



Grassroots

District 2 News

District 2 Director Report



Arch Morton Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again, District 2 Farm Bureau members! It has sure been a busy winter, especially for Farm Bureau events. In early December our Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference were held. I would like to thank

our WFBF staff for organizing and executing another successful YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Also, thanks to all of you who participated.

Another huge success was our District 2 Youth Ag Summit.

In January, the American Farm Bureau Convention was held in Puerto Rico.

There were many county, district and state meetings in the past few months. I'm glad that I participated in all of these events and am proud of the accomplishments of District 2!

The delegates representing the six counties of our district did a great job of developing policies that our Governmental Relations team will

use to lobby on issues at the State Capitol. We are definitely a grassroots organization.

I hope that many of you members are able to attend Ag Day at the Capitol coming up on Wednesday, March 29. This is a great way of letting your elected representatives know how the agricultural legislation that they will be voting on will affect you. It's also a good way of building relationships with them.

I hope that this winter has been treating you well. See you soon and think spring!



Arch Morton Jr. attended the American Farm Bureau Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. On the day he arrived, it was Three Kings Day, also known as their second Christmas.

AFBF Women's Communications Boot Camp

By Kat Peper, Sauk County Farm Bureau participant



I was selected to participate in the AFBF Women's Communications Bootcamp in Washington, D.C., this past November. It is an intense three-day session all about communicating and advocating for agriculture.

Some of the highlights from the training were practicing TV and radio interviews in studios at AFBF, learning to craft an effective speech, and navigating social media. We

also spent some time on Capitol Hill meeting with legislative officials and talking about issues facing agriculture. I really enjoyed meeting with

Senator Baldwin's office and talking about the upcoming Farm Bill.

Lastly, I developed relationships with 14 other ladies from across the country involved in different aspects of agriculture. They become your cheerleader for the week, and we still all communicate and support each other. Boot Camp was an experience that I am thankful for. I recommend it to anyone interested in growing and developing your communication and advocacy skills.



Kicking Off 2023 with Mi Familia in Puerto Rico!



Andrea Brossard

AFBF Promotion and Education Committee, Vice Chair

The new year kicked off with the 2023 American Farm Bureau Convention held in Puerto Rico. There's no better way to kick off a new year than with my fellow Farm Bureau family and the American Farm Bureau Federation Promotion and Education Committee, and what an awesome time we had! From enjoying the festive sites in San Juan – home to the world's longest Christmas season – to reconnecting with old friends and making new, this was a truly memorable time. As I reflect on my time, I wanted to share a few highlights from our celebration of Mi Familia in San Juan.

Farm Bureau has a rich history of cultivating leaders through programming. The AFBF Promotion and Education Committee held true to our mission of bringing forth important workshops and presenters that help bridge that gap between farmers and consumers by answering the tough questions and having engaging conversations. Our committee built a fantastic program that provided attendees with tools and resources to help share agriculture's story!

Communicate, Collaborate and Influence - A Consumer Engagement Program

2023 Theme: Consumer Connections



The Communicate, Collaborate and Influence (CCI) pre-convention programming brought in members from throughout Farm Bureau.

More than 105 members interested

in confidently connecting with consumers and effectively conveying the significance of agriculture attended our programming. The program was held at the AFBF Convention on Saturday from 1:00-3:30 p.m. and attendees heard from a dynamic keynote speaker and engaging two breakout sessions.

Lost in Translation: Communicating Agriculture to Consumers – Opening Session

Emma Andrew-Swathout & Kelsey O'Shea, Industry Relations Team Members at American Dairy Association Northeast

Attendees were challenged to think about conversations they have with consumers and how they feel these conversations go and if they are speaking the same language.



Andrea Brossard shared state success during a breakout session.

Throughout the session, Emma and Kelsey provided a clearer picture of who our consumers are and what really matters to them. We learned how to communicate about what you do in the

consumers' preferred language and how to leverage data and information to communicate in a way that creates trust through clarity and transparency.

Your Translation Guide: Building Tools to Better Engage Consumers – Breakout Session

Emma Andrew-Swathout & Kelsey O'Shea, Industry Relations Team Members at American Dairy Association Northeast

During this hands-on session, we took time to learn how to activate the tools we have to communicate our agricultural story. Attendees walked through a group activity and discussion. By the end, participants were able to walk away with a few tips and tricks to make any interaction with a consumer a positive one.

Leveraging Your Power to Connect – Breakout Session

Margee Wolff, Vice President of Leadership, Education & Engagement at AFBF

Throughout the sessions participants had the opportunity to learn and use different powers of power and how to leverage them to connect with consumers as a leader and advocate.



Cultivation Stage Standing Up for the Industry You Love

Brandi Buzzard, Rancher, co-owner of High Bar Cattle Company, Blogger and advocate, Buzzard's Beat

Trust. A small word with immense meaning. It's critical to defend our industry while gaining and retaining trust. On Monday morning on the Cultivation Stage of the main area of the tradeshow, agriculture blogger and advocate, Brandi Buzzard, shared about how she has seized the moment to stand up for agriculture by engaging global food companies, the press, policy makers, and more, while using trust as her driving force. Through her lessons learned, she inspired us to use our voices and actions to build and retain trust in order to preserve the industry we love.

If our convention was any indication, this is going to be a full and exciting year ahead. Let's buckle up for 2023! We've got a lot of work to do yet: a new generation of consumers to engage with, new members to reach out to, and a farm bill to complete this year—just to name a few. But our Farm Bureau family doesn't shy away from a challenge. I was reminded at every turn at this year's convention that our Familia is truly stronger and better together.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference Highlights



Kat and Brady Peper

WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee,
District 2 Representatives

Happy 2023! We hope you had a great holiday season with your friends and family and had a great start to the new year.

It's hard to believe that the YFA Conference and Annual Meeting already happened! This was the first year that we were directly involved in planning the conference and enjoyed bringing it all together for a fun, successful weekend.

District 2 was well-represented at the conference this year.

We launched the inaugural 35 Under 35 program. Kat worked on the subcommittee for the program. There were more than 100 YFA members nominated in the first year! Those that were nominated were asked to submit a video for judging. Thirty-five finalists were chosen and highlighted at the YFA Conference both on stage and with a special reception. A winner was then chosen for each category: Sustainable Self, Sustainable Storytelling, Sustainable Future, Sustainable Service and Sustainable Environment.

District 2 had several nominations chosen as finalists. In the Sustainable

Future category, we had Megan Daluge of Rock County, Sydney Endres of Columbia County and Karoline Twardokus of Dodge County. In the Sustainable Environment category, we had Ryan Ripp of Dane County. For Sustainable Storytelling we had Stephanie Hoff and Katie Schmitt, both of Dane County. Lastly, Josh Gerbitz of Dodge County won in the Sustainable Service category.

This year saw a revamp of the YFA awards and we had great participation with increased applications. We had two members from District 2 that were finalists for the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award: Amy Silver from Green County and Julie Sweney from Dodge County.



District 2 Farm Bureau members gathered during the YFA Conference held Dec. 2-4, 2022, at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells.

We also had three outstanding participants in the YFA Discussion Meet. Sarah Hetke from Sauk County, Erin O'Toole from Dodge County and Brooke Trustem from Rock County. Congratulations to Sarah and Erin for making it to the Final Four.

Lastly, Kat was chosen as chair-elect to the state YFA committee and will serve as chair next year.

We are looking forward to working with your county YFA chairs again this year to plan events in your county and district-wide. One event that

we are excited to be bringing back is the Every Farmers Dream tour! This year we will be venturing to Dodge County for tours on April 15. Can't wait to see you all there!



District 2 members Erin O'Toole (Dodge) and Sarah Hetke (Sauk) (pictured left) advanced to the YFA Discussion Meet Final Four.



District 2 YFA Representative Kat Peper was elected as chair-elect of the State YFA Committee.



District 2 was well-represented in the inaugural 35 Under 35 Program with many finalists.



Amy Silver of Green County Farm Bureau gave her presentation as one of the finalists in the YFA Outstanding Ag Professional contest.



Brooke Trustem from Rock County Farm Bureau (right) participated in the YFA Discussion Meet.



Members got to know each other at the District 2 meeting.

District 2 News

WFBF Annual Meeting

By Kadence Walsh, Dane County Farm Bureau delegate

Like most Wisconsin Farm Bureau members, I look forward to the WFBF Annual Meeting every year. This year we were once again at the Kalahari the first weekend of December. For anyone who hasn't attended, I hope by the time you're done reading this, I have convinced you to attend next year!

WFBF Annual Meeting began Saturday afternoon in conjunction with the YFA Conference, with the tradeshow, silent auction and Farm Bureau reception. Members are able to check out business booths, network with other members and bid on awesome silent auction items such as gift cards, themed baskets, coolers, tools and other highly sought-after items donated by county Farm Bureaus and other generous sponsors.

Saturday afternoon rolled into the Farm Bureau Proud banquet, sponsored by Blain Supply Inc., which recognized members who have gone above and beyond to welcome new members into WFBF. Farm Bureau Proud Club members from District 2 included Dustin Williams (Green), Robert Schwandt (Dodge), Sally Schoenike (Dodge), Hunter Manthey (Columbia), Mike Duerst (Dane), Roger Hildebrandt (Dodge), Arch Morton Jr (Rock) and Eunice Yanke (Sauk). Dusty Williams was also recognized amongst the top 10 membership workers in the state.

Following dinner and the awards program, we were entertained by comedian magician Tim Gabrielson, sponsored by Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, before heading to BINGO and Name That Tune to hang out and catch up with friends.

Sunday morning began with brunch and a keynote speaker. This year's keynote speaker was Alex Sheen, who shared with us an incredible journey to a social movement and nonprofit he created focused on encouraging others to keep their word, "because I said I would".

Sunday continued with the tradeshow

and silent auction, workshops and WFBF Business Meeting covering the Rural Mutual Insurance Company (RMIC) management and financial reports and the WFBF financial report.

Sunday concluded with the WFBF awards banquet, featuring award winners of the Wisconsin Leopold Conservation Award, Joe and Christy Tomandl, and the Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture Award presented to former WFBF President Jim Holte.

At the end of the night on Sunday, we found out that District 2 won the Twenty Wars for the second year in a row! We were able to witness Arch Morton Jr. get a pie to the face to celebrate the more than \$5,500 raised to support the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Concluding the annual meeting on Monday, delegates voted on policy resolutions for the upcoming year. Delegates are elected by each county to represent the members and be their voice during the resolution process.

All in all, it was another wonderful year to participate in the WFBF Annual Meeting, whether it be for the

workshops, award recognition, speakers, entertainment, connections or business items. There is something for everyone to be involved in while having fun!

This weekend would not be possible without the support of county Farm Bureaus, members and generous sponsors like Rural Mutual Insurance, GROWMARK, Inc., Insight FS, Midwest Farm Report, BMO Global Asset Management, Farm Bureau Bank, Blain Supply, Inc., Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, and Conserv FS. Thank you to all who participated, supported and worked hard in 2022 to make WFBF great! We can't wait to see you in Wisconsin Dells next year!



Thank you to all of you who served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting this year!



Thank You

to all the county Farm Bureaus and members across the state who donated fun items, great baskets, delicious Wisconsin products, packages, gift certificates and hand-made items to the silent auction at the 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting. Proceeds from the Silent Auction benefit programs funded by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation including Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Promotion and Education, Farm Bureau Leadership Institute and the Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapters at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and UW-River Falls. With more than \$13,500 raised, we will be able to continue to support agriculture education and leadership development programs.



Donated by Sauk County Farm Bureau



Donated by Green County Farm Bureau



Donated by Dane County Farm Bureau



Donated by Rock County Farm Bureau

District 2 News

WFBF Annual Meeting Scrapbook



For the second year, District 2 won the Twenty Wars with the most points. More than \$5,500 was raised to support the WFB Foundation in this friendly competition amongst the nine districts.



District 2 Farm Bureau members played cards and socialized during the WFBF Annual Meeting.



County Farm Bureau delegates from across the state gathered to decide on Wisconsin Farm Bureau policy during the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Don and Beverly Meyer from Sauk County Farm Bureau were the recipients of the Agriculture Literacy Leadership Award.



District Director Arch Morton, Jr. encouraged Jill Uhe, Kathy and Steve Earleywine to support the WFB Foundation Twenty Wars held during the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Save the Date! Farm Bureau District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser



Back by Popular Demand

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

The Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove

Enjoy 18 holes of golf (includes cart/GPS), lunch, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and awards banquet!

Registration and sponsorship information available soon.

Brought to you by: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk County Farm Bureaus



District 2 News

Essay Contest Due April 1

Encourage your fourth and fifth grade students to participate in this year's essay contest! The essay contest is open to students in public schools, private schools and home school programs. The essay entry deadline is postmarked by April 1, 2023.

For the most up-to-date list of essay contest information, visit the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom website wisagclassroom.org. Essay contest information can be found in the events and activities tab.

Essays should be sent to the county contact listed below or on the website. Each county will have one winner that will move on to the district contest. Among the county winners, the District 2 Promotion and Education representative will select one district winner that will be forwarded to the state contest.

This year's topic is "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy". The topic relates to the Book of the Year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler.



District 2 Essay Contest Coordinator Contacts

Dane County

Darlene Arneson

2056 Skaalen Road
Stoughton, WI 53589
608.873.7209

arnesonfamily5@gmail.com

Green County

Tess Zettle

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Juda, WI 53550
608.214.8207

tesszettle92@gmail.com

Rock County

Stacy Skemp

114 W High Street
Milton, WI 53563
608.574.9096

skemps@milton.k12.wi.us

Sauk County

Nancy Liegel

E11197 Sauk Prairie Rd
Prairie du Sac, WI 53578
608.963.2511

gliegel52@gmail.com

Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

MARCH 17-18, 2023

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center | Fond du Lac

Register now at bit.ly/2023AgLeadSummit

Registration: **\$175**

Presented by:



The Ag LEAD Summit gives attendees the opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events. The summit is coordinated by WFBF's Promotion and Education Committee, whose mission is to build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Keynote Speaker - **Chris Hinrichs**

Entertainment - **Midwest Dueling Pianos**



Chris Hinrichs

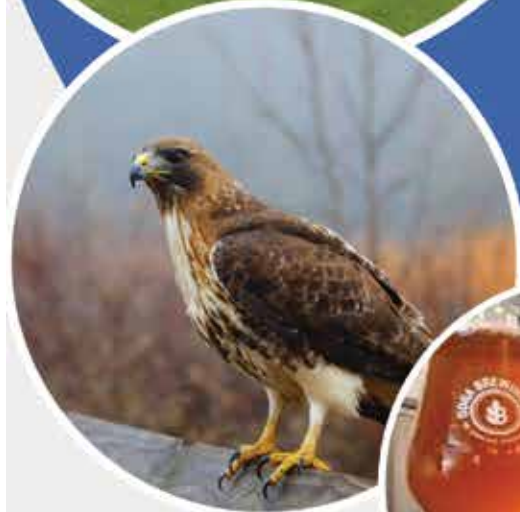


Jordan Henry

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Keynote Speaker - **Jordan Henry**

General Session - **Center for Food Integrity**
Consumer Insight Panel



**JOIN US FOR
A DAY OF FUN
AND LEARNING!**



**BACK BY POPULAR
DEMAND...**

EVERY FARMER'S DREAM TOUR

**BROUGHT TO YOU BY
DISTRICT 2 YFA AND P&E**

8:45am Scag, Mayville

Explore production of popular Scag products with a plant tour. Tour will begin promptly at 9am

11:30am Marsh Haven Nature Center

Discover the important relationship between the Red-Tailed Hawk and farmers. See LIVE birds!

12:45pm Lunch at Pizza Ranch

***participants are responsible for covering their own lunch cost*

2:15pm Ooga Brewing Company

Learn about Ooga's brewing process and their link to agriculture. Enjoy a taste of their signature brews.

OPEN TO ALL!!

**SATURDAY,
APRIL 15,
2023**

~FREE EVENT~
COST OF LUNCH NOT INCLUDED

**DUE TO LIMITED SPACE,
RSVP BY EMAIL TO AMY AT
ABLAKENY@WFBF.COM BY
MARCH 31 IS REQUIRED**

Youth Ag Summit Reaches Maximum of 75 FFA Student Participants

Erin Mullett

Youth Ag Summit event co-chair

The 8th Annual District 2 Youth Ag Summit event was hosted on Dec. 7, 2022 at Kuhn North America, Inc. in Brodhead. The event's focus was to expose high school students to different non-production careers in agriculture. Seventy-five high school students from Sun Prairie East, Parkview, Janesville Parker, Cambridge, Janesville Craig, Hustisford, Sauk Prairie, Belleville, Sun Prairie West, Milton, Stoughton, Evansville and Waunakee attended this year's event.

Students were each provided a padfolio and the opportunity to hear from Kuhn North America's Director of Human Resources, Jill Leitzen, as well as two of our three breakout session speakers.

Dustin Williams, Agribusiness and Farm Management Instructor at Blackhawk Technical College, Erik Huschitt, CEO and General Manager at Badger State Ethanol, and Steve Stettler, Master Cheesemaker at Decatur Dairy, Inc. served as breakout speakers for the event. Each of them hosted a breakout session where they shared about their background, their employer and what opportunities are available to students interested in potentially working for their company or pursuing a similar career.

Speakers encouraged students to take advantage of leadership and networking opportunities, jobs shadows, internships and stressed the importance of not being scared to reach out and ask questions. The speakers also encouraged students to research potential employers as they begin to build an idea of not just what they want to do after high school, but who they want to work for. The breakout sessions allowed students the chance to engage with the presenters and ask questions in a small group setting.

Students were also given a tour of Kuhn North America, Inc.'s production facilities during the event, giving them a close-up look at the start-to-finish process of how agriculture production equipment is made.

Following the breakout sessions and tours,

the students were provided lunch and the opportunity to hear from the event's keynote speaker: dairy farmer, blogger, broadcaster and advocate for agriculture, Carrie Mess. Carrie shared an empowering message with the students on how they

have the choice to customize their experiences and create the career that best fits their unique strengths and personalities, just as we can create a

customized version of one of Carrie's favorite foods: pizza.

Finally, the day wrapped up with Amy Blakeney, District 2 Coordinator, and Arch Morton, District 2 Director, sharing about Wisconsin Farm Bureau and what opportunities are available for involvement with the attendees.

The District 2 Youth Ag Summit committee thanks: Kuhn North America, Inc. for hosting and providing beverages and tours for the event; Sassy Cow Creamery and Karen Reisinger for providing

milk and desserts, respectively; each of the guest speakers who took the time out of their busy schedules to share their experiences with the students; the advisors and their students for their willingness to attend and learn; and the committee members who worked to plan and facilitate the event.

Thank you to each county Farm Bureau in District 2 for their financial support of the event. The event was truly a success and the committee looks forward to planning the event next year.



Panel discussion



Keynote speaker Carrie Mess



County Farm Bureau volunteers served lunch.



Breakout presenters Erik Huschitt (left) and Dustin Williams (top)

A Message From The President

Tom Jelinek

Dane County Farm Bureau President



Dane County Farm Bureau has many programs in the works to educate our members and the community.

As a board, we are encouraging members to attend Ag Day at the Capitol. Our focus for this event is to educate our representatives on the needs for the agricultural community. Too many of our representatives propose laws that are hindrances to farming. As a county, we sponsor some of our members so they can attend this great event. If you are interested in attending Ag Day at the Capitol, contact one of our board members for information.

Another event that we are engaged in is safety training for local firefighters. We know that local fire departments do not have adequate training when it comes to dangerous situations that can occur on a farm. It is our hope that these fire departments will attend to gain valuable, hands-on training which will benefit them the next time they are called out to an emergency on a farm.

Finally, we hope that you will attend the District 2 Golf Outing. This event is a great opportunity to renew old friendships, play golf and raise money for great county Farm Bureaus throughout the district. Thank you in advance.

Student Scholarship Deadline July 1



Are you a Dane County Farm Bureau member currently attending college and looking for a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to help with your fall courses?

Please review application criteria and deadline date:

1. Applicants or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a member of Dane County Farm Bureau.
2. Applicants must have completed one year of advanced education after high school before they apply. High school seniors are not eligible.
3. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in an agriculture program.
4. Applications must be completed in full and submitted by July 1. Incomplete or applications submitted after July 1, may be disqualified. Scholarship presentations will take place at the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in September.
5. Applicants will need to submit proof of fall registration with their application.
6. Previous scholarship recipients cannot apply again for the scholarship.
7. Judges will use the following criteria for evaluation: Academics 50 percent; activities and awards 30 percent; and need 20 percent.
8. This is a \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarship applications must be received by July 1.

Email your application and proof of fall registration to Kadence Walsh at kadencewalsh@gmail.com

For the Dane County Farm Bureau scholarship application and more information, please visit wbf.com/about/counties/dane.



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend

AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: March 22

Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline
\$60 after deadline and at the door.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

- 11:00 a.m. Registration
- 11:30 a.m. Opening Program
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Legislative Briefing
- 3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

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

Presented by: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

Thank You to Our Sponsors:

Rural Mutual Insurance Company

FS GROWMARK

Ag in the Classroom Update

By Darlene Arneson, Ag in the Classroom Chair

Essay Contest

Dane County Farm Bureau will be awarding both a 4th- and 5th-grade prize for

this year's contest. The topic, "You're Gonna Need Milk for That- Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities, and Economy", focuses on the dairy industry and its importance to Wisconsin's economy, workforce, and other areas.

Dane County will award three cash prizes (\$50, \$25, and \$10) in each grade level along with a classroom presentation. We have also purchased twenty sets of the Book of the Year

that will be awarded at teacher in-services and as contest prizes. Grade-level winners and their parents will also be invited to the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in September to present their essays.

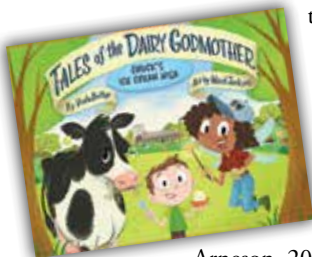
Entries are due to Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589 received by April 1. All the contest details can be found at wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest.

Teacher Support

Dane County Ag in the Classroom is planning a teacher in-service in February. Watch our Facebook page, Dane County Ag in the Classroom Program, for details.

We also are doing weekly posts for teachers, homeschool parents and others to use. "Monday Starters" offer ideas, projects and other helpful items for teachers as they start their week. "Wednesday Essay Focus" offers resources, lessons, ideas and essay contest tools. "Friday Resource" is a sharing of Ag in the Classroom or commodity partner resources. Feel free to "like" our page and share it with others!

For more information, to share with teachers, or to volunteer to help, please contact Darlene Arneson at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608.873.7209.



Meet Your New Board Member: Michael Sanders



Michael Sanders is the newest member of the Dane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. Mike farms approximately 950 acres of his in-laws land near Rosendale, raising corn, soybeans, wheat and canning crops. Prior to farming, he was an agronomist and branch manager for what is now Insight FS. Mike has previously served on the Sun Prairie Youth Hockey Board and Sacred Hearts School Board.

Mike lives in Sun Prairie with his wife Kerry. They enjoy their cabin in Rhineland, traveling and spending time with their three grown children: Claire (Nate),

Carson (Adrianna) and Drew (Mallory).

Mike looks forward to serving on the board promoting agriculture and Farm Bureau.

Holiday Food Drive



Board member Mike Duerst delivered 80 pounds of food to the Badger Prairie Needs Network in Verona following the Dane County Farm Bureau holiday board meeting.

Green County

wfbf.com/about/counties/green
GreenCountyFarmBureau

A Message From The President



Josh Schenk

Green County Farm Bureau President

Greetings fellow Farm Bureau members!

This time each year, I count the days to Daylight Saving and longer, warmer days. Soon will be the days when the scents of spring return!

Each year provides us as farmers with an opportunity to work toward improving our farms

and to experience new success and failure. Our farming practices evolve for the betterment of our families, communities and the resources we steward.

For more than 100 years, Farm Bureau has been a community of agriculturists working to share the stories of success, failure and farming with others and our common collective is highly respected by many. It can be easy to consider our membership as a piece to a larger organizational structure when, in reality, Farm Bureau is our shared interest and every one of our stories warrants sharing.

My ask is simple: share your story. Share it with family, friends and neighbors. A simple conversation about your farm with someone you know will leave them with knowledge of agriculture they may not otherwise have. We may never know the impact our story has but can be certain it will have none at all if not shared.

Meet Your New YFA Chair and Board Members



Allison Gorr, Young Farmer and Agriculturists Chair

I began my journey in agriculture in 2005 when I joined my local 4-H club in Waukesha County. Showing Brown Swiss and Guernsey cattle sparked my passion for the dairy industry.

In 2016, I graduated from UW-Platteville where I majored in animal science and agribusiness. While at UW-Platteville, I was active in many organization including Pioneer Dairy Club, Alpha Zeta, Dairy Challenge Team, Dairy Judging Team and worked at Pioneer Farm.

I continued my education at UW-Madison, where I received a master of science degree and PhD. My M.S. research focused on the genetics of respiratory disease in dairy calves. My PhD focused on forecasting and supply chain analysis of an artificial insemination company.

My husband, Trevor, and I currently have a farmette in Albany, where I raise chickens, turkeys, bottle calves, goats, horses and a donkey. We still have integral roles in Trevor's family's beef farm, D&T's Angus, in Monroe, where we manage 45 cow-calf pairs and run 400 acres of crops. I serve as Secretary for Green County Beef Producers.

I am excited to increase my Farm Bureau involvement and serve our members. As Green County Farm Bureau's YFA Chair, I look forward to developing relationships with more agriculture enthusiasts and orchestrating activities for our membership.



Aleron Wasserstrass, board member

I was born and raised on a dairy farm. It's all I ever wanted to do but, due to circumstances beyond my control, the dairy cows left four years ago. I am now a diesel mechanic at Triangle Truck Center where my job revolves around agriculture daily.

I've lived and worked in Green County my entire life. When I'm not at work, I spend a fair amount of time cropping 40 acres of rented ground and caring for my beef herd. My wife and I are working on building our business to eventually sell beef and vegetables directly to consumers.

I have a passion for agriculture that I enjoy sharing with others. I look forward to serving as a board member to help spread knowledge of agriculture and to help find solutions for the problems that those in agriculture face.



Eric Wuthrich, board member

Although I did not grow up on a farm, I spent many hours on my grandparent's farm in Monroe. I grew up in Amherst where I graduated high school in 2016. In high school, I was involved in FFA and student government.

Upon high school graduation, I attended the UW-River Falls. While there, I was involved in the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, Ag Business Marketing Society, Rodeo Club and Rodeo Team. I graduated from River Falls with a bachelor's degree in ag

business in the spring of 2020 and started my career with AgriGold as a Sales Development Associate covering central Wisconsin.

In the fall of 2020, I transitioned to southwest Wisconsin where I am the current District Sales Manager. I currently live in New Glarus and have been a part of Green County Farm Bureau for one year. In that year, I have been involved on the communications committee and attended YFA events.

During my spare time I enjoy hunting, fishing, farming, snowmobiling and riding my UTV. I look forward to meeting you all.

BTC Offers Youth Tractor Safety Training

By Dustin Williams



Blackhawk Technical College-Monroe Campus will be offering a youth tractor safety training program from April 3 to May 16. The purpose of the course is to instruct youth between the ages of 12 and 16 on safe use of farm equipment and provide youth with a 24-hour course to comply with Wisconsin Act 455 and Federal Child Labor Standards.

This course will be delivered virtually via Zoom with required online assignments. In addition, the class will also have face-to-face sessions for driver preparation, training and testing. Full-attendance is required for Wisconsin certification and students must pass both a written and driving exam to successfully complete this program.

Those interested can register in-person at the BTC Monroe Campus, 210 4th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566 to complete the necessary registration paperwork and safety waiver.

To register for the class, contact Tracey Wren at 608.329.8206. For more information about the class, contact Dustin Williams at dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu or 608.329.8210.



2023 WFBF Policy Book Now Available

The 2023 Policy Book has been updated and is available on the WFBF website at wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's policy is established by farmers through a structured policy development process.

Suggestions and policy ideas come directly from members who propose and vote on them at county Farm Bureau annual meetings. Policy ideas work their way up to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting each December where delegate members vote on the proposals. This process continues at the national level as well.



A Message from the President



Jill Uhe

Rock County Farm Bureau President

Greetings Rock County Farm Bureau Members!

Did you say Puerto Rico?!?! That's right, this year's American Farm Bureau Convention was held in Puerto Rico, and I had the pleasure of representing you. The convention is a great opportunity to learn and network.

One of my favorite things to do when attending AFBF Convention is to see other sectors of agriculture. While in Puerto Rico, I had the opportunity to tour a coffee plantation and a sugarcane farm that distills their own rum.

San Juan Artisan Distillers are Puerto Rico's only artesian rum distillery. Although you don't see coffee or sugarcane growing in your fields, it

is amazing how the same technology is used across multiple sectors of agriculture like optical sorting machines.

Puerto Rico faces labor shortages just as we do and if you think Wisconsin roads are bad, drive on Puerto Rico's roads – you'll appreciate ours. Although there are similarities, there are many differences, too. With the tropical temps, farmers' investment in infrastructure is often minimal. Processing of the coffee is done in the open with only a roof overhead.

Culturally, Puerto Ricans love to party. They also operate at a slower pace than us Americans are used to – island time. The slower pace allowed for time to network and enjoy the company of those you are with.

The Wisconsin attendees met for dinner one night where I had the opportunity to meet WFBF's Chief Administrative Officer Brad Uken who started February 1. Brad comes to us from Illinois Farm Bureau and will be a great asset to WFBF. I look forward to where he will lead Wisconsin.

In closing, I hope you can take a lesson from the Puerto Ricans during these winter months. Relax, have a good time and spend time with your family. Spring will be here soon!

RUM'S JOURNEY FROM FIELD TO BOTTLE



Sugarcane field



Sugarcane harvester



Sugarcane grapppler



Conveyor



Press



French still



Bottling area

San Juan Artisan Distillers is the only rum brand in Puerto Rico that focuses on producing rum from fresh sugarcane juice. Once a booming agricultural sector on the island, San Juan Artisan Distillers is the only remaining sugarcane plantation in Puerto Rico. The distillery was established in 2011 by Don Pepe Alvarez. The rum begins in the plantation's sugarcane fields. Once the sugarcane is ready, it is harvested and transported to the distillery. The sugarcane is picked up by a grapppler that loads it onto the trailer to be hauled off the field. Once off the field, sugarcane moves along a conveyor to the press. The press squeezes sugarcane juices from the plant to be prepared for fermentation. Rum at San Juan Artisan Distillers is fermented in both stills and whiskey barrels where yeast distills the plant's natural sugars into alcohol. Eventually, the liquid undergoes distillation where alcohol within the fermented juice is extracted and prepared for bottling. San Juan Artisan Distillers is home to TRESCLAVOS Ron Caña, an award-winning rum inspired by Puerto Rican tradition and is infused with fruits raised on farms within 50 miles of the distillery.

Political Meet and Greet

By Doug Rebout

On Friday, Jan. 20, members from Rock County Farm Bureau, Farmers on the Rock, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association sat down with our local legislators to talk about agriculture. Agriculture is a very important part of our area and we wanted to take this chance to talk to our elected officials about what some of our priorities are and let them know what we are doing on the farms with the funding we get through different programs.



Rock County Farm Bureau, Farmers on the Rock, Wisconsin Soybean Association and the Wisconsin Corn Growers Association sat down with local legislators to talk agriculture.

It was great to see the different organizations come together to talk about our farms and build relationships. We have had good working relationships with our elected officials in the past and this year we have five of our seven districts with new people that have been voted in.

During the event we talked about our farmer-led watershed group and the good things we are doing with our grants from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. We also talked about funding of our infrastructure which includes things like roads, Mississippi River locks and dams and the money invested into projects like the

DeLong port in Milwaukee.

Thank you to Johnson Tractor for hosting this event and our invited attendees Sen. Spreitzer, Rep. Schutt, Rep. Conley, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Anderson and Rep. Jacobson. We hope this gave everyone the opportunity to build relationships so we can continue the conversations in the future.



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Rock County Farm Bureau Offers \$1,000 in Scholarships

Rock County Farm Bureau offers student scholarship applications for members and member's children who are at least in their second year of college or technical school. Scholarship funds are raised through sales at the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair.

2023 Scholarship Qualifications:

1. Applicant or applicant's parent must be a current Rock County Farm Bureau Member. If applicant is over the age of 21, they must have their own Farm Bureau membership in Rock County.
2. Applicant or member of applicant's family must have worked a previous year or will work in the Rock County Farm Bureau Food Stand at the 2023 Rock County 4-H Fair.
3. Applicant must be in at least their second year of college or technical school.
4. Applicants are eligible to receive the scholarship for two years.
5. GPA must be 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale.
6. The deadline to apply is April 1. Scholarship presentation will take place at the Rock County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in September 2023.
7. This scholarship worth up to \$1,000.
8. Applications can be submitted electronically to skemps@milton.k12.wi.us or postmarked and mailed to Stacy Skemp, 114 W High St. Milton, WI 53563.



Applications must be submitted by April 1. The application is available on the Rock County Farm Bureau website at wfbf.com/about/counties/rock or by email request to Stacy Skemp at skemps@milton.k12.wi.us.

For more information or questions, please contact Stacy Skemp or message us on Facebook at Rock County Farm Bureau.

New Year, New Lessons in Leadership



Brooke Trustem
Leadership Institute Participant

On Jan. 19-21, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Class 15 met for our first session. For homework, we had to prepare a speech focused on sustainability and present that speech to the class. We then spent a good portion of the session improving content, collaborating in groups and fine-tuning our speech delivery in practice for future speeches.

Other parts of the session included a strengths and emotional intelligence assessment. The Strengths Finder 2.0 involved a survey of

situational personality questions that resulted in our top five strengths. We then used these to dive deeper into our personal strengths and how we can utilize them in a team setting.

The second assessment we were part of was Emotional Intelligence 2.0. Another survey, this time focusing on our emotional response to situations, allowed us to examine our self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management. Each teaches us how to be better leaders by less emotional reactivity and handling situations in a more professional way.

The rest of the session was filled with laughter and new friendships. It was a great few days of excitement and building anticipation for the year ahead together! District 2 is well-represented by myself, David Mickelson, Stephanie Hoff and Eric Wuthrich.



Members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Class 15.



Roseann Hoffman and Brooke Trustem dive deeper into their personal strengths and how they can utilize them in a team setting.

Sauk County

2023 Farm Technology Days

By Karen Reisinger



9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. This event will be held in Baraboo at the Badger Steam and Gas Engine Club grounds located at S3347 Sand Road, Baraboo, WI.

Sauk County Farm Bureau will be helping at the admission gates and volunteers are needed. Please contact Karen Reisinger at 608.370.2671 if interested in helping with a shift. Shift hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There are many other areas that still need volunteers before, during and after the show. If interested, contact Anna Maenner at 920.988.4313.

Sauk County will be hosting Wisconsin Farm Technology Days July 18-20. Show hours are

Food Group Learning is Fun

Students enjoyed learning and playing food group games including BINGO during Nancy Liegel's Ag in the Classroom visits at Bridges Elementary.



Sauk County Farm Bureau Scholarship Applications due April 1



The Sauk County Farm Bureau scholarship application is now available online as an editable PDF at wfbf.com/about/counties/sauk or by email request to Karen Reisinger at kjreisinger@yahoo.com.

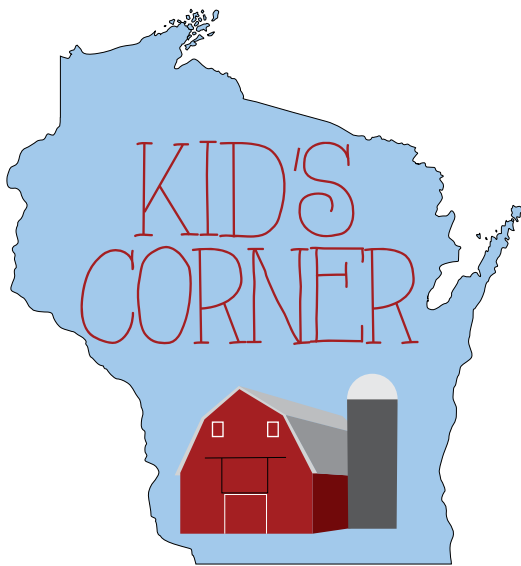
Scholarship Qualifications

1. Applicant must be a Sauk County resident or attend a school in Sauk County.
2. Applicant must be either a high school senior pursuing a post-secondary institution in the fall or a post-secondary institution student. Past recipients are not eligible.
3. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation with this application.
4. Selected recipients must submit their fall semester transcript of grades

following selection in order to receive scholarship money.

5. Preference will be given to those applicants pursuing an agriculture-related field.
6. Preference will be given to those families with a Sauk County Farm Bureau membership.
7. Application deadline is April 1. Recipients will be notified by June 15. Scholarship money will be mailed to recipient after submitting their fall semester transcript to Sauk County Farm Bureau, as early as January the following year.
8. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Scholarship applications must be received by April 1. Email your application and letter of recommendation to Karen Reisinger at kjreisinger@yahoo.com.



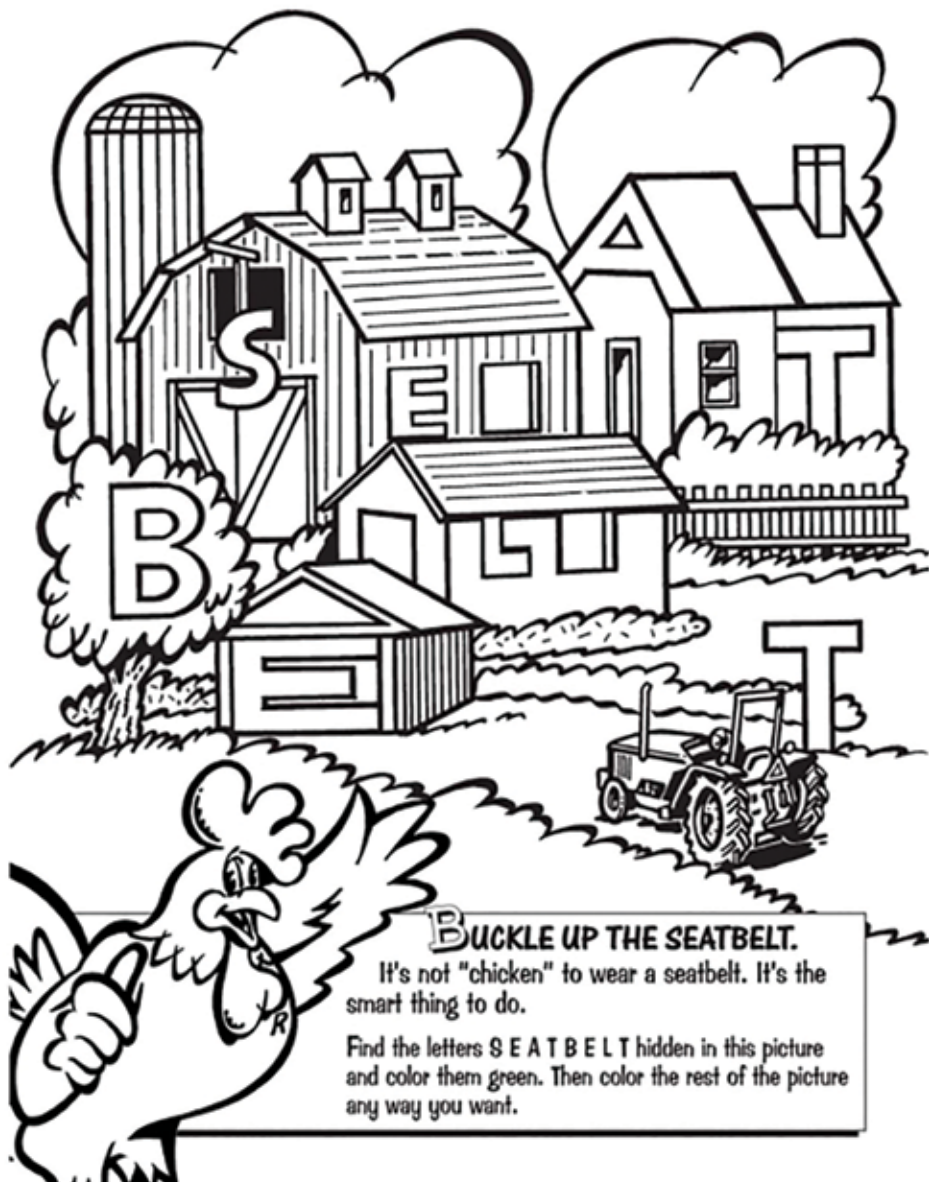
Hey Kids,

Wearing your seat belt is the easiest way to stay safe in the car! Do you buckle up every time you ride in the car?

Help the rooster spell SEATBELT by coloring the letters hidden in the picture to the right.

Once you've found the letters, color in the rest of the farm scene!

HELP READY ROOSTER ...





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Highlights for:**

**Dane County
Green County
Rock County
Sauk County**

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