



Grassroots

District 8 News

From the Milk House



Ryan Klussendorf

WFBF District 8 Director

This spring has been a challenging one. First it was too wet and cold to do any field work. Once the weather broke, we were trying to cram two days of work into 24 hours before the rain hit us again. It was all hands on deck; early mornings, late nights.

I rely on my kids a lot to help with field work, chores and sometimes milking cows. This has become more challenging as school, sports and now a day job are keeping my farm boys away from the farm. I work hard to remind myself that this farm was my choice, it is my career, and they are just the “volunteers” helping me get the work done faster.

This makes me think about the county events and fundraisers District 8 puts on. We have a few organizers and some volunteers, but it seems to fall back on the organizers or the board to pick up the slack when everyone is “too busy” to help. We need to get back to the many hands make light work and find the time to volunteer, even if that means putting your own work aside for a few hours to help the neighbor get his tractor unstuck or putting off corn planting for a day to help with the area beef show.

You are probably wondering, “Why should I? Will it really matter if I am there to help? What about my tasks?” Frankly, the organizers have put hours upon hours of their time into the event. They want to see it succeed and when they are left on the front lines without help everything seems

overwhelming. Volunteering a few hours here or there will take a huge weight off the organizers’ back and let them breathe a little easier.

This thought occurred to me recently while weaning our spring calves. I waited an extra week so the boys would be home to help. As you can imagine, it’s a time-consuming process. We had to move the oldest calves out, move the younger ones to a group pen, take down pens, clean them out, wash pens and buckets, put them back up, bed down and get the calves back in them.

I had what I considered a “great” plan that would have all hands-on deck. This would allow us to split up the work and be done by noon. We all know what happens to our best laid plans: they change.

Our oldest son decided to stay another night on vacation and our middle son volunteered to go to the neighbors to pick up round bales, leaving our youngest son, my wife and me. The work took a lot longer, lunch came and went and afternoon set in but with persistence and downright grit we got the work done before night chores. It was a lot of work for just the three of us, we were tired, sore, and cranky by the end of the day. With two more people the task would have gone faster and we would have had fun joking around while doing it.

Like your local community events and events we host throughout the district, the day comes, the work will get done and the day will end. One extra volunteer could make the work less daunting, lighten the load on the organizers and brighten your own day just a little! I challenge you all to help for an hour here or there at your next county event. Because one person for one hour does make a difference.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Giving Day

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will host its second annual Giving Day on August 2 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. via the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Proceeds from this event benefit and support:

- Ag in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Collegiate Farm Bureau
- Promotion and Education Program
- Leadership Institute
- Other agriculture education and leadership development programs

Scan the code to learn more about Giving Day or give today!



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 Board Challenge
1 - 1:30 p.m.	P&E Challenge
1:30 - 2 p.m.	Leadership Institute Challenge
2 - 3 p.m.	Power Hour

Event Highlights

- Donors during the power hours will be entered into a drawing for one of 5 prizes valued at \$200 each.
- Program participants will issue challenges throughout the day to increase awareness of the event and the Foundation programs listed above.
- Individual donors who give \$100 or more will receive a “Friend of the Farm” t-shirt.



Remembering Alissa “Aly” Sosnovske: July 28, 2000 – May 10, 2023



Alissa “Aly” Grace Sosnovske, an adventurous and kind soul, passed away on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, as a result of a car accident. She was the daughter of Marty and Mary (Bloch) Sosnovske and sister to Ben. She attended Merrill High School and University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Aly was in the Prairie River Eagles 4-H Club Merrill FFA Chapter, Wisconsin Farm Bureau as the District 8 YFA Representative, was working for Marathon County DHI and helped on the family dairy farm. She was passionate about life

and working on the farm. She enjoyed deer and turkey hunting and was a great shot. Aly was a stubborn, funny, adventurous woman who had a flare for life. She liked to help in the maple syrup woods and do some field work with her brother Ben. She liked to show dairy cattle at the Merrill Fair and when she was too old to show cattle, she liked to help clip and get the cattle ready for the shows.

Many times when a person passes you hear the saying “Live Like (insert name)” Days after Aly’s passing, a few of us sat down trying to process. During our conversations I noticed a trend - each story was a testament to who she was. Before we knew it, we had a list of 22-character traits she demonstrated every day. Ironically, that is the same age Aly was when she was called home.

Although one of the youngest in our crew, Aly had taught us all something in the short time we had together. We remember our loved ones by continuing to do what they loved and living their values. We can all strive to Live Like Aly:

1. Live with integrity.
2. Let faith be your guiding force.
3. Face each new challenge with enthusiasm even if you don’t want to do it.
4. Let your actions speak louder than your words.
5. Be passionate about everything you sign your name to.
6. Love everyone where they are at.
7. Care for people like you do your land and animals.
8. Say yes, even if it scares you – scratch that especially when it scares you.
9. Never stop growing/learning.
10. Be engaged in your community.
11. Be humble.
12. Have work ethic.
13. Be genuine.
14. Have as much grit as you do grace.
15. Be empathetic.
16. Be loyal.
17. Be family centered.
18. Don’t be afraid to wear your heart on your sleeve.
19. Know your gifts and don’t be afraid to share them with others.
20. Don’t be afraid to pivot.
21. Be kind beyond measure.
22. Always listen to your momma.

Lincoln County Farm Bureau is set up to receive memorial funds for Aly’s family. If you are interested in doing so you can do so by making a donation at any Park City Credit Union or by mail. All donations should be made out to Lincoln County Farm Bureau or LCFB with memo noting it is for Aly Sosnovske or For Aly. You can mail checks to Lincoln County Farm Bureau, PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705. The money collected will be utilized at a later date pending the wishes of the Sosnovske Family.



So, God Made A Farmer's Daughter

by Whitney Turek

And on the ninth day, God looked down on his planned paradise and said, “I need someone to have a kind heart full of compassion and a spirit as free as a wild mustang and as old as time.” So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

God said I need somebody to sit on the armrest of the tractor while her father runs the disc, get up before school to feed the animals and listen to her teachers’ lessons, bring the cattle in from pasture, help her mother cook supper and then go to town to her high school FFA meeting and stay up past midnight working on homework. So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

I need somebody with a strong mind and gentle soul. Strong enough to hold a kicking calf to tag, yet gentle enough to calm a heifer delivering her first baby and get it to nurse. Somebody to call in cattle by yelling “boss,” lighten the mood between tired farm hands after a long day, come home to hug her mother and help with her siblings and set the table and clean the dishes. So God made a farmer’s daughter.

God said “I need somebody who gets knocked down by a horse and stands up, dusts off the dirt from her jeans and the tear from her eye and climbs back in the saddle. Someone to return to the field after school to plant seeds, drive from field to field with only a farmer’s driving permit and a phone book to sit on. And who, during harvest season, will sacrifice nights out with friends and days by the pool to help her dad cut crops, sweep out grain bins in triple-digit heat, deliver meals to the field, and finish a forty-hour week by Tuesday noon. So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

God had to have somebody patient enough to halter break a new colt and spend countless hours training a show steer for months to prepare for the county show, and still be understanding enough to accept the way of life as she loads him into the buyer’s trailer, gives him one last pet, and wipe the tears off her face as she watches the headlights disappear down the road. So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

God said, “I need somebody strong enough to build a fence, heave bales and yet gentle enough to tame lambs and wean pigs and tend to the calf who lost his mother and his foot to that winter’s frost...and who will stop the combine for an hour to mend the baby deer hiding in the wheat field despite knowing her father will be yelling on the two-way to keep the machinery running. So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

I need someone who won’t back away from a challenge and will face her fears head-on and learn from failures and not give up. Somebody unafraid of getting dirty and cleans up well before going to church and volunteer for the town’s pancake feed. And who keeps involved in her community and knows her priorities and stays disciplined enough to know her chores must be done before the evening activities. So God made a farmer’s daughter.

It had to be somebody who’d keep on the straight and narrow, not cut corners, and stay hard-working and determined and restore faith in her generation into the minds of elders. Somebody to speak, share, and advocate for agriculture and farmer’s rights...and show the world the truth behind the lies of animal activist groups. Somebody not easily discouraged and mindful of others and who’d bond a community together with the heart of sharing and compassion for thy neighbor, who’d laugh and then sigh...and then tell her dad with bright eyes and a proud smile, she wants to spend her life “supporting what dad does”. So, God made a farmer’s daughter.

Farm Bureau Family



Ashleigh Calaway

WFBF District 8 Coordinator

This fall will mark my 17th year of being a Farm Bureau member. When I look back over the years, I find myself getting a little choked up. Prior to my role with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau, I served on the Wood County Farm Bureau board as their Ag in the Classroom Coordinator and then as your

District 8 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Representative. This past May, I celebrated nine years of serving as your district coordinator.

Looking back, the Farm Bureau family has played such a critical role in where I am now. Many of you have been volunteering your time and talent with me for most of it. Some of you are new to the scene and some of you are still trying to figure out how you got to where you are now (someday I might tell you!). Anyway, you cut it – I am so glad you are here. You have celebrated some of the greatest highs with me, like the birth of our sweet girl Alena, who just turned 8, to the challenges of coming back following my accident, and the lows of lows, saying goodbye to long time members and new up and coming members.

If you are like me, just starting out you had heard about the Farm Bureau family, never fully understanding what that means.

For years I have struggled to define what it means to be a part of the Farm Bureau family. A few years ago, I got close with my guest blog piece titled “What is Farm Bureau?”

In that piece I noted “It’s the organization that has the backs of farmers across the state and the nation. It’s the organization that fights to keep our right to farm and provides tools, tours, leadership development, personal and professional development.

To those that are really involved, it’s also our second family. It’s where we feel at home. It’s the group that our neighbor, friend or family member

sucked us into getting involved with but after a while it became something we couldn’t go without.

Farm Bureau takes us out of our comfort zone and gives us the confidence to speak up. It provides us a voice when we can’t find our own. For some it gives a place to share our deepest worries about the future of agriculture, our families and what’s happening on Capitol Hill.”

“As a staff member, it’s even more than just being a member. You get to help cultivate farmers and agriculturists of all ages. You get to help county Farm Bureau boards set goals, face challenges, and watch them work together to overcome obstacles. You get to be a cheerleader in a world full of downers. Your extended family grows exponentially and before

you know it you are celebrating engagements, weddings, births and graduations. You become the shoulder to lean on during tough times and the one to help them dust themselves off when they fall.”

I’ve since learned it’s so much more than that. It encompasses members from across the state showing up at your farm to help cover chores, checking in on you, bringing you meals, showing up to just sit in the quiet with you- during some of the most challenging days you have ever faced. It’s the outpouring of love from complete strangers to remind you that you are never truly alone.

It is also having a team of people to cheer you on, to be your biggest cheerleaders, to be your support when you need it.

For these reasons and so many more is why your neighbor, your county directors, or even your district coordinator work so hard to have you engaged with your local county Farm Bureau – in essence they are trying to bring you into the folds and have you experience the full effect of what it means to be a part of the Farm Bureau Family. None of us can do it alone. They say it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a community to support us when we need it most. So next time someone says “Hey, want to go check out (insert any Farm Bureau event) maybe take a gamble and say yes, it could be the best thing you ever do for yourself, family or farm.



WFBF Seeking Foundation Director

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is seeking applicants for the position of Foundation Director.

Duties include carrying out the vision, mission and values of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation; developing a strategic plan for fundraising; leading the development of new fundraising opportunities; seeking, writing and submitting grant proposals; building relationships with agricultural leaders and businesses statewide; and overseeing the marketing and communications of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Qualified candidates are required to hold a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, business or a related field and have five years of fundraising or equivalent experience.

To learn more about WFBF career opportunities, visit wfbf.com/about/careers. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Mark Schuster, Vice President of Organizational Development, at mschuster@wfbf.com.

DISTRICT 8

POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023



**7:00 p.m. Meal
7:30pm PD meeting**



**Abbotsford City Hall - Community Room
203 N. First St., Abbotsford, WI**



Join the grassroots process & share your policy ideas

Have a policy suggestion you would like to submit ahead of time? Visit bit.ly/2023policydevelopment or scan the QR code.



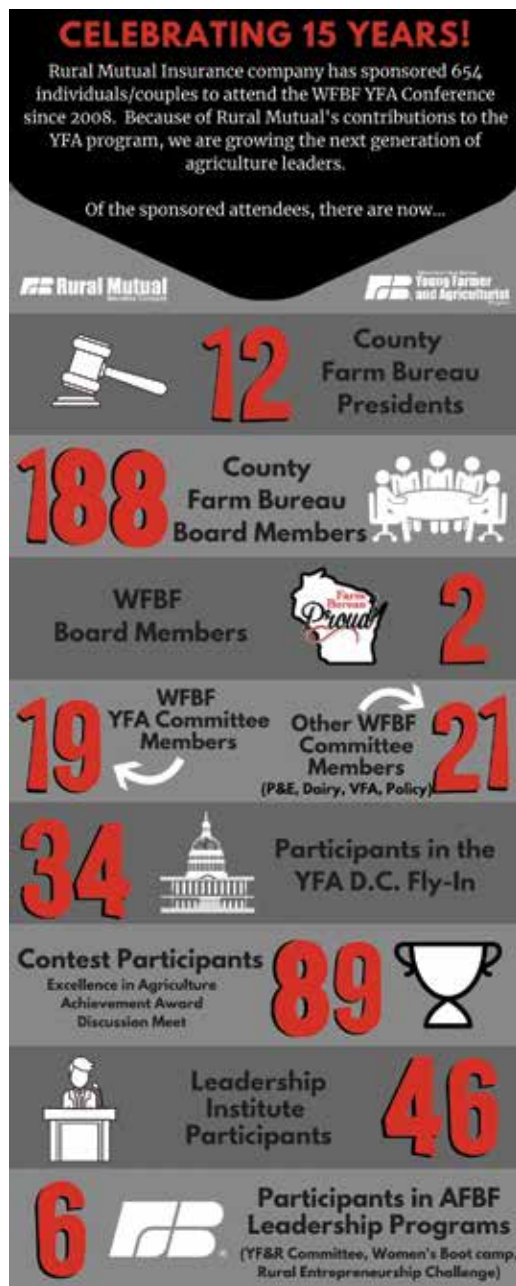
JOIN US

RSVP USING THE ABOVE LINK OR CONTACT DISTRICT 8 COORDINATOR, ASHLEIGH CALAWAY AT 715.781.2306 OR ACALAWAY@WFBF.COM

District 8 News

Apply for a Rural Sponsorship!

Where will Farm Bureau take you? Don't miss your opportunity. Ask your county YFA chair how you can be nominated for a Rural Sponsorship to the 2023 WFBF YFA Conference.



Joint Committee on Finance Supports Agriculture in Proposed Budget

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is supportive of the recent votes from the Joint Committee on Finance members on issues that impact the state's farming community.

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau appreciates the work of the Joint Committee on Finance and thanks them for passing several key provisions that will have a direct impact on farmers and rural residents in the state," said WFBF's Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnaini.

The committee adopted the following budget items:

Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection

- An additional \$800,000 per year for meat processor grants.
- An additional \$300,000 per year for grants to dairy processors.
- \$2 million for the Wisconsin Agricultural Export Promotion program
- Farmer mental health funding of \$100,000 per year.
- \$2 million for nitrogen optimization pilot program grants.
- \$70,000 per year for livestock premises registration.
- An additional \$50,000 per year for Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Program.
- Provided \$1.6 million for cover crop rebates.
- Maintain funding for producer-led watershed protection grants.

Department of Natural Resources

- \$500,000 in 2024-25 for well compensation and well abandonment grants.
- \$6.5 million for rural nonpoint source water pollution abatement grants.
- An additional \$200,000 per year for Targeted Runoff Management grants.

"These are important priorities that we are pleased and excited to see included in the proposed budget," Mugnaini said. "We appreciate the leadership of the Joint Committee on Finance for the inclusion of these provisions and look forward to continuing to work on these issues."

Introducing *Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture*



The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program is excited to fully launch a new series of resources for grades 3-5 – Introducing *Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture*!

Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture takes young Wisconsin learners on a journey through our state's past, present and future using the lens of agriculture! This resource features five online learning modules and a mini "Ag Mag" focused on agriculture's role in Wisconsin's history, economy and

communities. Each lesson is aligned to Wisconsin state academic standards and includes supporting activities. To view the lesson, or brush up on your own Wisconsin Agricultural knowledge, visit wisagclassroom.org/exploring-wisconsin-agriculture.

The e-learning modules and mini ag mags are available to all Wisconsin educators at no cost, thanks to the generous support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Compeer Financial and the Wisconsin Corn Growers Board. These new resources are the upgrade of the long-standing activity book, *This Business Called Agriculture*. We are excited to support elementary educators and students in growing their awareness and understanding of agriculture's impact on our daily lives.

This is a space where food, farming and families gather.

At Gather Wisconsin, our focus is connecting you with the farmers growing and raising your family's food through education, valuable resources and sustainable ideas to support farmers from home.



Visit us now at gatherwisconsin.com.

Heat Stress in Your Dry Cows Could be Costing You More Than You Think



Heather Schlessner

UW-Madison Extension Marathon County Dairy Educator

Heat stress is a topic that many farmers in the U.S. are familiar with and occurs when an animal needs to expend more energy than normal to cool itself. Wisconsin hosts a temperate humid climate with temperatures that vary dramatically from winter to summer. This

begs the question, “is heat stress an issue for Wisconsin dairy cattle?” The answer is a resounding yes. Data from Laporta et al. (2021) showed that Wisconsin has about 50 days of heat stress per year and NASA showed that Wisconsin cattle were at risk of heat stress for 12 – 13 hours / day from June to August, making heat stress an important issue.

Traditionally, research and heat stress mitigation techniques have focused on lactating cows. This is because if a lactating cow suffers from heat stress, there is an immediate drop in feed intake and milk yield. However, heat stress does not discriminate and will impact cattle of all ages and sexes.

Recent research has focused on the effect of heat stress on dry cows. During the dry period, two main processes are happening in the mammary gland, ultimately determining the cow's ability to produce milk in the next lactation. First, the cells in the mammary gland undergo cell death or involution. This process begins as soon as we dry off the cow and removes cells that are worn out after months of milk production. The second process is redevelopment and occurs as the cow approaches parturition. During this process, the mammary gland starts remodeling and proliferating new cells. Heat stress during this period will derail these processes, reducing milk production during the next lactation.

Research has shown that cows exposed to heat stress during this period produce 11 pounds/day less milk during the entire lactation. This is because cows under heat stress during the dry period have fewer milk-producing cells, and fewer secretory units, and more connective tissue. This results in a mammary gland with less capacity for milk production and storage (Tao et al., 2011, Dado-Senn et al., 2018, Dado-Senn et al., 2019). Ferreira et al. (2016) calculated Wisconsin's economic impact of this lost milk at \$83 million.

Mammary gland restructuring is not the only thing happening during the dry period. Fetal growth is occurring at an exponential rate during this time. It is well known that unfavorable intrauterine conditions can have long-term consequences on growth, health, and future performance. Cows are no exception. Heat stress during the dry period can lead to intrauterine conditions that results in daughters that have reduced growth and decreased survival rates and will produce less milk in their first lactation.

Short-term effects of in-utero heat stress include reduction in gestation length by 4-5 days on average, decreased birth weight (on average 10-12 % reduction or about 5 pounds lighter), decreased weaning weight (average 12 pounds less), and a decrease in average daily gain (Tao et al., 2019). These differences in growth can remain up to one year of age. Dado-Senn et al. (2021) found that calves from mothers that have experienced heat stress are shorter in stature, have reduced body length and chest girth and have smaller head circumference.

Long-term effects of in-utero heat stress exposure include a reduced survival rate to first calving, with 11% fewer of these heifers surviving to calving. Those animals that make it into the lactating herd have five months less productive life than those without heat stress in-utero. Those animals that do survive to the first lactation produce 4.9 pounds/day



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less milk for the first 35 weeks in milk. Those that make it to the second lactation produce 5.07 pounds/day less milk for the first 35 weeks in milk. Third lactation animals produce 14.33 pounds/day less milk for the first 35 weeks in milk. Fat and protein yields are also reduced. In-utero heat stress results in increased rearing costs, decreased productive life of affected calves, and decreased milk production in these animals, resulting in a \$59 million loss.

Dairy cattle at each stage of life and lactation have the potential to suffer negative consequences if exposed to heat stress. With an economic price tag of \$142 million and the long-term consequences to your herd, managing heat stress in your dry cows is critical. Heat stress in the dry period affects not only the cow herself but also the lifetime production of her calves.

Reviewed by:

Jackie McCarville, Dairy Educator Grant, Green, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties; Lyssa Seefeldt, Agriculture Educator, Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire Counties

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1. J. Laporta, F. C. Ferreira, V. Ouellet, B. Dado-Senn, A. K. Almeida, A. De Vries, and G. E. Dahl. 2021. Late-gestation heat stress impairs daughter and granddaughter lifetime performance. *J. Dairy Sci.* 103 <https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2020-18154>.
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Resources for Handling Down Cattle

By Dr. Sandra Stuttgen, DVM, UW-Madison Extension Taylor County Agriculture Educator



Calf laying in sternal recumbency.

There are times when cattle producers need to come to the aid of a downed animal. Daily observations should identify cattle that are unable to stand and there must be a plan in place for how to quickly respond to help these animals. The longer cattle are down, the more likely their weight and inactivity will damage circulation and nerve function to their underside muscles, which leads to a poor prognosis for recovery.

More in-depth discussion is covered in the *Managing the Down Cow* fact sheet available at livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/resources-for-handling-down-cattle/

Sternal recumbency is the normal reclined position of cattle when laying. Sternum refers to the chest, recumbency refers to laying or reclining. Cattle in sternal recumbency are resting on their side with the majority of their weight resting on their front leg(s) that are folded underneath their chest while the rear legs are either both tucked up to the belly or the bottom leg is tucked while the upper rear leg extends away from their body in the same direction their head is facing.

The definition of a *downed animal* or *downer* includes animals that are unable to stand, or free themselves from a cast position. The term cast describes an animal that is lying flat on its side, over-centered and unable to push themselves into sternal recumbency.

As described by the Merck Veterinary Manual, “non-ambulatory disabled livestock are those that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk. This includes, but is not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, a fractured vertebral column or metabolic conditions.”

Monitor an animal's recovery from illness or lameness and make preemptive marketing decisions when their progress is not occurring and before they might become down. Marketing cattle promptly before this issue occurs will promote better quality of life for the animal and be more efficient for the operation. Remember to account for all drug withdrawal times prior to marketing the animal.

A prompt veterinary diagnosis should be made to determine why the animal is unable to stand, and whether the down animal should be humanely euthanized or receive additional care. When treatment is attempted, cattle unable to sit up unaided (i.e. lie flat on their side) and which refuse to eat or drink should be humanely euthanized within 24 hours of initial onset.

The National Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program in its *BQA Cattle Care & Handling Guidelines* details recommendations for handling non-ambulatory cattle. These guidelines include providing adequate feed and water to non-ambulatory cattle at least once daily. Fluids must be administered by drench or intravenously when downers refuse to drink.

It is also necessary to roll the downed animal from side to side at least three times a day, with more frequent movement preferred. If this is not done, the animal's weight compromises circulation and nerve function to the underside muscles. When needed, move downers very carefully to avoid compromising their welfare.

Acceptable methods of moving or transporting downers include using a

sled, low-boy trailer or in the bucket of a loader. Dragging downer animals while they are alive is unacceptable. Animals should not be lifted with chains onto transportation conveyances. Animals should not be ‘scooped’ into a front loader bucket, but rather should be humanely rolled into the bucket by caretakers.

Wisconsin Statutes 951.14 sets forth providing proper shelter for all animals. It may be in the down animal's best interest to be removed from concrete or other slick flooring and placed on pasture or dry lot for footing and space to crawl or roll over; however, downers must be provided shelter from excessive sunlight and heat, cold, rain or snow, and wind. Use bedding in cold environments to help insulate the animal from the ground. Keep in mind that inactive animals will gradually succumb to hypothermia under cold, wet conditions.

Non-ambulatory cattle must not be sent to a livestock market or to a processing facility. As regulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Service Inspection Agency (FSIS), “all seriously crippled cattle and cattle commonly termed “downers” presented for slaughter were identified as “U.S. Suspects.” (9 Code of Federal Regulations 309.2(b)) and may not be harvested for human consumption.” FSIS regulatory compliance outlines that non-ambulatory disabled cattle “that cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot walk, including, but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column or metabolic conditions are not allowed to enter the plant (harvest or slaughter facility). Furthermore, non-ambulatory cattle may not be butchered by federally inspected butcher shops. Non-ambulatory cattle harvested by the owner may not be sold to others for their consumption.” That being said, non-ambulatory cattle may be harvested and consumed by the owner of the animal. Seek veterinary advice about the decision to harvest the animal for personal consumption and remember to confirm all drug withdrawal times have been met before butchering the animal.

As discussed by the *BQA Cattle Care & Handling Guidelines* mentioned above, euthanasia is humane death occurring without pain and suffering. Euthanasia should be promptly performed when an animal's condition is such that additional treatment options will not be effective. The animal's welfare must be the top consideration.

The producer may perform on-farm euthanasia because a veterinarian may not be immediately available to perform the service. Performing euthanasia may cause human emotional stress and those who perform euthanasia must approach it with respect for the downer and other animals and people in the immediate vicinity. Persons who perform this task must understand the protocols used for humane euthanasia of animals and they must be technically proficient and understand the relevant anatomical landmarks. Always keep safety in mind, especially when using a firearm to perform euthanasia. Iowa State University School of Veterinary Medicine has an extensive humane euthanasia collection.

Cattle producers are encouraged to plan ahead for how to handle difficult situations of caring for downers that involve human and animal well-being. Discuss with the farm's animal caretakers and write Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for handling down cattle. Although it is a dairy template, an example SOP that may be adapted for a beef farm is available.

Reviewed by UW-Madison Division of Extension Agriculture Educators Heather Schlessler, Ph.D. and Professor Ryan Sterry.



A Huge Victory for Farmers

Kim Bremmer

Clark County Local Affairs Chair



Nearly five years ago, a battle started in Polk County between a small group of vocal activists and local farmers. What started as a continuous extension of a CAFO moratorium evolved into the development of an unworkable operational ordinance in a township that would have been detrimental to local livestock farmers and the future of agriculture throughout our state. Lies about agriculture were continually circulated. Personal attacks on local farmers became commonplace.

A brave local farmer and Wisconsin Farm Bureau member, Sara Byl, decided that enough was enough and filed a lawsuit along with four other farmers to block the anti-CAFO ordinance. They were represented

free of charge by the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) Litigation Center. The years in this battle were filled with many hopeless moments for those who support agriculture.

But the grassroots efforts of local farmers, promoting more involvement in local government, resulted in an April election that essentially overturned the board with two new members joining the three-person board.

In literally ONE sweeping motion at the monthly board meeting, with less than five minutes of discussion, the operational ordinance was rescinded and it was decided to no longer defend the ordinance in court. What happened in Laketown is the perfect demonstration for why farmers have to participate in their local government. Unfortunately, it is often easy for activists to silence the voice of farmers and intimidate town residents into supporting their agenda. But if we get involved, never give up and support each other, we can continue victories like that in Laketown.

CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU TWILIGHT PICNIC

Thursday, July 13

7:30 p.m. - Meal

8 p.m. - Meet and Greet with Jason Mugnaini

Longwood Park

W6596 Colby Factory Rd Withee, WI

Join us for a twilight picnic and meet the new Wisconsin Farm Bureau Executive Director of Government Relations

Clark County Farm Bureau will provide the meat, beverages, and tableware. Members with last names starting with A-M are asked to bring a dessert and N-Z a salad or hot dish.

To RSVP, please contact Marcus McGuire at 715.613.6685(call or text).

Lincoln County

wfbf.com/about/counties/lincoln
LincolnCountyFarmBureau

Congratulations, Dafney Yates!



We are excited to share that Dafney Yates is the winner of our 2023 scholarship program. Dafney will be attending UW-River Falls in the fall pursuing a degree in psychology.

Part of our scholarship application requires a short essay on the value of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. The committee was thoroughly impressed with Dafney's essay and with her permission share it below:

"Wisconsin Farm Bureau is so important to the farming industry and its members because it defends the right to farm and supports and protects the

farming industry. This organization constantly makes sure our government is making laws that support and allow us to continue our way of life. We are able to inform and educate people on the importance of this industry and hopefully show them that agriculture and their communities CAN coexist. Without this, we may not have a say in the laws surrounding agriculture or a way to inform others. Also, it is a resource for farmers to collaborate and connect with other farmers. This organization basically helps us preserve our way of life now and in the future."

Stay Up-to-Date on WFBF's Sustainability Initiatives!

WFBF's Stewards e-newsletter is your go-to source for information related to sustainability and conservation. Catch up on recent events, captivating blog posts and upcoming opportunities within the sustainability space.

Subscribe now as we celebrate and elevate Farm Bureau member stories!



Marathon City Farmers Market 2023

By Shelley Kage, Marathon City Farmers Market Public Relations Director

The 2023 season will run from June 15th to October 26th, every Thursday from 2 - 6 p.m. Located at 400 Main Street rain or shine. There is an entire block that is used for the market with vendor booths on one half and parking on the other.

Products offered at our farmers market are: fresh produce, bakery, flowers, plants, specialty drinks, seafood, meat, cheese, eggs, maple syrup, honey, jam, jelly, salsa, pickles, canned goods, arts & crafts, bath & body products, a clothing boutique, food trucks and much more!

Without a grocery store in Marathon City the farmers market has been especially well received by residents as well as the surrounding communities. There is nothing like having local access to a wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables and homemade bakery items and more. It was wonderful to see people in the community enjoying the farmers market with their family, friends, and neighbors. Our vendors are very proud and passionate of the products they offer and will talk to you about them if there is anything you want to know.

The idea of having a farmers market located in Marathon City started with Randy Wokatsch sometime in 2021. Randy and Kerry rented some of their land to several Hmong vegetable and flower farmers and had seen how some of their product went unused during and after the growing season. To help reduce the percentage of unused products, he wanted to have another outlet for them to sell their product especially with the proximity of Marathon City to his farm which is only a few miles out of town.

In Fall of 2021 Randy did some leg work into how to get a farmers market started in Marathon City with the help of a few others that were interested in the idea. In May of 2022 the MCFM Board was formed consisting of: Randy and Kerry Wokatsch, Dale Oestreich, Shelley

Kage and Barb Parlier. The board members are present at each market and are there to facilitate the vendors and customers and to provide the best possible experience for all who attend.

In 2022 we had hoped for 12 vendors to start the season with and actually had 18 vendors the first week. By the end of the 2022 season we had grown to 31 seasonal vendors and 10 daily vendors that participated in our market. For the 2023 season we already have 45 seasonal vendors registered and anticipate more by the time the season

starts. We also welcome daily vendors to our market with advance notice appreciated. As our market grows we have many ideas we would like to try including more food trucks and live music.

We hope to see you at Marathon City Farmer's Market and we also thank you for supporting our local vendors.

Contact us at: 715.506.1355

E-mail: MarathonCityFarmersMarket@gmail.com

Facebook: Marathon City Farmers Market



From the President's Office



Josh Schmidt

Marathon County Farm Bureau President

As the newsletter finds its way to your mailboxes, we will be wrapping up the June Dairy Month breakfasts of 2023. Hopefully, everyone was able to attend at least one or better yet helped at one or two. Soon we will be entering

the fair season. I would like to send a shout out to all our members who are 4-H leaders, on fair boards, help with little bitches or volunteer time during your local fair. I know we all have busy lives but my theme for this newsletter is for you to get involved in whatever way you can to educate and promote agriculture. It can be as simple as having a conversation with someone. I have been in agriculture my whole life and I think about how much more I have had the opportunity to learn about Wisconsin agriculture over the last year and a half.

Share what you know, ask about what you don't. The same applies for Farm Bureau. Thank you for being a member of Farm Bureau. Always feel free to ask questions if you don't know what your County Farm Bureau does or is about and get involved where you can because agriculture is important.



Almond Bancroft Student Wins District Essay Contest

Congratulations to Haley P. on winning the Portage County Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Her essay was also selected as the district contest winner and advanced to the state competition. Here is Haley's winning essay:

The Great Dairy State

By Haley P.

Grade 4 - Almond Bancroft Elementary School

I feel Wisconsin is America's Dairyland because of our dairy farms, our cheese stores, and the amazing events held in Wisconsin. Dairy is great for our bodies. I will also talk about how it "fuels" and brings together our communities.

Our dairy farms are where cows get milked. Cows produce milk that people can make into cheese, butter, ice cream, yogurt, etc. Cows have to be milked at least 3 times a day every day. Cows produce about 10 1/2 of milk daily. Some farms have machines to help milk the cows. Some farms have to milk the cows by hand. Either way, Wisconsin produces a lot of milk. To make sure cows produce a lot of milk, farmers need to feed their cows grass, grain, and hay. A milking cow eats about 100 pounds of feed and they drink about 30 to 50 gallons of water a day. There are about 6,400 dairy farms all around Wisconsin.



Wisconsin loves cows so much that they have cow statues all over Wisconsin. Since cows produce milk and it is healthy to drink, Wisconsin made milk the state drink in 1987 and the cow has been the state domesticated animal since 1971.

From milk you can make delicious cheese which happens to be one of my favorite snacks. There are many cheese stores throughout Wisconsin where they sell cheese products and other cheese related items. A few favorites that fuel my community are Feltz' Dairy Farm in Plover and Cheese Pleasers in Bancroft. We go to Feltz' in October to have ice cream and watch the cows being milked. They invite families to visit their farm and the store. This is a common activity in Wisconsin.

Another activity hosted yearly is the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin. The Dairy Expo is where you get to see people showcase dairy cattle and new technology that will help the farmers. Someday I hope I can attend the Dairy Expo.

In conclusion, milk is very good and healthy for our state. It helps fuel growth and it's good for your muscles. I've realized why citizens of Wisconsin are known as "cheeseheads". If I ever have the chance to attend the Dairy Expo, I will be sure to have a cheese wedge hat on my head, while wearing my new cow shirt that says, "not in the moooooood".



Price County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marathon
MarathonCountyFarmBureau

Join us in congratulating the
following 2023 Price County
Farm Bureau Scholarship
Winners:

Sarah Hoogland
Taylor Ringersma

19th Annual Horse Pull & Beef Cookout

07.08.23

11AM - Lunch

12 PM - Pull Starts

Pioneer Park, Ogema

Celebrating our Wisconsin Specialties (COWS)

COWS or Celebrating Our Wisconsin Specialties, is a program Taylor County Farm Bureau developed with the Taylor County Literacy Council. Celebrated our fifth year on May 5 at the Simek Recreation Center with more than 150 4th graders attending.

Organized by Kathleen Schumacher, a special education teacher at Stetsonville Elementary, and Rob Klussendorf the Taylor County Farm Bureau President. Students learned about all Wisconsin specialty crops in

a presentation by Alice in Dairyland during the morning. Alice covered cherries, potatoes, apples, ginseng, snap peas and, of course, dairy.

The afternoon was spent in a round robin with 20 stations to visit learning about tractor technology, robotic milking, making butter, lawn care, animal care, milk fireworks and many more. The goal is to teach all the 4th graders in Taylor County about agriculture and how it affects all aspects of their life.



From the Presidents Desk



Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. It keeps farmers busy tilling the soil, planting crops and dodging the rain showers. Being retired should allow me all the free time I can get, but I am still out in a tractor if needed. This spring I filled my spare seconds with planning COWS

(Celebrating Our Wisconsin Specialties), reviewing our scholarship applicants and volunteering at our 7th annual Steak and Egg Breakfast. Although those are all great programs, my favorite thing to do is pack and deliver the fifteen Farm Neighbors Care packages to farmers who had been nominated by their neighbors and friends in Taylor County. Most recipients are shocked that someone noticed their hard work and wanted it to be recognized. Others said thank you and headed back into the seats of their tractors to get work done before the looming rain shower. This is a very rewarding job to deliver these quick meals to the farmers that feed the world daily. The smile on their face and the appreciation given warms my heart like seeds emerging in a field, a new season of care has begun.

Looking forward to summer we have several events coming up that could use a little help from our volunteers. July will bring the Taylor County Fair, where the Farm Bureau will again organize and man the Ag-venture tent, giving fair visitors an opportunity to learn about all aspects of agriculture. Be sure to volunteer to help man the tent and teach a little about how your career ties to agriculture.

Before we know it the important work of our County Farm Bureau will start on Policy Development. Each year we get together with the district leaders and work through ideas on policy we would like our governmental relations team to focus on in Madison and Washington, D.C. for the next year. Those policies are brought to you at our annual meeting held Thursday, Sept. 7 this year to be voted on and passed by you, our members. We will take policies from the floor at the annual meeting as well. If something that is affecting your farm or neighborhood that you would like discussed, come prepared to bring it up from the floor. The

2023 annual meeting will start with a pasture walk at Jack Johnson's Hereford beef farm followed by supper and meeting at the Hammel Town Hall. I look forward to seeing you all there on Sept. 7.



Steak and Egg Breakfast

By Rob Klussendorf

The 7th Annual Steak and Egg Breakfast was a huge success. The event was held on May 20 at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Northwoods Premier Beef Show. Beef exhibitors and community residents enjoyed a full breakfast with steak, fried or scrambled eggs and toast. MJ Zenner grilled delicious steaks, while Dick Wesle manned the fried eggs and Jack Johnson was the scrambled egg chef. Volunteers from Little Whispers 4-H Club made toast and delivered breakfast to our customers. More than 110 full breakfasts were served, this year's proceeds will go towards the 2024 Taylor County Farm Bureau Scholarship.



Scholarship Winner Announced

We are pleased to announce the winner of our second annual Taylor County Farm Bureau Scholarship. We had five excellent candidates this year and had a hard time choosing just one winner. Carlissa Tomandl is our 2023 Taylor County Farm Bureau Scholarship winner. Carlissa will be attending Northcentral Technical College pursuing a degree as a Veterinary Technician.



Carlissa has always had a passion for taking care of animals. She owns her own goat herd, horses, dogs and sheep. Looking into the future, Carlissa has a vision of contributing to the local community working as a local veterinary technician, along with contributing to local sales with her goat and sheep herds.

Her letter of recommendation stated that Carlissa's ability to lead has been extremely helpful as president of the 4-H club, she works hard to keep meetings under control with 63 members ranging from 6-18. Whether it is working on her family farm, tending to her own goat herd, leading a meeting, or her active membership in FFA and Forensics, I know that she gives every opportunity 100%.

Congratulations, Carlissa Tomandl on winning the 2023 Taylor County Farm Bureau Scholarship! We look forward to your leadership, volunteerism and business presence for years to come in Taylor County.

Wood County

wfbf.com/about/counties/wood
WoodCountyFarmBureau

WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, July 9
12 - 2 p.m.

North Wood County Park
7500C Park Lane, Arpin (off of County Rd. A)

Join us and hear from the Wood County youth dairy judging team and their trip to Scotland.

Wood County Farm Bureau will provide the meat, beverages, and tableware. Members with last names starting with A-M are asked to bring a dessert and N-Z a salad or hot dish.

Note: There is a playground close by and there will be yard games.

To RSVP, please contact Bruce Pankratz at
715.383.0576 (call or text).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Kylyn Luepke

Logan Cournoyer

Stephanie Mews

Annamarie Aue



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Highlights for:**

Clark County

Lincoln County

Marathon County

Portage County

Price County

Taylor County

Wood County

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