



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report

**Robert Nigh**

WFBF District 3 Director

Greetings.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Governmental Relations team has been busy with the State Budget and the upcoming Farm Bill. Additional focus areas include local ordinances, wolves, conservation and

mental health along with many others. We work extremely hard to represent agriculture on all levels.

We welcomed Jason Mugnaini as the new WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations. Erin Tomasik who has served as the Governmental Relations Assistant transitioned to the Member Advocacy and Issue Coordinator position. We are excited about what they will bring to WFBF in their new roles. We are working on upgrades to our policy development process. If you have any thoughts or concerns, please reach out to me.

Andrew Dal Santo of Grant County has been appointed as the District 3 representative on the WFBF Policy Development Committee. He is looking forward to attending county meetings and hearing what issues our members are passionate about. The 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting will follow a similar format to last year's event with the district caucuses on Saturday, the business meeting on Sunday and the resolutions session on Monday.

Membership is an important part of what we do. This year there is a team approach. Our team's name is the Southwest Stockmen. Each new membership or renewal scores points for the district, and the winning district's director receives a Gatorade shower. I am looking forward to us hopefully being the winning team.

One final note, our District 3 Coordinator, Melissa Jacobson, is transitioning to a new position within WFBF. I wish to thank her for all the great work she has done for our district. We will certainly miss "Membership Melissa". I look forward to working with her in her new role as the Director of Young Leader Programs and know we will still see her around our district a lot. Remember she will always be a D3 girl at heart. Thank you, Melissa!

Best of luck with spring planting. Stay safe and stay informed.

Robert Nigh - 608.606.4319

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update

**Casey and Morgan Lobdell**

District 3 YFA Committee Representatives

Springtime is growing near and that means it is a busy time for all of us! Personally, we will be busy with lambs and pigs. If we have not yet met, it is probably because we have been living in the barn.

We are Casey and Morgan Lobdell, your new District 3 representatives serving on the WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. Casey is originally from Darlington, and I am from Mineral Point. We have both grown up in agriculture and originally met through FFA.

Although we spend a lot of time on the farm, we both work in the agriculture industry. I work as an Associate Brand Manager with Ever.Ag, and Casey works with Reddy Ag and Ross Soil Feed and Grain as a Nutrition Consultant.

We are extremely thrilled to serve as your YFA representatives! Some of our goals include activities on the state and local level. We are looking forward to attending many of the YFA events throughout the district and hosting one of our own later this year.

We are here to support the YFA program and members. On the state level, we are already working on planning the 2023 YFA Conference that will take place in December. Our first planning session was held in January and we will soon meet again at the end of March. We want to continue helping our members network with each other and connect.

We hope to meet you at an event soon! In the meantime, if you have any questions for us please reach out at 608.574.0403 (Morgan) or 608.482.4525 (Casey).

YFA Conference Snapshots



District 3 Members Named Winners in 35 Under 35 Program

Five individuals were selected to receive top honors in Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 Award program. The award is presented by WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in partnership with Insight FS.

The 35 Under 35 program recognizes the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities.

Applications were evaluated for their involvement in one of five categories – Sustainable Future, Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Service, Sustainable Storytelling and Sustainable Self.

35 finalists were recognized at WFBF's Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 3. Each finalist received an embroidered jacket. The top individual in each category received a \$200 cash prize.

"On behalf of the YFA Committee, congratulations to all of the finalists and top individuals," said 2022 WFBF YFA Committee Chair Bob Nash. "The future of agriculture is bright and it has been an honor to recognize these outstanding individuals."

The Sustainable Future category recognizes individuals who are setting up the next generation for success both on and off the farm. The top individual in the Sustainable Future category was Livia Doyle from Iowa County. Livia is a fourth-grade teacher at Mineral Point Elementary School. She farms with her husband and family in Mineral Point.

The Sustainable Service category recognizes individuals who help farmers improve and meet their goals. The top individual in the Sustainable Service category was Josh Gerbitz from Dodge County. Josh is a dairy business manager for Alta Genetics. He lives in Juneau.

The Sustainable Environment category recognizes individuals who are good stewards of the land and their resources. The top individual in the Sustainable Environment category was TJ Roth from Grant County. TJ is a dairy farmer from Platteville. He farms with his family at Banner Ridge Farms.

The Sustainable Storytelling category recognizes individuals who use their platform to share agriculture's sustainability successes. The top individual in the Sustainable Storytelling category was Kaitlyn Riley from Crawford County. Kaitlyn is the director of communications and outreach for the Wisconsin Beef Council. She is from Gays Mills.

The Sustainable Self category recognizes individuals that go above and beyond for their community and employees. The top individual in the Sustainable Self category was Tammy Wiedenbeck from Grant County. Tammy is the regional business development manager for Hilbert Communications, Bug Tussel Wireless and AT&T Subsidiaries. She also works at her family's beef and crop farm in Lancaster.

"We are proud to partner with Wisconsin Farm Bureau to amplify the leadership of young farmers while promoting activities that protect the future of agriculture now and for generations to come," said Insight FS General Manager Ben Huber. "Congratulations to these impressive individuals."

District 3 was very well represented in the inaugural year of the program. Other District 3 finalists included Eldon Henthorne, Vernon County; Trevor Jacobson, Iowa County; Katie Maier, Grant County; and Josh and Kristen Joseph, Richland County.

Congratulations to all winners and finalists!



All finalists were invited to a reception during the 2022 YFA Conference where they were recognized for their accomplishments and awarded prizes. District 3 finalists included (from left): Eldon Henthorne, Tammy Wiedenbeck, Katie Maier, TJ Roth, Kaitlyn Riley, Trevor Jacobson and Livia Doyle. Missing from photo are Josh and Kristen Joseph.



WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU 35 UNDER 35

NOMINATIONS OPEN

LEARN MORE AND SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS AT
bit.ly/WFBF35Under35

FARM BUREAU® LEADERS
PRESERVING AGRICULTURE

Wisconsin Farm Bureau
**Young Farmer
and Agriculturist**
Program



My Farm Bureau Family



Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson

WFBF Director of Young Leader Programs

In January, I had the opportunity to attend the 104th American Farm Bureau Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This year's theme was "Mi Familia"...my family.

Throughout my involvement in Farm Bureau, one thing has always been clear, the relationships you build and friendships you make are truly the most valuable component of this organization.

Farm Bureau runs deep in my family. My grandpa, Bill Reynolds, was a longtime member and served on the Iowa County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, while my grandma, Jeannette, was an active member of the Women's Committee and my mom, Cindy, had the honor of being an Iowa County Farm Bureau Queen. If you take a look at the Iowa County membership roster dating back to the 1920s, you'd see the names of many of my relatives and immediate family members, showing just how passionate my family has always been about agriculture and the Farm Bureau organization.

I began my Farm Bureau membership at UW-Madison where I was a charter member of the first Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter established in Wisconsin. After graduating college, I was quickly recruited by Iowa County Farm Bureau and elected as the Agriculture Promotions Committee Chair.

Just two years later, I decided a Farm Bureau career was for me and accepted the position as the WFBF District 3 Coordinator. Serving in this role for the last 7½ years has been rewarding in many different ways, but the best part of this job has always been the people.

It has been a privilege working with the Farm Bureau members of District 3. I've traveled thousands of miles, attending hundreds of meetings and events, and no matter where I was, members made me feel welcome and invited me into their lives. The memories I've made and the stories I have to tell, all revolve around the Farm Bureau members who first became friends and then quickly became FAMILY.

As I step into the role of WFBF Director of Young Leader Programs, I look forward to creating new connections and relationships, adding even more members to my Farm Bureau family. In this new position, I will be working with the Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program and Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters, as well as serving as the liaison between Farm Bureau and Wisconsin's 4-H and FFA organizations.

The young leader programs are vital to Farm Bureau, and I'm excited to grow these programs and work with our younger members as they are the future of our organization. However, I will always remain an active Iowa County Farm Bureau member and there's no doubt you will still see me around District 3.

As I sign off on creating my final Farm Bureau newsletter, I want to sincerely thank all the members of District 3. Thank you for your kindness and friendship. Most importantly, thank you for being a member of my Farm Bureau family!



25
April

GRANT COUNTY

UP TO \$1,500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/grantfb23>
Questions: Christina Winch - 608.778.9150

15
April

IOWA COUNTY

UP TO \$2,000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/iowafb23>
Questions: Megan Yager - 608.574.4028

10
April

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

UP TO \$4,000 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/lafayettefb23>
Questions: Tim Appell - 608.778.6062

15
April

VERNON COUNTY

UP TO \$500 AWARDED

Application available at: <http://bit.ly/vernonfb23>
Questions: Travis Klinkner - 608.633.1981

May

ANNOUNCEMENT

All scholarship recipients will be announced in May and recognized at county annual meetings in September.

WFBF Delegates Set Policy for 2023

The 103rd WFBF Annual Meeting took place December 3-5 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. More than 230 delegates from across the state established new policy directives for the organization.

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

On the floor, delegates discussed various dairy topics. They voted to oppose de-pooling of milk by processors. During dairy policy discussion, delegates supported giving farmers more 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 also approved.

Delegates discussed transportation concerns and seasonal accessibility to roads. In order 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 their 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.



District 3 was well-represented at this year's WFBF Annual Meeting.

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.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at its annual convention.



Crawford County delegates (from left): Janice Johnsrud, Lori Brown, Don Brown and AV Roth.



Lafayette County delegates (from left): Joe Riechers, Casey Lobdell, Paul Johnson and Christina Benson.



Grant County delegates (from left): Andrew Dal Santo, Katie Roth, Kent Jerrett, Christina Winch, Allen Johnson, Paige Hampton and Peter Winch.



Iowa County delegates (from left): Ryan Dolan, Krista Dolan, Kyle Levetzow, Laura Daniels and John Meyers.



Vernon County delegates (from left): Alex Bringe, Travis Klinkner, Eldon Henthorne, Ben Sherry and Drew Hendrickson.



Richland County delegates (from left): Jim Hying, Dick Hauser and Bill Hying.

Ag in the Classroom Update



Livia Doyle

Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program is once again holding an essay contest for all students in fourth and fifth grades in public schools, private schools or homeschool programs. This year's essay contest prompt is "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." The prompt gleams its theme from the Book of the Year Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish by Viola Butler. Essay submissions must be a maximum of 400 words for fourth grade students and 500 words for fifth grade students. Essays will be judged on content, creativity, grammar, spelling and neatness. All essays are due April 1 and can be mailed to your county essay coordinator. There are many different resources and videos to help promote this year's theme including lesson plans and activities. Teachers and parents can access these resources via online at wisagclassroom.org or by contacting me directly.

Just as in previous years, the county Farm Bureaus of District 3 have donated a copy of the Book of the Year to many of the elementary schools and public libraries throughout southwest Wisconsin. Our hope is that students, families and teachers will read and enjoy this book, learning all about the ever important dairy industry.

Fourth grade students at Mineral Point Elementary School have been exploring and reading about all things agriculture. This past fall, fourth grade teachers at Mineral Point received \$500 from Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom 'Agriculture in All Classrooms' grant. This money was used to purchase 45 new children's books for the fourth grade classrooms. All books are high quality, engaging and focus on a wide variety of agriculture related topics.

The National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization is excited to announce this year's annual meeting and conference will be held in Orlando, Florida, June 26-29. Each year the conference brings together

hundreds of teachers, volunteers, informal educators and industry experts from across the country to share ideas, network and celebrate agricultural literacy. To learn more about the conference, visit www.agclassroom.org/conference.

If you or someone you know is looking for resources or ideas, please consider reaching out to your county Ag in the Classroom coordinator. County Ag in the Classroom programs are stocked with educational resources, books, lesson plan ideas and activities to do with children of all ages. We enjoy sharing these resources with teachers, 4-H leaders, library media specialists, parents, etc. Together, we can connect and teach so many of tomorrow's consumers about the importance of today's agriculture industry.



Wisconsin
Agriculture in the Classroom

AITC Essay Contest

Essay Prompt: You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy.

Submit your essay to your county coordinator:

Crawford

Pat Dearth
46823 Drake Rd.
Gays Mills, WI 54631
608.279.2417

Grant

Jessica Brogley
One University Plaza
126A Doudna Hall
Platteville, WI 53818
608.341.7066

Iowa

Megan Yager
6235 Woodlawn Rd.
Mineral Point, WI 53565
608.574.4028

Lafayette

Gretchen Kamps
24240 County Rd. F
Belmont, WI 53510
608.762.5752

Richland

Germaine Hying
23870 Sorge Ln.
Muscodia, WI 53573
608.739.3367

Vernon

Travis Klinkner
S4993 Volden Ln.
Genoa, WI 54632
608.633.1981

Deadline: April 1, 2023

www.wisagclassroom.org

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

During a company-wide work meeting for Bug Tussel, our new CEO (previously COO), Jason Wied, asked each of us to send him a word that we thought would represent the year of 2023. Of course, I had to take several minutes to think about this because one word is simply not enough for me to describe the goals that I have for the year. I narrowed it down to "focus" and "organize," both of which tend to get lost for me when I over-commit my time to several different tasks.

These words also tie into my involvement with Farm Bureau. The WFBF Promotion and Education Committee met in January to review 2022 and our goals for the upcoming year. Looking back at 2022, I shared how well the District 3 Farm Bureau Fall Tour went last November. We traveled to Barneveld to visit Vortex and were thankful to receive gift bags full of swag, ate lunch at the Ope Haus and ended the afternoon at Botham Vineyards learning about the wine industry. It was a great experience and I appreciated the time that everyone took to be a part of the event.

I started the year traveling to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the American Farm Bureau Convention in January. I enjoyed watching my friend from Washington do her presentation for the Excellence in Agriculture Award competition, Wisconsin's Rachel Harmann compete in the Discussion Meet, visiting with members at the trade show, listening to speakers like AFBF President Zippy Duvall, Big Kenny of Big & Rich, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Life is Good co-founder Bert Jacobs, and attending the Flapjack Fundraiser and Leadership Luncheon. In our free time, we were able to visit a coffee plantation and tour San Juan Artisan Distillers to learn about sugarcane and taste test the rum!

Looking ahead, our Promotion and Education Committee continues to work on planning events like Leadership Boot Camp to be held Nov. 11. District 3 is hosting our April meeting, so I'm excited to tour and share parts of our area with others from around the state.

As I tie back into my two words at the beginning, I encourage you all to think of one word that you can improve upon each day that can help you with your personal and professional goals in 2023. Whether it's working together on a farm, in Farm Bureau or in our other professions, this quote comes to mind as we progress more into the year, "Organize as much as possible around teams, to achieve enhanced focus, task orientation, innovativeness and individual commitment."

District 3 News

Fall Tour Brings Members to Iowa County

The District 3 Fall Tour was held on November 13 in Iowa County. Members explored the Barneveld area and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of Vortex Optics and Botham Vineyards. At Vortex, attendees learned about the technology, products and marketing strategies that have made the company so successful and grow exponentially. Botham Vineyards highlighted the wine making process and offered a fun tasting. Those who attended were treated to a delicious lunch at Ope Haus Pub and had a wonderful time learning more about these local agribusinesses.



DISTRICT 3 CONTACTS

CRAWFORD COUNTY PRESIDENT

AV ROTH - 608.485.1125

GRANT COUNTY PRESIDENT

PETER WINCH - 608.778.1150

IOWA COUNTY PRESIDENT

KRISTA DOLAN - 608.574.4565

LAFAYETTE COUNTY PRESIDENT

CHRISTINA BENSON - 815.275.4400

RICHLAND COUNTY PRESIDENT

DICK HAUSER - 608.585.4808

DISTRICT DIRECTOR/VERNON COUNTY PRESIDENT

ROBERT NIGHT - 608.606.4319

DISTRICT COORDINATOR

MELISSA JACOBSON - 608.574.9884

mjacobson@wfbf.com

Local FFA Members Attend FFA Farm Forum

More than 240 high school juniors and FFA advisors from across Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Wisconsin Rapids on Feb. 17.

"FFA Farm Forum is a time for learning and leadership," said WFBF President Kevin Krentz. "These students are the next generation in agriculture. I hope members in attendance are able to take back what they have learned during this conference to better their organizations and communities."

The keynote speaker was Joe Schlies, a member of the UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau. Schlies shared his experiences with the Wisconsin Association of FFA and Farm Bureau and how they have shaped him as a young leader. He shared how everyone has the power to seek out opportunities in their lives to develop impactful traits within themselves.

During the one-day event, FFA members attended career-based

workshops including: 'Food Science 101' with Sara Menard Huber, Research and Development Manager at Brakebush Brothers; 'Agricultural Product Applications' with Andrew Dal Santo, an instructor at Southwest Technical College; 'Supercharge Your Ag Technology Knowledge' with Teri Raatz, an instructor with Mid-State Technical College; and 'From FFA to YFA: Connecting the Dots in Your Ag Experience' with Joe Schlies.

"FFA Farm Forum is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA," said WFBF Director of Member Relations Mandy Ganser. "Our organizations have worked together for many years to offer students a conference that showcases the many career paths and leadership development opportunities available in agriculture."

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation sponsors FFA Farm Forum in cooperation with the Wisconsin Association of FFA.



Dodgeville FFA



Fennimore FFA



North Crawford FFA



Wauzeka-Steuben FFA



Platteville FFA



Prairie du Chien FFA



Westby FFA

A New Leadership Role



AV Roth

Crawford County Farm Bureau President

Greetings. I'm Howard "AV" Roth Jr. your newly elected Crawford County Farm Bureau President.

I am a fifth-generation farmer who owns and operates Roth Feeder Pig, Inc. which includes 3,000 sows in a farrow-to-wean enterprise marketing more than 75,000 head annually.

We also farm 1,200 acres of corn, oats and alfalfa and have a herd of black Angus cattle.

My wife, Christine, and I have seven children and reside on the family farm in Wauzeka.

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and am an active FFA and AGR alumni. I have been involved in many local, state and national organizations, including serving as the past president of the Wisconsin Pork Association and National Pork Producers Council.

Some of my other commitments and involvement include the Wisconsin Livestock and Meat Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Corn Growers, Rod and Gun Club, Chairman of the Smart Growth Committee for Wauzeka Township and National Pork Producers Council Trade Policy Committee.

I have been an active Farm Bureau member for many years. I am currently part of the WFBF Farm Bill Working Group and recently served on a the committee that created the WFBF Sustainability Statement. In 2021, we hosted a WFBF "Leaders of the Land" tour on our farm which showcased our conservation and sustainability practices.

I am proud to represent agriculture in many different aspects and look forward to working with the Farm Bureau members of Crawford County. Please contact me with questions or concerns at 608.485.1125.



SAVE THE DATE

Crawford County Dairy Breakfast Saturday, June 3 Al & Kathy Flansburgh Family Farm

Farm Bureau Flavor Crockpot Hashbrown Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 22 oz. bag of frozen hashbrowns
- 1 can Cream of Chicken soup
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 3 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon Kosher salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

Add hashbrowns, soup, sour cream, 1 cup shredded cheese, butter, salt and pepper to slow cooker & mix well. Cook on low for 4 hours. Add remaining shredded cheese and cover for another 20 minutes on low. If desired add ham, bacon, sausage or chicken before cooking or serve as sides.



From the kitchen of Mary Jo Johnsrude

Monkey Muffins

Ingredients:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas
- ¾ cup peanut butter
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup mini chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon sugar (for sprinkling on top)

Directions:

In large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in bananas, peanut butter, milk and vanilla. Combine dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips. Fill greased or paper-lined miniature muffin cups ¾ full and sprinkle with sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 14-16 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans. Yield 6 dozen. These freeze well if desired.



Members Meet with Con. Van Orden

In January, Crawford County Farm Bureau members had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Derrick Van Orden. After being named to the House Agriculture Committee, Con. Van Orden initiated a brainstorming tour to hear from as many farmers as possible before 2023 Farm Bill hearings begin. Members discussed WFBF's Farm Bill priorities with the congressman, in addition to several other agricultural topics including, Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), infrastructure, dairy, subsidies, trade, etc. Congressman Van Orden is planning to have a hearing in the District 3 area in the near future.



District 3 Attends AFBF Convention



Farm Bureau members from around the country came together as "Mi Familia" for the 104th American Farm Bureau Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jan. 6-11. Members traveled far and wide to celebrate agriculture and adopt policies to guide the organization's work in 2023.

District 3 members Tim and Wendy Appell, Andrew Dal Santo, Paige Hampton, Trevor and Melissa Jacobson, Robert and Betty Nigh, Nick VanDerLeest and Tammy Wiedenbeck attended.

Members had the opportunity to attend educational workshops, visit with old and new friends, explore the local culture and hear from many distinguished keynote speakers, including AFBF President Zippy Duvall, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Big Kenny Alphin of Big & Rich, and Bert Jacobs, Chief Executive Optimist of the clothing brand Life is Good.

This year's AFBF Convention was memorable because of the many significant conversations had, achievements celebrated, and friendships forged. The 2024 AFBF Convention is scheduled for Jan. 19-24 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Grant County

wfbf.com/about/counties/grant
GrantCountyFarmBureau

Speaking Up for Agriculture



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello all from northern Grant County. The winter has been very good, not too cold or too much snow.

Back in December, the WFBF Annual Meeting was held at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We got to see old and new friends from across the state.

Our county was well-represented at both the annual meeting and Young Farmers and Agriculturist Conference. Katie Roth and Christina Winch were recognized for their outstanding membership efforts while Andrew Dal Santo and Tammy Wiedenbeck served as members of state committees.

The resolutions session is the primary reason we attend annual meeting. Members set policies for the organization exemplifying the true grassroots process. Policies are submitted from counties all over the state to be reviewed by the WFBF Policy Development Committee.

After they are reviewed, they are brought before the delegates from all county Farm Bureaus in the state. The delegates vote on policies and if passed, they are put in the WFBF Policy Book for our staff and lobbyists to use to promote our view as an organization.

It is now even more important with the ever-changing government to be sure that farmers have a seat at the table. Farm Bureau is our voice and we need to be sure that everyone hears what farmers have to say and how laws and legislation affect us. Very few people in government any more are farmers or even one generation or more removed.



Membership is one aspect of any organization that can be challenging. As we gain members it makes our voice even stronger. Farm Bureau is a well-respected grassroots organization that starts at the local and county levels. I am proud to be a member and do what I can to help.

A few weeks ago, Grant County Farm Bureau members had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Derrick Van Orden of Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District in a small round table discussion. He is a big supporter of agriculture and was recently appointed to the House Agriculture Committee.

He is well-aware of WOTUS and its possible implications on

agriculture and will do what he can to stop it. He would like to see whole milk brought back to the school lunch program among other important items in the upcoming Farm Bill. It was a very productive meeting.

Sometime this spring he will host a House Ag Committee hearing in our district with the chair of the committee. I look forward to seeing the good Con. Van Orden can do for agriculture.

On March 29, WFBF will once again be hosting Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. The county will sponsor any non-board members that would like to attend. The meeting starts with a briefing on important topics in agriculture, followed by lunch. Some years we hear from the Governor. Then in the afternoon we go to the capitol and meet with our elected officials.

Please feel free to contact me at 608.778.1150 if you would like to attend Ag Day at the Capitol or are interested in getting more involved with Farm Bureau.

Have a safe and productive spring.

YFA Members Host Skating Event

Grant County Young Farmer and Agriculturist members organized a family ice skating event at the Dubuque Ice Arena in February. Members embraced the fun winter activity the best they could only falling down a couple times. After skating, attendees enjoyed pizza and networking.



Iowa County

wfbf.com/about/counties/iowa
IowaCountyFarmBureau

Share Your Agricultural Story



Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

As I sit here writing this blurb, we have yet another impending snowstorm headed our way. We have been very fortunate this winter season, so I guess we can't complain too much. However, I am ready for spring! I guess I will take mud over snow, but not mud under snow.

I invite you to attend Ag Day at the Capitol on March 29. This event provides us with the

opportunity to visit the state capitol and talk with our elected officials about issues concerning agriculture. We are very fortunate to have great relationships with our representatives. Iowa County Farm Bureau will even

pay the registration for members. Please contact me at 608.574.4565 if you'd like to attend.

In the spirit of National Ag Day that was on March 21, I encourage you to share your story. It can be online, on the radio or in a newspaper. It can be anything! Everyone in this world has faced something that has changed them and because of that everyone has a story to tell. I look forward to reading or hearing about yours!



Promotion and Education Committee Update



Megan Yager

Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Hello! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable winter thus far. We received some much-needed moisture this winter which should help a lot during the next growing season.

The daylight is lasting longer and spring is just around the corner. The excitement of another calving season and crops to plant are something I really look forward to. I wish I could say that I was just as excited about the mud season that comes along with spring.

This year's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest prompt is "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." The contest is open to fourth and fifth grade students with entries due April 1. I look forward to reading all the great entries. Thank you to the teachers who help promote the essay contest in their classrooms.

Iowa County Farm Bureau will be giving out scholarships again this spring. The scholarship application can be found at bit.ly/iowafb23 and is due April 15.

The Farmers Appreciation Day Committee is already hard at work planning this year's celebration. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 37th Annual Farmers Appreciation Day on July 11 in Dodgeville. We had gorgeous weather and a tremendous turnout last year. I look forward to another wonderful event this summer.

In honor of May Beef Month, I plan on visiting with students in Livia Doyle's fourth grade classroom to discuss beef farming. We will have a question-and-answer session and enjoy some tasty beef sticks.

Last but not least, I would like to say congratulations and good luck to our former District 3 Farm Bureau Coordinator, Melissa Jacobson. She will be fulfilling a new role within Wisconsin Farm Bureau and I know she will do a tremendous job. Melissa was a great asset to our district, and she has left some big shoes to fill. Thank you, Melissa!

Best of luck to everyone during the busy spring season. Stay safe and take time to stop and enjoy the moments.

Spring: A Time for Growth and Exploration



Christina Benson

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Spring is around the corner and warmer weather will soon follow. I hope spring planting goes safely and smoothly for you all. From fields and farm animals to gardens and flowerbeds, it is the season we see growth.

I will be getting a chance to grow and explore more countryside this spring and look forward to connecting with more members in the county on things that are happening in your area.

I invite all ages to explore what Farm Bureau has to offer you. Be sure to attend an upcoming event or encourage high school seniors to apply for the scholarship opportunities.

As always, if you are interested in getting more involved at the county level, we would be happy to have you. Our county board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., and we have several committees you can join including Ag in the Classroom, County Fair, Legislative, Promotion and Education, and Young Farmer and Agriculturist.

Feel free to call or message me at 815.275.4400 with questions or ideas about how Farm Bureau can help you grow.



Christina is a member of the 2023 WFBF Leadership Institute Class. The leadership training program kicked off in January and consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. To learn more about the Leadership Institute, visit: wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute.

Meet: Olivia Holland, Director



Occupation: Dairy farmer, artist and I also work at RBS in Argyle.

Agricultural background: I grew up on a dairy farm outside Gratiot, Wis. I've loved cows and farming since I was a kid. Some of my first memories are being out on the farm with my dad. Both my parents come from farming as well, so you could say it's in my blood really!

Brief description of your family and farm: We milk only Jerseys on our 150-acre farm. We calve twice a year, in the spring and fall, so it's a little crazy during those times. We rotational graze, and there's nothing I love to see more than cows on fresh pasture.

What is your favorite part of working in agriculture? My favorite part would be milking, for sure. I love waking up and going straight into the barn and being with the cows. I also really love any tractor work, too.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? I joined because I wanted to be more involved with other farmers and people who support and love the ag industry. I also wanted to meet new faces and immerse myself with people I may have not met before that also share a passion for agriculture.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? For the same reason I joined, a sense of community with people who support what we do!

Favorite farm animal: Jersey cows, of course!

Favorite ice cream flavor: All of them, but if I have to pick it would be chocolate marshmallow.

Any fun facts or other info you'd like to share? Besides farming, I love to draw, paint and photograph the farm. I sell calendars of my farm photography every year and commission custom paintings and drawings. I've also traveled to seven countries and hope to see more!

Appell Recognized for Membership Efforts



Tim Appell was recognized for his membership efforts during the awards banquet at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Tim signed up 12 new members and was a 'Top 10' membership volunteer. The value of a Farm Bureau membership is endless. Not only do members qualify for special benefits and services, but members also have the opportunity to get involved in several different leadership and educational programs. To learn more about the value of your Farm Bureau membership, visit wfbf.com/membership.

Holiday Celebrations

In December, the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Board of Directors held their Christmas Party at Water Street Place in Shullsburg. A fun time was had by all celebrating the holiday season.



President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

This message will be a little different. Richland County Farm Bureau was privileged to have our 3rd District Congressman, Derrick Van Orden, meet with us on Saturday, February 18 for a listening session.

This is the first time in over twenty years that we have had our representative on the House Agricultural Committee, and it is so important because the new five-year Farm Bill needs to be written by October 1 of this year.

Congressman Van Orden contributed a good deal of information and has done his homework on the Farm Bill. While many in the agriculture community might question why it is called the Farm Bill since almost 75% of the money goes toward food programs, this is the only way to get enough other congressmen on board to help pass it.

Some of the highlights that were discussed were the Conservation

Reserve Program (CRP), crop insurance, the updating of the dairy program to make it more flexible for all farms - small to large, and the need for a more broad-based beef assurance program.

Sadly, although it was advertised, we did not have a very big turnout. Even if you did not make this meeting, you can still have input by contacting your congressman's office and also watch for upcoming hearings which will be somewhere in our area.

I believe we are in good hands with Congressman Van Orden taking a real interest in agriculture.



Richland County members take time to share their agricultural stories and discuss relevant issues with Congressman Derrick Van Orden.

Vernon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/vernon
VernonCountyFarmBureau

Meet: Andrew Diehl, Director



Occupation: Farmer

Agricultural background: I grew up on my family's farm in rural Viroqua where I helped with daily chores and crops. I was active in 4-H and showed beef and crops at the fair. Later, I went to college, got a degree in computer science and an off-farm job. However, I stayed active helping when I could on the farm. In 2003, I began renting crop ground from my parents. In 2009, I moved back to the family farm to take

over a portion of the farm. In 2020, I stopped working off the farm and focused on farming full-time.

Brief description of your family and farm: My wife, Renae, and I have four daughters: Abigail, Rachel, Angela and Trista. Renae works at the Farm Service Agency in Monroe County. Abigail is a freshman at UW-Platteville. Rachel (junior), Angela (sixth grade) and Trista (fourth grade) attend Viroqua Area Schools. We farm about 550 acres with corn, soybeans, hay and pasture. We have around 40 head of beef cows and raise calves to finish.



What is your favorite job to do on the farm? Running the corn planter.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? I joined Farm Bureau to be engaged in an organization that works to keep our farm interests in front of politicians and visible as new laws/legislation are being written. My membership also allowed me to take advantage of various purchase benefits.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? Increased involvement helps to promote agriculture within your local community. It also offers you a path to voice your thoughts on legislation that can directly impact your farm.

Favorite farm animal: Beef Cow

Favorite ice cream flavor: Cookie Dough

A "BOWL" Lot of Fun With YFA

In February, Vernon County Farm Bureau joined Adams, Juneau and Monroe counties for a bowling party. YFA members met at Hart's Hooterhaus in Hustler for pizza and a fun night of bowling. The event proved to be great for membership recruitment and provided an opportunity for new members to socialize and learn more about Farm Bureau.



WFBF Annual Meeting Snapshots





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