



# Grassroots

## District 8 News

### Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest District Winner



District 8 essay winner Jacob Marti pictured with Brad Krekula, Rural Mutual Insurance agent.

*Jacob's winning essay.*

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest revolving around food and agriculture.

This contest is open to fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

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

The District 8 Winner was Jacob Marti. He was one of nine district winners who received a prize package including a plaque, Wisconsin popcorn, books, admission to the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center and a classroom Get Poppin' STEM kit.

I have lived on a farm my whole life. We have a dairy farm with 500 cows. My family grows 600 acres of field corn on our farm every year. I help plant the corn in the spring and harvest the corn in the fall. Like all dairy farmers in Wisconsin, I know corn is import for Wisconsin's economy.

Wisconsin is known for cheese. In fact, we are the top cheese producing state in the U.S. To make that cheese we need a lot of milk. Wisconsin's dairy cows produce 2.44 billion pounds of milk a year. To make that milk, the cows have to have lots of food. More than half of their daily feed is corn. The corn has a lot of starch in it, which gives them energy. To feed a dairy cow for a year, it takes one acre. In Wisconsin there are 1,276,000 cows. That is a lot of acres!

Field corn has other uses, too. It is also used for corn chips, corn syrup, corn tortillas, and even plastic! We can also use corn for ethanol to power cars. Corn is such a cool crop!

Every summer my sisters and I grow 4 acres of sweet corn to sell for ski money. Sweet corn is different than field corn because it is for people-not cows. It is hard to pick because we pick it by hand. Larger farms that grow sweet corn use machines that pick for them.

Without corn our economy would be weak. A lot of people benefit from corn. Farmers, seed companies, landlords, fertilizer companies, equipment dealers, cheese factories, diesel companies, families who eat things made from corn all benefit from corn.

### 2022 ANNUAL MEETING DATES

Save the dates for your County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. Watch your mailbox for more details to come as the dates get closer.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19**  
**Wood County Farm Bureau**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 26**  
**Price County Farm Bureau**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 30**  
**Portage County Farm Bureau**

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 1**  
**Taylor County Farm Bureau**

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 6TH**  
**Clark County Farm Bureau**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 11**  
**Lincoln County Farm Bureau**

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 15**  
**Marathon County Farm Bureau**

Do you have an issue, concern or potential policy topic? Attend your county annual meeting to bring it up or contact a County Farm Bureau board member. County Farm Bureau board members and contact information can be found at [wfbf.com/about/counties](http://wfbf.com/about/counties).



## To Those Struggling in Silence



**Ashleigh Calaway**

WFBF District 8 Coordinator

Have you ever written something, only to think, I can't share this, it's too personal, too raw, to real? The letter below was never supposed to be printed. It was a piece I wrote following numerous conversations with others who shared their struggles or wanted to but were scared.

Writing has always been an outlet for me, a way to share words that are sometimes hard to say out loud. I drafted this because I truly wanted something to remind others that they weren't alone. That I understood where they were coming from and help them understand why I will always show up, even if verbally, I couldn't find the words.

After sharing it with a few members who came back and said, this needs to go in the newsletter, it has helped me in knowing I'm not alone, and I'm sure it will help countless others.

So, here it is, my letter to those suffering in silence. I want to encourage you to no longer let yourself suffer, to reach out, to get help, and like my daily inspirational messages say, remember #IGotYou.

*I hope this finds you on a day you need it most. I wish I could write you this based off stories I have heard; books I have listened to or quotes I have read. I wish I could write to you and say I don't struggle. I wish I could write to you and say, "I am amazing; I am living my best life. I have a beautiful family who loves me unconditionally, friends who would walk through fire for me and have all the four-legged critters a girl could ever dream of."*

*Sometimes, though, that isn't enough. Some days I don't have it in me to fight, I don't have it in me to advocate, I don't have it in me to be the light. On those days, I feel like a fraud. I feel like I am lying to everyone who follows me on social media, with each like on my inspirational posts.*

*Sometimes, people even share my messages, which I love, but deep down sometimes I think, if they only knew. Most days I am writing messages to myself. To remind myself of what I need to do, that I can't do it on my own and that I need to step into the light.*

*Twelve years ago, I went through my first bout of severe anxiety. Not the cute butterflies in your stomach kind. The kind that paralyzes you, leaves you breathing into a bag, and begging the good Lord to take you home because you just don't want to feel this way anymore. Twelve years ago, my mom saved my life and my marriage when she told me I had to go get help; and if I didn't do it by a certain day – she would be taking me in herself.*

*We all know that in life we must weigh all our options but when your momma gives you two options, it's always best to take the first one, because she is not bluffing on the second one.*

*I did as my mom said and got help. Twelve years ago, no one talked about mental health, anxiety, or the physical implications it can have on your life, not just emotionally.*

*We have come a long way in those twelve years regarding mental health. I have come a long way too; I still have my bad days; my accident last fall escalated those bad days, but it also makes those good days so much sweeter. In honor of where I was twelve years ago and where I am today. I want to share some tips and tricks I learned to help me on those bad days.*

**Shake up your senses.** *It might sound silly, but if you are hot, get yourself cold or vice versa. Change what you are listening to, the aroma around you or even what you might be touching. Simply changing the music around you or taking a moment to snuggle up with your pet can help change your mindset. Even your diet and surroundings have a huge impact on how you feel, so switching up what you are eating, or your scenery might lift your mood.*

**Get physically active.** *Spending even five minutes on a mini trampoline or taking a brisk walk releases endorphins that improve our moods. This has dramatically changed my mental health and it is amazing for our physical health as well.*

**Reach out.** *When you are in the thick of it, it can be hard and you so desperately want someone to just come in and save you. The truth is you have probably done an amazing job of building your "public image" and those around you don't realize that you need help. Do not hesitate to reach out to your friends or family – there are too many people who care about you not to help you.*

**Get involved in your community.** *It might be exhausting, and you might think you don't have the time or the energy to do it. In reality, you might not have the time or energy now but once you start doing volunteering and begin surrounding yourself with people who are trying to do the same, it will become a part of your routine and help you in more ways than you may realize.*

**Don't be afraid to get help.** *If simple everyday changes – like the ones noted above – don't work, then do not hesitate to seek the help of a professional. I promise you won't be tarred and feathered or laughed at. Instead, you will be met with people who are proud of you for taking the first step towards healing.*

**If you are someone who is suffering in silence, know that you aren't alone.** *There are people, like me, who don't even know you but love you, support you and wish you only the best. There are people out there that want to help you to be the best version of yourself. Know that if you are too nervous, scared, embarrassed to reach out to someone you know that you can call or text 988 for help.*

## District 8 Farmer to Farmer

This is a voluntary program for members to help area farmers in their time of need. For example, you have a tragedy on the farm, with one call to your county Farm Bureau president they can activate a team of people in your community who are ready and willing to help. This team would be willing to provide a temporary home for the animals, haul them to another location, provide feed, help with chores, etc.

Our hope is to create this online form to support our members across the district, no matter their need.

We hope that no one will ever need to use the information but, to have it ready if the need ever arises. Please use the QR Code below to access the form to add your name to list of people willing to help others in their time of need. Don't have a smart phone then go to <https://bit.ly/FarmertoFarmer>



## Multi-Tasking Mental Health

By Carissa Weber, MA, LPC, CSAC

As we near the end of summer, big things are starting to happen. Between local county fairs, making hay, getting kids ready for school and preparing for harvest season, life is about to get pretty busy.

It is no secret during this time of year we prioritize what needs to happen versus what our bodies might need (like sleep).

Here are some helpful tips to help keep the farm running smoothly while keeping your mental health in check.

**1. Remember to Eat.** When we get focused on what has to happen to get the crops off of the field, we forget to refuel the most powerful thing in the field: your body.

Taking time to eat allows for a few things to happen:

1. Your brain remains sharp, decreasing brain fog.
2. Gives you energy to complete the tasks at hand.
3. Provides the nutrients your brain needs to help you feel good and accomplished at the end of the day.
4. Increases your ability to stay focused as well as problem-solve quicker.

As this busy season approaches, it is easy to prioritize everything that everything else needs. Eating allows not just your body to have the energy you need, but it also helps your mental health stay at a healthy level.

**2. Setting Realistic Goals.** It is no secret that to be a farmer you have to be good at multitasking. It is no secret, either, that you have to be good at prioritizing what things have to be done when. Sometimes, in the midst of getting things done, we set some pretty unrealistic and lofty expectations of ourselves. When we set these unrealistic expectations, it can really take a toll on her mental health. The toll can come in various ways:

- Increase fights with coworkers, friends and family members.
- Losing motivation to do things that you love.
- Decrease in sleep.
- Increase in mistakes in the field.

One way to beat the stress is by setting yourself up with realistic goals. Realistic goals should be:

1. Simple in nature.
2. Have a clear way to determine when you reach that goal.
3. Is actually attainable for you to do without overstretching yourself.
4. Has a clear timeline to accomplish that goal in.

Sounds simple enough. But implementing? That is the tough one. There is a lot of science behind why setting realistic goals up not just improves mental health, but boosts productivity:

- There is a clear expectation for you to meet.
- Once the expectation is met, your brain allows you to feel good about accomplishing it.
- This sense of accomplishment improves motivation.

- Meaning, more work gets done.

### 3. Take a 15- Minute Break

Before you stop reading, hear me out. Allowing yourself to take a 15-minute break to do something you enjoy (or 15-minutes to focus solely on what you enjoy), allows a few things to happen:

1. A chance for your brain to refocus on the tasks you're trying to complete.
2. Releasing feel-good chemicals in your brain, which reduces your stress levels (and frustration levels as well).
3. Returning to the task at hand with new energy and motivation to do it

These 15-minute breaks can be done during various activities. Whether it is grooming your show cow, cutting up ingredients for dinner, or even just standing and soaking up the sun. Being fully present in these activities (even if you need to do them), gives you a chance to enjoy the moment you are in.

### 4. Teach Someone to Help You

As farmers, we are more than people who tend the land. We teach the youth in our homes and neighborhoods the skills they need to continue this way of life. When we teach someone a new skill, this benefits us in several ways:

- It builds a connection to the person we are teaching, which increases trust, communication and respect.
- Prepares for certain tasks to get done quicker in the future (for example: teaching someone to fix fence can help keep animals safe while you are gone harvesting corn).
- Creates a sense of community and pride.

Now, teaching can slow things down in the beginning. This is a great way to get a jump start on the harvesting season maintenance, 4-H projects, and perhaps, dinner.

These are just a few things that can help you keep your mental health healthy during the upcoming harvest season. If you find yourself struggling during this time, please reach out for help.

Mental health does not have to be faced alone.

**Women in Ag Multi-Tasking Mini Series**

**Multi-Tasking your self care & your families.**

*#FarmNeighborsCare*

The Joyful Mind, LLC

Wisconsin Farm Bureau  
**Promotion and Education Program**

SELF CARE ISN'T SELFISH

Scan here to register for the mini series or go to: <https://bit.ly/agminiseries>

# District 8 News

## Don't Delay, Get Involved in Your YFA Program

Chances are if you follow any of the county Farm Bureaus on Facebook, you have noticed that there has been a whirlwind of activity happening across the district with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) Program.

This standing committee is made up of members ages 18 to 35 who work both on and off the farm. It is designed to help beginning farmers and agriculturists build a network of friends and colleagues.

It is also designed to provide leadership development, personally and professionally, a reason for a day or night off of the farm, and for some, a chance to collaborate on projects.

### What's been done

Soil Your Undies Contest  
Quarterly meetings with chairs  
Discussion Meet  
Tech Fest  
Bowling  
YFA Night at the Wood Chucks  
Applicants for the YFA state contest  
Rural Mutual Sponsorship  
35 Under 35 applications

### What's planned

YFA Conference  
Fall Wagon Ride/Bonfire Night  
Garden Preservation Program  
Ax throwing  
Escape rooms  
Carbon Credits and Cover Crops:  
*Watch for more details this fall.*



When a few contestants had to back out last minute we were lucky enough to have a few veteran members step up and ensure our Discussion Meet went off without a hitch. Thank you to Don Radtke and Rob Klussendorf for filling in, congratulations to Will Litzer who will be advancing on to the state contest.



Dan & Ashley Berg  
Price County



Tech Fest 2022



Kyle Kudick  
Lincoln County

## Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapters Elect Officers

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

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

Recently, new officers were elected for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you are heading off to UW-Madison, UW-Platteville or UW-River Falls we encourage you to look for these familiar faces and ask them about the program of work on campus.

Visit the Facebook pages to see what members are doing.



UW-Madison facebook.com/CollegiateFarmBureauMadison



UW-Platteville facebook.com/UW-Platteville-Collegiate-Farm-Bureau



UW-River Falls facebook.com/WRiverFallsCollegiateFarmBureau

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Heroes of Hope



Jerry Minor of Wood County has been named Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Hero of Hope in the organization's second annual Heroes of Hope campaign.

Heroes of Hope, a subset of the #FarmNeighborsCare campaign, is focused on shedding light on rural heroes who have helped others through a tough time. Heroes of Hope aims to identify people who have

helped bring hope to farmers or businesses, either in large or small ways. Members of the agriculture community were encouraged to nominate individuals who have made an impact on the way they conduct business, both ordinarily and extraordinarily.

Minor is the Pittsville Fire Department chief. Minor has played a significant role in creating a partnership with the National Farm Medicine Center in his area. He is committed to equipping rural Wisconsin firefighters with proper training and equipment to properly respond to rural emergencies. Minor has also partnered with area farmers to host hands-on training demonstrations and is a strong advocate for youth fire safety education.

As stated in his nomination, "Jerry is the person that calms your fears, dries your tears and makes your worst days a little better. For those of us who work in rural communities, he is a Hero of Hope answering the call to serve others in ways we can never thank him enough."

Also being recognized as finalists this year are Sara Byl of Polk County, Gretchen Kamps of Lafayette County, Randy Roecker of Sauk County and Brenda Statz of Sauk County.

As this year's Hero of Hope, Minor will receive \$500 cash, a Yeti Cooler, \$50 to Kwik Trip and a Culver's meal package valued at \$50. The four remaining finalists will each receive \$125 cash, \$25 to Kwik Trip, \$25 to Blain's Farm & Fleet and a Culver's meal package valued at \$25. All Heroes of Hope finalists will be recognized in an upcoming issue of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Rural Route magazine.

The 2022 Heroes of Hope campaign was sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Company, The Power of One Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc, Blain's Farm & Fleet, the Doyle and Kim Pokorny Family, Culver's, the Ryan and Chery Klussendorf family, the Ashleigh and Josh Calaway Family, Lynn Siekmann and Kwik Trip.



## Agricultural Incident Guide Field Training

Firefighters, sheriff deputies and emergency coordinators are invited to partake in a multi-county livestock handling program on **Wednesday, Sept. 7**, at the Marshfield Area Research Station in Stratford. The facility will allow attendees the opportunity to gain hands on experience in moving cattle, catching loose cattle, capturing livestock and building temporary fencing and housing for horses and livestock. Those attending will receive a digital and hard copy book of procedures to refer to following the training.

"This training demonstrates what Farm Bureau and UW-Extension are all about. Developing relationships and programs to address gaps and issues that arise in the agricultural community in hopes to find solutions," said WFBF District 8 Coordinator Ashleigh Calaway.

This will be the second field day training program hosted by Clark County, Marathon County, Taylor County and Wood County Farm Bureaus along with Marathon and Taylor UW-Extension.

Presenters include: Heather Schlessler, UW-Extension Marathon County Dairy Agent; Dr. Sandy Stuttgen, UW-Extension Taylor County Agriculture Agent; Danny Meyer, a farmer; Jack Johnson and Steve Suchomel, beef farmers.

To register, visit [bit.ly/2022fieldtraining](https://bit.ly/2022fieldtraining).

This program was funded through grants from the 2018 Wood County Farm Technology Days Show and UW-Extension Safety Grant programs.

### Agricultural Incident Guide Field Training

**For law enforcement, first responders, fire fighters, and emergency coordinators**

9:00 a.m. - Registration

9:15 a.m. - Overview of the day

9:30 a.m. - Hands-on livestock training (dairy, equine, and swine)


12:30 - Lunch and panel discussion: FAQs and Answers concerning agricultural emergencies


2:00 p.m. - Hands-on livestock training (beef)

**Things you need to know:**

- Date: Wednesday, September 07, 2022
- Location: Marshfield Agricultural Research Station - 208356 Drake Ave. N, Stratford
- Clothing should be fitted but comfortable. Close-toed/washable shoes are required.
- Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
- Any questions/concerns can be directed to District 8 Coordinator: Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or [acalaway@wfbf.com](mailto:acalaway@wfbf.com)

Sponsored by:



Scan me to register today or go to <https://bit.ly/2022fieldtraining>

### AMPLIFY AGRICULTURE WEBINAR SERIES

**Topic:** Reset & Reengage: Engaging Members Through Micro-Volunteering Opportunities

**PRESENTER**  
Elise Cruce, AFBF



**TIME**  
7 P.M.



**DATE**  
Sept. 8, 2022

Scan the QR code to register.



Hosted by AFBF Promotion & Education Committee



## Are There Lessons to Learn From Sri Lanka and The Netherlands?



By Kim Bremmer, Clark County Local Affairs Chair

Having traveled outside of the United States and getting to spend time on farms, it quickly becomes clear that U.S. production and efficiencies are the envy of farmers all around the world. You respond to market volatility, you innovate and you never stop pushing yourselves to continually improve. Pressure on agriculture continues to mount from every direction, yet you do what the one percent does best ... produce more food using fewer resources than absolutely everyone, everywhere.

But as regulators, policy makers, food marketers, environmentalists and the media, among others, continually demand more green policy and environmental regulations, are there lessons we can learn from our fellow farmers around the world? For example, farmers in The Netherlands have been told by the government that they need to drastically cut nitrogen emissions during the next five years. The Dutch government has called the aggressive and seemingly impossible targets an 'unavoidable transition' as the minister has given three options for farmers: "Become more sustainable, relocate or stop."

I never thought I'd ever see images of 40,000 tractors at the capitol, haybales burning along highways, farmers blocking roads to supermarket distribution centers or sobbing farmers who can no longer see a future for their farm ... coming from a nation that is known for a rich history in agriculture or one that exports more than \$92 billion of ag products per year.

Have you heard about the uprising in Sri Lanka? In the simplest terms, the farmers are frustrated, and the people are hungry. The former president and current leader chose to lead the nation down a path of belief in only organic agriculture while leading the world in ESG ... the Environmental, Social and Governance criteria (non-financial factors) used to define how ethical a business is to the 'socially responsible' investors ... including banks. The 'environmental' criteria will require reporting on things like greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, manure management, biodiversity, air pollution and defining your farm's contribution to resource depletion. The 'social' criteria will look at things like your farm's working conditions, gender and diversity policies, employee engagement, health and safety records and conflict management. And the 'governance' piece relates to things like tax strategies, executive compensation, bribery and corruption policies and political contributions.

Everyone wants to be ethical and sustainable, so what could possibly go wrong if we are required to follow the global elite ESG standards to get a higher score? Last year, in the chase to increase their ESG score, Sri Lanka banned chemical fertilizer, leaving one-third of the farmland across the country dormant. Before the ban, more than 90% of Sri Lanka's farmers used chemical fertilizer. After the ban, more than three-quarters of the farmers reported crop losses, rice was imported to feed people (after being self-sustaining before the ban), the price of tomatoes and carrots has risen over five-fold and food prices are dramatically higher.

Their flagship tea industry, which previously generated \$1.3 billion in exports annually AND paid for 71% of the nation's food imports was hit the hardest. Keep in mind that Sri Lanka has an ESG score of 98, while the United States is 51. The ban on chemical fertilizer was central to Sri Lanka's effort to increase their ESG score, but I bet if we asked farmers and citizens, ideological global elite policies make for hungry people and political instability. So are there lessons to be learned?

- Elections have consequences, especially when considering who gets to come along with elected officials as non-elected appointees.
- We cannot stop correcting the narrative, eating less meat and drinking less milk is NOT better for the environment, repeat, repeat, repeat.
- Be conscious of your on-farm environmental/sustainability metrics guard them closely, you need to own them, and we need to figure out a way to guarantee that you get credit for what you are doing while protecting the future of your farm.
- Be aware of policy dressed up as combating climate change and increasing sustainability-incrementalism in regulation is a slippery slope. We need to find a better balance and understand that the term 'voluntary' only lasts so long.



Alane Artac



Brandon Jakobi

Join us in congratulating  
Alane and Brandon on being  
awarded the Henry Stiemann  
Memorial Scholarship.

## Join us for Breakfast in the Park

**Sunday, August 28**  
**7 am - 11 am**  
**Westside Park, Loyal**

**Proceeds benefit  
the Clark County Farm  
Bureau Henry Stiemann  
Memorial Scholarship.**



Thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors, and attendees who made our annual breakfast such a success!



## Marathon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marathon  
MarathonCountyFarmBureau



**Mary Lewandowski**

Join us in wishing these young ladies the best as they head off to school this fall.

**Naya Blanz**



**Emma Bangart**

CONGRATULATIONS

**Abigail Hovland**



## Congratulations Josie Otto



## Portage County Farm Bureau Scholarship Winner



Join us in congratulating Zinda Insurance Group for celebrating ten plus years of service to Portage County and beyond!

They were also recently named Best Insurance Agency for Portage County in 2022 and Rural Mutual's Agency of the Year in 2021.



## Price County Farm Bureau Hosts Horse Pull and Beef Cookout

By Dan Berg, Portage County Farm Bureau President

We want to thank those who came and enjoyed our annual Horse Pull and Beef Cookout and give thanks to the Wisconsin Beef Check Off for help sponsoring the event.

We couldn't have done it without Deer Creek Angus and our amazing volunteers. For the last two years we have partnered with Deer Creek

Angus to provide high quality burgers for our event.

We also want to thank the pullers who make this annual event one for the memory book.

A special thanks to Dean Kurth and his crew for their work.



## Northwoods Greenhouse and Ice Cream

By Ashleigh Calaway, WFBF District 8 Coordinator

On a beautiful Monday morning I hit the highway and traveled to Prentice to meet with the owner of Northwoods Greenhouse & Ice Cream, Dave Charpentier.

I'm not usually one for an early morning road trip but I'm so glad that I did. I was so excited as the first thing I noticed was Charpy, Dave's second in command, was up and ready to greet the days guests.

Charpy, is a beautiful Chocolate Labrador who takes his job as official greeter very seriously. As an avid dog and plant lover, I realized I had found my little bit of heaven. Walking along his beautifully accented paths and taking in his amazing greenhouses it was evident that Dave's eye for detail was everywhere.

After a beautiful stroll through the greenhouse, Dave and I headed inside to the ice cream shop to sit down and talk about

Northwoods Greenhouse & Ice cream and why he decided to open shop in Prentice.

Dave shared that he is one of five brothers. Having spent his early years in the U.S. Navy then in carpentry after his father's death he found himself at a pivotal fork in the road.

When he decided to try a new avenue in his life, one that involved getting his hands dirty and reconnecting with the land.

He spent five years working under the guidance of Ebert's Greenhouse Village in Ixonia. He credits this time as one of the most beneficial hands-on learning experiences he had.

When I asked him what made him decide to start his own greenhouse, he shared the most profound advice given to him. A grower and friend from Iowa told him a few years ago.

"If it is something your passionate about go for it – risk it all you won't regret it, but you will regret not taking it."

Having worked in the industry for roughly 10 years he knew that he had found his new

passion after spending almost 30 years in carpentry.

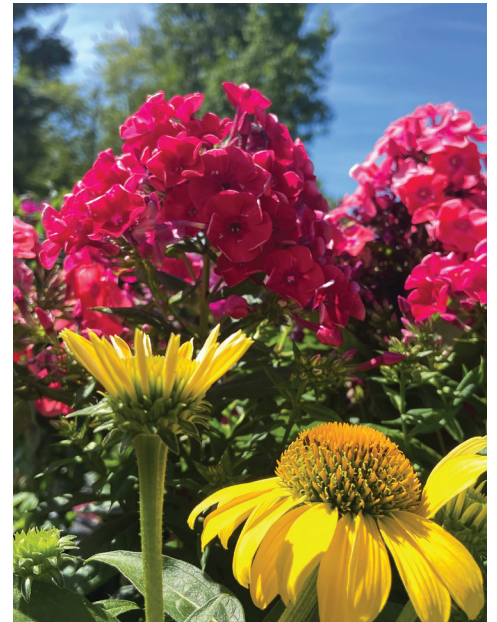
He noted a few times that his favorite plants that he sells are the pollinators, and man does he have quite the selection of them.

Dave then shared how this is his second year of raising funds for the Gary Sinise Foundation.

He noted how excited he was that the Price County Farm Bureau Dairy Promotion Committee was sponsoring up to \$500 worth of ice cream to help not only celebrate National Ice Cream Month but our veterans.

This year they were able to give more than \$2,000 to the foundation thanks to the community.

If you ever need an excuse for a Sunday drive, I encourage you to hit the open highway and check out all that Northwoods Greenhouse & Ice Cream has to offer along with the great attractions of Price County. It is definitely a little slice of heaven in the north woods of Wisconsin.



# CONGRATULATIONS

**Thomas Monteith      Brooke Leball**  
**Samantha Morrone      Sophia DeByl**  
on being awarded a Price County Scholarship. We  
wish you the best as you start your next chapter.

## From the Presidents Desk



**Rob Klussendorf**

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

I think we have been a part of something that didn't go quite as planned. Worked on committees where you bring forth ideas and find nothing but roadblocks.

I know I have found myself there a time or two over the years. The best part of being a part of groups like this is you learn about perseverance, build people skills and typically come to see how beneficial it was to push yourself outside of your comfort zone.

When faced with situations like these, I like to take a step back and focus on the bigger picture: does this new plan help or hinder our mission, does it improve or take away from the vision or is it something that will get us closer to our goal or further away.

A few years ago, I served on the fundraising committee for the Brining the Barn to the School. We started with one goal: helping our students gain hands-on experience with animals. The plan build a barn with four animal stalls, an area for tractor restoration and a meeting room for

classroom instruction and discussion.

Over the course of our work plans changed, as they usually do. The school district ended up purchasing an additional land with house, two outbuildings and barn. With the new purchase we envisioned getting larger pens, more animals and more hands-on experiences. What we ended with was a two-pen barn with a full classroom and two bathrooms.

Did we hit our goal having a place for students to gain hands on experience, yes. Is it completely different from what the steering committee planned, also yes.

This year Taylor County Farm Bureau offered a scholarship available to graduating seniors. The applicants of the scholarship program directly benefited from the barn at the school. If it had not been for the experiences gained inside and outside the classroom, who knows if they would be looking to go into veterinary medicine. Overall the barn at the school has been an amazing addition to our school district and I hope to see it continue for many years. With school starting shortly, I hope you encourage your child to check out the Agriculture Education Department and all it has to offer.

We look forward to seeing you at We Grow LLC for our annual county meeting on **Thursday, Sept. 1.**

Kelsey Jascor,  
congratulations on being  
awarded the Taylor County  
Farm Bureau Scholarship



## Steak and Egg Breakfast Is Best One Yet



Thank you for making the steak and egg breakfast one of our best ones yet. Thank you to the volunteers and community members who came and celebrated Beef Month.

## Farming Is Hazardous

By Kyle Koshalek, Research Coordinator



Farming is one of the most hazardous industries in the U.S. with an increased risk of injury to those who both work and live on the farm, especially children.

Children raised on farms also enjoy certain social and health benefits.

The tension between benefits and risks poses problems for farm parents and safety professionals who wish to work together to mitigate children's risks, as well as enhance the benefits of being raised on farms.

A project at the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Health and Safety (NCCRAHS) titled 'The Farm Kid Paradox' is exploring this problem in a new five-year cycle of the center.

Approximately every day in the U.S., there are 33 agricultural-related incidents involving children. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), 60% of household youth were not working when they were injured in agriculture.

Incidents with cattle are increasingly the leading cause of non-fatal injury among working and non-working youth in agriculture.

The burden of youth agricultural injury is especially heavy on family farms and ranches where youth are often involved with livestock management, receive minimal training and may lack adult supervision.

In addition, family farms are worksites and homes where youth are in close proximity to large livestock, especially beef and dairy cattle, as part of formal work and day-to-day domestic activities like chores and play.

If you are interested in joining the study or if you have questions, please contact me at 715.389.3786 or [koshalek.kyle@marshfieldresearch.org](mailto:koshalek.kyle@marshfieldresearch.org).

## From The President's Cab



**Josh Calaway**

Wood County Farm Bureau President

As we prepare to put the final touches on getting the ice cream stand ready for the Central Wisconsin Fair, I can't help but be thankful for the volunteers who make it possible for us to be there. You are truly remarkable.

The ice cream stand is so much more than our major fundraiser for the year. The funds raised from the event also allows us to support programs at the fair such as: the junior dairy show, little britches and the forage contest.

I have a lot of fond memories of the fair but, this year especially, I'm excited to see it all unfold. This year, my wife will be gone for a conference and I'll be stepping up to be the official 4-H fair parent on duty.

My first experience at the Central Wisconsin State Fair was made

possible through 4-H, just like hers. Growing up in the Pittsville community, we were a part of the Pleasant Corners 4-H. The same club our daughter is a Cloverbud in. She has been actively working on her projects for months. To see the excitement of each new completed project is truly what it is about, not the ribbons. It's about the memories made, the skills learned and the commitment to see a project all the way through. The skills she is developing as a Cloverbud are skills that will take her wherever she dreams of going. Looking back, I'm sure a lot of us can give 4-H credit for where we are today.

This year at the fair, I hope you take time to talk with 4-H or FFA members and ask them about their projects. I'm confident you will see their face light up as they dive right into sharing. I also encourage you to make the time to thank a 4-H leader or FFA advisor for all that they do to help shape these young leaders. Maybe even bring them by the Farm Bureau stand for an ice cream. Either way, we hope to see you at the fair and we want you to know how much we appreciate your business.

## County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic Fun

In mid-July we hosted our annual picnic in the park. It was a beautiful day to meet candidates seeking election this fall.

Greta the Incredible Milk Cow was on display for attendees to check

out and learn from.

We want to thank those who attended, and we look forward to seeing you at next year's summer picnic.



## Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners



Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Brad Krekula presented winner Jacob Marti his prizes, including \$100 cash for him and a \$100 gift card, for his teacher, to purchase supplies from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom store.



Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Caleb Schroer presented Myles Brownlow \$50 and a certificate for placing second in the essay contest.



Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Caleb Schroer presented Hannah Miller \$25 cash and a certificate for placing third in the essay contest.

*Congratulations!*

Abbi Knutson

Reese Brock

Join us in wishing Reese and Abbi the best as they start there next chapter!



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