



# Grassroots

## District 5 News

### District 5 Coordinator Report



**Becky Hibicki**

District 5 Coordinator

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The WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference were held in early December at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Wisconsin Dells.

One of my favorite parts of the annual meeting is always the recognition of Farm Bureau Proud

Club members on Saturday night.

The Farm Bureau Proud Club is for members who sign at least five new members. This year, District 5 had 12 Farm Bureau proud club members. Congratulations to the Farm Bureau Proud Club members from our district: Pete Badtke, Dave Gneiser, Dave Wilke and Steve Kutz from Green Lake County; Aaron Wachholz, Victoria Wachholz and Al Klapoetke from Marquette County; Reuben Hopp and Trayton Greenfield from Fond du Lac County; Kip Weber and Pat Stanek from Juneau County; and Kevin Krentz from Waushara County.

Once again Trayton Greenfield from Fond du Lac County was recognized as the top membership worker in the state for signing 36 new members.

As we begin the new membership year, our theme is, 'It Takes a Team.' We are having a little friendly competition between the nine districts. Each district is working hard to earn points with each new member that is signed. Trayton has already signed seven new members for the new membership year and was recognized as a Player of the Month. Congratulations, Trayton.

*Congratulations to Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Membership Player*



*of the Month, Trayton Greenfield. Trayton is a Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau and Young Farmers and Agriculturalists member and is KNOWN for his knack for recruiting new members. This past month, Trayton recruited seven new members, but his lifetime recruitment total is a whopping 2,371 members.*

The easiest way to recruit new members? Make the ask. Many new members say they had not joined Farm Bureau previously simply because they had not been asked to do so yet.

Be sure to visit our Membership Volunteer Hub for resources needed to recruit Farm Bureau members, visit [wfbf.com/membership/membership-volunteer-hub](http://wfbf.com/membership/membership-volunteer-hub).



Pete Badtke



Dave Gneiser



Dave Wilke



Steve Kutz

## District 5 Farm Bureau Proud Members, Continued



Aaron Wachholz



Victoria Wachholz



Al Klapoetke



Reuben Hopp



Trayton Greenfield



Kip Weber



Pat Stanek



Kevin Krentz

## District Promotion and Education Update



Jenny Leahy

District 5 Promotion and Education Chair

What is your New Year's Resolution? The uniqueness about this time of year is our ability to reflect on the year that passed and to set goals for the year ahead.

This is the perfect opportunity to challenge yourself to do something you haven't done before. That might be signing up a new member, taking on a new role, or attending an event. In the past few months, the

Promotion and Education Committee has had two events.

In November, the Promotion and Education Committee held its annual Leadership Boot Camp in Warrens. The Leadership Boot Camp focused on marketing agricultural products and tapped into the experience of Farm Bureau members who already directly market their goods.

During the first weekend in December the Wisconsin Farm Bureau held its WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells.

The annual meeting was an opportunity to meet with old and new friends, to be inspired to push oneself out of your comfort zone and see policy development in action.

Looking ahead, the Promotion and Education Committee has the Ag LEAD Summit coming up this spring.

The Ag LEAD Summit will be in Fond du Lac on **Mar. 17-18**.

The focus of this conference is to help members develop their skills in advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events. There will be four tracks that attendees can choose from to build their skills. Those tracks include, leading your own self-development, advocating for agriculture, engaging with consumers, and developing agribusinesses.

Early registration closes on **Feb. 17**. I hope to see you there.

Best wishes to you in 2023.

## Outstanding Educator of the Year: Jessica Rettler

Jessica Rettler has been named the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Educator.

Rettler is a fourth-grade educator at Tri-County Elementary School in Plainfield. The Outstanding Educator Award honors K-12 educators who work to enhance student learning and achievement in core subjects while increasing student awareness and understanding of the important role agriculture plays in students' daily lives.

For the past 21 years, Rettler has integrated agricultural literacy into her classroom by staying current on past and present agricultural practices, as well as sharing personal experiences and values from her family farm. Casual conversations and well-planned lessons are a part of her daily teaching. Rettler has integrated agriculture into almost every core subject allowing her students to improve their reading, writing and problem-solving skills through partnerships with Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom, Adopt-A-Cow classroom program, and Hancock Agricultural Research Station.

Rettler received a plaque and prize package valued at more than \$1,700 and will represent Wisconsin as the state's nominee for the Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award Program presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program. The national winners will be announced at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Orlando, Florida, on **June 26-30**.





## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



**Sara Menard Huber**

District 5 YFA Representative

A great group of YFA members from across District 5 attended the YFA Conference on Dec. 2-4 in Wisconsin Dells.

We kick started the weekend with Dueling Pianos then participated in competitions on Saturday.

District 5 was well represented in the Discussion Meet with Nate Zimdars and Lynn Leahy making it to the Final 8.

New this year was the '35 Under 35' sustainability awards. Members were nominated and submitted a two-minute video highlighting sustainability practices ranging across five categories.

District 5 had several receive this honor: Mitch Giebel from Juneau County and Nate Zimdars and Cameron Pokorny from Fond du Lac County.

YFA members attended multiple educational seminars ranging from specialty crops, hiring tips, farm transitions, to line dancing and many others. These seminars provided many networking opportunities for members to connect with others across the state facing similar issues.

Motivation speakers Braxton Nielsen who had a 5% chance of walking again from a rodeo injury and Alex Sheen with the, 'Because I Said I Would' foundation who promotes holding yourself accountable to others by sharing promise cards, provided members with perspective to overcome everyday adversity.

It was a great weekend, and we are already planning for next year on the YFA Committee. Hope to see you in 2023.



**Adams County (from left):** Jeff Huber, Sara Huber, Austin Minehart, Emma Hamilton and Emily Dahlke.



**Fond du Lac County (from left):** Hailey Duscheck, Christine Duscheck, Grant Buwalda, Sara Tolley and Nate Zimdars.



**Green Lake County (from left):** Natasha Paris and Chad Bruss.



**Juneau County (from left):** Mitch Giebel, Matt Benish, Hana Benish, Sally Turpin and Cody Britzman.



**Marquette County, front row (from left):** Josh Knoch, Oliver Knoch **back row (from left):** Amanda Knoch, Henry Knoch, Victoria Smith, Kaycee Bittelman and Jordan Bittelman.



**Waushara County:** Miranda Ewald, Allison Ewald, Jon Deppe, Jesy Depy, Kaden Deppe, Mike Leahy, Lynn Leahy and Reece Lehman



**Winnebago County:** Faith Brooks.





## How Can AgrAbility Help You This Growing Season?

By Andrea Klahn, Outreach Specialist, AgrAbility of Wisconsin

When planning ahead for the 2023 growing season, remember to include your health in your plans. Farming is hard on your body, but there are tools and equipment to help lessen the wear and tear.

Sometimes, it's as easy as adding an extra handrails and step to your tractor or installing an automotive hitch. Safety is crucial for all farmers, but even more so if you are experiencing a health limitation.

Since 1991, AgrAbility of Wisconsin has been promoting success in agriculture for farmers and their families living with a farm injury, disability or limitation. How can we help you?

After enrollment, a representative from the Easterseals FARM Program will visit your farm and evaluate your needs. They can take a closer look at equipment and processes and get a fresh look at your operation and your needs.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin serves all types of farmers and farms, large and small. Our grant-funded program through USDA is free to everyone.

You can easily enroll in our program on our website or give a call. It takes five to 10 minutes, and we ask you basic information and want to hear a little about what type of disability or limiting work condition you have.

Once enrolled in our program you will have a phone call from one of our caseworkers and set up a farm visit with one of our rural rehab specialists.

Our rehab specialist will come out to your farm and watch the type of tasks you do on a

daily basis. They will give you tips and ideas of how to make them easier with your disability and share ways to help you find monetary funds if needed.

AgrAbility of Wisconsin is a partnership between the UW Madison Extension and Easterseals Wisconsin. Being a grant-funded organization, one of the rules we follow is to not reach out directly to farmers and ask them to sign up for our program.

We need farmers to contact us. If you know someone with a disability of limiting work condition who works or owns a farm, even works in agriculture, please share our information with him or her and encourage him or her to enroll.

For more information on AgrAbility of Wisconsin, visit <https://agrability.bse.wisc.edu> or call 608.262.9336.

### Steps and Handrails

Without



With Extra Step



## District 5 YFA Snow Tubing



Sunday, February 5

Nordic Mountain

W5806 County Rd W, Wild Rose, WI 54984

1 p.m.

Cost: \$25



Please pre-pay online for the best price and to reserve your spot.

<https://www.nordicmountain.com/>

Pizza to follow at the Trading Post in Mt. Morris.

Farm Bureau will cover the cost of pizza.

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2023

More than 230 delegates at the 103<sup>rd</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization.

Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will be included in the organization's Policy Book for 2023. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of a grassroots policy development process.

On the floor, delegates discussed dairy topics. They voted to oppose de-pooling of milk by processors. During dairy policy discussion, delegates supported giving farmers access to consumers through the sale of raw milk only if the farm meets Grade A requirements and national standards.

Under the area of education, delegates supported post-high school education opportunities for students returning to the farm, including an in-person Farm and Industry Short Course program at a Wisconsin agriculture campus. Support for a 4-H program in each county was approved.

Delegates discussed transportation concerns and seasonal accessibility to roads. To help create revenue to support transportation initiatives, delegates discussed and approved an alternative way to support transportation in the biennial state budget.

To support rural communities' delegates approved exempting

ambulance and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) districts and services from levy limits. Delegates also approved the elimination of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Test (NREMT) for Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) level first responders.

On the federal level, delegates supported FDA enforcing its current standard of identity of milk.

Delegates also discussed and supported animal-based meat protein in USDA-supported school lunch programs at all times.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also supported:

- Indemnification of farmers if PFAS and PFOS are found to exceed acceptable levels thus making farming non-viable.
- Implementing sustainability practices while ensuring the costs associated with those practices are spread across the supply chain and not only to the farmer.

On the federal level, delegates:

- Opposed more restrictive changes to the current atrazine levels.
- Supported inter-seeding cover crop practices without insurance coverage restrictions on the first insurable crop.



Adams County delegate: Jeff Huber.



Fond du Lac County delegates (from left): Christine Duscheck, Bill Maedke, John Ruedinger, Reuben Hopp, Janet Clark, Chris Pollack, Jim Kelroy, Bill Bruins and Roger Grade.



Green Lake County delegates (from left): Pete Badtke, Chad Bruss and Dave Wilke.



Juneau County delegates (from left): Kip Weber and Sally Turpin.



Marquette County delegates (from left): Amanda Knoch and Al Klapoetke.



Waushara County delegates (from left): Mike Leahy and Paul Jarvis.



Winnebago County delegates (from left): Amanda Volp, Kevin Radloff and Linda Mullins.

## District 5 Counties Offer Scholarships

All seven counties in the district offer a county scholarship.

**Adams County:** Up to eight \$100 scholarships may be awarded. Scholarships are available for graduating high school seniors and students already enrolled in post-secondary education. Application deadline: **June 30.** For more information, contact Kay Olson at 608.572.1429.

**Fond du Lac County:** Several scholarships available for graduating high school seniors and those enrolled in post-secondary education. Application deadline: **Apr. 1.** Application available at [wfbf.com/about/counties/fond-du-lac](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/fond-du-lac).

**Green Lake County:** Application deadline: **Mar. 1.** For more information or to request an application, please contact Yolanda Woloszyn at 920.229.3962.

**Juneau County:** \$250 scholarship awarded to a graduating high school senior. Application deadline: **Apr. 1.** Application available at [wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau).

**Marquette County:** \$250 scholarship awarded to a graduating high school senior. Application deadline: **Apr. 1.** Application available at [wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette).

**Waushara County:** The county offers the Gordon Krentz Memorial Scholarship and the Bleskey Memorial Scholarship. Application deadline: **Apr. 1.** Application available at [wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara).

**Winnebago County:** New this year, the county is offering a scholarship program through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. For more information, visit [www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org/finder/search/scholarship](http://www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org/finder/search/scholarship).

- One scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to a graduating high school senior, who is attending any high school in Winnebago County.
- One scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to a student who is in college or technical college, who is a high school graduate from any high school in Winnebago County.

## Ag LEAD summit

LEADERSHIP • ENGAGEMENT • ADVOCACY • DEVELOPMENT

### MARCH 17-18, 2023

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center | Fond du Lac

### AGENDA

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 17

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

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 18

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

### REGISTRATION

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

### HOTEL INFORMATION

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

### The Ag LEAD Summit will focus on four tracks:



Leading Your Own Self Development



Advocating for Agriculture



Engaging with Consumers



Developing Agribusinesses

Presented by:





## A Message From The President



**Kay Olson**

Adams County Farm Bureau President

By the time you receive your district newsletter it will be the new year.

Many will have made their new year's resolutions and sometimes two or three of them.

As I look back at our past year for Adams County Farm Bureau it is with fond memories.

Even though we did not make our membership goals we did accomplish quite a bit. Your board participated in Ag in the Classroom, supported 4-H, FFA, FFA Alumni, Land and Water Conservation, the Hospital Foundation and the Young Farmer program to name a few.

We met virtually each month, which worked out very well when making our decisions. This year we are going to try and have some of our meetings in-person per the suggestion of one of our board members.

Our meetings will be the fourth Thursday of the month. Our meeting room is on the lower level of the Main Street Plaza, the building with green awnings in Adams.

During the winter months we normally start the meeting at 7 p.m. and during spring and summer months, we start at 7:30 p.m.

I want to thank Joe Seis for his years on our board and welcome Birdie Johnson to the board. I, and the other board members, look forward to working with her.

With the new year also comes an increase in the dues. Your board has not raised the dues for years, which meant we only received \$1 from WFBF to help support our programs. If we did not raise our dues and

stay in line with what we have to pay WFBF and AFBF we would have to take from our funds to pay the extra amount due.

Starting in February of 2023, your dues will be \$65, in which a motion was made and voted on at the county annual meeting in October of 2022. There will still be a suggested donation for "Volunteers for Agriculture" (the political portion) and the WFBF Foundation on your billing. That amount of course is voluntary and does not come to Adams County. I get many calls over how the dues fee works and what your dues are so I hope that this clears it up.

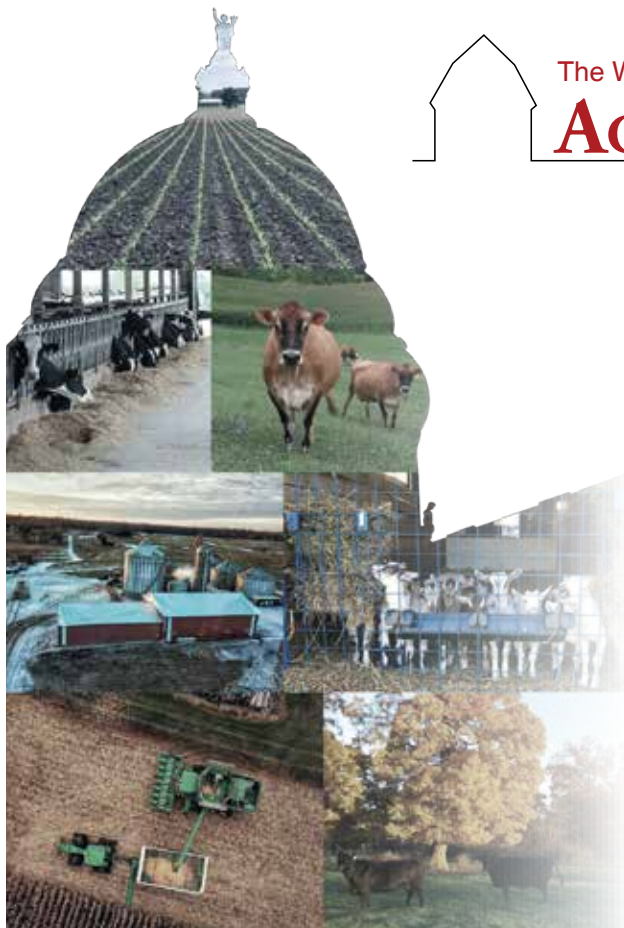
We will be going over our membership list and cleaning it up so to speak. We have quite a few delinquent members, which means you have not paid your dues. I know that it is easy to put that dues notice aside when it comes a couple of months early but if you would pay it when it comes it helps us retain our membership.

Speaking of membership our new goal is to get 20 new members and to retain all the members we have. In the past, for accomplishing those two goals, we have received \$1,800. I have no idea what WFBF will be giving us this year for reaching those goals. Our new goal ending date will be the same as other years, Sept. 30.

In closing, I wish you and your families my best for the new year. Wishing you a healthy and safe 2023.

I leave you with a quote from Fred Rogers: *"If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet: how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."*

I wish you enough.



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 [wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol](https://wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol) for the latest information.

Presented by: 

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## A Message From The President



**Reuben Hopp**

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

Happy new year, Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau.

John Ruedinger, Bill Bruins, Janet Clark, Chris Pollock, Christine Duesheck, Rodger Grade, Jim Kelroy,

Bill Maedke and Reuben Hopp served as delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. I want to thank each of them for taking time out of their busy schedules to serve as delegates.

We closed out last year with helping Salvation Army Giveaway. We contributed \$500 toward its milk giveaway.

Now as we look to 2023, Jenny Leahy is our new Promotion and Education Chair. She also was appointed to serve as the District 5 Promotion and Education Chair. Congratulations, Jenny.

The Ag in the Classroom Committee purchased 50 copies of the Ag in the Classroom book of the year and will be distributing the books to the elementary schools in the county. The committee also is working on promoting the essay contest.



**Fond du Lac County YFA member Nate Zimdars competed in the Discussion Meet contest and advanced to the semi-final round. Congratulations, Nate.**

On **Mar. 4**, we will have a booth at the Ag Showcase event held at the fairgrounds. This is always a great event put on by the Agribusiness Council. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

God bless you in 2023.

## Green Lake County



wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake  
GreenLakeCountyFarmBureau

## A Message From The President



**Peter Badtke**

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

*The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same.*

Thinking back almost 50 years I can still remember my mom having to make pies for the county Farm Bureau food stand. Seemed like it was four to five per family maybe. Mom enjoyed making the pies and the fairgoers

always enjoyed the huge variety of homemade pies to choose from.

Today, the pies are bought from a grocery store bakery, and while they are still tasty, they are not made by the many women throughout the county.

Another great memory of mine back in the late 1970s when I was probably eight or nine years old, was the Farm Bureau Christmas party. That was so much fun. Santa would come and we would play basketball in this huge gym.

I looked forward to this party for many years, but as I got older I realized the gym was actually pretty small, and Santa was one of the county board members.

Moving ahead to 2003, I joined the Farm Bureau board as the young farmer chair. Back then we would have a float in five or six parades and hand out individually wrapped pieces of cheese. We never had enough cheese, most parades we were out shortly after the halfway point. But people sure loved the cheese.

Others caught on and started handing out cheese as well. Back then the Wisconsin Farm Bureau would award counties for outstanding Young Farmer programs. We were selected several years in a row, and my wife and I went to Washington, D.C., with the Young Farmer Fly-In. Wow, what an eye opener to visit our senators and representatives in Washington, D.C. I also saw what Farm Bureau was doing for its

members, and how much Farm Bureau is respected and thought of as a leading farm organization.

After chairing the Young Farmers for a few years, we had two kids and I got on the church board of elders. Seemed like I was going to meetings all the time, so my wife said, "You need to be home more especially now while the kids are small." So, I gave up the Farm Bureau board and stayed on the church board of elders.

By 2013, I was asked to be church board resident and was elected to lead my church. In 2014, I was elected to serve on the county Farm Bureau board again. In 2016, I graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute.

Since 2017 I have been President of the Green Lake County Farm Bureau. The WFBF Leadership Institute has been so helpful in making great leaders in Farm Bureau and our rural communities.

What I'm trying to get at is Farm Bureau hasn't changed much in the last 100 years. Farm Bureau has changed with the times, but it's still the strong voice locally, in Madison and Washington, D.C. It is so respected, that often our elected officials will ask us, "So what does Farm Bureau think?"

Wisconsin Farm Bureau has added many new programs and has increased membership by moving the WFBF Annual Meeting to a family friendly place. By doing so we are getting a lot more youth involved and turning them into the leaders of the future.

Thanks for your continued membership.



**This year, Green Lake County YFA Chair Chad Bruss competed in the Discussion Meet for the first time. Congratulations, Chad.**





## A Message From The President



**Kip Weber**

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

I served as a delegate for the county along with Sally Turpin at the WFBF Annual Meeting held in December.

I always enjoy the resolution session and discussing and learning about issues that are affecting farmers in other parts of the state.

Also, congratulations to Mitch Giebel who was recognized as a finalist in the 35 Under 35 contest.

In December at the board Christmas party, the board recognized Rich and Jean Sheahan for their years of service to the Juneau County Farm Bureau.

As we start the new year, I'm looking forward to what we will accomplish as a Farm Bureau in 2023.

Thank you for your support of our county Farm Bureau, and thank you for your continued membership.



(from left): Board of Director Matt Schmidt, Richard and Jean Sheahan and Board President Kip Weber.

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Trap Shooting Event, a Success

Earlier this fall, the Juneau County YFA committee organized a trap shooting event near Kendall. Neighboring county Farm Bureau YFA members were invited to the event.

To get more involved in the Juneau County YFA program, please contact Sally Turpin at 608.462.3387 or Alana Voss-Biermeier at 608.847.624.



# Marquette County



wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette  
MarquetteCountyFarmBureau

## Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update

By Victoria Smith and Kaycee Bittelman, Marquette County Co-YFA Chairs

The Marquette County YFA Committee hosted a Harvest Dinner for YFA members and their families on Nov. 12 at Kaycee and Jordan Bittelman's home.

The county YFA committee works to host regular YFA meetings and events throughout the year.

If you are interested in attending YFA events or getting more involved in the county YFA committee, please contact Victoria Smith at 608.369.1486 or Kaycee Bittelman at 920.463.0201.

The following Marquette County YFA members attended the YFA Conference in December: Victoria Smith, Chris Smith, Josh and Amanda Knoch and Jordan and Kaycee Bittelman.

To learn more about YFA programs, visit [wfbf.com/programs/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program](http://wfbf.com/programs/young-farmer-and-agriculturist-program).



 **Marquette County  
Farm Bureau®**

## A Message From The President



**Mike Leahy**

Waushara County Farm Bureau President

The WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference was held the first weekend of December.

It was great to see county Young Farmer and Agriculturist members who attended the YFA Conference this year. We had nine YFA members attend and listen to inspirational speakers and informative

workshops. During the YFA Conference, Lynn Leahy represented the county at the Discussion Meet and advanced past the opening rounds to the round of elite eight.

I encourage any young farmer member who is interested in learning more about or participating in the YFA program to contact our YFA Chair, Miranda Ewald.

With the close of the YFA Conference, we transitioned to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Lynn Leahy was recognized for six years of service and completing her two terms on the Promotion and Education Committee.

Thanks Lynn. I'm excited to announce that Lynn has been appointed to the AFBF Promotion and Education Committee.

The Promotion and Education Committee fills an important role in bridging the gap between farmers and consumers by providing tools and resources to other Farm Bureau members who are eager to help share agriculture's story. We look forward to the new ideas Lynn will be bringing back to the state and county.

Ag in the Classroom is one of the most important outreach programs we engage in. Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom program provides teaching resources and lesson plans to teachers and classroom volunteers to help K-12 students develop an understanding of how their food is grown and raised.

The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on the nation's largest industry: agriculture. The county board purchases Ag in the Classroom books for the schools and libraries in the county.

These schools are then encouraged to participate in a state-wide essay contest. There also are grant programs and online materials available to interested teachers.

I'm excited to share that Jessica Rettler, fourth-fifth grade teacher at Tri-County Elementary in Plainfield has been named 2023 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Educator. Congratulations, Jessica.

Lastly, an update on the fair food stand. The first Waushara County Farm Bureau Food Stand was a small red barn storage shed, and when more space was needed, the current food stand was purchased. Several improvements have been made to the structure over the years; however,

more space is needed, and the food stand needs an upgrade. Operating the food stand at the fair is the primary source of fund raising for this organization.

Money raised supports our Ag in the Classroom program, Young Farmer and Agriculturists and Promotion and Education programs. In addition the county Farm Bureau provides scholarships, supports youth in local 4-H Clubs and FFA chapters and is committed to conduct programs and activities that promote agriculture in Waushara County.

The Waushara County Farm Bureau Board of Directors along with the Food Stand Committee, have decided to build a new modern facility.

The bid for a new building is \$100,000. Fortunately, the Waushara County Fair Board has allocated \$20,000 for this project. The goal is to have the funds raised and the building built by the 2023 Waushara County Fair.

We need your financial support. If the full amount is not received, the plan may be modified so that a new Waushara County Farm Bureau Food Stand is ready to go for the fair in August 2023.

Fundraising letters are being sent this month. Please consider a monetary donation if possible or contact food stand chair Paul Jarvis if you can donate your time or talents. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Happy and blessed new year everyone.



**Waushara County YFA member Lynn Leahy competed in the Discussion Meet held during the YFA Conference and advanced to the semi-final round. Congratulations, Lynn.**

## Leahy Appointed to AFBF Promotion and Education Committee

Waushara County Farm Bureau member Lynn Leahy has been appointed to serve on the American Farm Bureau Federation Promotion and Education Committee for a two-year term beginning in April.

Lynn Leahy is a research agronomist at Heartland Farms, Inc., a 9,000-acre farm growing potatoes for potato chips near Hancock. She grew up on an 80-cow dairy farm in Argyle. Leahy earned a bachelor's degree in dairy science and a master's degree in horticulture, both from UW-Madison.

She has served as the Waushara County YFA chair and is president of the Tri-County FFA Alumni. Leahy was a member of WFBF Leadership Institute Class VIII. She is active in her community as a curling club and city band member and Meals on Wheels board member. Leahy and her husband, Mike, reside in Plover.

Congratulations, Lynn.





## President's Report



### Amanda Volp

Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

Just like that another year has flown by. Welcome to 2023 Farm Bureau my friend.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health going into the new year, and that you were able to spend the holiday season with loved ones. I always enjoy the new year, it is a time where we can start fresh, try something new and find

ways to better ourselves in the process.

I challenge you to set goals and strive to accomplish some goals in this new year.

Thank you to our members who attended the 103<sup>rd</sup> WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference the first weekend in December in Wisconsin Dells. It is always a great opportunity to network with fellow Farm Bureau members and see what special events each county is doing.

I had the honor of being a judge for the Discussion Meet and see first-hand the hard work and dedication the contestants put into the competition.

Thank you to our county delegates who took time to sit in on the business meeting and resolution's session; Linda Mullins, Kevin Radloff

and myself. That is the heart and soul of what Farm Bureau represents.

Thank you to the Winnebago County Farm Bureau for sponsoring my attendance at the presidents meeting in the middle of December. With the skills I learned through my 4-H, FFA and Farm Bureau career, I'm continuing to look for avenues to better my leadership ability, and the resources available through our state Farm Bureau is second to none.

A highlight event of the year is coming soon, Ag Day at the Capital. It is on **Wednesday, Mar. 29**, at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison. This is a great opportunity for members to hear about the latest agriculture issues from state leaders and walk to the Capitol to meet your representatives face-to-face. Your voice can be heard and will be appreciated by those who sit in Madison on our behalf. It is crucial that we in the industry keep our representatives informed of what farmers are doing and the challenges faced so they are not misled or misinformed.

Farmers are 2% or less of the population, so many people and special interest groups assume they know what is best for us, even though they have little contact with farmers and little experience on a farm. It is up to us to speak for agriculture, so please join me and other Winnebago County members at Ag Day at the Capitol.

If you believe that there are agriculture issues in Winnebago County that need to be addressed, please contact me or one of our members on the county board.

Cheers to a new year full of bountiful harvests, good health and fun. God bless you.

## Dairy Promotion Committee Update

By Linda Mullins, Winnebago County Dairy Promotion Committee

Winnebago Dairy Promotion got into the holiday spirit right away in December.

On Dec. 1-3, we handed out milk and cookies for kids who visited Santa at Brighton Acres Christmas Village in Oshkosh.

This was the first year the committee hosted this event, and it was a huge success.

That same weekend, some of us also handed out milk to racers after the Race for the Light 5K. This race helps raise funds for the Christine Anne Center.

Finally, we also sponsored milk for families that participated in the Rotary Club Parent Connection Christmas Party at the YMCA.

That's it for us in 2022. We look forward to another eventful and successful year in 2023.

Be sure to follow Winnebago County Dairy Promotion on Facebook.





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