



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Greetings.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau has been busy advocating for \$150 million for an agricultural road improvement plan, also known as ARIP. The bill would establish a program to provide grants for local governments to repair and rebuild crumbling roads and bridges that create problems for farmers.

The WFBF Dairy Committee and Farm Bill Working Group have come up with a set of recommendations. These recommendations were advocated for in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. WFBF's Governmental Relations team has been extremely busy with the biennial state budget and the farm bill.

The board also made several improvements to the grassroots policy development process. Some of these updates will need to wait until next year to be fully implemented due to timing. This year look for expanded time and much improved communication with the District 3 Policy Development Committee representative, Andrew Dal Santo. Next year there will be more training for the Policy Development Committee members.

Your board has also adopted the Foundation Task Force's recommendations on improving and growing the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. This is extremely important to grow our programs for education and leadership development. Remember this year's Giving Day is Aug. 2. We are hoping to reach our goal of \$30,000 raised.

The YFA 35 Under 35 program has received national recognition. Congratulations and well deserved to those that played a role in creating the program. We had several winners from District 3 last year and hope to see some additional worthy candidates nominated this year.

Also be sure to check out the new Gather Wisconsin website at gatherwisconsin.com. This is an awesome project that was a directive of WFBF members in our strategic planning process and developed by the Public Relations team to help connect consumers with the farmers behind their food.

Keep signing up those members, both renewals and new members. Let's move our district team, the Southwest Stockmen, back into first place. Let's do it for Melissa as a THANK YOU for her years as our District Coordinator and to WELCOME Katie Fitzsimmons to our team.

One final note of thanks again to Melissa Jacobson, we'll see you around in your new role as the Director of Young Leader Programs and wish you the best of luck.

Stay safe and stay informed.

Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner

Ag Day on Campus was hosted by UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau on April 25. The event focused on highlighting the importance of agriculture within Wisconsin. Students, faculty and community members had the opportunity to sample tasty snacks, visit farm animals and learn more about the agriculture industry.

The chapter also recently elected the following new officers for the 2023-2024 school year:

President: Ashlyn Sarbacker

Vice President: Bre Broers

Secretary: Quincee Johnson

Treasurer: Hannah Wieczorek

Ag in the Classroom Chair: Bre Cisketti

Ag Day on Campus Co-Chairs: Lexi Lichty & Lila Sloan

Brag About Ag Co-Chairs: Autumn King & Montanna Sarbacker

Historian: Sara Skalizky

To learn more about the great things these student leaders are doing throughout the year, visit the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Facebook page at facebook.com/uwplattevillefb.



District 3 Farm Bureau FAMILY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

NOON • BLACKHAWK LAKE • HIGHLAND, WI

WE INVITE ALL FARM BUREAU FAMILIES FOR A FUN AFTERNOON AT THE LAKE. THE 'BEACH PAVILION' HAS BEEN RESERVED AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS. YOUR DAILY ADMISSION WILL BE REIMBURSED.

BURGERS AND BRATS WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS.

PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS TO
CASEY & MORGAN LOBDELL AT 608.574.0403.

Stalsberg Named Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest State Winner



Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest to engage students in writing, reading and research through the context of food and agriculture. Essays are judged on content, grade-appropriate

writing benchmarks, and creativity. This contest is open to all fourth and fifth grade students across the state.

Students were asked to write a 500-word essay with the theme, "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy supports our bodies, communities and economy."

Bree Stalsberg, a fourth-grade student from Fennimore, was selected as both the state and District 3 winner in the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom fourth-grade contest. Bree is the daughter of Kory and Andrea Stalsberg. Her teacher is Emily Kamps at Fennimore Elementary School in Grant County.

Tara Lenzendorf, a fifth-grade student from Seneca, was selected as the District 3 winner of the fifth-grade contest. Her teacher is Kari Opprieht at Seneca Elementary School in Crawford County.

The District 3 fourth-grade county Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

winners, included:

- **Crawford County:** Garrett Sime, Seneca Elementary School
- **Grant County:** Bree Stalsberg, Fennimore Elementary School
- **Iowa County:** Lennie Brunson, Mineral Point Elementary School
- **Lafayette County:** Luke Teasdale, Shullsburg Elementary School
- **Vernon County:** Lanie Fremstad, Westby Elementary School

The District 3 fifth-grade county Ag in the Classroom essay contest winners, included:

- **Crawford County:** Tara Lenzendorf, Seneca Elementary School
- **Grant County:** Ariana Reinsbach, Fennimore Elementary School
- **Iowa County:** Parker Carden, Barneveld Elementary School
- **Richland County:** Desiree Buscher, Ithaca Elementary School

More than 1,800 students wrote essays for the competition, which is sponsored by Culvers, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, WE Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Essay entries were judged at the county, district and state levels – with stiff competition in each division. Nine district winners were named state finalists and received a prize package including a medal, Wisconsin dairy books, admission to the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center and Culver's prize pack. The state winner also received a plaque and prizes valued at more than \$250.



More Than Just Milk - By Bree Stalsberg

Every day dairy helps fuel my body, my parents' bank account, and my community. My family relies on dairy more than anything else in the world. Wisconsin is known as Wisconsin's Dairyland. That's why for every meal, I drink milk!

Wisconsin's dairy industry has fueled the lives of my family for generations and still does today! Every night when my family sits down for supper there is an ice cold milk on the table. Drinking milk is very important, it makes your teeth and bones strong. Milk is an excellent source of calcium and twelve essential nutrients. The average dairy cow in Wisconsin produces seven gallons of milk a day. Other dairy products like chocolate milk, cottage cheese, yogurt and cheese are always in our fridge for an easy, healthy snack to fuel my body.

Dairy farmers do business with so many people, even some in my family. My brother milks cows on a local dairy farm. My mom works as a dairy nutritionist, and my dad is an Ag Business instructor. My grandparents have been dairy farmers for nearly 50 years. Every community in Wisconsin benefits from dairy cows. One in nine jobs in Wisconsin relies on dairy farmers. If you think of all the people a dairy farmer can see in a day from the milk

truck driver, seed dealer, feed delivery person, cow breeder, nutritionist, veterinarian, to milk equipment company. All those businesses rely on dairy farmers for their jobs and livelihoods. For every dollar generated by dairy farming, it turns three to seven times in the economy. When a farmer is making money, everyone is making money.

Wisconsin's 1.27 million cows help generate over 154,000 jobs and create over a billion dollars in state and local taxes. When a farmer pays all of their employees the employees get money to put into their wallets to buy clothing, food and local products. Spending by others helps fuel the economy. Wisconsin's dairy industry contributes \$45.6 billion to the economy each year. That's a lot of milk!

I can't imagine our world without milk and the very important dairy farmers. My life and others have been sculpted by the hard working dairy farmers who help take care of the cows and produce milk. That's why with every meal, I'm going to drink milk!

You're Gonna Need Milk for That - By Tara Lenzendorf

It takes a lot of work to get dairy products to your fridge. Dairy farmers work day and night to get them to you. Farmers play a very important job in producing dairy products. Wisconsin farming and dairy industries jobs are nearly 12% of the state's employment. Getting milk and dairy products to your table is a lot of work, but it is worth it.

Farmers play a big role in getting dairy products to you. There is way more to it than just milking the cows. First farmers talk to Agronomists about the soil and how they can grow better crops. Cows need quality feed to keep them healthy to produce nutritious milk. The farmers talk to a nutritionist about feed rations. They feed the cows daily and also milk their cows two to three times a day. The milk gets dropped off at the dairy plant. There are many steps for the milk to leave the farm.

Once the milk is off the farm, there are still many steps and jobs. When the milk gets dropped off from the milk truck it goes to a part of the plant where it gets tested. The milk gets tested to see if it's safe for people to drink. Then they homogenize it, they take out percentages of fat. The result is different kinds of milk such as whole milk, 1% and 2%. After dairy creamery workers are done testing the milk it is packaged. Once packaged, it gets

transferred from the dairy plants to where you can purchase it.

You can purchase these dairy products straight from the creameries or from your local grocery stores. At Westby Creamery in Westby, Wisconsin, you can purchase a lot of different dairy products like yogurt, butter, and the most popular thing is cheese. Their cheese is made by local farmers all over Wisconsin. It comes in all different forms including cheese spreads, cottage cheese, and cheese curds which is their most popular seller. Another creamery in Wisconsin is the Shullsburg Creamery, which most likely sells milk and all kinds of cheese. Local dairy products like these can be found all over Wisconsin.

It takes many people to work together to get dairy products from the farm to you. Farmers take a lot of time caring for their animals so they will produce high-quality milk. Plant workers test and process the milk to provide us with safe and healthy dairy products. Store workers stock the shelves with dairy products for you to buy and take home. Dairy products are very important for Wisconsin's economy. Getting dairy products to you takes a lot of hard work, but it is worth it. Wisconsin has been America's Dairyland for almost 100 years and hopefully for many to come.

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

It was a busy spring for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee! On March 17-18, the committee held the Ag LEAD Summit in Fond du Lac. It was broken into four tracks: Leading Your Own Self Development, Engaging Consumers, Advocating for Agriculture and Developing Agribusinesses.

By far my favorite part of the program was the consumer panel put together by The Center for Food Integrity. Five consumers were interviewed, and their main concerns were environment, sustainability, the onset of puberty at a younger age and chemicals affecting future generations. With the internet and news outlets, they want to know the big picture and what's true. They wanted a collective source with more information from farmers.

We realized consumers were willing to pay more money for good quality food and would like to see "table topper" type of information at the point of purchase for their food. The consumers felt our food system is not sustainable due to factors like hungry children, waste, depletion of resources and climate impacts. They romanticize the family farm because of the care towards animals, land and families. Hearing from consumers was a great way to gain a better understanding of their differing viewpoints on agriculture.

Some other key takeaways were:

- **Chris Hinrichs** spoke on Transformational Leadership and how to inspire the best in others. He used the analogy of a chain: "If you push it, you don't know where it will go. But if you pull it, then it will follow you."



- **Andy Larson** presented on Farm Financial Management. There is a Farm Finance Boot Camp and an Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship that might be helpful to many farmers. For more information, contact 608.265.0621 or email andrew.larson@business.wisconsin.edu.
- **Malorie Paine** talked about the new Food + Farm Exploration Center in Plover. For more information on the new facility, she can be reached at 715.496.4020 or mpaine@fftf.us.
- **Jordan Henry** discussed four steps to our Advocacy Plans: Plan (issue, cause, audience); Develop (brainstorm, creation, goals, team); Execute (collaborate, do, raise awareness); and Evaluate (monitor, review adapt, SWOT analysis, delegation, budget).

- **Other cool things to check out in your free time include:** Growing Wisconsin magazine, Fond du Lac Agribusiness Council and Ag Society, Wisconsin Ag Tourism and the new Farm Trail App (farmtrailapp.com).

On March 29, committee members attended Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. Issues discussed with respective legislators included: Transportation, labor, animal health and disease prevention, food distribution, farmer-led conservation, rural prosperity, farmland preservation, wildlife damage, solar programming and more. It's a great event to attend if you have the opportunity.

In late April, District 3 hosted the two-day spring WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Meeting. We experienced the great food from Bob's Bitchin' BBQ, visited Schurman's Cheese, and toured Biddick, Inc. and Rural Route 1. Special thanks to Dakota Hammerly and John and Sherri Schurman for taking time out of their days to be with us. Our meeting was also a busy one planning for the rest of 2023. Save the date for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Online Giving Day on Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and look for more details on the Leadership Boot Camp being held this fall.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and make it one to remember!

Members Attend AFBF FUSION Conference

More than 20 Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and staff participated in the 2023 American Farm Bureau FUSION Conference held in Jacksonville, Fla. at the beginning of March.

The conference provides learning opportunities for attendees to increase their knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership development, agriculture issues, professional and personal growth, and building a network.

The conference brought together more than 900 agricultural leaders who are active in three main Farm Bureau program areas: Young Farmers & Ranchers, Women's Leadership and Promotion & Education.



WFBF Launches Gather Wisconsin



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation recently unveiled its new website project, Gather Wisconsin. The project's focus is to build meaningful relationships between consumers and farmers growing and raising their food. The site connects food, farming and families through valuable information, blogs and recipes.

"We are excited to launch Gather Wisconsin as a place for farmers, commodity groups and agricultural leaders to collaborate and share information valuable to today's consumer," said WFBF Director of Media Relations and Outreach Cassie Sonnentag.

Information housed on the site falls into three main categories:

- Farming – how food is grown and raised.
- Food – how food is selected, prepared and consumed.
- Family – the experiences behind agriculture and food.

The site will house information from a variety of contributors including Wisconsin agriculture commodity groups. Gather Wisconsin is now available at www.gatherwisconsin.com. Follow Gather Wisconsin on Facebook and Instagram.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Casey and Morgan Lobdell

District 3 YFA Committee Representatives

Summer is well underway and for many of us the first crop of hay is already done. Springtime has come and gone again in the blink of an eye. We are enjoying cow/calf pairs and fall bred ewes on green grass.

Early this spring, I, Morgan, had the chance to attend the American Farm Bureau Federation FUSION Conference in Jacksonville, Fla. I met members from all over the country and was able to dive deeper into learning about Farm Bureau. The collegiate discussion meet was fun to watch and Wisconsin was well-represented by UW-River Falls student, Michelle Stangler. Other highlights included attending educational workshops and exploring the local attractions.

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet is scheduled for **July 27** at the Meat Schoppe in Lancaster. We will start with a tour, followed by dinner and the discussion meet. Please reach out to us if you are interested in attending or participating. This is a great learning opportunity in many ways and the food is bound to be delicious!

District 3 YFA is co-hosting a family picnic with District 2 at Blackhawk Lake on **Aug. 13**. We hope this allows you to meet more members from the area. All Farm Bureau members and their families are invited to attend. We will be grilling hot dogs, brats and burgers and ask everyone else to bring a dish to pass. Swimming and many other activities will be available. We hope you can join us!

Thank you for all that you do to support your community. We wish you a wonderful summer filled with memories and productive days. As always, please reach out with any questions. We can be contacted at 608.574.0403 or lobdellshowpigs@gmail.com.

DISTRICT 3 YFA DISCUSSION MEET

THURSDAY, JULY 27

6:30PM - TOUR & SOCIAL

7:00PM - DINNER

7:30PM - DISCUSSION MEET

THE MEAT SCHOPPE

109 N. MADISON STREET
LANCASTER, WI

PLEASE RSVP AND
DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

D3 YFA REPRESENTATIVES

Casey and Morgan Lobdell

608.574.0403

lobdellshowpigs@gmail.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?



YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 1-3, 2023

KALAHARI RESORT | WISCONSIN DELLS

- Are you a first time attendee? Join us for **FREE!**
- Already attended? Refer a friend and win **CASH!**
- Scan the QR Code below for the application and details:



Save the Date

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Online Giving Day

Event Schedule

10 - 11 a.m.	Kick-off and Power Hour
11 - 11:30 a.m.	Ag in the Classroom Challenge
11:30 - Noon	YFA Challenge
Noon - 1 p.m.	Power Hour - County Farm Bureau Challenge
1 - 1:30 p.m.	P&E Challenge
1:30 - 2 p.m.	Leadership Institute Challenge
2 - 3 p.m.	Power Hour

Wednesday, August 2

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

WFBF Facebook & Instagram Accounts

Members Connect with Legislators at Ag Day at the Capitol

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.

Fitzsimmons Hired as District 3 Coordinator



Katie Fitzsimmons has been hired by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation as the district coordinator in southwestern Wisconsin. Fitzsimmons assumed the duties of District 3 Coordinator from Melissa (Doyle) Jacobson, who recently accepted the position of WFBF Director of Young Leader Programs.

Fitzsimmons will be responsible for working with county Farm Bureaus to develop and implement programs to serve Farm Bureau members and to coordinate membership recruitment and retention efforts.

"I am looking forward to building relationships and working with the Farm Bureau members that make up District 3," said Fitzsimmons. "District 3 has a very strong presence within Wisconsin Farm Bureau and I cannot wait to play a more active role in helping with their success."

Fitzsimmons will serve Farm Bureau's District 3, which includes the counties of Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Vernon.

"Katie's education and background in agriculture paired with her involvement with Farm Bureau make her an ideal candidate to work with our county Farm Bureaus in southwest Wisconsin as WFBF's District 3 Coordinator," said WFBF's Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege.

Fitzsimmons grew up on a dairy farm near Mineral Point in Iowa County. She is a graduate of Iowa State University where she earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural and rural policy studies with a minor in International Agriculture. Since graduation, she has been serving as policy project manager for the Wisconsin Soybean Association. She received her Wisconsin FFA Degree and American FFA Degree in 2018 and 2019, respectively.

Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

In March, District 3 county presidents and vice presidents were invited to the 2023 Council of Presidents meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison.

Those in attendance met with other county leaders from around the state to network, generate new ideas and discuss official WFBF business.



Pictured (from left): Robert Nigh, District 3 Director and Vernon County President; Krista Dolan, Iowa County President; Christina Benson, Lafayette County President; Lori Brown; Don Brown, Crawford County President; and Peter Winch, Grant County President.

2023 DISTRICT 3 COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETINGS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

THE GENERAL STORE
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: CHRISTINA BENSON
815.275.4400

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

CRAWFORD COUNTY

SENECA TOWN HALL
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: AV ROTH
608.485.1125

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

IOWA COUNTY

LOCATION TBD
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: KRISTA DOLAN
608.574.4565

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

RICHLAND COUNTY

THE PHOENIX CENTER
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: GERMAINE HYING
608.553.1054

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

GRANT COUNTY

YOUTH & AG CENTER
7PM DINNER | 7:30PM MEETING
RSVP: PETER WINCH
608.822.7806

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28

VERNON COUNTY

LOCATION TBD
7PM DINNER | 7:45PM MEETING
RSVP: ROBERT NIGH
608.606.4319



**ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND
ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THEIR
RESPECTIVE COUNTY MEETING.**

Counties Award Scholarships

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and, of course, growing the food we eat. Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties are proud to support the next generation of agriculturists and community leaders through scholarships.

This year, District 3 counties awarded a total of \$7,750 to deserving high school seniors. These counties work hard throughout the year to raise money for their scholarship funds. Many organize food stands, golf outings, promotional events and other fundraisers so they are able to invest back into their local communities.

The 2023 scholarship recipients have been involved in all facets of agriculture and will certainly be valuable assets to the industry in the future. Best of luck to the recipients as they continue their education this fall.

GRANT COUNTY



Jessica Brogley
PLATTEVILLE



Ava Leifried
CUBA CITY



Abigail Wehrle
RIVER RIDGE

IOWA COUNTY



Mackenzie Ruvit
MINERAL POINT



Ty Gaffney
BARNEVELD



Kelsey Hardy
DODGEVILLE



Trinity Gruenfelder
PECATONICA



Joey Robinson
MINERAL POINT



Julia Seabolt
IOWA-GRANT



Jimmy Tibbitts
MINERAL POINT

LAFAYETTE COUNTY



Wyatt Davis
DARLINGTON



Edwin Gierke
SHULLSBURG



Lillian Lester
BELMONT



Ashlyn Norgard
DARLINGTON



Ryan Schaubert
DARLINGTON



Sara Siegenthaler
DARLINGTON

Agriculture Advocates Gather for Ag LEAD Summit

On March 17-18, Farm Bureau members and agriculture advocates gathered for the Ag LEAD Summit in Fond du Lac. Coordinated by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Promotion and Education Committee, Ag LEAD Summit provides an opportunity to learn more about tools, resources, ideas and best practices when advocating for agriculture and conducting promotional events.

The Ag LEAD Summit began on March 17 with keynote speaker Chris Hinrichs who shared principles and practices of transformational leaders. Attendees then participated in breakout sessions aligned with the four Ag LEAD Summit tracks: Leading Your Own Self Development, Engaging Consumers, Advocating for Agriculture and Developing Agribusinesses. The evening banquet featured WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken and entertainment provided by Midwest Dueling Pianos.

During the morning session on March 18, attendees had the unique opportunity to hear straight from consumers through a Center for Food Integrity consumer panel. The eye-opening panel provided new

perspectives that will help guide communication approaches to enhance engagement with consumers. The conference concluded with AFBF trainer Jordan Henry leading an

activity where attendees created an action plan for implementing the information shared throughout the two-day event.

The Ag LEAD Summit takes place on a biennial-basis and Rural Mutual Insurance Company is a co-sponsor of the event.



Crawford County members, Lori Brown and Pat Dearth attended the event, along with District 3 Director, Robert Nigh.

Essay Contest Winners Recognized

Over 40 essays were received for the Crawford County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Students from North Crawford and Seneca participated. Garrett Sime and Tara Lenzendorf were selected as this year's winners. Garrett is a fourth-grade student at Seneca Elementary School. Mrs. Alisha Sowle is his teacher. Tara is a fifth-grade student from Seneca Elementary School. Mrs. Kari Opprieht is her teacher. Johanna Sime was named the runner-up in the fifth-grade category. Each student received a certificate, cash prize and an ice cream party for their class.

Photo Caption: Crawford County AITC Essay Contest Winners (from left): Johanna Sime, Tara Lenzendorf and Garrett Sime.



CRAWFORD COUNTY
FARM BUREAU

**SUMMER
PICNIC**

THURSDAY, JULY 20

EASTMAN PARK | 7:30PM

JOIN US FOR A FUN
NIGHT FULL OF FOOD,
FRIENDS AND FARM
BUREAU UPDATES.
PLEASE BRING A DISH
TO PASS. TABLE
SERVICE PROVIDED.

CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR

DAIRY BAR

AUGUST 24-27

FEATURING DELICIOUS
ICE CREAM TREATS,
GRILLED CHEESE
SANDWICHES AND PIE!

FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND
A DETAILED SCHEDULE
OF EVENTS, VISIT THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY
FAIR WEBSITE AT:

CRAWFORDCOUNTYWISCONSINFAIR.COM



Proudly Supporting Our Local Communities



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello from northern Grant County. Earlier this spring, we had another successful Ag Day at the Capitol where members were able to meet with their respective legislators. I was able to attend this year along with many other members from around the state. Our representatives like to

hear what farmers have to say.

Farm Bureau has a very powerful and respected voice. Don't forget to share your thoughts with our legislators and make sure they are aware of the issues impacting farming and agriculture.

In August, we will once again have the food stand at the Grant County Fair. I can just taste the pork chops and potato salad. The food stand is a major fundraiser for the county. We are always looking for help from our members at the food stand. A lot of thought and preparation from the board goes into the menu and logistics.

Our goal is to promote agriculture products and have a full meal at a reasonable price for all fairgoers, especially families. Please contact me at 608.822.7806 or pwinch@tds.net if you have any questions about the fair or would like to help. We appreciate any and all help.

Grant County Farm Bureau supports our local communities in many ways. From Farm Safety Day and food pantry donations to scholarships for graduating high school seniors and our Community Investment Grants that provide funds for students, schools and organizations to promote agriculture. We also continue to support the beef, dairy and pork industries through interviews and giveaways on the local radio stations.

Shortly after the fair, we have our Policy Development Meeting to start the grassroots process of bringing policy ideas from our county members to be voted on at our county annual meeting and then possibly on to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Ideas in this organization start locally and move up to the state level. Speaking of the Grant County Annual Meeting, please mark your calendar for **September 26**. You will receive a postcard with more details in as the date gets closer.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo

Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Committee Chair

I hope your summer is off to a great start and that you experienced a safe and productive planting season.

With the dust finally settling, look for some fun YFA activities and outings to come this summer. More information will be available soon on the Grant County Farm Bureau

Facebook page at facebook.com/grantcountymfbureauwi.

It's also time to start thinking about county fair season. Grant County YFA is looking for volunteers to help coordinate and work at the Ag Tent during the Grant County Fair, **Aug. 16-20**.

If you know of any young adults that might be interested in a career in agriculture education or just love to teach others about agriculture and would like to help, please contact Jackie Seelow at jackie.seelow@gmail.com. We will have a schedule with volunteer time slots available in early August.

Thank you all and have a great summer!



GRANT COUNTY FAIR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

AUGUST 16-20 | LANCASTER

Please consider helping at the Grant County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Daily shifts are: **10am-2pm, 2pm-6pm, and 6pm-10pm.**



If interested in helping, contact Peter Winch at 608.822.7806 or sign up online at: bit.ly/grantcountyfoodstand23

POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETINGS

GRANT COUNTY

**SEPTEMBER 7
6:30PM**

GRANT COUNTY FARM
BUREAU BUILDING
LANCASTER, WI

IOWA COUNTY

**JULY 24
7:00PM**

HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES CENTER
DODGEVILLE, WI

VERNON COUNTY

**JULY 25
7:30PM**

CASSERS
BAR & GRILL
VIROQUA, WI

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Megan Yager

Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Greetings! It's been a busy spring for everyone with calving, planting and now hay making. We have also been busy with many Iowa County Farm Bureau activities.

We were pleased to award seven scholarships to high school graduates. This year's recipients were Mackenzie Aurit, Mineral Point; Ty Gaffney, Barneveld; Trinity Gruenenfelder, Pecatonica; Kelsey Hardy, Dodgeville; Joey Robinson, Mineral Point; Julia Searls, Iowa-Grant; and Jimmy Tibbits, Mineral Point. We congratulate all the graduating seniors and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

The 2023 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest was about Wisconsin's dairy industry. I enjoyed reading the many submissions and would like to thank all the teachers and students for participating. The fourth-grade essay winner was Lennie Brunson from Livia Doyle's class in Mineral Point. The fifth-grade essay winner was Parker Carden from Melissa Carden's class in Barneveld. The winning students received a check for \$50 from Farm Bureau and an ice cream sundae party for their classroom.

During our annual school visits, we talked about May Beef Month and the beef industry in Wisconsin. Students sampled three kinds of beef snack sticks and really seemed to enjoy them. There were a lot of great questions about the beef industry and agriculture in general. It was a lot of fun spending time with the students in their classroom.



The 4-H Farm Gard Event was held on May 25 at Schilling Farms in Montfort. Fourth graders from Iowa-Grant Elementary School attended. These students had an

exciting afternoon experiencing life on a farm and learning from local agriculturalists. Iowa County Farm Bureau led an activity called, 'Snacking

Around Wisconsin.' Students learned all about the different food products that are grown and made in Wisconsin. They were very excited to receive a delicious bag of snack mix to take home with them.

Pecatonica second graders made a visit to Gildale Holsteins in Hollandale and were also able to participate in the 'Snacking Around Wisconsin' activity. We answered a lot of great questions about Wisconsin products and agriculture.

Farmers Appreciation Day will be celebrated for the 37th consecutive year on **July 8-9** in Dodgeville. A variety of activities are being planned for the weekend.



On Saturday night, we are teaming up with Upland Hills Health for their annual Sip & Savor event at Harris Park. The night will feature tasty food and drinks from the best restaurants, bakeries, breweries and wineries in southwest Wisconsin. Live music will provide a fun and social atmosphere before the spectacular City of Dodgeville fireworks show.

Sunday will kick off with a parade, followed by entertainment, activities and food in downtown Dodgeville. The after-parade festivities will be held in the parking lot behind the Iowa County Courthouse where Iowa County Farm Bureau will be serving up delicious steak sandwiches. There will be several activities for the youngsters and plenty of fun for people of all ages

We hope you will join us for this event to show your appreciation for our hard-working farmers and agriculture community. For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit www.farmersappreciationday.com.

I don't know about anyone else, but one of my favorite parts of summer is going to get ice cream and cool off after a long day on the farm.

Wishing you all a great summer!



County Essay Contest Winners Announced

This year's Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winners are Lennie Brunson and Parker Carden. Lennie is a fourth-grade student from Mineral Point Elementary School. Mrs. Livia Doyle is her teacher. Parker is a fifth-grade student from Barneveld Elementary School. Mrs. Melissa Carden is his teacher. Both students were awarded a certificate and \$50 for their outstanding accomplishment. Their class also received an ice cream party. Congratulations Lennie and Parker!



Parker Carden



Lennie Brunson



FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY

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Sightings of Summer



Christina Benson

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Happy summer to all!

Sightings of gelato, fresh cheese curds and busy UTV trails let us know summer has finally arrived in Lafayette County. May you find time to indulge in these

delicious treats and enjoy the traditions that make summer great for you.

While summer may be a time for play, it is also a time for work. The work you put into fair projects, the work you put into crops and the work that goes into the many other everyday life tasks on the farm.



During these activities, I wish you safety and moments to reflect on the great work you are doing and pray that you stop a moment to see the beauty of agriculture.

I look forward to the Lafayette County Fair, which takes place **July 12-16** in Darlington. Please consider volunteering with me at the Lafayette County Farm Bureau food stand or just stop by and show your support by purchasing a delicious steak sandwich.

Towards the end of summer is the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on **Aug. 22**. I invite you to join us as we celebrate all we are doing through Farm Bureau and gather for a great meal.

As always, if you have ideas or questions, feel free to reach out at 815.275.4400.

Teasdale Named Essay Contest Winner

By Gretchen Kamps, Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom Committee Chair



Luke Teasdale has been selected as this year's Lafayette County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner. Luke is a fourth-grade student at Shullsburg Elementary School. Mr. Cody Schnitzer is his teacher.

Luke was the recipient of a Culver's gift card and classroom supplies. In addition, Mr. Schnitzer's classroom also received some fun supplies and treats.

Lafayette County received essays from the fourth and fifth grade students at Blackhawk Elementary School as well. We celebrated with ice cream sundaes in early May to thank them for their participation and they also received two sets of Ag Mags.

Thank you to everyone who wrote and submitted an essay. We look forward to next year's contest!



Richland County

wfbf.com/about/counties/richland

President's Message



Dick Hauser

Richland County Farm Bureau President

As I sit to write this message for the Farm Bureau newsletter, it is the first of June and while hay making is going great, we are all needing water. When you are reading this, it is my hope that weather patterns have changed and that all are doing better.

In my article in the last newsletter, I wrote about the work being done on the new farm bill. One of the more important aspects of the bill is the crop insurance portion. It is vitally important to all agriculture to have this safety net for those years when we have a prevent plant situation or if the growing season is challenging.

Farm Bureau nationally, statewide and local county organizations will all be working to make sure the interests of our members are heard. If you have an issue or question, please contact us.

Other things your county Farm Bureau has on the agenda this year include trying to grow our membership, get at least two additional board members and have a presence at the Richland County Fair. Every member is welcome to get involved. Come with your questions and thoughts and/or volunteer because the more people we have, the more we can accomplish.

One last organization item. The state Farm Bureau has requested that we move the date of our County Annual Meeting into September so that resolutions from our county can more easily be presented to the Policy Development Committee in preparation for the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. Our annual meeting date is set for **September 25**.

Farm Technology Days is July 18-20. This year, it is in our back yard at the Badger Steam & Gas Engine Club Grounds in Baraboo.

I hope you all have a great summer and enjoy all that our great state has to offer.

Meet: Kevin Larson, Director

Occupation: Farmer. We currently run around 350 acres of cropland which consists of corn, soybeans and alfalfa. I also sell Pioneer seed.

Agricultural background: I grew up on a 40-cow dairy farm east of Westby. I went to college at UW-River Falls where I majored in Animal Science and a minor in Agronomy. I have been in sales in the livestock feed and seed area since then. We also had a dairy from 1993 until 2000 and still have some dairy heifers and beef cows today.

Family: My wife Julie is employed by an AI company called Connecterra. They have activity collars for dairy cattle that help with reproduction and better health and information on the dairy. Our son, Thomas, is employed in the Chicago area by Case/New Holland as a precision engineer specializing in their line of planters and combines. He is also involved with our farm doing the planting and harvesting. Our daughter, Katherine, is employed by Dolph Dairy near Lake Mills and is the calf care specialist, feeding and caring for the calves on the dairy. Julie and I have been married for 32 years.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm? Harvesting the crops is my favorite time of the year to see what went right and what needs to be changed for the next year. This sets up everything from seed selection to crop inputs for the upcoming year.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? I have been a Farm Bureau member for years but was never real involved. When I was recently asked to run for the board, I did. It is very important to have a political voice in Washington, D.C. and Madison and joining together as a larger group and voice is important for the agriculture industry. Having a group of active farmers promoting ag products and policy is the key to the success of today's agriculture.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? The more people that we have promoting a common cause the better chances

we have of making a difference. Additionally, interacting with other farmers is also important, not only to learn from them, but to also have a social network to rely on.

I am Farm Bureau proud because... it supports and stands for agricultural and rural lifestyles and careers.

Preferred tractor color: We have mostly green, but also have had red in the past.

Favorite ice cream flavor: Vanilla



Kevin and Julie featured in a Corteva Agri-Science photo shoot.



Kevin and his wife, Julie, pictured at home with their two children, Thomas and Katherine.

Fremstad Wins County Essay Contest

This year's Vernon County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest winner is Lanie Fremstad, a fourth-grade student from Westby Elementary School. Lanie is the daughter of Justin and Kelly Fremstad.

This year's essay topic was "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." Lanie wrote a strong essay titled "That's A Lot of Ice Cream" which perfectly captured this year's topic.

Lanie was awarded a certificate and Culver's gift card for her outstanding accomplishment. Her class also received an ice cream party.

Congratulations Lanie!



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