

Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh
WFBF District 3 Director

Thanksgiving greetings.

Most of our district had great summer weather and a dry fall.

I hope your harvest went well

and the year was a success for you and your family. For those still harvesting, stay safe.

Our family, like many of yours, has a big Thanksgiving family get together. My wife and I are hosts once again of about 50 people.

The Farm Bureau family has had a lot of success during this past year, and we look forward to sharing this success during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Highlighted areas include: WFBF's Sustainability Statement, the Ag in the Classroom program's new curriculum, VFA endorsements and public relations successes along with legislative wins, just to name a few.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the WFBF Annual Meeting. In addition to their normal workload, the staff have been busy planning the event and have an exciting agenda scheduled.

A special thanks to our volunteer membership workers. Statewide, we made a voting and total membership gain.

We continue to search for a new chief administrative officer and two staff people in the governmental relations area. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Committee will be meeting soon to determine the direction for the foundation.

It was great to see you at your county annual meetings. Thank you for your hospitality. Great food and wonderful conversations.

As always, please feel free contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and informed.

Finalists Selected in Inaugural 35 Under 35 Program

Thirty-five individuals have been selected as Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 Award finalists.

The award is presented by WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in partnership with Insight FS.

The 35 Under 35 program recognizes the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture

through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities. This is the inaugural year of the program developed by the YFA Committee.

In the first year of the program, 60 innovative and deserving YFA members submitted video applications. Applications were evaluated for involvement in one of five categories – Sustainable Future, Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Service, Sustainable Storytelling and Sustainable Self.

"It has been extremely exciting to see this new program come to life," said WFBF YFA Committee Chair Bob Nash "We were blown away by how many deserving YFA members were nominated and submitted applications. Congratulations to all the finalists."

The Sustainable Future category recognizes individuals who are setting up the next generation for success both on and off the farm. The District 3 finalist in the Sustainable Future category is **Livia Doyle** (Iowa County).

The Sustainable Service category recognizes individuals who help farmers improve and meet their goals. The District 3 finalists in the Sustainable Service category are **Trevor Jacobson** (Iowa County) and **Katie Maier** (Grant County).

The Sustainable Environment category recognizes individuals who are good stewards of the land and their resources. The District 3 finalists in the Sustainable Environment category are **Josh and Kristen Joseph** (Richland County) and **TJ Roth** (Grant County).

The Sustainable Storytelling category recognizes individuals who use their platform to share agriculture's sustainability successes. The District 3 finalist in the Sustainable Storytelling category is **Kaitlyn Riley** (Crawford County).

The Sustainable Self category recognizes individuals that go above and beyond for their community and employees. The District 3 finalists in the Sustainable Self category are **Eldon Henthorne** (Vernon County) and **Tammy Wiedenbeck** (Grant County).

"On behalf of Insight FS, congratulations to all the deserving finalists," said Insight FS General Manager Ben Huber. "At Insight FS, we are committed to protecting the environment, enriching the community and helping businesses thrive. These individuals exemplify these values and we are proud to partner with Wisconsin Farm Bureau to recognize them."

Each finalist will receive an embroidered jacket sponsored by Insight FS. The top individual in each category will be announced during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December. The finalists are also invited to attend an exclusive networking reception during the conference.



Members Advocate for Agriculture in Washington, D.C.



In June, Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and staff traveled to Washington, D.C., representing Wisconsin farmers.

Among the attendees were District 3 Director, Robert Nigh, and Grant County Farm

Bureau member, Charisse Orth. The trip marked the completion of the WFBF Leadership Institute, a year-long leadership training program available to Farm Bureau members.

The group visited the American Farm Bureau Federation and also met with Julie Callahan, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Agricultural Affairs and Commodity Policy and other members of the USTR's office to discuss and learn about trade.

In addition, they heard from Gregg Cato, U.K. Foreign Agricultural Trade Advisor, who updated members on Brexit and trade between the U.S. and U.K.

Farm Bureau leaders became lobbyists for a day while meeting with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. The issues discussed were dairy labeling legislation, the harmful impacts of an agency rule and they thanked the federal delegation for the work to protect mink farming and delist wolves in Wisconsin.

Farm Bureau members also explored Arlington National Cemetery and George Washington's Mount Vernon and enjoyed a night tour of the national monuments.



Christina Benson Selected for WFBF Leadership Institute



Lafayette County Farm Bureau member and emerging agricultural leader, Christina Benson, has been selected to participate in the 2023 WFBF Leadership Institute. This year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"Today's farmers and agriculturists must take the lead to be advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said

WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Volkert. "The Institute gives participants the skills and confidence necessary to lead the future of farming and agriculture in their county Farm Bureau, local community and beyond."

Other members of the 2023 WFBF Leadership Institute class are: Allison Bragger, Independence; Isaac Christenson, Amery; Jay Moore, Waukesha; Lindsay Fowler, Malone; Stephanie Hoff, Madison; Roseanna Hoffman, Antigo; Mikayla Kuehl, Kewaunee; David Mickelson, DeForest; Linda Mullins, Oshkosh; Kaitlyn Riley, Gays Mills; Ed Rippley, Cochrane; Brooke Trustem, Evansville; Amanda Williams, Shawano; and Eric Wuthrich, New Glarus.

The WFBF Leadership Institute consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. The class capstone event will be a trip, with the WFBF Board of Directors, to Washington, D.C. in June 2024.

Farm Bureau members interested in applying for the 2025 class should contact Wendy Volkert at 608.828.5719 or wolkert@wfbf.com.

District Picnic Becomes Summer Tradition



The District 3 Family Picnic was held on July 31 at Scheper Park in Cobb. Farm Bureau members and their families enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, cooling off in the new splash pad and had an exciting game of kickball. It was a beautiful summer day and there was a great turnout of members from across the district. Members hope to make the picnic an annual event.

Farm Bureau Proud Club Recognizes Volunteers

Each year, WFBF recognizes membership volunteers who have made an extra effort to promote Farm Bureau by signing up five or more new members.

These members will be acknowledged at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December during the Farm Bureau Proud Club Banquet on Saturday evening.

Congratulations to the following District 3 members who signed up at least five new members and continue to work to keep Farm Bureau strong

and growing.

Tim Appell who signed up 12 new members also will be recognized as a 'Top 10' statewide membership volunteer.

Thank you to these volunteers for promoting Farm Bureau and its membership benefits.

For more information about Farm Bureau membership incentives, please contact District 3 Coordinator, Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson, at 608.574.9884 or mjacobson@wfbf.com.



Katie Roth, Grant County



Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County



Christina Winch, Grant County



Krista Dolan, Iowa County



Justin Doyle, Iowa County



Kyle Levetzow, Iowa County



Elizabeth Spink, Iowa County



Tim Appell, Lafayette County



Christina Benson, Lafayette County



Curt Miller, Lafayette County

District 3 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 28 at the Potosi Brewing Company. Members also enjoyed a brewery tour, tasting and delicious dinner.

The Discussion Meet gives YFA members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

This year's district topic was: *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?*

Casey Lobdell (Lafayette County), Sam Pinchart (Iowa County) and Megan Yager (Iowa County) will represent District 3

in the YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



Discussion Meet finalists (from left): Megan Yager, Sam Pinchart and Casey Lobdell.

Lobdells Appointed to YFA Committee

Casey and Morgan Lobdell of Iowa County have been appointed to Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee by the Board of Directors. Their terms begin at the end of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference on Dec. 4.

"It is exciting to see these young members step up and assume leadership roles in our organization," WFBF President Kevin Krentz said. "The YFA program is designed to build the next generation of Farm Bureau leaders and these appointees will surely rise to the occasion."

Casey and Morgan Lobdell were raised on farms in southwest Wisconsin. They met through their involvement in FFA. Casey works as an animal nutrition consultant with Reddy Ag and Ross Soil Service. Morgan is the associate brand manager for Ever.Ag. They reside in Mineral Point. Together, they raise sheep and pigs that are sold across the county for breeding stock and 4-H and FFA projects.

The WFBF YFA Committee consists of nine couples or individuals (ages 18-35) from around the state. Its goal is to get more young farmers and agriculturists acquainted with and involved in Farm Bureau. They carry out a variety of statewide initiatives, such as conferences, contests and award programs. The YFA Program is funded by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.



Membership Year Success

Membership is what drives Farm Bureau and funds many of the organization's programs and activities.

As of the membership year end, Sept. 30, there are 47,331 Wisconsin Farm Bureau members. 22,664 of those are voting members.

Voting members are those actively engaged in the business of production agriculture or services related thereto or owners of agricultural property. Associate members join to support agriculture, but do not have the right to vote or serve as a voting delegate or director.

As a Farm Bureau member, you qualify for benefits and services that provide a range of options that respond to the needs of farmers, families and businesses in Wisconsin.

For more information about member benefits, visit wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits.

Both the state and District 3 achieved a voting and total membership gain this year.

Congratulations to the following counties for also achieving membership gains:

- **Crawford:** Voting and total membership gain
- **Grant:** Voting and total membership gain
- **Iowa:** Voting and total membership gain
- **Lafayette:** Voting and total membership gain
- **Vernon:** Total membership gain

Membership success would not be possible without the efforts of our volunteer membership workers and Rural Mutual Insurance agents.

This year, 156 Farm Bureau volunteers signed a total of 551 new members. District 3 volunteers signed a total of 71 new members.

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau.

If you have questions about your membership dues, how to read your billing statement or if you know someone who wants to join Farm Bureau, please contact District 3 Coordinator, Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson, at mjacobson@wfbf.com.

The graphic features the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation logo at the top, followed by the text "2022 Membership Application". Below the text are three photographs: a man and a woman standing in a field with cows, a woman in a yellow raincoat holding a honeycomb, and a group of people standing in front of a green tractor.

John Deere Rewards Program Is an Incentive for Savings

Rick Kohn has been the store and sales manager for Mid-State Equipment in Prairie du Sac for four years. He says that the John Deere Rewards Program makes his job more enjoyable when a customer is a Farm Bureau member and can save even more money.

Recently, he helped his parents, Ron and Joan Kohn of Lodi, purchase a John Deere 835R Gator for their farm.

"Because they were Farm Bureau members, they qualified for the John Deere Equipment Rewards Program and saved an additional \$350," said Rick. "That \$350 savings more than paid for their Farm Bureau membership dues for the year."

Rick added that his parents weren't aware of the Farm Bureau member benefit and the details of the John Deere Rewards Program when they decided to purchase a Gator.

"It was an added bonus," laughed Rick. "When we work with customers, we try to mention the Farm Bureau Rewards Program and usually it ends up saving them a significant amount of money."

Rick explained that the John Deere Rewards Program is a tier program.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau members are eligible for a complimentary John Deere Rewards upgrade or Platinum 2 status, which unlocks the best loyalty rewards including valuable equipment discounts," said Rick. "All members need to do is register and then they can explore all that the Rewards program has to offer."



The graphic has a blue background with white geometric shapes. It features a red-bordered box containing the text: "LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE... MEMBERSHIP EDITION IT TAKES A TEAM!". Below this, it says "Introducing the DISTRICT 3" and "southwest STOCKMEN" with a logo of a cowboy hat with "D3" on it. To the left, it reads: "It Takes a Team" is the theme for the 2022-2023 membership year. This year's membership campaign is pitting districts against each other head-to-head to see who can hit their membership goals.

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and Essay Contest Prompt Announced

What if you were granted a wish, not just any wish – but all the delicious ice cream that you could eat?

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year, “Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck’s Ice Cream Wish,” by Viola Butler and illustrated by Ward Jenkins, is the story of a little boy who is granted this exact wish and ends up learning a whole lot more about his favorite food.

This delightful read explores what it takes to care, feed, milk and even cleanup after the cows that provide the milk to make delicious dairy products – including ice cream. This accurate ag book is a fun way to introduce and engage students in the essay contest.

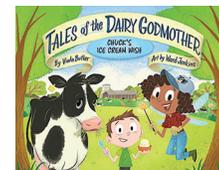
The Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest is an opportunity for fourth- and fifth-grade students to explore Wisconsin history, geography and economics through the lens of Wisconsin agriculture. The annual essay contest prompt challenges students to research and write an informative essay.

This year’s essay contest prompt is ‘You’re gonna need milk for that – Wisconsin dairy fuels our bodies, communities and economy.’ The prompt was selected by a working group of educators and volunteers and gleans the topic from the 2022-2023 Book of the Year. The prompt gives a nod to Wisconsin’s largest agricultural industry – dairy.

All entries are due April 1, 2023. The contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students in public and private schools and home school programs. Entries can be submitted individually or through schools. Top essays are recognized at the county, district and state levels.

For rules, links to supporting lessons and activities and entry procedures for the contest as well as volunteer opportunities, visit wisagclassroom.org.

Questions about the book or essay contest can be directed to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Beth Schaefer, at bschaefer@wfbf.com.



Educators Selected for Ag Literacy Grants

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation’s Agriculture in the Classroom program has awarded \$4,000 to schools and educators to support innovative core curricula initiatives that incorporate agriculture.

“Agriculture is one of Wisconsin’s largest sectors, providing nearly one in every nine jobs in our state,” said Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaefer. “We are excited to support educators who work to grow student achievement while simultaneously introducing students to the skills and jobs needed to produce the food and fiber that we all rely on every single day.”

Groups, schools and educators can apply for up to \$500 as part of the Ag in the Classroom’s ‘Ag in All Classrooms’ grant program.

Educators that have been awarded funding include:

- Sheila Kroseberg, Waupaca High School, Waupaca
- Jamie Propson, Mishicot High School, Mishicot
- Katelyn Dei, Slinger High School, Slinger
- Kim Pokorny, SAGES Charter School, Fox Lake
- Livia Doyle, Mineral Point Elementary School, Mineral Point
- Amy Smith, Pecatonica Elementary School, Blanchardville
- Kally Koch, Riverdale School District, Muscoda
- Kirsten Konder, Glenwood City High School, Glenwood City
- Linda Zimmer, Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith
- Zachary Markhardt, Green Bay East High School, Green Bay

Funding opportunities for educational projects and initiatives occur year-round and can be found at wisagclassroom.org.

Fall 2022 Agriculture Literacy Grant Recipients in District 3



Kally Koch
Riverdale
MS/HS



Livia Doyle
Mineral Point
Elementary



Amy Smith
Pecatonica
Elementary

Join Us for the 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting

The 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be held Dec. 2-5 at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

IT STARTS
WITH US

The annual meeting brings together Wisconsin farmers, agriculture business professionals and supporters to discuss top issues impacting agriculture. One of the most important items of business at each WFBF Annual Meeting is the grassroots policy development process. County Farm Bureaus elect voting delegates who will participate in a resolution session to establish policy positions to guide WFBF throughout 2023.

Details about the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference can be found under the ‘Events’ page at www.wfbf.com.

YFA Members Cheer on Milwaukee Brewers



YFA members from Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Vernon counties attended the Milwaukee Brewers game on June 26. The group traveled in a coach bus to Milwaukee and enjoyed socializing and tailgating before the game. The Brewers played the Toronto Blue Jays, winning 10-3. It was a great day for baseball, with beautiful weather and fun all around.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



By Andrew Dal Santo, District 3 YFA Committee Representative

Fall harvest season doesn't just serve as a reminder that the year's end is near or that our beloved deer hunting season is getting closer. This time of year is more of a reminder or a reflection, of what went well...or didn't in 2022.

Much like the yield monitor in the combine as you travel across your field, there are a lot of highs

and a lot of lows. But in the end, everything averages out and usually we have spots that ended up better than expected.

If you were watching the YFA yield monitor this year, you may have noticed that we saw many more highs than lows in 2022. We were able to go out and do actual group activities.

Our counties did an outstanding job with planning activities and events this year, including the Night at the Rodeo, Monte Carlo Bowling Night, Brewers Game Outing, YFA Trap Shoot, and of course, the District Discussion Meet.

A special shout out to Casey Lobdell, Sam Pinchart and Megan Yager for participating and qualifying for the state discussion meet that will take place at the YFA Conference in December.

While we're on the topic of high yielding areas, District 3 has several members that were named finalists for the 35 under 35 Award. These individuals will be recognized for their outstanding effort in some form of sustainability. This is our first year with this program and I cannot wait to see what next year brings. We've had several other states start modeling this recognition program, so it is a great feeling to see it take off and develop in other states.

One last high spot on the yield monitor is the upcoming YFA Conference on December 2-4 at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. This year, we can expect to see exceptional breakout sessions, endless networking opportunities, dueling pianos for entertainment and a thrift shop themed night of fun. We also have a fantastic speaker who will inspire you to succeed and stay positive no matter what challenges and setbacks life throws at you. Braxten Nielsen will be sharing a message you won't want to miss.

As always with yield monitors, there are some low spots that are hard not to notice. This is my final chapter of my three-year term serving of being your District 3 WFBF YFA Committee Representative.

Although it feels like I have just started, I am proud and honored to serve the Young Farmer and Agriculturist members of District 3. I can assure you that we have so many wonderful individuals in our district, and I cannot wait to see their potential shine through.

This low yield spot is only just a small blip on the monitor because we have two remarkable individuals who have accepted the role as the next District 3 WFBF YFA Committee Representatives ... Casey and Morgan Lobdell from Iowa County.

I have no doubt that they have what it takes to make our district YFA program a leader in the state.

With that being said, our yield this year has been a bin buster thanks to all of you. Keep up the great work and keep on doing what you do because you are all "outstanding" in your field. We would not be District 3 without you.

Thank you for a great three years. I look forward to seeing you all around, especially at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Livia Doyle, Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Hello, District 3 Farm Bureau members.

My name is Livia Doyle and I serve as the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. Alongside our family, my husband and I raise beef cattle and grow crops east of Mineral Point. Additionally, this is my 13th year in education. I work in the Mineral Point School District and have been teaching fourth grade for the past 12 years.

As we approach the end of fall harvest, the school year is now in full swing. Students and teachers are getting settled into the new structure of a new year. Now is the perfect time to make connections and reach out to classroom teachers. Consider offering teachers a visit to their classroom to share your agriculture story.

Youth of all ages are curious and want to learn. Food is all around us. Farm animals pique student interest. From my experience, students are genuinely interested and want to have a better understanding of what farmers do and where their food comes from.

This school year, my classroom is participating in Discover Dairy's Adopt-a-Cow Program. This program is gaining in popularity with more than 40,000 registrants this year, and leaving lasting impressions while positively impacting our youngest learners.

Through the Adopt-a-Cow program, my students and I are partnered with a host farm. Not only do we get to know the entire farm family, but we are assigned to a calf in which we 'adopt' and follow her throughout her first nine months of life.

Our classroom's 'adopted' calf hails from Synergy Dairy in Pulaski. Her name is Sweet Caroline and she was born on Sept. 12, weighing in at 100 pounds and measuring 37 inches. We will track her growth throughout

the entire school year as well as learn about calf care and comfort. In addition, students will gain a better understanding of how cows are cared for and how milk is produced on the farm through monthly updates, pictures and videos.



Mrs. Doyle's fourth grade students recently zoomed with a dairy farmer from Ohio, learning about calf care and comfort.

In other news, my fourth-grade team of teachers and I were the lucky recipients of a \$500 grant from Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Agriculture in the Classroom program. I am grateful for Wisconsin Farm Bureau's support in helping us teach and connect tomorrow's consumers and leaders to today's ever growing and important agriculture industry.

I encourage classroom teachers to apply in the future. The funds received from this grant will be used to purchase children's books for our school centered around the common and diverse facets of agriculture. We can't wait to get these books into the hands of our students.

I look forward to the school year ahead. Please reach out to me or your county Ag in the Classroom Coordinator if you need help incorporating agriculture lessons or activities into the classroom or community events.

I can be contacted at 608.574.9253 or livia.doyle@mp.k12.wi.us.

Wishing you a happy holiday season.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



By Tammy Wiedenbeck, District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

After going through a minor surgery and then developing pneumonia back in August, I went into the fall months feeling rundown and exhausted.

I know that this is a common occurrence that we, as farmers, know all too well as we try to juggle the daily responsibilities of our businesses, family, friends, off-the-farm jobs and involvement in extracurricular activities.

Talking about these internal struggles is not something I usually care to share, but the cool thing about Farm Bureau is that it provides you with a network of people who are dealing with similar life experiences. Not only do you meet some incredible people along the way, but several county and district events are put on each year to help you get out of the house and unwind from your day-to-day obligations.

Over the summer, the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee had its meeting in Eau Claire with a tour of Superior Fresh, a family farm producing leafy greens and seafood in the Midwest, in Hixton to follow.

District 3 Farm Bureau members enjoyed a picnic at the park in Cobb

and a tour and Discussion Meet at the Potosi Brewing Company.

Several counties had food stands at county fairs. I know I enjoyed helping with the one in Grant County, along with the Ag Education Tent.

We also had the traveling crew, thank you to Melissa, Andrew and Robert for the entertainment, who went to the county Farm Bureau annual meetings in District 3 during the course of September and October. It was fun to see familiar faces, hear from the speakers, get county updates and see the smiles when I handed out door prizes from Bug Tussel Wireless.

It's comforting to know that no matter where you go, there are people out there willing to step up and be leaders in this impactful organization and lend a helping hand to anyone who may need it.

Going forward, I invite you to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

- WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, Dec. 2-5, in Wisconsin Dells
- American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention, Jan. 6-11, 2023, in Puerto Rico
- WFBF Ag LEAD Summit, Mar. 17-18, 2023, in Fond du Lac

More events are being scheduled, so I hope to see you soon.

Collegiate Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has had a busy fall semester.

The students participated in several recruitment events, took part in homecoming activities, played in a volleyball tournament and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet.

The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau.



The Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet was held on Oct. 12. Participants included (from left): Trinity Coppnall, Isaac Ward, Mindy Smits and Rebecca Wilke. Isaac and Mindy were selected to move on to the state competition held during the YFA Conference in December.



Farm Bureau Promotes iFarm. iVote. Campaign to Encourage Voting

The mission of the iFarm. iVote. campaign is to engage farmers and rural citizens in becoming informed voters. The voices of Wisconsin's rural communities and farmers need to be heard. The way to do that is to get out and vote.

To help spread the campaign's message, members were encouraged to participate in a fun, easy and effective challenge by posting a photo to social media and sharing why they support agriculture in the caption along with the #iFarmiVote hashtag.

To register to vote, find your elected officials and candidates, and to see who the Volunteers for Agriculture®, WFBF's political action arm, has endorsed, visit wfbf.com/policy/policy-ifarmivote.



Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 17-18, 2023

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center | Fond du Lac

AGENDA

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

- 10:15 a.m. Registration Opens
- 11:00 a.m. Lunch and Opening Session
- 1:00 p.m. Concurrent Breakouts
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Program
- 7:30 p.m. Entertainment

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

- 8:00 a.m. General Session
- 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Breakouts
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch and Closing Session

REGISTRATION

Early Bird Registration by February 17: \$140 | After February 17: \$175
Registration will open in December.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Reserve by February 17.
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
625 W Rolling Meadows Drive | Fond du Lac, WI 54937
Hotel Room Rate: \$124 + tax
Call 1.920.6384175 and ask for the WFBF Ag LEAD Summit Group Block

The Ag LEAD Summit will focus on four tracks:



Leading Your Own Self Development



Advocating for Agriculture



Engaging with Consumers



Developing Agribusinesses

Presented by:



County Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Sept. 15 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Kevin Krentz, WFBF President, and Kaitlyn Riley, Wisconsin Beef Council Director of Communication and Outreach, served as the guest speakers.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed three resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support spring road restrictions to include a milk truck exemption.
- We support manure storage being listed on a land purchase agreement.

Internal

- We support a task force to identify and implement a plan to maintain a post-secondary education option directly related to agriculture.

Don Brown, Lori Brown, Janice Johnsrud and AV Roth will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: AV Roth (President), Don Brown (Vice President), Mary Jo Johnsrud (Secretary/Treasurer), Lori Brown, Pat Dearth, Ron Ellefson, Craig Hromadka, Janice Johnsrud, Steve Johnsrud and Leroy Peterson.



Serving Up Dairy Deliciousness

The Crawford County Fair took place on Aug. 25-28 in Gays Mills.

Crawford County Farm Bureau members were busy at the Dairy Bar serving up delicious products to fairgoers. The menu included pie, all sorts of ice cream treats, grilled cheese and lemonade.



4-H Key Award Winners Recognized



Each year, Farm Bureau sponsors the prestigious 4-H Key Award, the highest honor a 4-H member can receive. Youth receiving this award have demonstrated consistent growth in 4-H involvement, developed and applied leadership skills and actively participated in the functions of the club and community. Crawford County Farm Bureau Director, Mary Jo Johnsrud, had the honor of presenting the award to this year's winners, Lily Mitchell of the Steuben River Runners 4-H Club and Gracie Sime of the Happy Hi-liters 4-H Club.

Summertime Socializing

The Crawford County Summer Picnic was held on July 21 at Eastman Park.

Members enjoyed an evening featuring great food and good company. Thank you to those who continue to join us for this annual event.



A Farm Bureau Year to Celebrate



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

In September, we had our county annual meeting at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster.

Members voted on policy and discussed relevant agriculture issues.

Resolutions that pass at the county annual meeting are forwarded on to the state

committee for review and voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. The policy development process shows you how this is truly a grassroots organization with resolutions starting at the county level.

I also was re-elected Grant County Farm Bureau President and look forward to another year leading our board of directors.

Larry Jerrett, a long-time board member and Farm Bureau volunteer, retired from the board. He has been a mentor and role model of mine and a great source of knowledge of how things have been done in the past. We will miss Larry's input at the board meetings. Thank you for your many years of service and dedication to Farm Bureau, Larry.

In August, we participated in the Grant County Fair. Each year with the help of wonderful volunteers, we run the Grant County Farm Bureau

food stand. This is our main fundraiser of the year. There really is not one person in charge. We all play an important role in making it a success. 2022 was another very successful year. Thanks to those who helped and ate at the food stand. The funds raised are used to invest back into the community and assist in running our organization.

Farm safety is one of those things that we need to keep reminding everyone about. Whether it be road safety, equipment safety and safety around livestock. We all get in a hurry and skip steps to be safe. I did that one year ago. I was attacked by a fresh cow. She was out to kill me. Luckily, I only sustained some bruising. It could have been a lot worse. Animals have great power and strength.

Keep in mind this spring we will be attending Ag Day at the Capitol and that Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor up to 10 members. The event is very informative and we get to meet with our representatives. Contact me if you want to attend or want more information.

Grant County Farm Bureau had a voting and total membership gain for the year. We received a cash bonus for our efforts. Membership is one of the harder tasks for many. It takes members for our organization to remain strong.

By renewing your dues and asking neighbors to join, it helps Farm Bureau be stronger. Plus, there are so many benefits of being a member. As always, thank you for your membership.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 27 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster.

The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Jessica Brogley, Grant County Ag in the Classroom Committee Chair, served as the guest speaker.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 11 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support the licensure of emergency medical responders after completion of the DHS approved training and tests.
- We support the UW system working with agriculture programs at technical colleges to accept transfer credits.
- We support a tax deduction or incentives to farmers participating in the Farm Business and Production Management program or state funding to offer FBPM at a lower cost.
- 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.
- We support the sale of raw milk through a contractual agreement between a farmer and a consumer.
- We oppose labeling solar panel areas "solar farms".
- We support more research into recycling agricultural plastics.
- We support adding "solar project lands" to the current Noxious Weeds policy to read: We support mandatory enforcement of noxious weed laws, on Conservation Reserve Program lands, solar project lands, and land owned by lending institutions, absentee landowners and the government including

town, county, and state road right of ways. We support the inclusion of multi-flora roses, purple loosestrife, European buckthorn, valerian, pampas grass and wild parsnip and phragmites on the state's noxious weed list. We support compensatory programs for farmers to eradicate noxious weeds.

- We support the end of daylight savings time and moving to standard time only.
- We support enforcing the current foreign owned land laws.

Federal

- We support the end of daylight savings time and moving to standard time only.

Andrew Dal Santo, Paige Hampton, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Katie Roth, Christina Winch and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Peter Winch (President), Allen Johnson (Vice President), Katie Roth (Secretary/Treasurer), Josh Bailie, Andrew Dal Santo, Jason Heberlein, Kent Jerrett, Richard Johnson, Charisse Orth, Derek Orth and Jackie Seelow.



County Fair Activities

The Grant County Fair was held August 17-21 in Lancaster. Highlights of the fair include both the Farm Bureau Food Stand and the Agriculture Education Tent.

The food stand proved to be a great success this year. As always, the pork chop, cheeseburger and brat patty plates are a fairgoer favorite.

The Agriculture Education tent was a big hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more

about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry. Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit farm animals, color the wall mural and win a variety of prizes.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to work at the stand and tent. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food and learning opportunities that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.



Iowa County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 22 at Dodge Point Country Club in Mineral Point. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed 10 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support maintaining the funding for continuing education at technical colleges and expanding where the enrollment allows.
- We support the Dairy Revitalization Plan.
- We support requiring renewable energy construction projects to have an agricultural specialist present for all projects to protect farmers interests by preserving farmland.
- We support the usage of the "Wisconsin Cheese" label only on products made with 80%+ of milk originating in Wisconsin.

Federal

- We support all branches of government operating within their budgets.
- We support expanding the grant program offered by the National Farm Medicine Center to include power take-off (PTO) protection.
- We support the research and development of alternative solutions of domestic fertilizer production.

Internal

- We support WFBF creating an online farm and tractor safety module for county Farm Bureaus to utilize with field days and testing opportunities offered

throughout the state.

- We support the work of the special committee on Dairy Growth Management and urge WFBF leadership to allow this committee to continue as the research and development of the Dairy Revitalization Plan is not complete.
- We support WFBF creating a special committee to develop tools and resources to support farmers as they consider energy related projects on their land, both for their own use and as part of larger projects such as wind, solar, transmission lines or pipelines.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Kyle Levetzow and John Meyers will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan (President), Justin Doyle (Vice President), Dan Adams (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Daentl, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow, Don Ley, Matt Limmex, John Meyers, Jason Steffes, Elizabeth Spink and Megan Yager.



Promotion and Education Update

By Megan Yager, Iowa County Promotion and Education Committee Chair

I hope everyone is having a wonderful harvest so far this fall. The weather has been quite good to us and there is a bumper crop.

Iowa County Farm Bureau was thrilled to be a part of the 36th Annual Farmers Appreciation Day on July 10th. The weather could not have been better and there were many folks in attendance. Members participated in the parade, passing out string cheese and Go-Gurt. It was a wonderful parade lasting for over an hour.

We also had a food stand again this year and grilled 450 steaks for sandwiches, serving them in a sack lunch with chips, string cheese and water. Only a few meals were leftover at the end of the day, and it was a very successful event. The many fabulous Farm Bureau volunteers were the main reason for our success, and I would like to thank them all for the help they provided.

The Iowa County Fair took place on Labor Day weekend in Mineral Point. Again this year, Iowa County Farm Bureau was a top sponsor of the Master Showman Contest. The top two senior showman from the beef, dairy, goat, sheep and swine project compete for the overall title of Master Showman. Exhibitors are evaluated on their ability to answer questions and how well they show each species in a series of rounds. The judges rank the participants on their showing ability, species knowledge and attitude in the show ring.

This year's Iowa County Master Showman Contest winner was Regan Suddeth from Mineral Point.



A benefit pie auction was held at the conclusion of the competition, raising \$4,500 for scholarships and prize money. Anyone who has previously competed in the contest and is furthering their education is eligible for the scholarship award. Three past participants were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients included: Kelsee Fargo, Barneveld; Katie Fitzsimmons, Mineral Point; and Bree Gaffney, Barneveld.



The Iowa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was on September 22. We had a great turn out and enjoyed a nice meal together. Policy was discussed and a silent auction was held, raising \$523 for student scholarships.

I hope everyone has a safe and bountiful harvest this fall. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



Lafayette County

A Time for Joy and Happiness



Christina Benson
Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

"Altruism - Doing something for someone else raises our levels of hope, joy and happiness."

I read this phrase recently in a book. In this time of thankfulness and giving season, this is a great reminder for me.

A lot of times I think over the top, like presents and big gatherings, however it's often the simple tasks of pitching in at harvest or assisting a neighbor who isn't able to get out and about on their own that brings joy and happiness to you and the person you are helping.

Thank you to our board of directors for once again electing me to lead in the upcoming year as President. I am thankful for all the members we have throughout the county and everything you do for agriculture.

As we move into the new membership year, it is my goal to connect more with young agriculturists and community members, as well as encourage and assist our members in doing great things throughout the next year.

Lafayette County Farm Bureau has monthly meetings, and we invite you to join in the connection that agriculture has in our beautiful county.

As always feel free to call or message me at 815.275.4400 with your questions and suggestions.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season.

Fairgoer Favorite Helps Raise Funds

Farm Bureau members served up delicious food at this year's Lafayette County Fair. The steak sandwiches continue to be a fairgoer favorite, helping to make it one of the most profitable years yet.

Funds raised from the food stand are used towards educational programs and scholarship awards for qualified individuals pursuing careers in agriculture.

Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time to help make the food stand a success.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Sept. 6 at The General Store in Wiota.

The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions.

Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Paul Johnson, Casey Lobdell and Joe Riechers will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Christina Benson (President), Tim Appell (Vice President), Casey Lobdell (Secretary/Treasurer), Paul Johnson, Josh Kamps, Curt Miller, Olivia Pence, Joe Riechers, Jordan Torstenson and Mackenzie Torstenson.



Martin Selected as Essay Contest Winner

By Gretchen Kamps, Lafayette County Ag in Classroom Committee Chair

Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom sponsored an essay contest for fourth- and fifth-grade students. The book that was featured last year was, "Popcorn Country" and the topic for the essay was, 'What's Popping in Wisconsin? The value of corn to our economy!'

Ava Martin from Argyle Elementary School was the winner of our county contest. She received a Culver's gift card and a pouch of classroom supplies. Ava's teacher is Jolene Slater. She received an Amazon gift card to buy supplies for her classroom as well as a pack of classroom essentials to help keep students writing. Thank you to the students who participated in the essay contest from Argyle and Belmont schools.

The 2023 book of the year is, "Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish," by Viola Butler and illustrated by Ward Jenkins. There will be a copy of this book donated to each school district in the county to help introduce the essay prompt and encourage students to participate. This year's essay prompt is 'You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy.'

The essay contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students in Lafayette County and the funding for the books and prizes are made possible through funds raised by membership dues and the food stand at the Lafayette County Fair. Thank you to those who support our county through membership and help with the food stand volunteering hours or purchasing menu items.



Ava Martin was the winner of the Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom essay contest. Pictured with Ava are committee members, Curt Miller and Gretchen Kamps.

President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

I tend to struggle with writing these articles for the newsletter. This one is no exception.

As I write this, the midterm election is just over one week away and you will not be reading this until after the results are in.

Yes, this is a very consequential election for all of us.

We have been fortunate to have good weather for harvesting. But there are other

issues that are popping up to challenge us. With only twenty-five days of diesel fuel available, the river barge traffic fighting low water levels, and a pending railroad strike, we could be facing real problems getting our grains to markets.

As I travel around the state, it is encouraging to see the amount of cover crops being planted to protect our valuable soil.

On October 11, Richland County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting and exercised its grassroots opportunity to pass resolutions which will be forwarded as input for consideration at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Please review the resolutions in the annual meeting highlights. All four resolutions were unanimously adopted. County input is important, and I encourage you to share your thoughts with our board members or me at 608.585.4808. Be safe and stay well.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Oct. 11 at The Phoenix Center in Richland Center.

The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support the indemnification of farmers if PFAS and PFOS are found in exceeding acceptable levels if it makes farming non-viable or inability to sell assets.
- We support Wisconsin exempting emergency medical providers from the National Registry of Emergency Medicine Technicians exam.

Federal

- We support the indemnification of farmers if PFAS and PFOS are found in exceeding acceptable levels if it makes farming non-viable or inability to sell assets.



Internal

- We support increased investment in agriculture curriculum throughout the UW System and technical colleges.

Dick Hauser, Bill Hying and Jim Hying will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Dick Hauser (President), Josh Joseph (Vice President), Germaine Hying (Secretary/Treasurer), Byron Hillberry, Bill Hying and Bekka Martin.



SAVE THE DATE FOR AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: March 22

Visit wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol for the latest information.

Presented by:  Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

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Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Sept. 20 at Gassers Bar & Grill in Viroqua. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed eight resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support a rural EMS program that encourages more personnel easy access to be certified to respond quickly in rural areas.
- We support funding to rural EMS to improve/purchase needed equipment.
- We support summer school funding to support tractor, ATV/UTV and snowmobile safety training.
- We support the sale of raw milk from farms that meet Grade A requirements and Raw Milk Institute standards.
- We support property purchase agreements listing manure storage structures and other contracted conservation projects so that buyer is aware.

Internal

- We support WFBF working with the Wisconsin Technical College System to develop a farmer course for entrepreneurial agriculture and those individuals seeking to run their own farming operation.



- We support the Rural Mutual Insurance Company providing financial support for tractor safety courses across the state.
- We support the proposed by-law amendment to increase WFBF membership dues by \$10 in 2023 and by another \$10 in 2028.

Alex Bringe, Drew Hendrickson, Eldon Henthorne, Travis Klinkner and Ben Sherry will serve as delegates to the 2022 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Robert Nigh (President), Alex Bringe (Vice President), Scott Sherry (Secretary/Treasurer), Andy Diehl, Drew Hendrickson, Cosette Henthorne, Eldon Henthorne, Travis Klinkner, Kevin Larson, Dave McClurg and Steve Wagemester.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Trap Shoot



Vernon County Farm Bureau joined Juneau and Adams counties for the YFA Trap Shoot on Oct. 2 at Kendall Sportsman's Club. Members had a fun afternoon while socializing and enjoying some friendly competition.

Raising Awareness of Road Safety

Vernon County Farm Bureau members participated in Vernon County National Night Out held on Aug. 2 at the fairgrounds in Viroqua.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes strong police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live and work.

With a tractor on display, board members talked to attendees about road safety and handed out activity books and resources. They plan to participate again next year in hopes of continuing their goal to improve adult awareness of road safety.



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IOWA COUNTY PRESIDENT

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