureau selfie contest. Riders were asked to post pictures with cheese factories, breweries, vineyards, farm animals, tractors and equipment. Congratulations to Dustin Williams, winner of the scavenger hunt and the travel cooler. Congratulations to Alissa Grenawalt the winner of the photo contest and the \$50 gas card. Clarice Green was the winner of the 50/50 raffle.

We are planning a fall 2023 UTV Fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023. Please mark your calendars and save the date.



On a Wisconsin Farm Author Speaks at Annual Meeting

By Josh Schenk, County Farm Bureau President

Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held Aug. 31 at Koning Maple Lane Event Center in Monroe. More than 50 members and guests enjoyed an evening together supporting Farm Bureau. Retiring directors Scott Timm, Chelsey Simler and Alissa Grenawalt were recognized for their commitment and service to the organization; thank you to each of them. Erin Mullett, Aleron Wasserstrass, Josh Schenk and Eric Wuthric were elected to serve a three-year term as board directors and Tess Zettle was appointed to serve a one-year term as Promotion and Education Chair.

Each year we recognize members of the community who have shown exemplary support for agriculture in Green County. This year's Friends of

Agriculture Award was presented to Dave and Rena Koning for their years of support to the Green County Fair Furr and Feather, Meat Animal and Cheese auctions, Green County Beef Producers and their many years of involvement supporting agriculture in Green County.

Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman, president of Holstein USA and author, gave a memorable presentation about current events in dairy and short stories from his book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."

Thank you to those who bid on silent auction items throughout the evening to support youth and ag programs in Green County and to guests representing Rural Mutual Insurance, Insight FS and many other Green County businesses who support Green County Farm Bureau.



The Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held Aug. 31 at Koning Maple Lane Event Center in Monroe.



Corey Geiger talked with members during his book sale and signing following the meeting.



Dave and Rena Koning were presented with the Friend of Agriculture Award.



Members supported Green County Farm Bureau through the silent auction.



Alissa Grenawalt, Chelsey Simler and Scott Timm were recognized for their years of services to the Green County Farm Bureau board of directors. Also pictured are President Josh Schenk (far right) and Vice President Paige Blair (far left).



Meet: Derek and Kristin Luchsinger

By Amy Silver, County Farm Bureau Vice President

Derek and Kristin Luchsinger, along with their three kids Colt, Jase and Hazel farm near Monticello. Derek focuses on their crops while Kristin enjoys managing their cow/calf operation and raising Holstein bull calves as feeders. Aside from their own farm, Derek works for Valley Mead Farm as the crops manager. Their favorite thing about farming is that although agriculture is progressing with technology advances, the root of what all farmers do has not changed over generations. They have been Farm Bureau members for about ten years and enjoy the opportunities/resources that Green County provides in agriculture.

If you would like to be featured in an upcoming issue or would like to nominate a Farm Bureau member, please contact Amy Silver at amy@silver@gmail.com.



Derek and Kristin Luchsinger with their kids Colt, Jase and Hazel.

Celebrating Cheese Days

By Alissa Grenawalt, Family Farm Adventure Chair

Green County Farm Bureau was once again held the Family Farm Adventure tent at Green County Cheese Days that was held in Monroe, Sept. 16-18.

The tent was located in the northeast corner of the square had a number of activity stations that included: Milking a cow, dairy trivia, corn box, coloring/tattoo station and Green County photo contest. The tent was a great way to educate festival goers about the Green County dairy industry as well as the impact agriculture has to everyone.

Thank you to the Dane County Ag Teachers for the use of the cow,

Blains Farm and Fleet for the corn donation, Maple Leaf Cheese for the donation of cheese sticks, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin for the give aways, Silver Dairy and Jim Gempler for the feeds for the feed display, Blackhawk Technical College and Green County 4-H for their involvement and to everyone who worked in the tent or help set up. Many hands make light work and it was exciting to see the festival in action once again after a four-year break.

Green County Farm Bureau will be looking for volunteers to assist with the planning for the 2024 Cheese Days event. If you want to learn more or join the committee, contact Alissa Grenawalt at alissagrenawalt@hotmail.com.



YFA Bean Bag Night

By Erin Mullett, YFA Chair

On July 26, Green County Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturalist (YFA) committee hosted a bean bag tournament for current and prospective members. Attendees enjoyed a meal of brats, burgers and Scott Timm's very own sweet corn. Attendees had a great time networking and learned about opportunities within Green County Farm Bureau and the YFA program.

Kwik Trip gift cards were awarded to the winning team. Thank you to Josh Schenk for the burger donation, Scott Timm for grilling, donating sweet corn and providing the facilities to host the event and the YFA Committee for making this event possible. We look forward to repeating this event in the summer of 2023.

Thank you to those who participated in YFA events throughout the 2021-2022 year. The Green County Farm Bureau YFA Committee looks forward to planning more events throughout this coming year.



Focus on Farm and Tractor Safety

By Dustin Williams, Safety Committee Chair

Farm and Tractor Safety has always been a focus of the educational efforts of Green County Farm Bureau. There are a number of programs that have been implemented including Tractor Safety. That is evident in the addition of the very successful Rural Safety Day event geared towards fifth-grade students.

For a long time, the Wisconsin and National Tractor Safety Certification was taught through the collaborative efforts of local high school instructors, Green County Farm Bureau, UW Extension staff and Blackhawk Technical College staff. Thanks to those who helped teach that over the years.

In 2021, Blackhawk Technical College took on the opportunity to start offering the Purdue University Safety Training at the Monroe location of Blackhawk Technical College.

I worked with Cheryl Skjolaas, Wisconsin Farm Safety Director, and Alissa Grenawalt-Dane County Ag in the Classroom, to put together a hybrid model of instruction. Students attend 15 nightly one-hour zoom sessions and four face-to-face sessions to practice and complete their tractor driving test. The course consists of more than 24 hours of instruction and meets the federal and state requirements for Tractor Safety Certification. In 2021, there were 16 students who participated and in 2022, 20 students. Students were 12 to 15 years of age and traveled from Rock, Green, Dane, Walworth, Lafayette and Dodge counties.

Blackhawk Technical College also offers a full three credit course in ag equipment safety and operations as a required class in the two-year agribusiness/science and technology associate degree program. This course is designed for students 18 years and older. It covers all aspects of farm safety and includes a tractor driving and equipment safety section as well.

Farm Bureau continues to support these programs and offers assistance as needed.

UW Extension gifted 2022 graduates with first aid kits to take home to their own farms.

Farm Safety is an integral part of our industry. Green County Farm Bureau continues to advocate and promote farm safety in all programming.

If you have questions about the Tractor Safety Training offered at Blackhawk Technical College, please contact me at 608.329.8210 or dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu.

County Farm Bureau Hosts Rural Safety Day

By Carmen Montgomery, Rural Safety Day Committee Chair

The Green County Farm Bureau hosted the fourth annual Rural Safety Day for fifth-grade students in Green County on Sept. 28. The day consisted of six elementary schools and more than 240 students, teachers and chaperones for the event. Students rotated to a total of 11 stations through the day at the Green County Fairgrounds. Those stations included: tractor rollover, social media safety, fire, trailer, EMS, PTO, ATV, seat belt, electrical, vaping and animal safety.

The day started out with a demonstration from the Monroe Police Department K9 Unit. Throughout the stations, students put out a fire

with a fire extinguisher, watched what happens in a rollover situation if you're not using your seat belt and how to stay safe using social media platforms to name a few.

This idea was formed in 2017, when the Green County Farm Bureau Board decided that there was a need for students to learn about how to stay safe in rural areas. Besides a two-year break due to COVID, the event has taken place every fall, typically during the Farm Safety Week. Green County is fortunate to have area businesses that are willing to contribute either by giving a financial donation or by volunteering to teach a station at this event. The list of the 2022 sponsors is listed below.

A-1 Electric, Inc
Alliant Energy
Badger State Ethanol
Bank of Brodhead
BTC Professional Agricultural Students
Compeer Financial
Culver's of Monroe

Dubuque Fire Equipment & Monroe Fire & Safety
Eastland Feed and Grain Inc
Foreign Type Cheesemaker's Association
Green County Ag Chest
Green County ATV Club
Green County Beef Producers

Green County EMS
Green County Health Department
Green County Sheriff's Department
Hennessy Implement, Inc.
IBA Fahrney, Inc.
Jed Kempel
Johnson Tractor

Klondike Cheese Company
Larse Trucking LLC
Monroe Police Department
Schultz's Inter-State Ag, Inc.
State Bank of Cross Plains
Stateline Farm Rescue
The Bank of New Glarus
Woodford State Bank



Contest Winners Recognized

By Tess Zettle, Essay Contest Chair

This year, Green County Farm Bureau received 60 essays to be judged.

This year's winners included: First place: Autymn Norton from Juda School; second place: Elena Boss from St. Victor, Monroe; and third place: Harper Hartwig from Monticello Elementary.

Autymn's essay also was selected as the District 2 winner.

We had a coloring contest. We received 37 entries. This year's winners included: First place: Olivia Sorenson from New Glarus Elementary; second place: London Trimble from Northside Elementary, Monroe; and third place: Alexis Speer from St. Victor, Monroe.



Autymn Norton read her first-place winning essay during the Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Autymn Norton from Juda School was the first-place essay contest winner. She also was selected as the Wisconsin Farm Bureau District 2 winner.



Autymn Norton received her plaque as the first-place essay contest winner. Olivia Sorenson and London Trimble shared their winning coloring contest pages. Tess Zettle, Green County Farm Bureau board director, and Rural Mutual Agent Craig Kamholz helped sponsor the contests.

Local Author, Editor Entertains at Annual Meeting

By Mary Hookham, County Annual Meeting Committee Chair

This year's Rock County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at the Barn on Prairie, Janesville, on Sept. 26. Of the 50 people in attendance, 27 were voting members.

President Jill Uhe recognized Vaughn and Judy Johnson with the Distinguished Service Award; Friend of the Farm Bureau Award was given to Footville Church of Christ and Trailblazer Award was given to Brooke Trustem.

Brooke Trustem will continue to serve as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair. The board had four open seats to fill this year. Tim Wellnitz was up for re-election and Robb Leach also was nominated to fill a seat. Nominations from the floor on annual meeting night included Kenny Ballmer and John McCarthy. These folks were elected for a three-year term on the board of directors. WFBF Annual Meeting delegates include Jacob Bobolz, Logan Frei, Emily DeLong, Jill Uhe and Tim Wellnitz. Alternates: Steve Earleywine and Brooke Trustem.

Thank you to our volunteers in Rock County. Farm Bureau is a very important organization for farmers, and we are grateful for your

willingness to participate.

The county proposed three policy resolutions for members to vote on this year: 1. We support aboveground farm fuel storage tanks being regulated by DATCP. All aboveground farm fuel storage tanks less than 5,000 gallons shall be exempt from regulation, including inspection, plan review and professional installation requirements; 2. We oppose using government subsidies, tax incentives and credits for solar energy where it restricts production agriculture; and 3. We support research on the economic viability of alternative energy sources.

The first resolution is categorized under General Government – DATCP while the other two are under the Energy – Alternative Sources section of our state policy book. All resolutions passed.

After handling essential business, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman and local author Corey Geiger shared trends in the dairy industry and then dazzled the crowd with tidbits from his book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."

Rock County Farm Bureau wants to thank the county annual meeting sponsor: George Auction Service & Real Estate, LLC.



Jill Uhe presented the Trailblazer Award to Brooke Trustem. This award is to recognize a member who has helped inspire other members and introduce new programs.



Jill Uhe presented the Friend of Farm Bureau award to Footville Church of Christ. This award is to recognize a person or business who has gone above and beyond the call of duty.



Jill Uhe presented the Distinguished Service Award to Vaughn and Judy Johnson. This award is to recognize a person who has given a lifetime of service to the organization.



Rock County Farm Bureau board of directors, front row (from left): John McCarthy, Jill Uhe, Mary Hookham and Brooke Trustem; back row (from left): Kenny Ballmer, Tim Wellnitz, Josh Peterson, Jason Bender and Kirk Leach; not pictured: Emily DeLong, Robb Leach, Derek Leckwee and Josh Speich.



Dan Merk, Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on Rural Mutual as a whole across Wisconsin.



Logan Frei, Steve Earleywine and Jacob Bobolz were recognized for their years of service to the board of directors.



Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman, president of Holstein USA and author, gave a memorable presentation about events in dairy and short stories from his book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."



Kevin Krentz, Wisconsin Farm Bureau President, reported on the WFB Foundation, national dairy discussions and encouraged members to vote.

Ballmer, Leach and McCarthy Join the Board of Directors



Kenny Ballmer: I'm Kenny Ballmer and I live on my family's farm in Janesville. I work at The DeLong Company in Janesville as an applicator. I'm looking forward to meeting more people involved in agriculture around the county and getting more involved in the Rock County Farm Bureau.



Robb Leach: I grew up on a grain farm in the Town of Harmony, Rock County. I have been active in agriculture my entire life, no matter where I was living. As a kid I was a member of the Harmony 4-H club where I showed corn, soybeans, pigs and sheep. I also spent plenty of time riding along and then driving tractors on the farm whenever my dad had a job for me. I earned a bachelor's degree in agri-business from

UW-Platteville. My time at UW-Platteville gave me the opportunity to get a second degree in the Netherlands. This opportunity led to my first job off the farm at a company that designed, built and consulted on biogas digesters for dairy farms and other businesses.

Part of my experience on the farm was living through the city annexing my home farm and my family negotiating its sale to the city. This made a big impression on me and made me want to go to law school. After getting my law degree I have worked in rural communities and with farm clients on issues ranging from real estate matters to transitioning the farm to the next generation. Now that I am living in Rock County again, I help on my family's farm whenever I can. Now, that my son is a "4 and a half," as he puts it, I'm including him in as much as I can on the farm. I think he's liking it, too, as he often says he either wants to be a farmer or a policeman. In a few years my 10-month-old daughter will get her turn.



John McCarthy: Hello, I'm John McCarthy. I live west of Beloit with my wife Briana of 20 years and our two sons Paul and Ryan. They go to school at Parkview Junior/High school in Orfordville. Paul will be graduating and is undecided as to where he will go to college. Ryan is in eighth grade. We custom raise a few pigs for freezer meat and have some chickens. I farm some rented ground and do

some custom work. My hobbies include collecting antique tractors and cars, I also enjoy fishing and deer hunting with my boys. I truly enjoy the time spent with them even if we don't see anything. They have done very well hunting because their first deer was a buck when they started hunting.

I'm originally from Big Bend, which is in Waukesha County. I was raised on a small farm there with my older brother and two younger sisters. My brother and I still run the land, which gives us the chance to use the machinery we grew up with. I graduated from Mukwonago High school and went on to the Farm and Industry Short Course. I transferred to UW-Madison and earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy in 1998. My first job after college was at Kaltenberg's Seeds in Waunakee, then I moved to Illinois to work at AgriGold. I was a field representative managing seed production in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. I also got to help with research in Puerto Rico, which was an interesting way to see how they farm on an island. After my son was born, we moved back to Wisconsin and I worked at the DeLong Company managing a location. I had the opportunity to get back to seed production so I went to Hartung Brothers. I managed the Janesville production area and oversaw the conditioning/treating at the Fitchburg facility for 14 years. Recently, I accepted the role of district sales manager for AgriGold covering southeast Wisconsin. I am passionate about agriculture and want to do my part to strengthen it and to protect its future. I look forward to meeting everyone.

Fall Candidate Forum Held

By Emily DeLong, Committee Member

With the general election coming up on Nov. 8, Rock County Farm Bureau and the Ag Business Council of Rock County decided once again to host the Fall Candidate Forum.

The event took place on Sept. 14 at the Hughes Barn in Janesville. Candidates from Governor, 1st and 2nd Congressional District, U.S. Senate, State Senate (Districts 11 and 15) as well as State Assembly (Districts 31, 33, 43, and 45) were invited to attend.

We had a great turnout with representation from Senate and Assembly candidates. A light dinner was served. Followed by questions to the panel of candidates on road construction and repair, Dairy Siting legislation, how to achieve bipartisanship, rural school funding, rural broadband access, solar farms and water quality.

After dinner and the panel ended, many of the farmers and candidates continued to mingle and discuss the issues important to them.

Thank you to the Hughes family for hosting and to the Ag Business Council for partnership in a successful event.



Fair Food Stand Thankful for Volunteers

By Ed Hookham, Food Stand Chair

Thanks to our volunteers. Without you, we could not function. I like the way we pay volunteer groups to run a shift.

It's a wonderful way to make a little cash and yes, those payments should be out already. Please let other groups know we will welcome more volunteers.

We had a good year, and these numbers are approximate. If you have more questions, I will do my best to answer them.

Income of \$49,650 and expenses of \$36,900. That represents about 5,100 burgers and 800 steaks and who knows how many milkshakes.

I'm looking forward to next year with you. Thanks again.



Larson Acres Hosts Focus on Ag

By Brooke Trustem, YFA Chair

In June, Rock County Farm Bureau hosted its Focus in Ag event at Larson Acres. Candidates running for office were invited to attend and learn more about the agriculture industry.

Rock County YFA chair Brooke Trustem gave



Keith Ripp, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Executive Director of Governmental Relations, spoke about hot topics in agriculture.

the tour of her family's sixth generation dairy farm. Larson Acres milks 2,400 cows and runs a total of 5,500 acres in Evansville, Wisconsin.

Following the tour, was dinner with several speakers. Kirk Leach served as emcee while Doug Rebout from the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association, Willie Hughes from the



In June, Rock County Farm Bureau hosted its Focus in Ag event at Larson Acres. Candidates running for office were invited to attend and learn more about the agriculture industry.

Farmers on the Rock and Keith Ripp spoke.

Finally, the night concluded with a Next Generation panel consisting of Brooke Trustem, Sandy Larson, and Willie Hughes. They discussed how their respective farms have handled succession planning and getting the next generation involved.



The night concluded with a Next Generation panel consisting of Brooke Trustem, Sandy Larson and Willie Hughes.

A Message From the President

Mike Turner

Sauk County Farm Bureau President



We had a great year in our county dealing with Chapter 26. The Land Resources department really pulled back on what they were pushing through.

With that being said, we're still hearing of farmers having issues with the department.

Calls have come in with landowners getting citations for pits when they either don't use them or rent the property to another farmer.

If you have had a problem with this, please let the board of directors know.

This year has been very trying for some people, whether it be a fire like in my case or just keeping things going. As farmers this business is tough, but with support for one another in the community we can all get through it.

Too many times I have seen people get kicked when they are already down. We don't need that. Remember that it takes all of us to feed the world.

I want to thank our county Farm Bureau board for its work this year and I look forward to working with the board members this next year.

I wish a safe fall and harvest to everyone.

Meet: Austin Sandmire, New Board Director



Austin grew up on his family's farm in North Freedom, where his family owned a cash cropping business and an equine breeding program. After graduating from Sauk Prairie High School, Austin attended UW-River Falls where he earned a bachelor's degree in ag business. Austin works for Doctors Choice Supplements in Sauk City as a companion animal nutritionist, specializing in equine and canine nutrition.

Austin and his wife Katie enjoy running their own farm, Twisted S Ranch, where they have a cash crop rotation along with raising top quality registered shorthorn cattle.

Fair Food Stand Is Successful

By Brady Peper, County Fair Food Stand Chair



Hello, my name is Brady Peper, and I stepped up into overseeing the Sauk County Farm Bureau food stand at the Sauk County Fair. With this being Sauk County Farm Bureau's largest fundraiser of the year, I'm happy to say we once again had a very successful year. We use these funds to help support many ag-related events in our community and schools along with giving out scholarships.

First, I want to thank the volunteers for helping make this year another success. We really appreciate your help and cannot do it without you.

Secondly, thank you to the board members who ran their shifts and helped with the clean-up after the fair was over. We are very fortunate to have the facility we do. To be able to keep it in tip top shape is not a small task, but we got the job done.

Last but certainly not least, I want to thank Karen Reisinger for her years of dedication running the food stand. One cannot truly appreciate the amount of work that she has put into this over the years until you try to fill her shoes. I hope everyone involved had fun, and I hope to see you again next year.

Sauk County Farm Bureau 2022 Annual Meeting

By Tommy Brennan, County Annual Meeting Co-Chair

The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Sauk County Farm Bureau was held on Aug. 25 at Granite Hills Farm LLC, Rock Springs, owned by Kat and Brady Peper.

It was a beautiful evening to host the catered delicious meal and enjoy the informative talk given by Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman, President of Holstein USA and author.

Corey shared great short stories from his book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."

There were 48 in attendance with 30 voting members. Minutes from the 2021 Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting and the financial report were moved and seconded to accept.

Karen Reisinger was recognized for her many years of service to the Sauk County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Karen will continue to

stay involved in serving on various committees. Galen Alwin, Tommy Brennan, Mike Turner and Ken Nolden were re-elected to the board and Austin Sandmire, a new board member was elected.

Kat Peper was approved to serve as the Promotion and Education chair for the next year. Brady Peper was elected to serve as the chair of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee for the upcoming year.

Delegates elected to serve at the WFBF Annual Meeting included Galen Alwin, Tommy Brennan, Ken Nolden, Brady Peper, Kat Peper, Craig Sandmire and Mike Turner with alternates Sarah Hetke and Peter Giese.

Karen Reisinger recognized the three scholarship recipients and they included: Nolan Culbertson, Ethan Hillebrand and Rachel Lichte.

Rural Mutual Insurance Agents, staff and management attended and thanked everyone for the continued support.

President Mike Turner thanked all for attending and door prizes followed the adjournment.



The Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on Aug. 25 at Granite Hills Farm LLC in Rock Springs.



Members enjoyed each other's company during the Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Mike Turner and Craig Sandmire recognized Karen Reisinger for her years of service to Sauk County Farm Bureau.



Door prizes followed the meeting.



Brady and Kat Peper, District 2 YFA Representatives, reported on District 2 YFA events, YFA contests, YFA Conference and upcoming events.



Corey Geiger, managing editor of Hoard's Dairyman, president of Holstein USA and author, gave a memorable presentation about current events in dairy and short stories from his book, "On a Wisconsin Family Farm: Historic Tales of Character, Community and Culture."



Vice President Tommy Brennan reported on the policy development process.

Ag in the Classroom Event Visits

By Nancy Liegel, Ag in the Classroom Chair

It's so much fun to meet with second graders within Sauk County schools. It's been kind of a slow start getting back to the classrooms after dealing with COVID, but hopefully we're on the right foot.

This year, Ag in the Classroom had a table of handouts for kids on agriculture at the Sauk County Dairy Breakfast. They loved the stickers, color books, tattoos and pencils. What a great day.

At the Sauk County Fair, I gave a presentation on the FAME stage in the commercial building. I had our spin the wheel of agriculture for kids and adults to spin, and I asked questions from the different categories on the wheel. Plus, I had ag-related handouts for everyone. It's great to go places during the summer, and the kids say, "There's the ag lady."

Thank you to the Sauk County volunteers for going to the schools. We are always looking for new volunteers and ideas.



The essay contest was great with 163 different versions. It was a difficult decision to pick our winner. The topic was, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin, the value of corn to our economy.'

The 2022-2023 school year is going to be fun with lots of volunteers, new ideas, new classrooms, essays and new Farm Bureau members.



Nancy Liegel gave a presentation during the Sauk County Fair.



Linnea Retzlaff, daughter of Ross and Mandy Retzlaff, from Prairie Ridge School in Reedsburg was the essay contest winner.

Granite Hills Farm LLC Hosts a Successful Zumba on the Farm

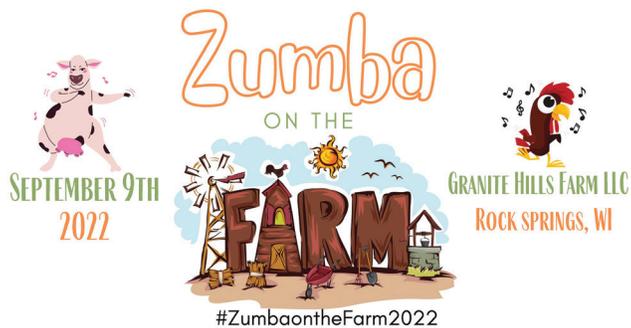
By Kat Peper, Promotion and Education Chair

We held the second annual Zumba on the Farm on Sept. 9 at Granite Hills Farm LLC owned by Sauk County Farm Bureau members Brady and Kat Peper.

The evening included a one-hour Zumba class in the barn followed by a social with grilled beef sliders and chocolate milk.

The theme for the event was being active and refueling with high quality protein. This year attendees even had the opportunity to pet a heifer.

Thank you to Kwik Trip for sponsoring the chocolate milk and Granite Hills Farm LLC for providing the beef for the sliders.



Hey Kids,

It's time to color this friendly scarecrow. What color are the pumpkins? the leaves? or the scarecrows pants? Color it yours!





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