

Grassroots

District 4 News

Teamwork, 'The Combined Action of a Group of People, Especially When Effective and Efficient'



Joe Bragger

WFBF District 4 Director

As you are reading this the elections are over, the votes cast, hopefully the winners announced, with minimal cause for distrust of the process and we move on.

We have been bombarded with political ads, positive and negative although I would think mostly on the very negative. I never thought I

would miss a simple Chevy or Ford truck commercial.

Now what?

Going back to teamwork, as I reflect on all of the teamwork within our Farm Bureau District, I am amazed at all that is accomplished especially within the great counties of (no order) Buffalo Trempealeau, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Jackson and Monroe.

I think of the support county Farm Bureaus provide local fairs, FFA chapters, food pantries, scholarships, conservation leadership and the list could continue.

This only happens when great teams of people do together with a respect and admiration for everyone's contribution to the whole. Leaders who bring out the best in those that step up to make a difference and volunteers who have a passion for agriculture and farming.

Politicians could learn from our counties as we discuss and debate agriculture policy. Locally we all have strong feelings on how to handle issues yet once the debate is ended, we support each other and work together to advance policy that will not only benefit our farms it will strengthen our communities as well.

The team at Wisconsin Farm Bureau is in the process of rolling out a campaign school. With less than 2% of the world feeding the other 98%, it is so important the great farmer leaders step up and run for office at the local, state and national levels, the campaign school will provide the knowledge and tools to run a successful campaign.

It will help you to set up a team of volunteers to improve your odds of successfully managing a campaign and ultimately representing the policies farmers need.

Please stay tuned and hopefully participate in the new program. If not, the following quote from Plato, an Ancient Greek Philosopher comes into play.

"The price men pay for not being involved in governing people is being governed by those less capable."

As always enough is enough.

Wisdom From Whalen



Kevin Whalen

District 4 Coordinator

"When I was first hired at Farm Bureau, I heard the phrase, "Welcome to the family," from many people who were familiar with the organization.

It became a real indication of how people valued those who they worked with on staff

and in membership.

It reminded me of my own family growing up since I had sisters that kept an eye out for me just as Farm Bureau has staff members who keep checking on whether I need help.

It reminds me of a story that was told by a NBA basketball star named, Manute Bol. He was from Sudan and stood over seven foot, seven inches tall. Manute was known for his ability to deflect the shot of opponents. He told a story about a tribe in Sudan called the Mundari. I remembered the story because the tribe held cattle sacred and used them as money. I thought it was very appropriate since I have held cattle in high regard all my life.

The story told of a trader in the Mundari tribe that was known for his ability to achieve the best price when he was selling cattle and pay the least when buying cattle. The young man's name was Ankole. The whole tribe was amazed at his skill of bargaining.

Ankole took a liking to a young girl in the tribe named Adari. Adari was from a poor family, so she had to work very hard to help the family survive. She had been told by her father when it was time for her to wed, he might not even get a cow in trade for her since all her work had left her with hunch backed and with a frail body. All the tribe agreed if Ankole asked for her hand in marriage, he could get her for very little in exchange.

It came time for Ankole to ask Adari's father for his daughter's hand in marriage. He offered 50 cows for chance to wed Adari. Adari's father readily agreed. People from neighboring tribes heard of the exchange and came from miles around to see this daughter that was worth 50 cows. Adari was embarrassed by all the attention but stood tall as to not let down her husband. He removed the extreme labor from her life, and she grew strong. She became one of the most beautiful women of the tribe.

Later, when tribe was selecting its next leader, all involved chose Ankole and his beautiful bride, Adari. His wisdom was recognized along with her response to his valuing her.

We can raise the value of the people who we work with just as Ankole did. Serve your 'family' with wisdom and all will gain in the end.

District 4 Hosts Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting

July 26 was an evening with filled with intelligent discussion in District 4. Revolution Coffee in Black River Falls played host to the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet.

The contestants were: Collin Weltzien (second year), Andrea Schlais (veteran) and Emily Oates (veteran). The three YFA members from two different counties (Buffalo and Trempealeau) discussed the topic: *Due to current economic demands, many farmers and ranchers spend a lot of time outside the "fence rows" on off-farm jobs. How can Farm Bureau become more accessible and welcoming to members who are working in related fields and juggling responsibilities on and off the farm?*

The contest had an opening (30-second opening statement), a body (25 minutes of open discussion) and a closing (one-minute closing statement).

The opening and closing statements were given in voluntary order determined by the contestants. District 4 competitors used nearly every second available for the opening statements. The openings were very diverse with the veterans inserting humor to increase the audience's attentiveness. Discussion centered on practical ways to attract some of the top new minds in agriculture. The closings included action terms to how the ideas could be put into motion.

Judges for the evening included: Derek Husmoen, USDA-NRCS;

Brenda Dowiasch, USDA Clark County Farm Service Agency; and Mark Kaeding, Land'O Lakes. Thank you to these judges for their time.

The three selected to continue to competition at the WFBF Annual Meeting included: Emily Oates, Andrea Rippley and Collin Weltzien.

Activities continued as District 4 Director, Joe Bragger, opened the annual policy meeting by entertaining new resolutions. Members from the six county Farm Bureaus presented ideas and determined the initial offerings that started as six main ideas.

Many of the offerings reflected the environmental applications to the agriculture industry including large animal operations and the impact on the environment.

Members had strong feelings on local control of land along with management of woods and wildlife. Each idea was listed in a document that was projected for viewing. Modification occurred in all resolutions when all points were discussed.

The final list of resolutions will consist of items from policy night along with resolutions added from each county meeting. The entire package will be submitted to state delegates at the annual meeting. The resolutions that pass with majority votes will be published in the 2023 Farm Bureau Policy of the 103rd delegates of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.



The judges for our event are all volunteers.



Emily Oates presented her topic.



(from left): Emily Oates, Collin Weltzien and Andrea Rippley Schlais.



Joe Bragger orchestrated policy.

District 4 Young Farmers and Agriculturists Are 'Tee-riffic' with Golf Outing

Young Farmer and Agriculturist members were 'tee-riffic' together at Skyview Golf Course in Black River Falls with a day long best ball golf outing that was held on Aug. 20. The friendly activity started at 10:30 a.m. with foursomes arranged for the nine-hole endeavor.

Best ball was played with the requirement you had to use each members shot on the hole. That evens up the competition and allows for fun on each hole.

Teams were able to complete the course just after the noon hour with a lot of fun had by all. The event was organized by Young Farmer and Agriculturists Chair Savannah Henke.

The event was advertised on Facebook and at each of the six county meetings for the previous two months. Great job to all who participated.



There were mighty fine swings showing that these golfers had done this before.



Nice group of golfers from three counties participated at Black River Falls.



Promotion and Education Chair Brenda Dowiasch led the crew to a shotgun start.

Individuals From District 4 Selected for WFBF Leadership Institute

Fifteen agricultural leaders have been selected to participate in the WFBF Leadership Institute. This two-year long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders. Why do members participate?

- To develop and refine your follower and leader skills.
- To learn from experts, exchange ideas and gain confidence.
- To improve your communication and speaking skills.
- To learn how to craft an effective ag message and work with media.
- To develop friendships and find creative solutions to challenges through teamwork.
- To explore domestic and international agricultural issues.
- To join in the political process at the local, state and national levels.
- To create a written leadership plan for your personal development and the improvement of your county Farm Bureau.

Who Can Participate?

Any voting member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau may apply to participate in the program. Each class is limited to 15 participants. Classes are selected based on building a team learning environment.

What Are the Expectations?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau expects WFBF Leadership Institute graduates to use the leadership skills and abilities they have developed in the program to become actively engaged and involved in their county Farm Bureau. Eventually, they may expand their leadership involvement in Farm Bureau and their community.

"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."

District 4 received notification that two outstanding leaders from Buffalo County were selected to participate in the next WFBF Leadership Institute: Allison Bragger, Independence; and Edward Rippley, Cochrane.

Other members of the 2023 WFBF Leadership Institute class are: Christina Benson, Darlington, 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; 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.

What Recent Graduates Say

Andrea Schlais: "If there is one thing Farm Bureau is good at, it is empowering leaders and showing us that our voices matter. If you want to take your leadership skills to the next level and learn more about using your voice and story, the Farm Bureau Leadership Institute is a great way to build your skills. As a recent graduate of the program, I can attest that it is a great way to build on current skills and learn new ones. This is also a great networking opportunity as you meet ag professionals from all over the state. I have truly enjoyed my time in the program and feel empowered to do more with my position to advocate for Agriculture."

Heather Erdman: "Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Leadership Institute was such an incredible experience. Throughout this year long institute we were taught so many different lessons. Leadership skills, working together, communication and positive work with media in order to getting out effective information about agriculture just to name a few. These skills were practiced throughout our learning sessions. These lessons were put to the test on our capstone trip to Washington, D.C., where we were able to meet with our representatives to talk about agriculture issues. Along with all the skills I learned from this class, I was also able to take away so many new friendships. Without WFBF Leadership Institute I would not have had the opportunity to cross paths with so many amazing people. I would highly recommend WFBF Leadership Institute to anyone who hopes to become more involved in Advocating for AG."

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

National FFA Convention Results for FFA Chapters From District 4

Congratulations to the following American Degree recipients from District 4 FFA chapters.

Member

Megan Marie Culpitt
Izzi Mason
Amara Lynn Livingston
Cody James Hall
Emily Sue Osborn

Chapter

Cashton
Cashton
Cochrane-Fountain City
Tomah
Galesville-Ettrick-Trempealeau



Congratulations to the following musicians on selection and performances.

National FFA Band: Vaida Goplin, Whitehall FFA

National FFA Choir: Devin Klomsten, Whitehall FFA



County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting Excels

A large crowd was present on Oct. 6 at Danzinger Vineyard for the Buffalo County Farm Bureau Annual meeting. Danzingers has hosted the past few years to loud acclaim.

The evening started with the invocation by Faith Pronschinske. A great tradition of Buffalo County Farm Bureau is to have a new board of director member start with this responsibility. The meal followed Miss Pronschinske's presentation and it was catered by the North End Tavern. An excellent serving of beef was presented with sides.

After everyone finished eating, Ed Rippley led the members in the pledge of allegiance. He continued the program by introducing the guests in attendance. The members of the board of directors introduced themselves. We were educated on the campaigns of 2022 by Republicans Dave Estenson (Wisconsin Senate) and Treig Pronschinske (R-Mondovi).

The highlight of the evening was the address by Carl Duley, Buffalo County Agriculture Extension agent for 37 years. He started his presentation with information on Lou Gehrig's Disease. He explained his condition based on his diagnosis. A bright spot for Carl was that he was selected to be part of a trial that gives him optimism. He spoke on the future of Buffalo County and gave a history of his 37 years on the job.

WFBF reports followed. Brenda Dowiasch presented on the activities of the Promotion and Education Committee. She included the tour of Superior Fresh along with the Leadership Boot Camp.

District-wide Young Farmer and Agriculturists material was highlighted by Savannah Henke, who is from Jackson County. She was selected to serve on the WFBF Board of Directors for the coming year.

Calf project was delivered by Cecelia Dittrich, daughter of Don and Bobbi Dittrich. She has purchased two Jersey heifers and exhibited at shows in the area.

County Young Farmer report was authored by Dustin Ellis. He thanked the crowd for support and relayed that Ashley and he were selected as state finalists in the 'Farming for the Future Contest.' Results will be announced on the Sunday of the WFBF Annual Meeting.

WFBF District 4 Coordinator Kevin Whalen spoke on membership

and working with 'Family.' Those closest to us who support us in our undertakings. WFBF District 4 Director Joe Bragger spoke on resolutions and personnel changes at WFBF.

The 2021 County Annual Meeting minutes were approved along with the 2022 Financial Report. Delegate selection was next

on the agenda. Nominees were announced. Motion made and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Collin Weltzien, Dustin Ellis and Jan Schaffner. Motion carried. Pat Danzinger, Mariah Baecker were nominated as alternates. Motion made and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Pat Danzinger, Mariah Baecker Motion carried.

County Young Farmer election was opened. Ashley Ellis was nominated. Motion made and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Ashley E Ellis. Motion carried.

Promotion and Education Chair was next on the agenda. Emily Kaltenberg was nominated. Motion made and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Emily Kaltenberg. Motion carried. Director nominations were opened. Jan Schaffner, Ed Rippley, Chris Jumbeck and Dustin Ellis were nominated. Motion made and seconded to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for all nominations. Motion carried.

14 resolutions were presented; three were brought from the floor. Motion made and seconded to accept all resolutions. Motion carried.

\$500 in door prizes were given out, t-shirts and two pairs of gloves from Rural Mutual Insurance Company agent Steve Berger.



President Edward Rippley presents the Agriculture Advocacy Award to Carl Duley, Buffalo County Agriculture Extension Agent.

County Farm Bureau Sponsors 'Little Britches'

Buffalo County Farm Bureau helps sponsor 'Little Britches.'

One of the highlights of the 2022 Buffalo County Fair had to be the Sunday afternoon all species livestock show for kids eight and younger.

'Little Britches' was held on Aug. 7 with more than 50 participants bringing out their favorite animals to be presented to a show barn full of parents, grandparents and county fairgoers.

Some of the participants were as young as four years of age, but all

proudly spoke on the microphone about their exhibit.

Fair royalty assisted with the activity that was sponsored by the Fair Association and the Buffalo County Farm Bureau.

Dustin and Ashley Ellis, Buffalo County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Chairs, coordinated the activity that brought smiles to the fair faithful. Activities like this one assure us that the future looks bright for the future of livestock exhibition in the Buffalo County and Pepin County areas.



Dustin Ellis assisted a very young showman on how to hold his calf.



Ashley Ellis served as a ring person directing the microphone.



Each young exhibitor received time on the microphone to tell about his or her animal.

Buffalo County Calf Grant Program Is More than 40 Years Old

The Buffalo County Farm Bureau calf grant program celebrates more than years of successfully starting young farmers in the cattle business. The program is still active in the Buffalo County area and presents a check to an FFA or 4-H member to invest in purchasing a calf.

The requirements include: Open to Buffalo County and Pepin County 4-H and FFA members, and you must be between the ages of 11 and 16.

The grant offers \$300 towards the purchase of a dairy heifer calf for the member to show. Applications are due in spring. The Farm Bureau chair for the activity is Taliah Danzinger.

This year's calf grant winner is Cecelia Dittrich of the Golden Hornets 4-H club. Cecelia is the daughter of Don and Bobbi Dittrich. The calf

grant money was invested in two Jersey heifer calves that have been having an eventful stay at the Dittrich Farm.

The calves were purchased Apr. 9 and hail from Travis Lehnertz's farm in Kellogg, Minnesota. Their names are Mango (DOB: Mar. 12, 2021) and Minnie (May 16, 2022). The grant was not enough to pay for the heifers, so Cecelia works at Suncrest Pizza Farm and Fleet Farm

to earn the money to own the heifers.

The first day on the farm for the calves included each getting its own separate pen along with an ample supply of grass hay, water and corn silage. The breed selected was Jersey since Cecelia wanted her herd to be different from the home herd of Holsteins.

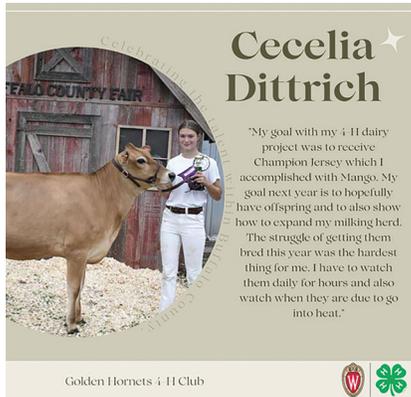
Mango earned the first chance at being exhibited by showing in the Northern Wisconsin Fair at Chippewa Falls.

She received second in a class of five spring yearling heifers. Both heifers got a chance to be seen at the Buffalo County Fair in Mondovi. Mango was shown in the Registered Spring Yearling class and placed first. Minnie was exhibited in grade category of the same age and received second. Mango went back in the ring in the Champion drive and was selected Jersey Junior Champion. This was a major goal that Cecelia had for the year, and Mango helped her accomplish it.

Any dairy project will only continue to be successful through breeding. Both heifers were bred to VIP. Minnie settled on first service, and Mango is still working on conceiving. Cecelia's next goal is to have offspring be selected as champions.



Cecelia with Mango.



Eau Claire County

President's Update



Brenda Dowiasch

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau President

We have so much to celebrate here in Eau Claire County.

Reflecting over the past year, we have really done some amazing things in Eau Claire County. Just touching on a few events that are on the top of my list:

- We had another successful spring with the Ag in the Classroom program. Our volunteers connected with 159 students in three school districts in our area.
- In June, the Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm was hosted at Nellie Holsteins with approximately 1,000 people in attendance.
- We attended the Augusta Bean and Bacon Days & Fall Creek Fun Fest parades with our award-winning float. Our theme, 'Farming ... It's in Our Jeans' got us a second place ribbon at both events. We handed out 1,500 beef sticks and information about membership benefits.
- The Eau Claire County Fair was a success this year and we were there to support our local youth with a hog purchase at the livestock auction.
- We continue to grow our membership and reached our goal again this year. We will be recognized as County All-Stars for membership at the WFBF Annual Meeting that will be held in Wisconsin Dells. Thank you to those who helped to make this possible.

It has been an honor to serve you during the past year as the Eau Claire County President and I look forward to what we can all accomplish together in the new year. There are many long hours spent working on committees or attending board meetings and your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. Thank you to those members who make Eau Claire County Farm Bureau great.

Wishing you a safe holiday season.



Wisconsin Senator Brad Pfaff taking time to explain the importance of keeping citizens informed in the 3rd Congressional District.

Wise Words From Steve Strey



Steve Strey, Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Board of Director

I was listening to some old country music the other day, and a song from the early 1990s came on by Aaron Tippin called, "I Wouldn't Have it Any Other Way."

I had heard the song many times over the years, but never really listened close to the lyrics before. As the song went on, I got to

thinking again, which can be dangerous for me, about how I try to live my life. The song fit right in with my morals and values.

It seemed to me that if more people acted this way we wouldn't have so many problems in the world today. So I want to share Aaron Tippin's words with you.

"I've walked the straight and narrow, and I've won the rebel's brand. Sometimes I've had to go without for being my own man. I've rallied to the cause when I knew the cause was right. I've cut against the grain, but I've kept my piece of mind. I could have taken the beaten path every time the trouble starts, but I would rather take a beating than to ever cross my heart. Sticking to my guns, I can't be bought or sold. Holding to my honor no matter what the cost. If there's a price for being me, that's one I'll have to pay. I'll take the good and bear the bad until my dying day. Oh, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Let me explain. Too many people today are oblivious to what goes on around them. They don't understand how the real-world works. They don't see the big picture. They don't seek the truth. They turn their back,

or worse yet condone issues that they figure don't affect them directly. They have become complacent. They don't differentiate between right and wrong. They are weak minded. They choose security over freedom. They stand back and watch as the morals and values of our God-fearing nation are destroyed. They ride the proverbial fence and don't stand for anything. The only thing that happens when you ride the fence is, that you get barbed wire shoved up your butt. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

When we were kids, my mom told me, if you are watching when somebody does something wrong, you are just as guilty as they are. She was so right. I urge you to stand up for what is right and good and reject what is wrong and evil. Do like Davey Crockett did at the Alamo. Draw your line in the sand, speak out and stand your ground. Fight for what you believe in. Fight for your faith. Fight for your family. Fight for your farm. Fight for your freedom. Fight for your country. If you don't, who will? Wake up and smell the coffee. You must seek out the truth, it will NOT find you.

In today's world, if information finds you, it is propaganda. If you don't draw your line in the sand and stand, there are dark evil forces out there, ready to take these things from you. You will have to be your own man. You might be considered a rebel. You will sacrifice and must bear tough times. Meet trouble head on and stick to your guns (literally as well). Hold to your honor and pay the price until your dying day. It will be worth it in the end. As for me, "I" wouldn't have it any other way.

And always remember, only the chosen few are truly blessed with the opportunity to feed, clothe and fuel the rest of the world.

Eau Claire Culminates Activities with Annual Meeting

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau culminated a very successful year in 2022 with their annual meeting held at the Cody and Leeza Kostkas Farm on Sept. 10. The atmosphere was very conducive to Farm Bureau activities with a herd of cattle in the pen next to the reception hall and an adventurist chicken patrolling the grounds.

The meeting started with Steve Strey saying the invocation. President Brenda Dowiasch followed with introductions of the guests. They included: Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager Barbi Manter; Bob Leege WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations; and Wisconsin State Senator Brad Pfaff; WFBF District 4 Coordinator Kevin Whalen and Karen Hurd, 68th Assembly candidate.

The next portion of the meeting was a delicious meal of pulled pork arranged by the food committee chaired by Lisa Pettis. Speakers started with Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager Barbi Manter speaking on the size and service of Rural Mutual Insurance. Kevin Whalen spoke about raising the level of your relationships of those working closely with you. Karen Hurd, 68th Assembly candidate shared her platform. Wisconsin Senator Brad Pfaff spoke on his candidacy for the 3rd Congressional seat.



A large crowd attended the Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

Heidi Strey, State FFA Officer, told about her activities that she has participated in. A solid two months were on training to be a state officer and the rest of the time was spent representing Wisconsin FFA at conferences and the Wisconsin State Fair.

Next on the agenda was

the approval of the minutes of last year's meeting and the financials of this year's meeting. All items passed. Nominations were opened for state meeting delegates. Brenda Dowiasch, and Mark Karow were nominated. Motion by

Lisa Pettis to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for those nominated. Second by Steve Erdman. Motion carried

Committee offices followed. Nominations were opened. Lisa Pettis was nominated for Promotion and Education chair. Motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Lisa Pettis. Motion carried. Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair was the next office: Nominations were opened. Heather Erdman was nominated. Motion to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Heather Erdman. Motion carried.

Board of Directors were the next offices to be filled. Nominations were opened. Mark Karow, Brandon Boettcher, Brenda Dowiasch, Tim Wucherer and Cody Kostka were nominated. Motion by Steve Strey second by Steve Erdman to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried.

Resolutions were the next item of business. 15 resolutions were presented; four were brought from the floor. Motion by Steve Strey, second by Lisa Pettis to approve all the proposed resolutions. Motion carried. Resolutions will be printed after adoption at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Door prizes including T-shirts and table center pieces were handed out to conclude meeting. Thank you to Cody and Leeza Kostka for hosting.



President Brenda Dowiasch with guest speaker Heidi Strey, State FFA Officer.

Peasley Family Is Outstanding Farm Family

The Dave Peasley family of Black River Falls was selected as Jackson County's Outstanding Farm Family by the sponsors of Jackson County Fair, Black River Falls FFA Alumni and the Jackson County Farm Bureau.

The Peasley Dairy Farm is an example of how a dairy can adapt through the years to stay successful. Dave and Tammy Peasley, along with their son and daughter-in-law, own and operate the dairy on land located two miles north of Black River Falls. The farm was once land that was used as a stagecoach line, livery and hotel.

The original name of the establishment was the Halfway Hotel since it was located halfway between Sparta and Neillsville. Six generations back, the original Mr. Peasley sold his share of the hotel business to concentrate on the dairy farm. Dairy cows have been the mainstay of the farm ever since; however, each generation has diversified to help add income to the farm.

Ice blocks used to be cut from the Black River and hauled home to farm to be stored and packed in sawdust in the ice house for use during the summer by local hotels.

Trees were cut and sold for lumber and firewood. Acres of strawberries were raised and sold to passing motorists.

The future of Peasley Dairy Farm looks bright



with Dave and Tammy's youngest son William taking over for the for the seventh generation. The organic production method the farm practices has allowed the Peasley Dairy Farm to produce a healthier product and to help lead them to greater economic activity.

William along with his wife Kelsey are both strong advocates for agriculture. They are already working to keep the Peasley legacy alive through their children.

William and Kelsey are imprinting values of hard work and determination that have been the tradition of the Peasley Dairy Farm.

County Annual Meeting Is a Success

The 2022 Jackson County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on Sept. 11 at the Party Barn, which is located on the Steve and Pat Kling's Farm near Taylor.

Steve Kling led the group in a prayer before the meal. The meal was an excellent pulled pork with potluck sides including outstanding desserts.

After the meal, Steve Kling introduced the guests in attendance. They included District 4 Farm Bureau representatives from committees. Brenda Dowiasch led off with her presentation on the activities of the Promotion and Education Committee.

The tour of Superior Fresh and highlights of the quilt workshop were emphasized along with District 4 hosting the Leadership Boot Camp. Brenda informed the group that she was elected to the WFBF Board of Directors for the current year. Savannah Henke followed Brenda with her report of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist's activities for the year.

The euchre tournament at Mondovi along with bowling tournament in Augusta were detailed. She offered a chance to play golf for those interested at the Tee-riffic Young Farmer and Agriculturists best ball tournament at Skyline on Aug. 20. Savannah informed us that she will serve on the WFBF Board of Directors next year.

District 4 Coordinator Kevin Whalen spoke on elevating the people you work closely with. Joe Bragger, District 4 Director and WFBF Board of Director provided updates on what is happening for agenda items. He also presented plans for the upcoming WFBF Annual Meeting.

The next items on the agenda were the obligations of approval of business. Motion by Nathan Kling, second by Savannah Henke to approve the 2021 county annual meeting minutes. Motion carried. Specific to our cash flow were the balance sheet and profit/loss. Motion by Nathan Kling, second by Taylor Koss to approve the annual financial report. Motion carried.

Local county elections were next on the docket. Promotion and Education Chair started the selections. Nominations were opened. Taylor Koss was nominated. Motion by Steve Kling, second by Leonard Olson to



Jackson County board met with WFBF President Kevin Krentz.

close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Taylor Koss. Motion carried.

For Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair, Savannah Henke was nominated. Motion by Steve Kling, second by Leonard Olson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Savannah Henke. Motion carried. Board of Directors were the next individuals selected. Ryan Sawyer and Steve Boe were nominated. Motion by Savannah Henke, second by Leonard Olson to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for those nominated. Motion carried.

Delegates were voted on for the next item of business. Keith Henke, Steve Kling, Ryan Sawyer and Nate Kling were nominated. Motion by Nate Kling, second by Savannah Henke to close nominations. Motion carried. Nate Kling, Steve Kling and Ryan Sawyer will serve as delegates, Keith Henke will serve as the alternate.

15 resolutions were presented; three were brought from the floor. Motion made by Bill Freese and seconded by Leonard Olson to approve the proposed resolutions. Motion carried.

Thank you to the Kling's for hosting the event.

County Farm Bureau Celebrates Successes During Annual Meeting

A large crowd met on Aug. 27 in Cashton Park to celebrate the activities of the Monroe County Farm Bureau for the year. Jack Herricks, longtime board member and retiring President, led off the meeting that culminated the activities in Monroe County. Everyone introduced themselves for openers. A fine meal was presented by the food committee, headed by Derek Trescher. After the introductions, the reports were made by guests of the Farm Bureau.

Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager, Randy Palmer, provided an update on behalf of Rural Mutual. He reported on the claims made throughout the winter of 2021 and the dividend program. Randy drew attention to his quality humor. He thanked the Farm Bureau for being great affiliates of Rural Mutual Insurance and for the relationship the two organizations have with one another.

Brenda Dowiasch, Promotion and Education Chair for District 4 from Eau Claire County, spoke on activities of the Promotion and Education Committee in the district. Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) District 4 Chair Savannah Henke recited the activities of the young farmers along with sharing specifics on her election to the WFBF Board of Directors.

District 4 Coordinator Kevin Whalen presented on the ability to raise others by how we treat them when working together.

District 4 Director Joe Bragger regaled the crowd with stories of the impact that Monroe County has had on the state and federal levels with actions and resolutions.

The minutes of 2021 annual meeting were approved along with the financials of 2022. Ballots were cast for election of delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Nominated were J Al Ferries, Derek Trescher, Dawn Powell and J. Wells as delegates and Jim Herricks, Jack Herricks and Kori

Blank as alternates. Directors were to be selected next. Motion made and seconded to open nominations. Nominated were J. Wells, Scott Schmitz, James Herricks, Derek Trescher and Richard Terpstra. Motion by Derek Trescher, second by Chris Blank to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for all those nominated. Motion carried. The next director to be elected was for The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair. Emily Powell was nominated. Motion by J. Wells, second by Karen Leis to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Emily Powell. Motion carried. The next director to be elected was for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair. Emily Powell was nominated. Motion by J. Wells, second by Karen Leis to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Emily Powell. Motion carried. Next director to be elected was the Promotion and Education Chair. Kori Blank was nominated for chair. Motion by J. Wells, second by Karen Leis to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Kori Blank. Motion carried.

The final action of the evening was to approve the resolutions to be sent onto the WFBF Annual Meeting. 14 resolutions were presented. Motion made by Jim Herricks and second by Scott Schmitz to approve all resolutions presented. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned, and all members enjoyed some casual conversation.



Jack Herricks used the gavel for the last time as Monroe County President.

County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarships

To be eligible you must meet the following qualifications:

1. Must be an immediate family member of a Monroe County Farm Bureau Federation member.
2. Preference going to students majoring in agriculture, it may be to Farm and Industry Short Course, a technical school or college. Open to all majors.
3. Must have the application in by **Mar. 15, 2023**.
4. Must be a graduating high school senior.



There will be two, \$500 scholarships presented and the scholarships will be awarded upon proof of first semester attendance.

For more information and to get an application, please contact Peggy Wright at 608.269.3173, 800.236.3173 or 608.372.9272.

Farm Safety Day

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2023

Location: Cashton Elementary School
436 Front Street, Cashton

Time: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., check in will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Please pre-register by Apr. 1, 2023, using the this google form, <https://forms.gle/rd8ipm6kCyEPKV3h8> and fill out a separate registration form for each child attending.

For questions, please contact Kori Blank at 608.487.5610 or blank.kori@cashton.k12.wi.us.

A lunch will be provided.

Coloring Contest

Age Groups: 3 & 4 *A prize is given to a winner in each age group.*

5 & 6 *To participate, you must be a resident of Monroe County.*

7 & 8



Name:

Age:

Address:

Phone:

Mail entries by Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, to: Peggy Wright, 605 W. Wisconsin Street, Sparta, WI 54656.

President's Message



J. Wells

Jackson County Farm Bureau President

Hello. My name is J. Wells, commonly referred to as 'J dot.' I'm the newly elected president of the Monroe County Farm Bureau. I reside in the rolling hills between Cashton and Sparta along with my wife, Beth, and four children: Brady,

Nathan, Isaac and Audrey. We operate a family farm primarily focusing on 40 cow/calf beef herd.

I hope to bring family farm, family values and our grass roots foundation to the table in Farm Bureau. I take great honor in being chosen for this role as we have had great people hold this position. First, I

want to thank Jack Herricks, our past president, for his years of service on our board. I also want to thank the president before him, Annette Trescher (my sister), for her years of service and for inviting me to join the board during her tenure as the first female president of Monroe County Farm Bureau. I remember looking at the Farm Bureau sticker on the travel file that held my father, Simon Wells' paperwork when he was president.

I certainly look forward to upholding the integrity of our rural and farm lives through the voice of Farm Bureau. We need our voices to be heard, and we can achieve that with a strong membership. The Farm Bureau takes all ages and pulls them together to brainstorm and network.

Please contact me or one of the directors to ask questions or to join Farm Bureau or the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program.

I look forward to learning and letting our voices be heard.

Trempealeau County

A Message From the New President



Derek Husmoen

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau President

Hello. My name is Derek Husmoen, and I am the newly elected president of Trempealeau County Farm Bureau.

I grew up on my family's dairy farm between Blair and Arcadia. While we no longer have cattle, my family still grows 300 acres of corn, soybeans and hay. My wife, Bobbi Jo, and I were married in June 2021 and we reside in Galesville.

I also work off the farm for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service as a soil conservationist. For the past five years, I've worked in the Buffalo County office; however, I will transition to the Jackson County. My roles and responsibilities will remain the same; assisting farmers and landowners with conservation needs on their land.

It goes without saying that agriculture has always been a very important part of my life. When I was little, you could usually find me outside playing in the dirt with my little toy tractors. As I grew older, my love for driving tractors and helping with all there is to do around the farm grew stronger. Then came all the activities and opportunities through FFA and

the ag program at Blair-Taylor. From there, I attended UW-River Falls and stayed active in many ag-related clubs and organizations on campus while earning an agriculture degree. Fast forward a few years and now I have a career in conservation and still that same joy of farming.

In 2015, I became more involved in Farm Bureau when I joined the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. During the past several years, I have had opportunities to serve on committees and be very much involved in Farm Bureau at both the district and state levels.

My hope is that these experiences will help me in this new role as county president. I know I have big shoes to fill following in the footsteps of Shane Goplin, but I look forward to the opportunity.

I want to thank Farm Bureau members for their participation in the past year's activities. It's your efforts that make our county events a success.

Looking ahead, I want to find ways the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau can be more involved in our communities. Feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have. Whether it's new ways to promote agriculture in the county, or a new event we can bring our shake trailer to. I'd love to hear your thoughts.

I hope you had a safe and bountiful harvest and are looking forward to the holiday season and closing out the year on a positive note.

Meet: Dave Carlson, Economic and Tourism Manager at Trempealeau County

How's the new position going at Trempealeau County? Recently, I marked six months on the job as Trempealeau County's new Economic Development and Tourism Manager. The time has flown by. I've met with dozens of business owners, local elected officials and Trempealeau County residents who are interested in spreading the good news about the wonderful place we call home.

What's your background? Well, full disclosure, I'm not a Trempealeau County native. My wife grew up in Frenchville and she talked for years about returning to the area. Last year, we bought a home in Galesville. Now, I am discovering the festivals, unique businesses and natural beauty that make Trempealeau County such a great place to visit and live.

What do you think about your new job? My supervisor told me early on "Dave, you have one of the best jobs in the county." He may be right. I love working with people. I relish the challenge of helping a business meet its needs so that they can grow and add jobs. I embrace the opportunity to

promote this area to visitors who might have not previously known about Trempealeau County.

What is your vision for Trempealeau County's tourism?

I want to help make our county one of the top three to four destinations in Wisconsin.

To do so we will enhance the visitor's guide, use American Rescue Plan Act funds to promote through River Travel Media and get Trempealeau County residents out to major events that encourage tourism. Recently, we took a group to work at the Wisconsin State Fair promoting Trempealeau County.

What is your ultimate goal in agriculture tourism? To highlight successful business endeavors like the orchard, vineyard and hunting activities along with new ventures like pizza farms and music festivals.

One other goal is to bring Farm Technology Days back to Trempealeau County.



Farm Bureau Holds Annual Meeting

More than 40 members and guests attended the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau meeting on Aug. 16. The meeting was held in Blair at the Schroeder Shelter in Memorial Park.

The evening began with recognizing the 12 animal grant recipients for 2022. Each recipient shared his or her project and how they intended to use the funds. Derek Husmoen presented each recipient with a \$50 grant.

Rural Mutual Insurance District Manager Laurie Knutson provided an update on behalf of Rural Mutual. She reported on the dairy revenue protection program, the claims made throughout the winter of 2021 and the dividend program. She thanked the Farm Bureau for being great affiliates of Rural Mutual Insurance and for the relationship the two organizations have with one another.

WFBF District 4 Director Joe Bragger provided an update on behalf of the Board of Directors. He shared how much he enjoys working with and representing District 4 and the members he gets to work with.

Joe commended Shane on his years serving as a director and as Trempealeau County Farm Bureau President. He extended his

appreciation to the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau board of directors for their excellent work and involvement in WFBF state and national functions.

During the election process, Shane Goplin, Derek Husmoen, Jeremiah Walek and Kyle Nilsestuen were elected to serve as delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Jescey Thompson was re-elected as the ag promotions chair and Katie Engevoid was elected as the YFA chair. Nick Gamroth was elected to a three-year term on the board of directors. Derek Husmoen was elected president. Kyle Nilsestuen was selected for vice president and Jeremiah Walek was selected as secretary /treasurer.

Brian Maliszewski presented a plaque and a Carhart winter jacket to Shane Goplin for his more than 20 years of service.

Thank you to those members and guests who attended the county annual meeting.

The board of directors is proud to represent the many great members of the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau and looks forward to another great year of county Farm Bureau activities.



Each grant recipient spoke for a short time on how they will spend the \$50 grant.



An excellent meal of pulled pork sandwiches was enjoyed by all.



Shane Goplin received a Carhart coat from the Board of Directors for his more than 20 years of service.



Jeff Smith, District 31 State Senator, spoke about his candidacy for another term.



Food was served by the Goplin crew to everyone's delight.



Dave Estenson, District 31 Senate challenger, presented his platform.

Chocolate Coated Peanut Butter Crackers

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup creamy or chunky peanut butter
- 2 pounds chocolate almond bark, broken into pieces
- 80 buttery round crackers
- 2 1/4 ounces of colored candy sprinkles

Directions

1. Spread approximately 1 teaspoon of peanut butter onto each cracker half. Press peanut butter sides together to form 40 peanut butter filled sandwich cookies.
2. Melt almond bark in the top of a double boiler over hot, but not boiling water. Reduce heat and keep melted chocolate in top of double

- boiler over simmering water.
3. Dip each sandwich cookie into the melted chocolate, allowing excess to drain back into pot.
4. Place coated cookies onto waxed paper and immediately sprinkle with candy sprinkles so the sprinkles adhere to the melted chocolate.
5. Place cookies in the refrigerator until chocolate has set, about 15 minutes.



Updates from Trempealeau County Land Management Department: Pollinator Update

By Charmayne Anderson, Conservationist

Tiny, tireless animals have been working hard providing important pollination services.

Pollinators such as bees, pollen wasps, ants, flies, butterflies, moths, beetles, bats and hummingbirds contribute to flowering plant diversity. Almost 90% of wild plants are dependent on insect pollination (Potts et al., 2010).

In addition, approximately three quarters of the world's major food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. Ultimately, humans and terrestrial ecosystems would not survive without pollinators.

Unfortunately, pollinators have suffered major losses due to habitat loss and fragmentation of existing nesting and foraging grounds, parasites such as mites, diseases, agricultural practices, urbanization, pesticides and abnormal weather conditions.

There are many ways you can give these tiny, hard-working creatures a helping hand in your garden at home:

- Leave dead wood and leaf litter behind to provide pollinators with natural nesting areas.
- Plant a variety of spring and fall blooming plants for continuous blooms throughout the season. Also choose plants that offer a variety of different colors, fragrances, and heights.
- Plant in groups. Clumps of flowering plants will attract more pollinators than single plants scattered in the landscape.
- Do not use pesticides. Products that kill undesirable insects will also kill pollinators. If you must use pesticides to protect your garden, 'natural' does not mean 'non-toxic.' Use spot treatments on affected plants only.
- Plant native Wisconsin plants that attract pollinators such as hummingbirds, butterflies and bees:

Hummingbirds do not have a strong sense of smell; however, they do have excellent sight and are attracted to long tubular flowers that are red, but also will frequent other flowers with bright colors that are orange, yellow, purple or blue.

1. Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
2. Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*)
3. Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)
4. Wild Bergamot/Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
5. Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*)
6. Eastern Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
7. Coral Bells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
8. Trumpet Vine (*Campsis radicans*)
9. Agastache (*Agastache rupestris*)
10. Coral Honeysuckle (*Loincera sempervirens*)

Butterflies are mainly attracted to red and purple flowers with faint, fresh scents. They feed best on plants with narrow, tube-like flowers with a wide landing pad.

1. Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
2. Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) or (*Echinacea pallida*)
3. Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*)
4. Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
5. Spotted Joe-Pye Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*)
6. Common Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*)
7. Aromatic Aster (*Symphyotichum oblongifolium*)
8. Wild Bergamot/Bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)

Bees prefer bright white, yellow or blue plants with a fresh, mild odor. They can feed on plants with shallow, tubular flowers and a landing platform.

Early Season

1. Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)
2. Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon meadia*)
3. Wild Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*)
4. Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*)
5. Common Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Midseason

1. White or cream False Indigo (*Baptisia alba*) or (*Baptisia bracteata*)
2. Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)
3. Wild Bergamot/Bee Balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
4. Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*)
5. Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
6. American Basswood Tree (*Tilia Americana*)

Late Season

1. Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*)
2. Showy Goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*)
3. New England Aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
4. White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)

For more information on the importance of pollinators, search <https://www.usda.gov> keyword "pollinators."

References

Potts, S.G., J.C. Biesmeijer, C. Kremen, P. Neumann, O. Schweiger, and W.E. Kunin. 2010. Global pollinator declines: Trends, impacts and drivers. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 25(6):345-353.



Two White-lined sphinx moths, (*Hyles lineata*), Sioux City Journal

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