

Grassroots

District 5 News

Farm Bureau - Working Hard For You



Kevin Krentz

District 5 Director and WFBF President

Farm Bureau is working hard for you. There are a ton of issues that we as farmers do not control yet directly affect us on our farms. Having good roads and the ability to move equipment and products is extremely important for farms.

Rural prosperity comes from improved rural infrastructure, addressing food deserts, filling

labor needs, and protecting livestock and our natural resources. Rural prosperity comes from supporting farms – farms that spend millions of dollars in local Wisconsin communities.

It is time to address critical roads which help move our products to market. That is why Wisconsin Farm Bureau is asking for \$150 million of one-time state funding for improvements to local roads which uniquely impact Wisconsin's agricultural economy. This funding will allow local municipalities to build critical roads to standards to allow modern traffic and will allow many farms to continue to operate efficiently.

Although roads continue to deteriorate and improvement is a necessity, training the next generation of farm workers, managers and owners is also critical to maintaining the deep diversity of local food produced in Wisconsin. Educating the next generation as well as attracting individuals to Wisconsin are the major reasons the industry supported Farm & Industry Short Course over the years. This 137-year-old agriculture program has supported farms and communities across Wisconsin for generations.

After UW-Madison announced last year the end of the program as we knew it, Farm Bureau worked with the UW system to help get Farm & Industry Short Course reestablished at a new location of UW-River Falls this year.

Getting the next generation excited about agriculture is also the reason Farm Bureau supports the Food+Farm Exploration Center in Plover. This facility will help consumers understand how their food is grown and raised. It will also help young kids learn about agriculture and the technologies involved on farms. This facility will be the pinnacle of central Wisconsin agriculture for many years to come, highlighting the exceptionality of the area and crops grown there.

The uniqueness and diversity of Wisconsin's agriculture, typography and waters also provide unique benefits and challenges across our state. Farmers work hard caring for the crops, developing healthy soils and protecting the water. Farmers are very innovative, and this is why producer-led watershed groups have been successful. Farmers know their land and continue to evolve how they sustain productive yields while protecting our natural resources.

The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection provides grants for these projects and has prevented 219,638 pounds of phosphorus and 342,163 tons of soil from leaving farm fields on nearly one million acres across Wisconsin. Farm Bureau will continue to support funding this important program.

This is a small list of legislative and budget priorities and a small list of everything Farm Bureau is working on for you. To receive regular policy updates, make sure to sign up for the Policy Pulse.

Thank you for all you do in agriculture and thank you for being a member.

Promotion and Education Update



Jenny Leahy

District 5 Promotion and Education Chair

Farm Bureau members from across the state were given the opportunity to grow their leadership and advocacy skills at the Ag LEAD Summit. The Ag LEAD Summit provided attendees with workshops designed to build skills in different tracks, keynote speakers who challenged members to be leaders in their counties, and a consumer panel that gave insight into the agricultural knowledge and perceptions of consumers. District 5 was well-represented, and those members found

value in the experience.

Thank you to everyone who attended!

The district is planning two Promotion and Education events. We are teaming up with YFA and doing a Pasture Walk on May 21 at ParKelm Farm near Green Lake. On July 29, we are touring North Road Flower Farm. Mark both of these events on your calendar and plan to attend.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau members at Ag LEAD (from left): Yolanda Woloszyn, Sam Corso, Abbie Swanke with daughter Zoe, Pete Badtke, Linda Swanke and Chad Bruss.

District Coordinator Report



Becky Hibicki

District 5 Coordinator

With the weather finally getting warmer, I think I can say that spring has finally sprung! The warm weather has me thinking about summer activities, and my favorite summer activity has always been our county fair.

I have always enjoyed working hard with my fair animal projects throughout the summer and then enjoyed getting to show them at the fair. Now as a parent, I enjoy watching my children prepare for the fair

and seeing the same enjoyment they have when it's county fair week.

County fair season is also a busy time for county Farm Bureaus. All the county Farm Bureaus in our district have some type of fair food stand. These food stands are very important as they are the Farm Bureau's largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the fair stands allow county Farm Bureaus to conduct their program of work, including county scholarships, conducting Ag in the Classroom events, Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA), and Promotion and Education activities.

This year as you attend your county fair or a neighboring county fair, I encourage you to stop at your county Farm Bureau food stand. I would also suggest as a Farm Bureau member to consider volunteering a few hours to help in your county Farm Bureau's food stand. These stands take a lot of work and time, and I know all the counties in our district would appreciate extra helping hands.

Wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. See you at the county fair!

Help your County Farm Bureau this summer!

VOLUNTEER IN YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU STAND AT THE COUNTY FAIR TO SUPPORT LOCAL PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND INITIATIVES. CONTACT YOUR COUNTY CHAIRPERSON BELOW TO SIGN UP.

| DATE | COUNTY FAIR | CONTACT |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| July 6-9 | Marquette County Fair | Vicky Wachholz 608.369.2644 |
| July 19-23 | Fond du Lac County Fair | Jenny Leahy 920.979.3213 |
| Aug. 2-6 | Winnebago County Fair | Russ Kriha 608.436.4764 |
| Aug. 3-6 | Green Lake County Fair | Pete Badtke 920.229.2936 |
| Aug. 16-20 | Juneau County Fair | Tonra Degner 608.553.1256 |
| Aug. 17-20 | Waushara County Fair | Paul Jarvis 920.229.0637 |
| Aug. 25-28 | Adams County Fair | Kay Olson 608.572.1429 |

Ag Day at the Capitol Connects Farmers with Legislators

On March 29, more than 250 farmers and agriculturists gathered at the Monona Terrace in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

"We appreciate our members taking time off their farms to speak up on key issues impacting our rural communities," said WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnaini. "The strength of our rural community lies within the voices of our state's farmers and the



ability to share their stories with their legislators."

Attendees started the day with Department of Agriculture,

Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski who served as the event's keynote speaker. Secretary Romanski outlined initiatives impacting agriculture outlined in the 2023-25 biennial state budget, including increasing trade opportunities, investments to the processing industry and connecting the general public with agriculture.

He encouraged farmers and agriculturists to continue to be strong advocates for Wisconsin's rural communities.

"Events like Ag Day at the Capitol are great because we have the opportunity to talk on common interests," said Sec. Romanski. "I am appreciative of your efforts and the efforts of our legislators that collectively help us move agriculture forward."

Following the Secretary's speech, the afternoon session was a legislative panel comprised of Senators Howard Marklein and Joan Ballweg, and Representatives Tony Kurtz and Nancy VanderMeer.

The panel discussed:

- Agriculture's role in developing solutions to protect the food supply and government's role in aiding that protection.
- Pressing issues facing Wisconsin agriculture in the current budget cycle.
- The statewide need for rural road infrastructure improvements.
- Farmer-led conservation initiatives including producer-led watershed programming.

The program concluded with issue briefings with a strong focus on farm supply chain protection. Topics included improvements to local

transportation, labor, animal health and disease prevention, and food distribution and aggregation solutions. Additional issue briefings focused on farmer-led conservation, rural prosperity and the organization's legislative session priorities.

The afternoon's program concluded with attendees traveling to the Capitol where they met with legislators from their respective areas.

District 5 was represented well at this year's Ag Day at the Capitol event.



Extension Update: Winter Meeting Season Back in Full Swing



Natasha Paris

Extension Regional Crops Educator

Hello Farm Bureau members! This winter I was happy to be able to participate in a series of conferences and meetings, and saw many of you there. While this was my first winter in this role, I heard many times about how glad people were to be back to in-person events, and many events had

near-record attendance.

The season began with the Midwest Food Products Association Processing Crops Meeting for vegetable processors and seed companies. I represented the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program of Extension/USDA at both WFBF and Wisconsin Farmers Union conferences where I talked with producers about sustainable practices and grants for on-farm research offered by SARE. December also included the Cover Crop and Discovery Farms Conference which provided great insights into the value of cover crops and grassed waterways to prevent nutrient loss.

In January, the Wisconsin Agribusiness Association held its "Classic" in Madison with the full team of Extension-funded faculty from Agronomy and Soils at UW-Madison. The end of the month featured the Wisconsin Fresh Market Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference where I was the emcee for the vegetable track and we had a great discussion on a variety of issues for direct market growers.

February had a busy start with Grassworks and the Corn/Soy/Pork Expo taking place at the same time on opposite ends of the Wisconsin Dells. I assisted with sessions at both. Corn/Soy Expo showed a heightened interest in topics related to sustainability such as phosphorus budgeting. The Grassworks Conference was the largest it had ever been with great speakers such as Jason Cavadini from UW-Madison Extension and Alan Franzluebbbers of USDA discussing the role of grazing in resource management for all types of farms.

We wound out the season with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Conference in Stevens Point, where I moderated several sessions. The two large themes there were management of Colorado potato beetle featuring Andrei Alyokhin of the University of Maine and water quality with several presentations by DATCP and UW personnel. At the final meeting of the season, the Hancock Processing Crops meeting in March, I presented about nitrogen usage in sweet corn for both productivity and water quality.

District 5 Extension Staffing

I am coming up on one year in my role as the Regional Crops Educator for Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Adams counties. Guolong

Liang started in August as the Commercial Vegetable Central Sands Ag Water Quality Outreach Specialist and he is based out of Stevens Point.

In January, Sam Bibby began as the Regional Crops Educator for Juneau, Sauk and Vernon counties. Kevin Jarek, the longtime county educator for Outagamie, recently became the Regional Crops Educator for Outagamie and Winnebago, and a position has been posted for a Regional Dairy Educator for Winnebago, Outagamie, Shawano and Oconto counties.

Madisen Potratz started as the Horticulture Educator for Winnebago in August. The hiring process is currently ongoing for a Regional Livestock Educator for Green Lake, Waushara and Adams counties. Hiring is also ongoing for a Regional Crops Educator for Fond du Lac, Sheboygan, Washington and Ozaukee counties.

Finally, we have a great statewide team of Farm Management Outreach Specialists that offer programming for business development, labor and farm succession issues among others.

Mark your calendars

We are kicking off our Badger Crop Connect webinar series on April 12. This series features timely updates from UW faculty and staff on cropping concerns and takes place on the second and fourth Wednesdays at 12:30 April-October. CCA CEU credits are available. See the QR code or visit cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/programs/badger-crop-connect.

The Potato Research Field Day will be held at the Hancock Research Station on July 13.

The North American Manure Expo will be held at Arlington Research Station on Aug. 9 and 10.

The Arlington Research Field Day will be held on Aug. 30.

To be kept up-to-date with Extension events in the area, please contact your local Extension office to be added to our email list or for the Extension Central Newsletter which goes out quarterly via USPS.

I am very much enjoying my role working with farmers and the university. If you have a cropping question, idea for an event you'd like to see happen or would like to conduct a research project on your farm, please don't hesitate to reach out. I wish you all a great growing season!

Natasha Paris is the Regional Crops Educator for Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Adams. She can be reached at 608.228.8325 or natasha.paris@wisc.edu



DISTRICT 5 YFA DISCUSSION MEET

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

6:30PM - DINNER

7:00PM - DISCUSSION MEET

MARQUETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
480 UNDERWOOD AVE. MONTELLO, WI

PLEASE RSVP AND DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

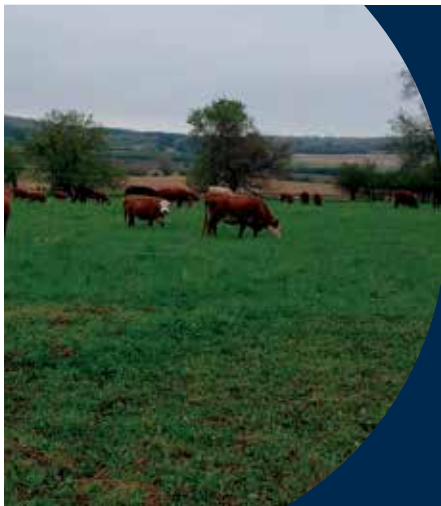
TOPIC TO BE DISCUSSED:

Production agriculture requires a lot of capital. Young farmers and ranchers face challenges gaining access to the capital they need to start or grow their operations. What tools are currently available, and what new programs could be introduced, to help young people access financial resources—and make sound financial decisions—to run their farms and ranches?

Jeff and Sara Huber, District 5 YFA Representatives
318.572.9731 smenar44@gmail.com



District 5 News



❖ DISTRICT 5 PROMOTION AND EDUCATION ❖ AND YFA PASTURE WALK

Sunday, May 21 at 2 p.m.

ParKelm Farm – W2956 State Road 23, Green Lake

Pasture Walk first, followed by meal. Meat and soda/water will be provided.
Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass and a chair.
Bring the whole family. All are welcome.

For more information contact:

Jenny Leahy at 920.979.3213 or Sara Menard Huber at 318.572.9731



Farm Bureau District 5 and 6 YFA Timber Rattlers Baseball Game

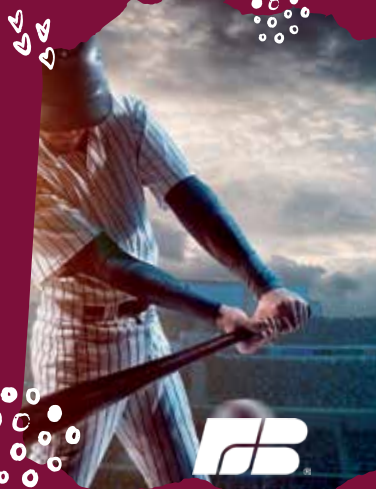
June 24

Tailgating at 4 pm.

Bring a dish to pass
and bring your own
beverage. Farm
Bureau will provide
brats and burgers.

Tickets are \$14 and
must be prepaid.
These are box seats in
the first 10 rows of the
stadium.

Contact District 5 YFA Chair Sara Menard at
318.572.9731 for more information.



District 5 Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Event

North Road Flower Farm

5283 County Highway N, Pickett, WI 54964

Saturday, July 29 starting at 10 a.m.

Tour the farm and get the opportunity to pick your own
bouquet of fresh flowers.

\$35 a person.

The district will cover \$15 for current Farm Bureau
members. Contact your local county Farm Bureau to see if
they will cover the remaining \$20. Only 20 seats are
available. Don't hesitate, sign up today.

Contact Jenny Leahy at 920.979.3213 or
leahyj87@gmail.com to register.

Adams County

wfbf.com/about/counties/adams
 [AdamsCountyFarmBureau](https://www.facebook.com/AdamsCountyFarmBureau)

Adams County Dates to Remember

**June 3 - 4-H June Dairy Month Grilled Cheese & Milk
Shake event, Adams County Fairgrounds,
10 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

June 10 - Adams County Annual Sand County Showdown

June 30 - Deadline for Adams County Scholarship

August 24-27 - Adams County Fair, FREE GATE

September 22-24 - Old Farmers Fall Festival, FREE GATE

Adams County Annual Sand County Showdown

This year's event will be held on Saturday, June 10, at the Adams County Fairgrounds in Friendship. The Sand County Showdown committee was pleased with the excellent number of exhibitors that participated in 2021 and 2022. The exhibitors from across the state that participated in the Sand County Showdown were pleased with the quality of the program that was offered. The opportunity to learn from top show people in the beef and sheep species helped them be more successful at the summer shows they attended.

We would like to offer you the opportunity to support this fun and educational experience for Wisconsin livestock exhibitors. Registration for youth is online through the Sand County Showmanship Showdown Facebook page. Questions? Please contact: Josh Oleson 608-547-0430 or Tori Babcock 608-572-1402 or email us at sandcountyshow@gmail.com.

A Message From The President



Kay Olson

Adams County Farm Bureau President

April and May bring us many happy and joyous occasions such as May flowers, Mother's Day, graduations and weddings. It is a beautiful time of the year for farmers as we begin our spring work.

All of these can be happy times for us, and yet at the same time can be very sad times. We need to be aware that safety comes first.

I often hear or see on Facebook complaints about farm equipment on the road impeding traffic and they put a call into the sheriff's department. I am always amazed and yet many of those that complain never complain about recreational vehicles impeding traffic and they are only allowed to go 35 miles an hour and less when going past homes. As well as there are people out for that peaceful drive. Our roads and highways are for everyone as they are the only means to get from one place to another.

Many are in a hurry to get around the farm equipment on the roads, but, they only slow us down for a little bit. Stop and think if you try to get around them on the road or pass in a no-passing zone - it could slow you down for a lot longer, even maybe a lifetime, or you could be the reason that farmer never made it home that evening.

I say this because I have seen this too many times while driving on the roads. Many of our back roads are narrow and difficult to see around equipment. Farmers tend to watch out for those behind and try to pull over to allow someone to pass when it is safe. Not only be on the lookout for farmers but also cooperative drivers who are out there on the roads making deliveries and doing fieldwork.

Slow down and remember: you have a vested interest in agriculture if

you like to eat. Everyone wants to make it home safely to their families and loved ones in the evening.

Our Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) program has held several activities already and has even more planned. If you are interested, you can contact Jeff and Sara (Menard) Huber for more information.

We have donated to the Hospital Foundation, the A-F Powerlifters and the AF-FFA. We also awarded Art Kits to all the first place winners in the Adams County Land & Water Conservation Contest. You can find their pictures elsewhere in the newsletter.

We will be offering our yearly scholarship to graduating seniors and or those in a post-secondary school that have not received one of our scholarships before. If you have someone interested, please email or call me at kolsonmartz@gmail.com (608-572-1429) for the form.

Adams County Farm Bureau made our new voting member goal set by the state before the end of March of signing up 20 new voting members. The entire board of directors thanks everyone who joined and helped us accomplish that goal. For doing so we will get \$1,000 from the state organization.

We are now working on contacting our past-due members to renew their membership, which are now \$65.00. Your renewal helps us continue our programs each year because if by the end of September, we retain our membership goal then we get another \$800. Our membership goals and the county fair ice cream booth are the two fundraisers that keep our programs thriving.

We are starting to meet in-person and you are more than welcome to attend. You can also hook up virtually or by phone. If you would like to join our meetings, please contact us and we will give you the information on how to join in-person, via Microsoft Teams on the computer or to connect by telephone.

In closing, have a safe spring and summer.

Adams County Dairy Promotion Event

The Adams County 4-H Ambassadors would like you to join them and the Adams County 4-H clubs in promoting June Dairy Month at the Adams County Fairgrounds 4-H food stand on Sunday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

We will be serving grilled cheese and our famous 4-H Fair shakes! Please get your tickets ahead of time from an Adams County 4-H youth or the UW Extension Office! The 4-H Clubs will have a contest to see which club can have the most pre-sale of tickets. You can dine-in, or we will offer drive-up services if that works best for you!

We are happy to be promoting June Dairy Month and 4-H within our community and are proud of our dairy farmers! There will be a basket raffle in which each club will be bringing items for the basket.

The Promotion Committee is also planning to have events for the kids.

Please join us for a fun day, fundraiser and promotional event in conjunction with the Adams County Leaders Association!

Supporting youth in Adams County is what we do! Any questions please call UW Extension at 608.339.4237.

Land Conservation Poster Winners



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

Photo 1 (from left): Megan Steckelberg, Trina Delambo, Arabella Etter, Jordann Brucki, Kay Olson; Photo 2 (from left): Violet Church, April Church, Remi Clausen, Hayden Clausen, Megan Steckelberg, Emily Clausen, Eden Church, Ryan Clausen, Ava Clausen. Photo 3 (from left): Megan Steckelberg, Quinley Allen, Ava Nawrot, Brielle Jero, Mia Bonilla, Jenna Stainbrook, Kay Olson; Photo 4: Megan Steckelberg and Andresa Dominguez.

A Message From The President



Reuben Hopp

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau
President

Welcome to spring! With the oncoming of spring

comes the high expectations of nice warm weather. Planting crops can be tiring, but rewarding from placing the seeds in the soil, weed control and then anxiously waiting for the fall harvest.

We attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 29, where we shared issues that are important to farmers and the agricultural community. Roger Grade, Steve Sabel and myself attended this event. We met with Rep. Jerry O'Connor, and staff members from Rep. Mike Schraa and Sen. Dan Feyen.

Chris Pollack and I also attended Council of Presidents held March 28-29. We heard from speakers, met new staff members and networked.

March 31 was the early bird membership

deadline. Our goal was to sign at least 45 new voting members, and we met that challenge and reached our goal.

Before we know it, summer will be here. The Fond du Lac County Fair is July 19-23. Plan to attend and stop by the Farm Bureau Country Café for a homecooked meal. We are also always looking for volunteers to help in the fair stand. Please consider helping, even if only for a couple hours. Please contact Jenny Leahy at 920.979.3213. The Farm Bureau will also have a booth at the Alto Fair, which will be held Aug. 9-10.

Also mark your calendar for our county annual meeting to be held on Sept. 18 at Avenue 795 in Fond du Lac. This year the new WFBF CAO Bradley Uken will be our guest speaker.

I hope everyone has a good spring but can't emphasize enough the importance of being safe. Always remember to be cautious and stay safe when working around machinery.

Fowler Reflects on Institute Experience

By Lindsay Fowler, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Participant



Whenever considering a class or conference to attend, it must allow me to learn something new while growing in my role on the farm. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute was brought to my attention by a peer, and I chose to apply because it would allow me to learn more about farm policy. But 'Oh Boy!'—this is not just another "Leadership Class"—it is an all-around, well-executed, personal and professional development program that far exceeds all expectations.

We are three months into the year-long Institute. In the first session, the focus was on personal attributes with the session titled, "Leadership—Be You!". We completed personal assessments to uncover our strengths and emotional intelligence, as well as prepared draft speeches for lessons in public speaking.

The second session was focused on teams, requiring us to work in small groups and do book presentations. During this session, we also learned more about the relationship between Farm Bureau and Rural Mutual Insurance Company, as well as were certified in COMET training to recognize when a neighbor may need emotional support.

Session three made us stronger advocates for agriculture—how we can use social media as a tool, tips and tricks when participating in an interview, and increased confidence in our own personal stories. Sessions four and five will reconvene later this year, expanding on government affairs and our national team. We may not meet in person now for several months, but the work doesn't stop. We have ongoing "homework" to maintain our momentum in our climb up the mountain of leadership such as completing an individual advocacy project and a video sharing our personal story.

By the end of the Institute, we will each have written a Personal Leadership Development Plan, born out of self-reflection, feedback and outreach. There is a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences in our class, and each one of us will gain stronger foundations, from which the reach will be endless—and it has already begun!

Ag Showcase a Success



By Jenny Leahy, County Promotion and Education Chair

The first weekend in March, Envision Greater Fond du Lac's Agribusiness Council hosted its annual Ag Showcase at the Fond du Lac County Fairgrounds. The Ag Showcase gives consumers an opportunity to learn more about the agricultural industry in Fond du Lac County. Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau members Beth Schaefer and Jenny Leahy taught consumers the basics of dairy cow nutrition. Participants were shown the components in a cow ration and were given the opportunity to create their own human version of the ration, a trail mix. Guests could also sign up for a chance to win the Ag in the Classroom book *Tales of the Dairy: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish Godmother* by Viola Butler.

Clark Awarded County Scholarship



Grace Clark is the daughter of Travis and Janet Clark of Rosendale. She will be a 2023 graduate of Laconia

High School. This fall Grace will be attending UW-Platteville to pursue a degree in agribusiness.

Meet County YFA Chair, Grant Buwalda



I am from Waupun, where I grew up on my family's dairy farm. I have enjoyed helping and learning over the years with different roles and

responsibilities on the farm. I greatly appreciate getting to work alongside my family and learn life skills through those experiences.

Through my experiences, I have also developed a strong passion for agriculture, and decided I wanted to pursue a career in ag. I decided to attend UW-River Falls and have been working towards a degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in Ag Engineering Technology. My college experience has been very influential in showing me the importance of service and outreach and developing the necessary leadership skills. In college, I have been involved with our Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter and have greatly enjoyed the opportunities Wisconsin Farm Bureau has provided for us. We as a chapter have also created many opportunities to learn and grow in agriculture for ourselves and our college community.

I will be graduating in May and look forward to taking over the role as the Fond du Lac County YFA Chair this summer. I will be back in Waupun with my wife, Courtney, and will be working for Rock River Seed and Chemical, LLC, a Pioneer Seed agency in Waupun. I am excited to help contribute to Farm Bureau and to my community and continue to meet amazing people in agriculture along the way!

A Message From The President



Peter Badtke

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Hello Green Lake County members!

I would like to take a minute and thank you for your continued membership. Our voices were heard on March 29, when 13 Green Lake County members attended Ag Day at the Capitol, where we sat down with Sen. Joan Ballweg, Rep. Alex Dallman

and staff from Rep. Jon Plumer's office. We are so thankful for their understanding and support for Wisconsin and Green Lake County agriculture. The biggest issue we discussed was a \$150 million dollar bill for critical agricultural road improvements. Whether it's getting milk to a processor, spreading manure, or receiving feed, fuel, or other supplies, the impact these road restrictions have on the state's farmers are causing a huge ripple effect through the entire food supply chain.

Thanks to everyone who helped at our third annual pork roast dinner on April 1 in Princeton. Another huge success serving around 310 meals in just two and a half hours. Profits made from the pork roast meal and the fair food stand are used for Ag in the Classroom, scholarships, 4-H and FFA events.

Ag in the Classroom will be held May 25 at Bruss family farm with 4th and 5th graders from Princeton and Green Lake schools. This will be a good opportunity to show the students what happens on a dairy farm every day and teaches the kids why and how food is really produced.

There will be an informational meeting regarding the use of Avipel to help reduce crane damage in crops with Roger Schnitzler from the International Crane Foundation on Monday night June 12, at the Berlin Library from 6:30-7:45.

On Sunday, July 30, we will be having our 5th annual Green Lake County Farm Bureau summer picnic at the food stand building at the fairgrounds. Please plan on attending for good food and once again we will be having our cornhole tournament with trophies for the top three teams.

Also, we are looking for volunteers at our food stand during the Green Lake County fair Aug. 3-6. Even a few hours here and there are fine to keep our stand running smoothly. Please reach out to any of us if you are able to help out.

The County annual meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the Farmview Event Barn near Berlin. Registration starts at 7 p.m. with a free meal at 7:30 and the meeting starts around 8 p.m.

Wishing everyone a safe planting and a great summer!

Pork Loin Dinner Sees Tremendous Success Despite Weather

No fooling, the Green Lake Farm Bureau served 310 dinners during Saturday's April 1 BBQ Pork Loin Dinner fundraiser held at the Princeton American Legion.

That's better than two dinners every minute for the event, which saw tremendous support despite the snow, sleet, harsh winds and cold temperatures.

"That 310 dinners is slightly up from 2022, so our concerns about adverse weather impact impacting the event proved to be no trouble at all," said Steve Kutz, chairman of the event. "There was a nasty cold wind blowing, but at least the precipitation stopped."

The Green Lake County Farm Bureau was supported by many generous local businesses in making this event possible including Gale Wiersma – Rural Mutual Insurance, Berlin Shell Mart, Berlin Feed Mill, Culver's, Crossroads Market, Detjen's Piggly Wiggly in Princeton, 2 Sisters Piggly Wiggly in Markesan, Webster's Marketplace, Green Lake Dairy Producers, Tuba Dan Radio Show, and Kutz's Kustom Roasting.

"Detjen's Piggly Wiggly went the extra mile and supplied bags to contain the take out dinner boxes," Kutz said. "We really thank our business friends who help make this event possible. It is a great way to promote the great food farmers provide for everyone."

Pete Badtke, President of the Green Lake County Farm Bureau added, "We greatly appreciate our sponsors in helping Farm Bureau spread the message that American farmers make healthy, plentiful and affordable food available."

Locally, the Green Lake County Farm Bureau provides an Agriculture In The Classroom program in area schools. Green Lake Farm Bureau offers scholarships to 4H, FFA and area high school graduates.

As farmers soon head to the fields for planting season, this spring creates some hard challenges. Fertilizer and fuel prices are higher than last year. And thus far, the weather is not showing an early spring. That creates a real scramble when the fields are finally in condition for planting.

"Please be patient during spring planting season," Badtke said. "That tractor moving machinery from one field to another on our roads may seem to be an inconvenience to vehicle drivers. But the farmer could be turning left should you decide to pass. We don't want anyone to be injured by a hurried mistake. Farmers have a very short window of opportunity to get crops planted, making for long workdays. Let's all share the roads safely."

Story and photo credit: Berlin Journal Newspapers



MEMBER PICNIC

Sunday, July 30 at 12:30 p.m.

Green Lake County Fair Grounds

CORN HOLE
TOURNAMENT

GAMES
AND
PRIZES

FUN FOR
THE
ENTIRE
FAMILY



Draeger, Lenz Receive County Scholarships



Julia Lenz

I will be attending Concordia University in Wisconsin in the fall of 2023 to pursue a career in elementary education. After graduating, I plan on teaching in a small school district and remaining involved in 4-H, FFA and FFA Alumni organizations. I

hope to make an impact on children in and out of the classroom, along with continuing to be an advocate and supporter of the agricultural industry.



Emma Draeger

I am currently a senior at Ripon High School. I have lived on a farm all my life. I am involved in FFA, 4-H and have been in track and volleyball at school. I am also in dance. Next fall I will be going to Fox Valley Technical College to study agribusiness science and technology - agronomy.

The reason I chose this area is that I have always enjoyed farming and would like to continue in this field.

Juneau County



wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau
JuneauCountyFarmBureau

A Message From The President



Kip Weber

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

We would like to thank everyone that came out to our Juneau County Farm Bureau's Cheese and Wine Tasting event held at Tranquil Gardens in Hustler. Over 50 people attended.



It was a great turn out and we hope everyone had a wonderful time. We are already looking forward to next year's event.

Thank you to the following businesses for donating to this year's event: D & T Delights, Pasture Pride Cheese, Carr Valley Cheese, Meister Cheese, Von Klaus Winery, and Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Jim Wehinger.

Also, please note the county board of directors has approved a \$10 increase in membership dues because the state dues are increasing \$10 effective October 1. To do this, we have to have a by-law change. We will be having a special meeting for all current voting members. It will be held immediately following dairy breakfast held at the Elroy Fair on Sunday, June 25. Please watch your mail closer to the event for a postcard invite.

Multiple County YFA Bowling Event a Success

In February, Adams, Juneau, Monroe and Vernon County YFA committees organized a joint bowling and pizza event in Hustler. The event was a success with over twenty people attending. YFA activities are geared for members 18-35 years old. If you would like to get more involved in the county YFA program, contact Sally Turpin or Alana Biermeier.



Marquette County



wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette
MarquetteCountyFarmBureau

Promotion and Education Committee Update

By Vicky Wachholz, Marquette County Promotion and Education Chair

On Feb. 11, we hosted our annual wine and cheese tasting at Lunch Creek Winery in Neshkoro. The event was very well-attended with over 80 people enjoying the tastes of Marquette County.

Our committee attended the Ag LEAD Summit on March 17-18. The opportunity to learn and become a better advocate for agriculture was invaluable. We also had an eye-opening discussion with real consumers' about food choices and their perceptions of agriculture.

We will be traveling around the county this spring and summer spreading the word about Marquette County Farm Bureau while sharing some delectable delights with our communities. The Farm Bureau kids train will be out and about at area parades in Germania on April 29, Westfield for the Dairylicious Days parade and Dairy Breakfast on June 10-11, and Harrisville for the 4th of July Parade.

Promotion and Education is planning more events to promote dairy and ice cream. The ice cream barn will be traveling to Fish n' Fun in Montello on May 6-7, Dairylicious Days, and our annual dairy breakfast. Promotion and Education would like to highlight some of our county's beef producers during Beef Month. Farm Bureau will be sponsoring a \$5 coupon that can be used at two on-farm retail stores for any beef purchase throughout the month of May. Watch area newspapers for the coupon!



June Dairy Breakfast

Sunday, June 11
7 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Marquette County Fair Grounds
757 Main Street, Westfield

Featuring pancakes, a scrambled egg bar, sausage, fried potatoes, apple sauce, juice, milk, cheese and ice cream.

\$12 for adults
\$6 for 4-8-year-olds
3 years and under free

Fun activities for the entire family!
Petting zoo, games, agriculture story time, bingo, 50/50 raffle, music and more! New this year a tractor display.
Free breakfast to anyone that drives their tractor to the breakfast between 7 - 9 am.

For more information contact Victoria Wachholz
at 608.369.2644

President's Report



Aaron Wachholz

Marquette County Farm Bureau President

My wife Victoria and I recently attended the Council of Presidents and Ag Day and the Capitol. It showcased Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the many benefits available to us as members, and exceptional ideas and events put on by counties throughout the state. We heard from Ohio Farm Bureau about a new pilot membership program to meet their members' needs by better serving them with benefits unique to their interests, business or commodities grown. The idea intrigued me to the point of questioning myself, "Why am I a Wisconsin Farm Bureau member?"

I became a Marquette County Farm Bureau member at 18. My parents were always deeply involved in our county's Farm Bureau. I attended Farm Bureau events often and by my early teens, I started attending our county's annual meeting. There were so many former Marquette County presidents and Farm Bureau board members I knew personally and looked up to. An immense sense of pride and boldness to continue the Farm Bureau tradition came over me when I paid my first dues.

I became more involved when I started attending YFA events and my first state annual meeting in 2008. I witnessed firsthand the power of one voice being heard at the county level and traveling all the way up to the state delegate floor in the resolution process. As an organization, we could accomplish so much, and people listened when WFBF talked.

It also left an impression on me how leaders were not just groomed but raised in the Farm Bureau. The Achievement Award, Excellence in Ag Award, and Leadership Institute turned farmers into men and women prepared to speak, advocate, and educate others in a way that commanded respect and professionalism yet in a manner of kindness and humbleness. These experiences left a lasting impact on me to become a better farmer, a

stronger leader, and more involved in my own county Farm Bureau as well as in my community.

I became president of Marquette County in 2019, after serving 12 years on the board. Now interact with more members about their membership.

I began to see that being a Farm Bureau member was much more than just a tradition. The Farm Bureau's voice on their members' behalf in Madison and Washington, D.C., became very evident as one of the largest benefits of membership, as I took part in Ag Day at the Capitol.

The tone of the Council of Presidents was more positive and more intensely focused on the individual members of our organization than ever before. I truly believe that there are very exciting things happening and going to take place in the very near future in the Farm Bureau.

I want you to not only want to be a Marquette County Farm Bureau member but to have a passion for agriculture and Farm Bureau and to share your story and the joy of what it means to be Farm Bureau Proud! God bless and keep you all this planting season and this summer.



Waushara County



wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara
WausharaCountyFarmBureau

A Message From The President



Mike Leahy

Waushara County Farm Bureau President

Spring is finally here! Planting is just around the corner. In February, we sponsored four members of the Tri-County FFA to attend FFA Farm Forum, a learning and leadership conference open to high school juniors in Wisconsin. Nearly 200 students attended this annual conference in Wisconsin Rapids. For 50 years the Wisconsin Farm Bureau has sponsored this conference for Wisconsin youth. Students had the chance to attend workshops that included food science and ag technology. The students learned about how to become a food scientists and technology such as facial recognition for cows, robots that milk cows, tractors that drive themselves, drones, and what are GMOs and CRISPR.

In March, YFA Chair Miranda Ewald held a fish fry and bowling event at Madell's in Poy Sippi. The Young Farmer and Agriculturist program is for Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35. It provides members with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while networking with their peers. If you know of anyone interested in participating in the YFA program, please send Miranda or me their contact info so that we can include them in future event updates.

We are well underway with the development of the new food stand!

So far, we have raised almost \$30,000. Thank you to everyone and every business that has donated so far! We couldn't make this project happen without your overwhelming support! Operating the food stand at the fair is the primary source of fundraising for this organization. Money raised supports Ag in the Classroom, YFA, and Promotion and Education. Also, the county Farm Bureau provides scholarships, supports youth in local 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters, and is committed to conducting programs and activities that promote agriculture in Waushara County.

We still have a little way to go. A second fundraising letter will be sent out this month. Please consider a monetary donation if possible or contact food stand chair Paul Jarvis if you can donate your time or talents. All help is greatly appreciated.

Inflation has hit every aspect of our lives. The county Farm Bureau is no different. At the recent WFBF Annual Meeting, the voting delegates approved a WFBF dues increase from \$45 to \$55, effective October 1. We strive to be excellent stewards of your dues providing outstanding returns by engaging in agricultural literacy through our Ag in the Classroom programs, leadership and networking for our YFA members, and community outreach from our Promotions and Education programs.

To avoid any loss of income the county will need to pass a bylaw change authorizing a similar dues increase. We will be planning a special meeting to be held this summer to discuss this bylaw change. Watch your mailboxes and email for meeting time and info. Safe planting everyone!

Farm Bureau Food Stand Project Update

By Paul Jarvis, Food Stand Committee Chair

The Waushara County Farm Bureau board of directors, along with the Food Stand Committee, has decided to build a new food stand to replace the "Little Red Barn" that for approximately 50 years has stood under the big old oak tree at the north end of the Waushara County Fairgrounds. 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 fundraising for this organization. Money raised supports our Ag in the Classroom program, YFA, and Promotion and Education. In addition, the county Farm Bureau provides scholarships, supports youth in local 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters, and is committed to conducting programs and activities that promote agriculture in Waushara County.

Thank you to those who have already contributed to the fundraising campaign. Donations at the following levels will be recognized with a sign posted at the new food stand:

Harvester - \$5000 or above

Planter - \$2500 - \$4999

Cultivator - \$1000 - \$2499

Tiller - \$500 - \$999

Friend - Under \$500

Those businesses/individuals who donate \$5000.00 or more will be asked to provide a logo which the Waushara County Farm Bureau will use to create individual signs to be posted prominently on the building.

If you have any questions about the food stand building project, please contact Paul Jarvis at 920.229.0637. A huge thank you to those that have already donated to the new fair stand project: Heartland Farms, Nowak Farms, Krentz Family Farm, Haase's Holsteins, Mike and Lynn Leahy, Spring Lake Farms Inc., Breeze Dairy Group/Pine Breeze Dairy, T H Agri Chemicals, Inc., Judy Fenske, Oak Grove Farms, Inc., Kent & Kay Peterson, Stelter Farms LLC, Ken Williams, Paul Miller, Flyte Family Farms LLC, Riesterer & Schnell John Deere, Yeska Brothers (Daniel, Kenneth, and Randy), Bernadette Krentz, Nowak Farms Trucking LLC, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Sommers, and Ballweg Implement.



Winnebago County

wfbf.com/about/counties/winnebago
WinnebagoCountyFarmBureau

Dairy Promotion Committee Update

By Linda Mullins, Winnebago County Dairy Promotions Chair

Winnebago will be active this June with all things dairy! We will be out and about this summer with great opportunities for family, friends, and neighbors to come learn about agriculture and enjoy dairy products.

On June 10, we are back to in-person events on a farm! Olson Farms of Larsen will host this year's Grilled Cheese Day. There will be kids'

activities, a self-guided walking tour of the farm and plenty of cheese!

The following weekend, June 17, we will be joining the Winnebago County Parks Department in a new Dairy Day event at the Leach Amphitheater in Oshkosh. There will be food trucks, family activities, live animals, farm equipment, and much more! We hope to see you this summer!

Winnebago County Farm Bureau®
GRILLED CHEESE DAY
JUNE 10 FROM 10 AM - 2 PM

KIDS ACTIVITIES
SELF GUIDED FARM TOUR

OLSON FARMS OF LARSEN
6302 County MM, Larsen, WI 54947

DAIRY FARMERS OF WISCONSIN

Leach AMPHITHEATER
JUNE DAIRY DAY
at the Leach Amphitheater
Saturday, June 17
10 am to 2 pm

FREE

Bring the kids and family to learn all about the dairy industry

The dairy industry is an important economic engine in America. No matter where your dairy comes from, thank a farmer. Dairy farming is a labor of love, but it is hard labor, and we thank everyone involved in producing the milk you drink. With this event we will help the Oshkosh and surrounding areas to have a better understanding of just how important dairy farmers are to our community.

Information Booths

- 4 H
- Local FFA's
- Farm Bureau
- Cheese Factories
- Milk Distributors
- Ice Cream
- Tractors and Farm Equipment

Petting zoo with cows and goats!
Games, Bounce Houses, Face Painting, Crafts

President's Report



Amanda Volp

Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

Spring has sprung my fellow Farm Bureau friends, and we are getting into the heart of planting. The weather is beginning to warm up and the grass is getting greener! My prayer is that everyone has a successful and safe planting season this spring.

It has been a busy year so far for Winnebago County Farm Bureau. Our Community Night on Jan. 14 had roughly 175 people in attendance and was encouraging to see all the folks that gathered within the community, both from rural and urban areas. We had a lot of people playing bingo again with a table FULL of prizes! The kids enjoyed playing in the corn pools with toy tractors (corn was everywhere at the end of the night), trying their luck on the indoor mini-golf course, as well as arts and crafts. With the nice evening we had, guests also ventured outside for horse-drawn wagon rides. The Mac and Cheese Bar was a hit with so many delicious toppings to choose from. We had a total of eight live auction items, 10 silent auction items and the 50/50 raffles were generously purchased.

To top off the night we had six teams compete with America's Pub Quiz trivia. The funds raised at this event will be given back to Winnebago County through our Ag in the Classroom program, Young Farmer and Agriculturalist program, and help Farm Bureau be a voice in the agriculture community through policy and development.

This year the committee also chose to donate a large portion of the proceeds from the evening to an organization in need. I am proud to say that we were able to give St Jude Children's Research Hospital, \$3,300! Community Night truly brought together everyone for an evening of food, fun, friendship and fundraising.

At the beginning of February, several board members assisted in judging the FFA District Speaking Contests at Oshkosh North High School. The knowledge, dedication and professionalism expressed by those FFA members were astonishing and painted a bright future for agriculture and the next generation to come. In February we sponsored students from Winneconne to attend FFA Farm Forum.

On March 28-29, TJ Beck and I attended the WFBF Council of Presidents meeting and Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. This was an opportunity for members to advocate for current agricultural issues with our lobbyists.

Planning for the summer activities is largely underway. We welcome anyone that would like to participate or lend a helping hand for a couple of hours, any support is greatly appreciated.

As I am writing this, we are preparing to host our 4th Annual Drive by Steak Fry on May 6 at Brighton Acres. We are teaming up with the Winnebago County Fairest of the Fair competition this year and will be supplying the meal for their event. The popular steak plate and cheeseburger bags are making a comeback, with a few twists to the menu. During the event, we are offering picnic tables for dining, a meat-cut challenge, raffle baskets of different beef products, and a meet and greet with a live cow/calf pair. Here's to a stellar summer! God Bless.

Leadership Institute Update



By Linda Mullins, WFBF Leadership Institute Participant

So far, the Leadership Institute has been incredible! It is exciting to meet new people from across the state, step out of my comfort zone, try new things and learn more about myself.

Everything I have learned about can be applied to my Farm Bureau role, my career and my personal life. From public speaking to setting expectations and learning to leverage my strengths, this class is truly inspiring me to be my best self.

County Ag in the Classroom Update

By Rebecca Poppy



For National Ag Day on March 21, Omro Elementary assembled a display of agriculture books.



Omro FFA Students read books to Omro Elementary students on National Ag Day.



Omro FFA students made ice cream with 4th and 5th grade students in the Omro Elementary School.



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Marquette County

Waushara County

Winnebago County

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