



# Grassroots

## District 2 News

### Young Farmer and Agriculturist Updates



**Kat and Brady Peper**

WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee,  
District 2 Representatives

Hello from your District 2 YFA representatives Brady and Kat! The weather has been getting warmer, things are growing, and we have been busy with our jobs, the farm and, of course, Farm Bureau!

In January we had our first state committee planning meeting of the year at the WFBF office in Madison. At this meeting we set goals for our committee as well as for each of our districts. We also started planning for the YFA Conference in December. This year Kat is on the entertainment and conference promotion subcommittees, and Brady is on the district meetings and first timers' session subcommittees. We are looking forward to another fun conference this year.

In March we ventured to Jacksonville, Florida to attend the AFBF Fusion Conference. It was an adventure with Brady breaking his foot the week before. There is a separate section on our experience here in the newsletter. In March we held our county YFA chairs meeting and discussed ideas for district-wide events as well as activities each county chair is planning.

April was also a busy month. Early in the month we met with the state committee up in Tomah to continue planning for the conference and to share what we have been doing in our districts. We brought back the Every Farmer's Dream Tour in partnership with the Promotion and Education Committee. This year we went to Dodge County where we toured Scag Power Equipment, Marsh Haven Nature Center and Ooga Brewing Company. It turned out to be a beautiful day with great people and fun tours.

Kat also attended the first Policy Development committee meeting, where she is serving as the YFA representative. The meeting included presentations by the Director of Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, DNR CAFO Enforcement and Compliance Coordinator and a professor of Forest Resource Management. The committee was also challenged to make the policy development process more transparent and timelier this year.

Coming up we will be having our district discussion meet on July 31 at the Verona Town Hall. The state committee has set a goal to have six participants at each district's discussion meet. Please reach out to Kat if you are interested in competing.

This year we will also be having an over 35 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (FAU) discussion meet during dinner prior to the YFA discussion meet. After the YFA discussion meet we will have our district policy development meeting. We are working on planning a district summer picnic in August at a central spot within the district. Keep an eye out for more details.

Lastly, we would like to remember our fellow committee member Alissa Sosnovske from District 8. On Thursday, May 11 we received the terrible news that Aly had been involved in a tragic car accident and did not survive. Aly was appointed to the YFA Committee at the same time as us and we were in the middle of serving our three-year term together.

Aly had a heart of gold and was always willing to step up and get things done. She was passionate about her cows, dairy farming and Farm Bureau. She was only 22 years old and was taken way too soon. She will be sorely missed by all of us on the committee.



**Aly Sosnovske**

### District 2 Director Report



**Arch Morton Jr.**

WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again fellow District 2 Farm Bureau members! I'd like to mention some of the events that we have been busy with during the past few months. We had a very successful Ag Day at the Capitol and Council of Presidents meeting in March. Thank you to all of you who participated.

Our WFBF Board of Directors was also involved with a new series of events called Board Engagement. In March we toured Second Harvest Food Bank, CERTCO Food Distribution Warehouse and had a meeting

with DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski. More of these events are being planned for the near future.

As I write this, we are preparing for our trip to Washington, D.C. on June 5-7. The Farm Bill Task Force, our state Board of Directors and a few staff members will be attending. As you are reading this, we will be back home after what we hope is a very successful trip.

I'd like to remind you about the Campaign School that will be held this coming October at the WFBF office in Madison. This will be conducted by American Farm Bureau and is open to members who are planning on running for public office. Please contact me if you are interested in details when we get closer to fall. I hope you all had a great planting season and look forward to seeing you soon!

# District 2 News

## FUSION Conference

By Kat Peper, WFBF Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee, District 2 Representative

Brady and I took a trip to sunny Jacksonville, Florida in March to attend the AFBF FUSION Conference. It was nice to get away to some warmer and sunnier weather. I always enjoy attending these conferences to learn and to network with folks from across the country.

Last year Brady and I attended the Young Farmers and Ranchers conference and were able to reconnect with folks we met from there and make new friends this year at FUSION. The FUSION Conference is a collaboration of Promotion and Education, Young Farmers and Ranchers and the Women's Committee.

There were several different breakout sessions to attend from self-improvement and farm finances to Farm Bureau policy and engagement. There were also main sessions where everyone from the different programs came together. Some of the guest speakers included AFBF President Zippy Duvall (who will always bring tears to your eyes!), Alex Weber from American Ninja Warrior and Lauren Sisler from ESPN. I also got to meet U.S. House of Representative Kat Cammack from Florida. We both go by Kat and were coincidentally wearing matching outfits that day.

There was a day dedicated to tours with a variety of options from farm tours to tours of historic St. Augustine. Brady and I got to tour our first warship: The USS Orleck that served in the Korean War. We also toured the Jacksonville Port Authority. It was amazing to see how many ships, containers and cars come and go through that port!

The final night's event was held at the Jacksonville Jaguars Stadium. There was food, music and games. It was a great time.

These conferences are always a great opportunity to get away and have a little fun, but also to grow and make new connections. Next



year the YF&R Conference will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, and I recommend that if you can make the trip there that you do!



## Ag LEAD Summit



**Kari Schoenike**

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, District 2 Representative

Wisconsin Farm Bureau hosted the Ag LEAD Summit in Fond du Lac on March 17-18. The schedule was jam-packed with engaging learning sessions and dynamic speakers.

The program opened with Chris Hinrichs who dove into the importance of transformational leadership. Learning session topics were focused on leading self-development, engaging consumers, advocating for agriculture and developing agribusiness. Specific topics included agri-tourism, educational event development, effective storytelling, and many others. A highlight for many was a consumer panel hosted by the Center for Food Integrity. This unique experience allowed us to hear directly from consumers not associated with agriculture regarding their perceptions of food production and safety.

The program wrapped up with a workshop from AFBF's Jordan Henry in which attendees had a chance to identify what is next on their ag advocacy journey and develop a specific action plan to make it happen.



### DISTRICT 2 DISCUSSION MEET & POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

**MONDAY, JULY 31**  
**5:30PM - DINNER &  
FARMERS & AGRICULTURIST UNLIMITED  
(FAU) DISCUSSION MEET**  
**6:30PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET**  
**7:30PM - POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

**VERONA TOWN HALL**  
7669 COUNTY ROAD PD  
VERONA, WI

**PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS  
AND RSVP BY JULY 24 TO:**  
**DISTRICT 2 COORDINATOR**  
Amy Blakeney  
262.689.2000  
ablakeney@wfbf.com  
**D2 YFA REPRESENTATIVES**  
Kat & Brady Peper  
209.639.1715  
katnissen@yahoo.com

**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?



## NEW District 2 Competition - Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited Discussion Meet

By Dustin Williams, Committee Chair



Are you too old for the Young Farmer and Agriculturist group? Do you have a hankering for some lively competition? Do you love discussing agriculture policy?

Come join us for the inaugural District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (D2 FAU) discussion meet contest. This event will take place at the same time and location as the District 2 YFA discussion meet contest and policy development meeting.

This year's event will be on July 31 at the Verona Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. The D2 FAU committee requests that each county in District 2 send one candidate to represent their county at this first-of-its-kind event.

If you are over 35 years old and love the discussion meet contest, competing or just discussing ag policy, this is your chance.

Talk to your county Farm Bureau board about being the representative for your county. Contest entries are due by July 1.

The District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited committee was developed in 2022 to foster and enable those who age out of YFA to continue participation in competitive events. The committee has been meeting for a year, is excited about the FAU discussion meet contest and hopeful that other districts will be interested in starting their own district contests. This committee is interested in the establishment of other contest areas too. The committee's goal is to provide district and potentially statewide opportunities for those over 35 years of age to compete against others in the industry.



## 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual WFBF Council of Presidents

By Sam Skemp, Dane County Farm Bureau Vice President

The Council of Presidents was held on March 28-29 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Presidents and vice presidents from all county Farm Bureaus along with the WFBF state Board of Directors and staff were invited to attend.

We were welcomed by WFBF Vice President Joe Bragger and WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken.

There were presentations by AFBF Membership & Organization Development Director Austin Large and Ohio FB Executive Vice President Adam Sharp. They discussed ideas for serving the members of the future. Each gave an overview of activities they were implementing within their respective Farm Bureaus.

WFBF District 3 Director Robert Nigh discussed the WFBF policy development process and what could be done to improve communication on policies being presented between counties along with expediting the process.

Farm Bureau Bank President and CEO William Hileman gave an update on the Farm Bureau Bank. WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege introduced the presenters for the county Farm Bureau success stories:

- **Dane County** – Farm Safety Training



- **Door County** – Radio Advertising Project
- **Vernon County** – Livestock Handling Training for Emergency Personnel
- **Winnebago County** – Farm Bureau Community Night
- **Wood County** – Ag on the Move Program.

This portion of the program allowed county Farm Bureaus to share successful events held within their counties and gives other counties the opportunity to ask questions.

After dinner the evening speaker was FBI Special Agent, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator Scott Mahloch. His presentation focused on the agriculture industry and he shared ideas on what to look for to help prevent any major catastrophes in our food production process.

The next morning, county leaders received updates from: WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege on membership and working as a team; WFBF District 7 Director Brian

Preder on the WFB Foundation Task Force that is reviewing the current WFB Foundation structure; and Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaeferon the Ag in the Classroom program and its current activities.

At the end of the morning there was a brief session held on leadership. We then adjourned where most of the individuals attending headed to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol.

## Ag Day at the Capitol: Stronger Together, Voices of Wisconsin Agriculture

By Sheila Everhart, Rock County Farm Bureau Participant

The following District 2 Farm Bureau Members represented their farms and county on March 29 by attending Ag Day at the Capitol:

- **Columbia County** - Joanne Dalton, Cal Dalton, Ken Levzow, Jackie Levzow, Dave Mickelson, Tom Nakielski
- **Dane County** - Brian Brown, Roger Cohee, Jerry Derr, Mike Duerst, Tom Duerst, Tom Jelinek, Sam Skemp
- **Dodge County** - Roger Hildebrandt, Jim Kluetzman, Armin Reichow, Darren Schroeder, Julie Sweney
- **Green County** - Ben Huber
- **Rock County** - Steve Earleywine, Sheila Everhart, Logan Frei, Kirk Leach, Arch Morton Jr, Doug Rebout
- **Sauk County** - Galen Alwin, Randy Roecker, Mike Turner, Betty Waldinger, Eunice Yanke



District 2 was well-represented during Ag Day at the Capitol.

networking and lunch at Monona Terrace Convention Center. They were updated on agricultural issues that Wisconsin farmers were experiencing.

More than 250 visited Madison to participate in Ag Day at the Capitol, as Governor Tony Evers and the Wisconsin state legislature were in the process of crafting the state's biennial budget which could top out at \$100 billion and includes a \$7 billion surplus.

District 2 members began their day with

March is a critical time for farmers to have their voices heard in Madison as the Wisconsin state legislature crafts the biennial budget. County Farm



Rock County Farm Bureau members visit with legislators during Ag Day at the Capitol.

Bureaus met as a group with their elected officials sharing their stories, speaking with an informed, effective and unified voice.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots policy organization that works on behalf of farm families.

Each year county Farm Bureau members meet to discuss issues as a part of the policy development process. These issues are

further discussed and voted on at the county annual meeting. Suggestions and policy ideas move from the county level and are forward to the WFBF Annual Meeting where delegate members vote on the proposals. State WFBF leaders then forward policy to the national level that may impact federal legislation.

Our focus addresses legislative issues concerning the environment, taxes, trade, regulation, livestock, land use, health and safety, property rights, wildlife, and educational campaigns and programs such as Ag in the Classroom.

Find the Farm Bureau policy book online at [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development).

You are encouraged to become involved with your county Farm Bureau. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us at the 2024 Ag Day at the Capitol. We are stronger together.

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Session Recaps



**Stephanie Hoff**

Leadership Institute Class 15 Participant

### Session Two: People are Power

I find it difficult to ask for help. I think that's the culture across the field of agriculture – farm kids fix things themselves, right? But to do the best we can for our families, farms and communities... you've

got to have a team behind you.

In the second session of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute, we focused on how to build and lead a team. Our class was split off into groups and were assigned books focused on leading a team and managing people. My partner and I read "You Don't Need a Title To Be A Leader" by Mark Sanborn. It was a quick and memorable read that I highly recommend!

One of the chapters was entirely focused on Power with People. Here's my takeaways for you to incorporate immediately into your day-to-day life:

1. **Be Trustworthy:** A leader must win followers through trust. But how does one become trustworthy?
  - a. If you don't know something, say so.
  - b. Don't make promises you can't keep.
  - c. Under promise and over-deliver.
  - d. Be careful to create realistic expectations.
2. **Establish Connection:** Effective leaders share bonds with others – and not because of their position or title.
  - a. It can only happen if you are genuinely concerned about others.
  - b. It starts by being nice.
3. **Ask For Help:** "I need your help" is one of the most effective ways to motivate others.
  - a. It invites participation and shows the other person their opinion matters.
4. **Confront Problems, Not People:** Confrontation is necessary. Avoiding conflict can lead to resentment. Here's how to do it:
  - a. Show concern for the other person when addressing the problem.

- b. Solving a problem requires cooperation from the other person.
- c. Focus on correcting the behavior or action without judging.
- d. Talk about 'what' went wrong, not 'who'.

### Session Three: Embracing the Media

I suppose this is a little bias coming from me (I work for the Mid-West Farm Report Radio Network), but I'm just as nervous with a microphone in my face as anyone else! I usually ask questions, not answer them. But if you don't talk to reporters... If you don't tell your side of the story... Then who will?

The third session with the Leadership Institute was all about how to effectively talk to the media.

American Farm Bureau Federation Senior Director of Media and Advocacy Training Johnna Miller came to Green Bay ready to make us sweat as she asked us the tough questions. She asked us, on video, what the average person is genuinely curious about: What does no-till mean? Isn't the Farm Bill just a welfare check for farmers? How do you stop cow farts from polluting the air?

These questions might surprise you, offend you or put you into a panic because you don't know the best answer. Johnna and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation team have great tips on how to be prepared for any media interaction:

- Avoid farm jargon and acronyms.
- When answering questions, stay friendly, calm and confident.
- Do not 'wing it' or go on a tangent. Stick to your prepared statements.
- Do not get defensive.
- Speak in sound bites – 8-10 second key messages that are digestible and to-the-point.
- Never agree to an interview or topic you are not comfortable with.
- Before the interview, take 15 minutes to review key messages and practice tough questions.
- Ask WFBF's public relations team to help you prepare.



## 27TH ANNUAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU GOLF OUTING

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

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 | THE OAKS GOLF COURSE, COTTAGE GROVE**

**9:00 a.m. Registration**

**9:45 a.m. Ball Toss**

**10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start**

Box lunch provided.

Awards, 50/50 Raffle and Auction to follow.

**Cost:** \$100/individual or \$400/foursome

**Join us RAIN or SHINE!**

Several Hole in One Prizes plus Hole Prizes,  
Putting Contest and Ball Toss!!

Support WI Farm Bureau District 2 County Farm Bureau programs on one  
of the finest public courses in the area!

Enjoy 18 holes of golf, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and more!!

For questions, please contact committee chair Sam Skemp at 608.444.9537 or [sskemp1@charter.net](mailto:sskemp1@charter.net).  
Complete details and online registration can be found at [eventregisterpro.com/event/d2countyfarmbureau](https://eventregisterpro.com/event/d2countyfarmbureau)



## District Essay Contest Winners Showcased

This year's fourth and fifth grade essay contest topic was "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." The topic related to the Book of the Year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother – Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler. This year the contest recognized the top fourth and fifth grade essays in each district to compete at the state level.

### Layla Siegel, Monticello Elementary

District 2 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Winner

*In the morning, your tummy will be hungry. You look in the fridge and want pancakes, waffles, cereal, and French toast. You're gonna need milk for that. At lunch, your tummy is hungry again, and you want mac n cheese and lasagna. You're gonna need milk for that, too. Milk doesn't grow on trees, so you must go to the store and buy some. Milk is good for our bodies, and it helps people make money to pay their bills. For many things at home, school, and work, you're gonna need milk for that.*

*We need three servings of milk every day. It has many nutrients that are good for our bodies. It has vitamin A which is good for your eyes, teeth and bones, and skin. Calcium is in milk, and it is good for your bones and teeth. One glass of milk has the same amount of calcium as three cups of broccoli. Milk has vitamin D, and it helps the body absorb calcium. There are other nutrients in milk that are good for your cells, muscles, and brain. If you want a healthy body, you're gonna need milk for that.*

*Milk is also good for my community and our economy. Dairy is the biggest business in Wisconsin, and there are around 6,000 dairy farms. Many jobs depend on the dairy business. Without dairy, we would not have milk trucks, robotic milk machines, or cheese factories. The people who make these things would not have a job. My community has a cheese factory and stores that sell milk, butter, cheese, and yogurt. You're gonna need milk to have these businesses.*

*Wisconsin has been America's Dairyland since 1930. Half of Wisconsin land is owned by farmers. Each farm makes enough food to feed 155 people each year. Milk is the state drink, and Wisconsin makes over 600 types of cheese. It takes 10 pounds of milk to make one pound of cheese. Ninety percent of milk in Wisconsin is used to make cheese.*

*I love milk. It is important for our bodies, communities, and economy. Without milk, our bodies would not be strong or work properly. Wisconsin would not have as many jobs if we didn't have dairy farms here. The dairy industry is a cash cow for Wisconsin businesses and families. You're gonna need milk to keep our bodies and economy healthy.*

### Evelyn Cooley, Kegonsa Elementary

District 2 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay Contest Winner

*Did you know that Wisconsin is the dairy/cheese state? Wisconsin is the state that represents cheese/dairy, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. "Wisconsin is home to over 700 registered dairy farms, which contribute to half of the state's 104.8 billion agriculture economy." For almost 100 years, Wisconsin has been "America's Dairyland." This shows how long Wisconsin has been related to dairy, and has even been considered "America's Dairyland."*

*First, Milk is an amazing source for vitamins and minerals. According to Harvard University, "Milk contains nutrients important for bone health." This evidence matters because it shows how important milk is for your body. Milk also has many other benefits other than affecting your bone health. It helps things like strengthening your teeth, weight loss, reduces stress, boosts your energy, and much more. In conclusion, Milk is very healthy and good for your body in many positive ways.*

*Secondly, 1 in every 9 jobs in Wisconsin relies on dairy and agriculture. According to ibisworld.com, "There are 161,890 people in the Dairy Industry." This evidence shows that many have jobs with dairy which again, makes dairy very important. Many people focused their job on dairy and making it. This reason also shows that milk is very important. In conclusion, dairy is important because it is also many people's jobs.*

*The final reason milk is important is Wisconsin is considered "America's Dairyland." Wisconsin is going to need milk to continue in general. Milk helps lots of things, and people. In the text from Greenbaypressgazette.com it says, "Milk helps pay for countless elements of our infrastructure." This evidence matters because it shows that it pays for many elements of our infrastructure, Which is important for many reasons. In conclusion, Milk is very important for our infrastructure which is a great reason why Wisconsin needs milk.*

*As you can see, milk is a great resource for many things, it helps many body problems and is incredibly good for you, and Many people need milk for their jobs and money. The third reason milk is important is it helps Wisconsin infrastructure. As you can clearly see, dairy is great for many thing even though it might just seem like a drink to you.*

## Calling all those interested in becoming a board member or being selected as a voting delegate!



Board member expectations include attendance at County Farm Bureau's monthly meeting and assistance in leading committee work. Monthly board meetings are as follows:

- Dane County Farm Bureau meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Madison.
- Green County Farm Bureau meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Monroe.
- Rock County Farm Bureau meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Footville.
- Sauk County Farm Bureau meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. in Baraboo.

Voting delegate expectations include attendance at the annual policy development meeting and vote as a county Farm Bureau delegate on Monday of

the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held December 4 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells.

If you are considering one of these opportunities, please contact the following board member by county:

- **Dane** - Kadi Walsh | 608.547.6658  
kadencewalsh@gmail.com
- **Green** - Amy Silver | 608.214.9994  
amygsilver@gmail.com
- **Rock** - Mary Hookham | 608.751.4720  
mmhookham@gmail.com
- **Sauk** - Craig Sandmire | 608.963.6645  
craigsandmire@gmail.com

## Every Farmer's Dream Tour

By Kari Schoenike, WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, District 2 Representative

The Every Farmer's Dream Tour, hosted by District 2 Young Farmers and Agriculturists and District 2 Promotion and Education, returned to our district on Saturday, April 15. The day started with a tour of Scag in Mayville where the group gained in-depth knowledge of the manufacturing process behind Scag lawn mowers.

The second stop on the tour was Marsh Haven Nature Center in Waupun where the group enjoyed a raptor presentation featuring live

birds of prey and learned about the important relationship between raptors and agriculture.

After a delicious lunch at Pizza Ranch, the group traveled to Ooga Brewing Company in Beaver Dam to check out some local brews. The owner shared some unique aspects of their flavor development and production process. Everyone enjoyed some samples, including a white-chocolate pretzel stout and a jalapeño beer. Twenty-seven people attended this exciting event. Stay tuned for details of next year's Every Farmer's Dream Tour!



Captions: (1) Every Farmer's Dream attendees at Scag. (2) The group enjoyed hearing the story of Marta the Merlin and how she made her way to Marsh Haven Nature Center. (3) The group learned about Ooga Brewing Company's flavor development and production process.

## Dane County



wfbf.com/about/counties/dane  
DaneCountyFarmBureau

### A Message from the President



**Tom Jelinek**

Dane County Farm Bureau President

The summer months are always filled with hay making, crop monitoring and local fairs.

Dane County Farm Bureau is once again pleased to support the Stoughton Fair, Lodi Fair and Dane County Junior Fair. We feel that is a must to encourage the youth of our county.

Dane County Farm Bureau will once again be sponsoring the Learning Lanes. These learning lanes help educate the public on the importance of agriculture to our county. We will also be sponsoring the scavenger hunt on Saturday morning during the Dane County Junior Fair. I want to thank all the volunteers that help with this event; it is well received by the fair attendees.

### Upcoming Promotion and Education Activities

June 10 - Dane County Breakfast on the Farm

Kahl Family Farm, 8385 County Highway A, Verona, WI 53593

July 6-9 - Lodi Agricultural Fair

July 20-23 - Dane County Fair

Farm Bureau Scavenger Hunt is Saturday, July 22

If you would like to volunteer or learn more about these activities, reach out to Lindsey Tjugum at 608.212.7743 or Sarah Shimshak at 608.573.1483.

### Annual Meeting Set for Sept. 14

Mark your calendar for the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting set for Thursday, Sept. 14. The meeting will take place at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. WFBF Chief Administrative officer Bradley Uken will be our keynote speaker.

Postcard invitation with complete details to follow in August.

### Scholarship Deadline July 1



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

Please review application criteria and deadline date below:

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

Scholarship applications must be received by July 1. Email your application and proof of fall registration to Kadence Walsh at [kadencewalsh@gmail.com](mailto:kadencewalsh@gmail.com)

For the Dane County Farm Bureau scholarship application and more information, please visit [wfbf.com/about/counties/dane](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/dane).



## Ag in the Classroom

By Darlene Arneson, Dane County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

### Dane County AITC Essay Contest Winners



"You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities, and Economy" was the topic of the 2022-23 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom's essay contest. Dane County had 22 entries from four schools and home schools in our county.

Dane County awarded cash prizes for both grade levels; first place received \$50,

second place received \$25, and third place received \$10. Winning teachers also received agriculture related educational resources along with a classroom presentation to the first-place winner's classrooms. Our first-place winners, their parents, and teachers are invited to attend the Dane County Farm Bureau annual meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14, at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.



#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade contest

**1<sup>st</sup> place** - Sam Kube, Westside Elementary School, Sun Prairie

**Parents:** Megan and Vince Kube

**Teacher:** Kimberly Ashrafi

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** - William Bruce, Edgewood Campus School, Madison

**Teacher:** Sarah Ketterhagen

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** - Hattie Thleie, Westside Elementary School, Sun Prairie

**Teacher:** Kimberly Ashrafi

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade contest

**1<sup>st</sup> place** - Evelyn Cooley, Kegonsa Elementary School, Stoughton

**Parents:** Kristen and Russell Cooley

**Teachers:** Tim Strandlie and Angel Schroeder

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** - Myles Garfoot, Kegonsa Elementary School, Stoughton

**Parents:** Andrew and Gabrielle Garfoot

**Teacher:** Tim Strandlie

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** - Violet Klein, Kegonsa Elementary School, Stoughton

**Parent:** Gail Klein

**Teacher:** Angel Schroeder

### Help Needed Connecting with Teachers

We are trying to develop a better database of Dane County teachers and your help in telling your children's teachers about us would be helpful! They can contact me directly, you can give me their contact information or have them "like" our Facebook page. Dane County Ag in the Classroom has lesson plans, activities, classroom presentations, hosts an annual 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade essay contest, participates at Dane County Fair's Agri-Versity, weekly Facebook posts for students and teachers.

### Dane County Fair Display

Dane County Ag in the Classroom has a table secured for the Agri-Versity at Dane County Fair. It is held on Friday, July 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. I'll do some hands-on activities, have teacher resources and other items to share with youth, home school parents, and teachers! Stop by to say hello!

### Summer Planning for Fall Program

The Dane County Ag in the Classroom Committee will be meeting to discuss future programs for our county. I'd like to connect with FFA chapters as they host Food for America events, increase visibility and use of our county Facebook page and resources from Wisconsin and National AITC, have some type of contest for various grade levels, offer a monthly online experience, and provide more interactive activities.

Watch for updates and if you want to be involved, please contact Darlene Arneson at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or 608.873.7209. Check out resources and news at agclassroom.org, agfoundation.org, wisagclassroom.org, myamericanfarm.org and Facebook: facebook.com/dcaitc.

## Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

By Sam Skemp, Dane County Farm Bureau Policy Development Chair

**Date:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023

**Time:** 6 p.m.

**Location:** The Oaks Golf Course, 4740 Pierceville Road, Cottage Grove, WI

You are invited to participate in a policy development meeting on Wednesday, July 12 beginning at 6 p.m. as part of Dane County Farm Bureau policy development committee. As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau policy is established by farmers and agriculturist members to guide the organization's position on specific legislation and rules.

Each year Dane County Farm Bureau members develop, discuss and vote on resolutions addressing local, state and national issues facing agriculture. State and national resolutions are discussed and voted on by delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) and American Farm Bureau Federation annual meetings, respectively.

With more than 47,000 members representing all aspects of agriculture, WFBF is a respected voice for agriculture with legislators, the Governor, state agencies, the media and other ag organizations.

This is an opportunity for you to express your ideas about policies that would be beneficial to agriculture not only in Dane County but around the state.

If you would like to review the current 2023 Farm Bureau Policy Book, you can go online to wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.

Dinner will be provided. We appreciate your participation in this important event. Please RSVP by Sunday, July 9 to Sam Skemp by calling 608.444.9537 or email sskemp1@charter.net.



## Stateline Farm Rescue Training

By Mike Duerst, Dane County Farm Bureau Farm Safety Chair



On Saturday, March 18, Dane County Farm Bureau hosted a safety day put on by Stateline Farm Rescue. It was at John and Gary Doerfer's shop which was nice because the wind chill temperature barely got above zero that day. Thank you, John and Gary, for your continued support and use of the shop.

A variety of area businesses provided sponsorships to make this event happen including Lakeridge Bank, Compeer Financial, and Rural Mutual Insurance agents Jared Nelson and Randy Adler. Miller & Sons provided several dozen donuts, which are the best donuts in Wisconsin. Insight FS supplied the ribeye steak dinners with mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables and rolls. Thank you sponsors!

Forty-nine firefighters and paramedics from 14 different departments signed up for the class. Unfortunately, a Monona apartment fire pulled 12 of the participants away. This left 37 firefighters and paramedics to

participate.

Stateline Farm Rescue did an excellent job teaching grain bin extraction. Participants learned about how to get a trapped person out of the corn bin. They may have to cut the bin to do this. Machinery entanglement was also a focus. Mannequins were placed in dangerous spots of a mixer mill. The firefighters were asked to safely remove them. There was also a demonstration on the use of ropes in lowering a person down. Leverage was taught to make the job easier.

A Shorewood Hills firefighter was glad for this training. When signing up for the class he didn't think he would ever use the information from the class. Later he realized the techniques learned could be used in a variety of circumstances such as car accidents and other rescue situations. He was very thankful to Dane County Farm Bureau and all the sponsors for the class. He was glad his initial thoughts were proved wrong.



## Members Attend Winter Meeting

By Scott Eastwood, Dane County Farm Bureau Meetings Co-Chair



Dane County Farm Bureau hosted their annual Winter Meeting on February 14 at Rex's Innkeeper. Thirty-nine members were able to take advantage of the tremendous benefit of Farm Bureau membership.

WFBF Director of National Affairs Tyler Wenzlaff spoke about the upcoming Farm Bill as well as a

number of other topics being discussed at the federal level. Additionally, Dane County Farm Bureau Vice President Sam Skemp presented "What can Farm Bureau do for you?" outlining all the ways Farm Bureau positively impacts Wisconsin agriculture and WFBF members.

Thank you to those who attended and helped with the winter meeting. We look forward to seeing you next year.

## YFA: Capitols Hockey and PBR Rodeo

By Heidi Smith, Dane County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

If you are interested in joining Dane County YFA, please contact Heidi Smith at smithhe320@gmail.com and follow our Facebook page, Dane County Farm Bureau and YFA's, for upcoming events!



(Left) On Feb. 25, YFA attended the Madison Capitols vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints game in Madison. (Right) YFA Night at the Rodeo was March 11 at the PBR: Brew City Classic in Milwaukee.

## Green County

wfbf.com/about/counties/green  
GreenCountyFarmBureau

## A Message from the President



Josh Schenk

Green County Farm Bureau President

Hello, Green County Farm Bureau! Farmers have been busy planting crops and preparing for the summer growing season. Year after year as members we are dedicated to producing safe and abundant food and fiber.

In 1920, Wisconsin Farm Bureau was formed by members in eight counties to advance rural electricity, purchase and market farm products, and insure their farms. The organization continued to grow and in 1923 Green County members organized to form Green County Farm Bureau. This year our County Farm Bureau

is celebrating 100 years of agriculture advocacy, policy representation and member benefits! I think of the many farmers who advocated and served as members to improve agriculture and our communities. Many thanks to those who supported and led our County Farm Bureau throughout the last 100 years!

In celebration, there is anniversary attire available through RBS during the month of June and our centennial annual meeting in August! Cheers to Green County Farm Bureau members celebrating the past 100 years and the beginning of the next 100!

## Policy Meeting

Policy Meeting to be held June 20 at 6 p.m. at Blackhawk Technical College in the Monroe Campus Ag Building, 210 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Monroe, Wis. Members have

the opportunity to discuss issues and successes we are experiencing as farmers in Green County. Guidance from these discussions helps to lead the organization's role in policy surrounding agriculture.





## Centennial Annual Meeting, Aug. 22

By Josh Schenk, Green County Farm Bureau President

Albany Lions Club, 402 N Cincinnati St, Albany  
6:30 p.m. Social, Silent Auction | 7 p.m. Meal | 7:30 Meeting

Join fellow Green County Farm Bureau members at this year's centennial annual meeting for an evening of food, friends and fun. Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken is scheduled to be our keynote speaker. Silent auction proceeds from the evening support agriculture programs sponsored by Green County Farm Bureau. See you there!

## Essay and Coloring Contest

By Tess Zettle, Green County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair



Riley Bald's coloring contest entry.

We had 51 students from four different schools enter this year's essay contest. This year's theme was "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." This year's Green County and District 2 essay

contest winner is Layla Siegel from Monticello School. Our second-place winner is Baylee Hessling from New Glarus Elementary School, and our third-place winner is Michael Klopfenstein from Juda School.

In our coloring contest, we had 53 entries from five different schools. First-place went to Riley Bald from Black Hawk Elementary in South Wayne. Our second-place entry was Clovie Jeremiason from Northside Elementary School in Monroe, and our third-place entry was Haddie Junk from St. Victor School in Monroe.

## ATV/UTV Fundraiser to be Held Sept. 16

By Ben Huber, Green County Farm Bureau Board Member

**SAVE THE DATE!** Green County Farm Bureau will be hosting our third annual ATV-UTV fundraising ride on September 16. This ride is for anyone. Both members and non-members are invited to participate as we ride through the beautiful landscape of rural Green County. We will have planned stops throughout the day where we will have food, drinks, games and prizes along the way. All proceeds go towards youth in agriculture activities and sponsorships throughout the county. Participants will need to ensure their UTV/ATV is properly licensed in the state of Wisconsin for travel on public roads and trails.

Be watching the Green County Farm Bureau Facebook page for updates throughout the summer and to RSVP. We hope to see you there!



## Order Centennial Apparel Through June 29

By Amy Silver, Green County Farm Bureau Vice President



In celebration of 100 years of Farm Bureau in Green County, we have organized an online apparel store! The online store will be open from June 9-29. Each purchase will support the future efforts of Green County Farm Bureau as we look forward to the next 100 years!



There are two design options with a variety of clothing choices and colors.

Items can be shipped directly to you or after the store closes can be picked up at Rural Mutual Insurance Company's office located at 1720 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Monroe, WI. Online orders only. Link can be found on our Facebook page or at [greencountyfarmbureau23.itemorder.com/shop/](http://greencountyfarmbureau23.itemorder.com/shop/). Please reach out to Amy Silver with any questions at [amysilver@gmail.com](mailto:amysilver@gmail.com) or 608.214.9994.



# Rock County

## Fair Food Stand Plea for Help

By Ed Hookham, Rock County Farm Bureau Food Stand Chair

Hooray, the Fair is coming! Preparations are being made for the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair and we need your help. The fair will be Tuesday, July 25 through Sunday, July 30. We need volunteers for multiple shifts. Shifts will run from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and 4-10 p.m. with a few people needed earlier and later to open and close. We need 8 to 10 people per shift. The shifts are shorter this year with hopes of fitting into busy schedules better. Members can sign up to volunteer in the fair food stand at [bit.ly/RockCountyFoodStand](http://bit.ly/RockCountyFoodStand).

Groups willing to take full shifts receive \$500 in compensation per shift. We would be happy to help your group make money by helping our group! Contact Ed Hookham at [jndsfeed@gmail.com](mailto:jndsfeed@gmail.com). Thanks, and see you at the fair!



## Ag in the Classroom

By Stacy Skemp, Rock County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom chair



Students in Ag Business & Leadership class picked the Farm Bureau children's book and prepared the presentations, activities and prepared all the supplies for every presentation. These students helped teach 4k-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at Milton School District.

Kaydan Hunter was the Rock County 4<sup>th</sup> grade winner for the essay contest. She was presented with a certificate for her achievement and her essay advanced to the district competition. Kaydan and her classmates all received string cheese in celebration for their essay submissions since the essay topic was "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy."



4<sup>th</sup> grade essay contest winner Kaydan Hunter, pictured with Ag in the Classroom chair Stacy Skemp.

## Policy Development Discussion

The Rock County Farm Bureau policy development committee will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. at the LaPrairie Grange Hall. The Grange Hall is located at 3610 S. LaPrairie Town Hall Road, Janesville. The purpose of the meeting will be to propose and discuss additions and changes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policy books. Please come with thoughts and concerns on such topics as solar projects, watershed management and other issues affecting your operation or agriculture in general. The current WFBF policy books

are available in hard copy through me or online at [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development). There will be a limited number of copies available at the meeting.



## Rock County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

**Date:** Monday, September 25

**Time:** 6 p.m. Mixer and Registration  
7 p.m. Dinner  
7:45 p.m. Business Meeting

**Location:** The Barn on Prairie, 5828 S. County Road G, Janesville, WI

Rock County Farm Bureau celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2023! This year's annual meeting will be held at The Barn on Prairie. We will serve a delicious meal and celebrate all things Farm Bureau! As the business meeting is called to order, the board will hold its annual board of director election, WFBF delegate selection, affiliate reports, policy development discussion and other items of business. Formal postcard invitation to come in August. The Rock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors hope to see you there!

## Spring Planting Tour Fosters Relationships and Ag Knowledge

By Mary Hookham, Rock County Farm Bureau Executive Director

Rock County Farm Bureau President Jill Uhe believes in the power of relationships, which is why she organized the first-ever spring planting tour for WFBF staff members and Rural Mutual Insurance agents. The tour took place on Thursday, May 11, and participants toured farms both on the east and west sides of the county.

"I came back from the AFBF convention with 'meet the members where they are' on my mind," Uhe said. "So, when we were thinking about our new WFBF staff and Rural agents who don't have farm backgrounds, I came up with the idea of taking them to our members to let them experience the farm firsthand."



**WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken, WFBF Government Relations staff and Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents joined Rock County Farm Bureau members in the fields and on their farms for a spring tour.**

Bradley Uken, who began his job as WFBF Chief Administrative Officer on February 1, briefly rode along with Tim Wellnitz of Hughes Farms as Wellnitz planted organic soybeans south of Janesville.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to visit with members and discuss Wisconsin agriculture with them," Uken said. "As I continue to get settled in, I want to make sure that I make those connections with members and meeting them where they are at."

He then visited with farm owner Randy Hughes.

"This is a chance to show and tell them what it's like in the tractor seat, and to note the differences in our jobs," Hughes said. "For example, they aren't hired to be farmers, so we have to help them learn about agriculture; likewise, I'm not a governmental relations professional, so they have to help me learn about that. When they take their knowledge and combine it with what they learned in the field, everybody comes out on top."

Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Chris Hanna also rode with Wellnitz that day.

"This was a great experience and a lot of fun," Hanna said. "I'm on farms a lot to sell insurance but don't usually have the opportunity to ride along with farmers. Tim explained quite a bit about the planter and how it works and also about the organic beans he was planting."

Wellnitz was happy to see how genuinely interested both Hanna and Uken were in the operation.

"I would think this experience would help them with their specific jobs," he said. "It's good to at least get them out in the field to see how things work and gain some farming knowledge."

Uhe is pleased with the success of the day and the chance to help make connections and build relationships. She said she is excited about the opportunities for members to make an impact in Madison if they already have relationships with staff members.

"The staff was excited to meet our members, make connections and understand challenges members are facing in our area," she said. "I could see the passion the staff members had for their jobs and how the farmers helped give them a deeper connection to the work they're doing on behalf of the members. And I appreciate our members who took time during one of the busiest times of the year for this event."



**Farm Bureau staff and Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents visited Josh Peterson's farm to learn more about beef.**



## Scholarship Recipients Announced



**Allison Ahrensmeier**

I am a senior at Baraboo High School and will be attending UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County. I will later transfer to UW-Platteville to major in dairy science. I have been an FFA member for four years, participating in competitive events and received the Chapter

FFA Degree. I have also been in high school band. My high school awards include the academic medallion, letter and certificate. I have also been a Sauk County 4-H member for eight years and have served as president, vice president and treasurer. Through the CESA 5 Youth Apprentice program, I come home and milk our family's 160 cows.



**Brandon Schott**

My name is Brandon Schott and I am 19 years old. I am from Sauk City Wisconsin and am wrapping up my freshman year at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. I am studying Forest Management and have an amazing opportunity to intern with the U.S. Forest Service this summer in Montana. I will be learning a brand-new skill of timber marking and hope to apply my knowledge learned this summer and bring it back to help

improve the forests in Sauk County.

## Fair Food Stand Volunteers Wanted

By Brady Peper, Sauk County Farm Bureau Food Stand Chair

Summer is just around the corner, and you know what that means: fair season! The Sauk County Farm Bureau food stand is our major fundraiser for the year that supports programs like scholarships, sponsorships, Young Farmer and Agriculturnist programming, and Promotion and Education.



The Sauk County Fair dates are July 10-16. The food stand will be open beginning Tuesday evening, July 11 through Sunday, July 16. We are looking for volunteers to help at the food stand. There are two shifts each day, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m. Volunteers will help prep, cook, take orders, etc. If you can help on a shift, contact Brady Peper at 608.415.3752. It's our volunteers that make the food stand a success.

## 2023 Farm Technology Days

By Karen Reisinger

Sauk County will be hosting Wisconsin Farm Technology Days July 18-20. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. This event will be held in Baraboo at the Badger Steam and Gas Engine Club grounds located at S3347 Sand Road, Baraboo, WI.



Sauk County Farm Bureau will be helping at the admission gates and volunteers are needed. Please contact Karen Reisinger at 608.370.2671 if interested in helping out with a shift. Shift hours are 7-8:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 12:15-4:15 p.m. There are many other areas that still need volunteers before, during and after the show. If interested, contact Anna Maenner at 920.988.4313.

## National Ag Day Celebration

By Nancy Liegel, Sauk County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

### National Ag Day

In the morning of March 21, Nancy Liegel celebrated National Ag Day with Sarah Scharner's second grade class at Bridges Elementary School in Prairie du Sac and Amanda Olson's second grade class at St. John's Catholic School in Spring Green.



Nancy read the book of the year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother - Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler. After reading the book, Nancy made vanilla shakes with bananas and strawberries for all the students. They enjoyed them so much, some had seconds.

### Coloring Contest

For National Ag Day, Sauk County second graders had a contest on coloring pictures of dairy cows since the book of the year was "Tales of the Dairy Godmother - Chuck's Ice Cream Wish". They had a pick of three different pictures and 269 students participated from Baraboo, Reedsburg, Weston, River Valley and Sauk Prairie Schools. Lots of good coloring and creativity, it was so much fun. It was a very hard job judging!



## Annual Meeting Set for Aug. 24

Please join us in conducting our Sauk County Farm Bureau annual meeting. There will be a free catered meal. Remember to get your reservation in promptly when you receive your postcard invitation in July.

**Date:** Thursday, August 24, 2023

**Time:** 6:30 p.m. Registration, 7 p.m. Dinner

**Location:** Compeer Financial, 1430 N Ridge Dr, Prairie Du Sac

**Keynote Speaker:** Wisconsin Farm Bureau Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnaini

## Flapjacks for Farmers

By Sarah Hetke, Sauk County Farm Bureau Board Member



On Feb. 18 the Baraboo FFA hosted the fourth annual Flapjacks for Farmers fundraiser. This year, the chapter served 350 meals and raised \$2,033 with proceeds going to AgrAbility of Wisconsin.

Community businesses and organizations, including Sauk County Farm Bureau, were invited to set up a booth for attendees to visit. Sauk County Farm Bureau members Galen Alwin, Tommy Brennan and Sarah Hetke staffed the booth and had several conversations with old friends and new folks who were curious to learn more about what we do.



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