



# Grassroots

## District 9 News

### Updates from the District Director



**Brad Olson**

WFBF District 9 Director

Since our last District newsletter, we've had several exciting developments at Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and in District 9. On February 1, WFBF welcomed Bradley Uken as Chief Administrative Officer. Bradley comes from the Illinois Farm Bureau. Also in February, Jason Mugnaini began his role as Executive Director of Government Relations.

Jason was Chief of Staff for State Senator Robert Cowles for several years prior to coming to WFBF. In March, we welcomed Tim Fiocchi as the Senior Director of Governmental Relations. He comes from State Senator Jerry Petrowski's office. In addition to the two additions to governmental relations, Erin Tomasik was recently promoted from Governmental Relations Assistant to Member Advocacy and Issues Coordinator. Erin will be working with county Farm Bureaus on local issues.

The WFBF Governmental Relations team has been working hard for you and has found legislative sponsors for \$150 million agriculture road funding legislation. This legislation is supported by several additional ag groups as well as the Wisconsin Town and Counties Associations. While this legislation is still working its way to the Governor, this is just one example of the great things we can accomplish when we ALL work together.

WFBF will also be looking for a Foundation Director to oversee fundraising for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. The WFBF Foundation funds a variety of agricultural education and leadership programs. One of the most notable is the state's Agriculture in the Classroom program. The Foundation also supports the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program, Promotion and Education Program, Leadership Institute as well as other programs that encourage and cultivate agriculture education across the entire state.

On March 4, District 9 held our first legislative listening session in

Barron. We had an excellent turnout and those members who attended as well as our elected officials were equally pleased to have the opportunity to interact. We are hopeful that this can become a regular occurrence around our district so our members and legislators can get to know each other better.

Locally in District 9, the Town of Laketown in Polk County recently elected two new Board members who, at their first meeting in April, rescinded the Large Livestock Ordinance, terminated their agreement with the lawyers representing the Town and have asked the court to end all legal proceedings. WFBF along with another agriculture groups had been challenging the legality of the Laketown ordinance at the time the Town chose to rescind.

At the district level, there are some upcoming events that you will want to put on your radar:

- **The District 9 Policy Development Meeting** will be held in Barron on Sunday, July 16. This is our time as a district to get together and see what changes or additions we would like to see within policy at the local, state and national Farm Bureau level. I would encourage everyone to look through our current policy book to see if there are policies you would like add to, reword or remove completely. The current WFBF policy book can be found at [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development).
- **County Farm Bureau annual meetings**, for the most part, will take place in September. As a member, this is an excellent opportunity for you to learn more about what your county Farm Bureau is doing and engaged with other members in your county. This is also your opportunity to work on and bring forth policy at your county level. As always feel free to reach out to me at any time with anything.

God Bless,

Brad Olson

District 9 Director

[brad\\_vickyolson@yahoo.com](mailto:brad_vickyolson@yahoo.com) | 715.566.2249

### 2023 Policy Development Committee

By Craig Hamernik, District 9 Policy Development Committee Representative

The WFBF Policy Development (PD) Committee is a unique committee charged with developing the proposed public policy for consideration by the voting delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The Committee reports to the delegate body instead of the WFBF Board of Directors.

Therefore, as your District 9 PD committee member, I would invite you to review the 2023 WFBF policy book that can be found on the WFBF

website at [wfbf.com/policy/policy-development/](http://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development/) and contact me with any revisions to current policies. I would also invite you to contact me with any emerging issues that you feel the PD committee should investigate.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization that relies on its membership for direction. I would encourage you to attend the District 9 Policy Development meeting that will be held on July 16. You can contact me, Craig Hamernik, at: [hamernik@chibardun.net](mailto:hamernik@chibardun.net) or via text at 715.418.0053. I look forward to representing District 9.

# DISTRICT 9 POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING & YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST DISCUSSION MEET

**SUNDAY,  
JULY 16, 2023**



5:30 p.m. Discussion Meet  
6:30 p.m. Meal & PD meeting



Rolling Oaks Supper Club  
450 W Division Ave  
Barron, WI



Join the grassroots  
process & share your  
policy ideas

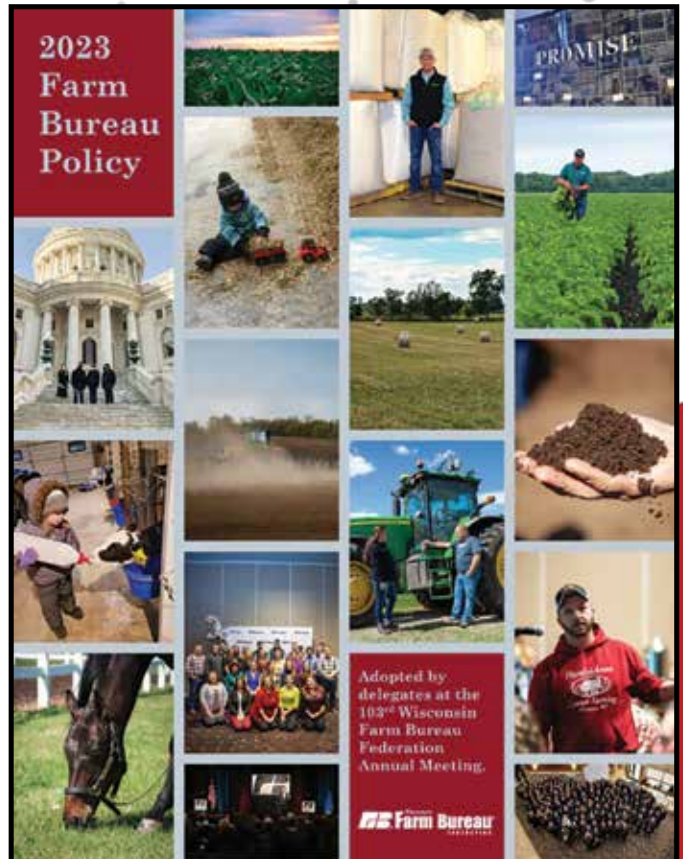
Have a policy suggestion you would  
like to submit ahead of time?

Visit: [bit.ly/2023policydevelopment](https://bit.ly/2023policydevelopment)  
or scan the QR code.



**JOIN US**

RSVP USING THE ABOVE LINK OR QR CODE OR CONTACT DISTRICT 9  
COORDINATOR, KATIE MATTISON, AT 715.418.0975 OR  
[KMATTISON@WFBF.COM](mailto:KMATTISON@WFBF.COM)





## Think About Investing in Erosion Control Before Summer Rains Hit Hard

By Tara Daun, Farmer-Led Watershed Coordinator Hay River, Horse Creek, Dry Run, & South Kinnickinnic Watersheds

Although March is the biggest time of year for nutrient runoff, May and June are the times of year we see the most particulate runoff from fields. That means that the majority of soil lost from your field this year is likely to come off this month and next unless you take measures to hold onto it.

While engineered structures like waterways, grade stabilizers, and contour farming help with these measures, a healthier soil structure is also key to reducing erosion (and keeping those expensive engineered waterways from filling in and becoming useless). The basics of soil health are 1) reduce mechanical disturbance 2) increase cover of bare soil, and 3) increase diversity of species on the soil. While those principles are simplistic, implementing farm practices can make a world of difference in field performance during stressful times like drought and wet seasons.

If you'd like to be proactive about keeping your most valuable asset out of the ditch, consider connecting with your local Farmer-Led Watershed Council. With 43 councils funded across the state in 2023, it's likely that you have a network of farmers near you who are looking to promote stewardship and efficiency on farms. Most groups have finalized their 2023 programs and may have monetary and educational opportunities for you.

### What does a farmer-led council do?

Farmer-Led Watershed Councils are groups of farmers who work together to share ideas and resources on adopting practices like limiting tillage, planting cover crops, diversifying rotations, increasing nitrogen efficiency, and engineered structures that limit erosion. **They host field days, network to share farming tips, and provide incentive funds to farmers for adoption conservation practices.**

If you're interested in connecting with a council, check to see which ones are near you. All councils are truly farmer-led by local farmers, which means that each council has different incentives, field programs, and priorities.

### Why do farmers join these councils?

Everyone has a different reason for getting involved in a local group. But there are a few main reasons that come up over and over again when I talk to farmers.

- 1) To learn more about soil health and improve their farm and community by learning from other farmers.
- 2) To reduce erosion after seeing larger rainfall events.
- 3) To show the community that farmers do care about stewardship.
- 4) To prevent water quality issues from getting worse and prevent onerous regulation related to water quality for farmers.

### How do you plug in to these councils?

To see summaries of each group and contact information you can look here: [datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/ProducerLedProjectSummaries.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/ProducerLedProjectSummaries.aspx) Contacting the coordinator for the council will be the best first step to see what your local council is doing and what is available in your area. If you're in northwestern Wisconsin and would like to join a listserv of farmers and professionals in the region, you can sign up by emailing this address [northwestproducerled+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu](mailto:northwestproducerled+subscribe@g-groups.wisc.edu).

If you can't find information on a group, contact the Wisconsin Farmers Union watershed coordinator, Tara and she will help. [tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:tdaun@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) | 715.492.0329

Examples of Incentivized Activities		
Activity	Incentive Payment	Watershed Available In
Buffer Strip Adjacent to Stream	\$650/acre	Dry Run Area Watershed
Soil Health Bundle: Cover Crops, No-till, Planting Green	\$60/acre	Red Cedar Conservation Farmers
Cover Crop Planting	\$15 - 55/acre	Many watersheds
Planting Small Grains First Time	\$15/acre	Farmers of the Sugar River
Conservation Walkover	\$250	South Kinni Area FLWC
Contract with an Independent, Soil Health Agronomist	\$500	Hay River Area FLWC
Low Disturbance Manure Injection	\$20/acre	Yahara Pride Farmers
Reduce Phos. Runoff	\$25/lbs P	Dodge County Farmers
Phos. Indexing	\$1/acre	Horse Creek Area Farmers

## American Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Rancher Update

By Haily Sand, AFBF YF&R Committee Member



The first-year members of the American Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee wrapped up new committee orientation at the end of March and have been in high gear ever since.

We met with the Japanese Young Farmers and learned they face similar hurdles when it comes to succession planning in Japan.

May is Mental Health month and is a focus for us all on the committee. The Farm State of Mind Working Group has tasked us in reaching out to a fellow farmer, neighbor, and/or friend with one small act of kindness for each week in May by giving a card, sending a text, and delivering a treat. After all, a small gesture can make a big impact!

In June, the national committee will be meeting to prepare for Annual Convention, Leadership Conference and Discussion Meet. We will also be touring one of our major sponsors, Case IH. You heard that right, the National Committee is coming to Wisconsin! The Sands will be preparing an "everything Wisconsin" basket to share with the committee. If you have anything that you would like to add, please reach out to Ben (715.308.4633) or Haily (608.397.0046) and we will be sure to get it added!

## Mitigate Activist Threats at Fair & Expo Livestock Show

By Grace Platte, coordinator, membership and communications at the Animal Agriculture Alliance



It is that time of year again that we all know and love - some call it summer and others call it the season of livestock shows. Fair and expo shows are a time for family and friends to gather, while making memories that will last a lifetime. Unfortunately, animal rights activist groups have an entirely different agenda for events like these. Whether it be national and state level livestock shows, or junior shows and county fairs, animal rights activists are increasingly showing up, attempting to disrupt and promote

their agenda of total animal liberation. Both fair organizers and youth exhibitors need to be prepared for potential activist activity.

Animal rights groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Direct Action Everywhere (DXE), do not believe there is a humane way to raise livestock and poultry for any purpose and use many different tactics to target animal agriculture – from ballot initiatives, pressure campaigns on brands and undercover videos to college outreach, “humane education” and targeting youth. In some cases, animal rights activists have contacted youth participants via social media urging them to surrender their livestock project to the activist organization while claiming the animals are being mistreated and that 4-H and FFA create “murderers.” This tactic of preying on youths’ emotions and using fear to promote their cause is just one effort we have seen in their continued mission of ending animal agriculture and animal protein consumption.

In addition to reaching out to youth exhibitors individually, animal rights activists are also known to protest 4-H and FFA at county and state fairs with livestock present. In fact, one activist associated with DXE has hosted at least three protests at fairs this year. These protests typically include a group of extreme activists who hold signs showing their opposition towards youths’ participation in livestock shows along with megaphones to shout misinformation at fairgoers urging them to go vegan.

If you will be involved in a fair or expo this year, we strongly encourage you to prepare for activist protests and disruptions.

### Here are some proactive tips:

- All events should have a crisis plan outlining the correct personnel to act in various scenarios – protests, disruptions or even natural disasters or accidents.
- Organizers should consult local law enforcement about how to handle activist activity at fairs and other livestock events.
- Monitor online conversation to see if you may be a target. Protests are frequently organized on social media through event pages or websites.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious activities: people carrying signs or other protest materials, someone taking an excessive number of photos and videos, acting as if they are going live on social media, or individuals asking very direct questions. Youth should report any concerns immediately to fair management and law enforcement.
- Avoid confrontation. Keep in mind they are likely livestreaming or recording the interaction and they want to record you getting upset.
- If you’re an adult, ask your child if they have had any interactions that have seemed odd and educate youth on the importance of social media privacy and the risks that are associated with speaking with strangers online.
- Some activists have been focusing on animal transport, so be aware of the potential for activist activity as you are taking your animals to and from the show.

### Don't be Alarmed, Be Prepared.

While the threat of activist activity can seem daunting, do not let their outlandish tactics stop you from enjoying fair and expo livestock shows this summer. You should prepare and be ready for the worst, but always expect and hope for the best. For many, local state and county fairs are their only opportunity to see livestock in person, which presents an opportunity for the animal agriculture community to engage with others who are not as familiar with how food is raised. Take the time to speak with fairgoers that are genuinely curious to hear more about your animals, farm life, etc. Share your experiences and the values behind them. Make their experience a positive one, and hopefully they will leave with a better understanding of modern animal agriculture and will return next year to learn more! Furthermore, brush up on talking points and animal welfare guidelines so you’re ready to share how you care for livestock. You could also consider working with fair and expo leadership to display educational signs around the facilities which may help spur conversations. Another best practice is to establish an animal welfare policy for your farm or club and make sure all exhibitors are committed to animal care.

For more resources on fair and expo security and how to engage with consumers, visit [animalagalliance.org](http://animalagalliance.org).

## AFBF YF&R Connect Call

Calling all the young farmers out there!! Interested in “Connecting” with other Young Farmers and Ranchers throughout the United States. Or, open to all ages, interested in learning about different topics? Join us on the third Monday of each month!

Some of the people Ben and Haily have connected with include cattle ranchers in Idaho, rice and crawfish farmers in Louisiana, and got to hear about the difference in rice farming between California and the southern states!

Some of the topics they have learned about include: a virtual tour of a reindeer farm (Missouri), heard from a cotton farm family that turns their cotton into cotton products (South Carolina), the process of a fresh cut flower farms (Maryland and Massachusetts), and, most recently, heard from an organic apple orchard (Missouri). Did you know Honeycrisp

apples can’t be grown in the southern U.S., it’s too warm!

If you are interested in participating, please visit the “America’s Young Farmers & Ranchers” Facebook Page for the link.



# District 9 News

## Farm Truck

By Serenity Hetke, Rusk County Farm Bureau Young Farmer & Agriculturist Chair



As I sat at a meeting one night, I listened to two of our married board members talking about vehicle situations in their household.

"Well, I can't get that done this week unless you leave the car home, cause I'm not driving THAT truck!" exclaimed the wife!

This sounded shockingly familiar!

"This same conversation happens in my house!" I retorted.

"And mine!" Stated another member!

As we all started describing the reasons "That truck" would not be driven by the wives, one thing became very clear: We all possess the same truck.

*That truck needs to be replenished with power steering fluid every time someone gets in it.*

*That truck smells of gas and oil and cow manure and a multitude of other farm fragrances.*

*That truck has holes in the floorboard.*

*That truck has a dashboard lit up like a Christmas tree.*

*That truck has pop cans, pop bottles and candy wrappers all over the floor.*

*That truck will leave on a trailer when it leaves because the last time it dies will be in the yard.*

*That truck was the truck board member daughters and sons learned to drive in.*

*That truck has brought calves up from the pasture on cold mornings when a calf wasn't expected overnight.*

*That truck has been filled with gardening tools and mulch for the flower beds.*

*That truck arrived late at sporting events and concerts, but at least it was there.*

*That truck has hauled dozens of loads to make the owners money.*

*That truck has paid its dues.*

It's been years since Farm Bureau wives have driven that truck because its monetary value is no more than that of scrap but that truck that we all own, holds its value in the memories it has made.

## WFBF Leadership Institute

By Isaac Christenson, Leadership Institute Class 15



Hello District 9!

I have the pleasure of participating in Class 15 of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. For those of you who I have not met yet, I am Isaac Christenson. I grew up west of Amery raising sheep and hogs, was active in FFA and 4-H, and studied at UW-River Falls for Ag Business. I still live in Amery and am an Agriculture and Business Loan Officer with Pillar Bank covering our Balsam Lake, Clear Lake, and Baldwin locations. My family and I also wrapped up a less than stellar maple syrup season a few weeks back and with spring finally here, it's great to see things greening up and farmers busy out in the field.

In January, our class met for the first session down in Madison at the Farm Bureau home office. Our class of 14 hit it off with orientation and personal development with help from Jordan Henry, Director of Leadership & Organizational Training from the American Farm Bureau. We learned about our personal strengths, emotional intelligence, and worked on speech writing and presenting. I enjoyed getting to know our class members – we're truly a diverse and interesting bunch from all corners of the state and have a wide variety of agricultural experience.

In February, we met in Stevens Point with Dan Merk to develop a better understanding of Rural Mutual Insurance. Bradley Uken joined us to talk about his new role with Wisconsin Farm Bureau as Chief Administrative Officer. We developed group presentations on personal development books that we read after the first class. We also learned about bridging the generation divide and had Joy Kirkpatrick and Heather Schlessner from UW-Extension present COMET training. COMET stands for Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory and is focused on mental health, a topic highly relevant for rural communities.

Our third session was in March in Green Bay and we were joined by Cassie Sonnentag and Rachel Gerbitz from the WFBF staff to talk about public relations and consumer trends in social media. We also worked on developing an advocacy project. We met with Johnna Miller, Director of Media and Advocacy Training from American Farm Bureau. This was my favorite session so far because we dug deep into media interviews and how to combat tough questions about agriculture. While in Title Town, we also toured Lambeau Field and our tour guide was not short on Aaron Rodgers jokes.

I look forward to the rest of the sessions with Class 15! Follow along with what our class is up to on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Facebook page.



**Members of the 2023 WFBF Leadership Institute class are:** Christina Benson, Darlington; Allison Bragger, Independence; Isaac Christenson, Amery; Jay Moore, Waukesha; Lindsay Fowler, Malone; Stephanie Hoff, Madison; Roseanna Hoffman, Antigo; Mikayla Kuehl, Kewaunee; David Mickelson, DeForest; Linda Mullins, Oshkosh; Kaitlyn Riley, Gays Mills; Ed Rippley, Cochrane; Brooke Trustem, Evansville; Amanda Williams, Shawano; and Eric Wuthrich, New Glarus.



# DISTRICT 9

YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST DISCUSSION MEET

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023**

 5:30 p.m.

 **Rolling Oaks Supper Club**  
450 W Division Ave | Barron

Questions? Contact District 9 YFA Representative Lexi Cook at 715.415.6701 or [lexi.cook@mycentralstar.com](mailto:lexi.cook@mycentralstar.com).



## Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture



The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program is excited to fully launch a new series of resources for grades 3-5, 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](http://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.

## FSA is Accepting CRP Continuous Enrollment Offers

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for specific conservation practices under the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Continuous Signup.

In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species that will improve environmental health and quality. The program's long-term goal is to re-establish valuable land cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and reduce loss of wildlife habitat. Contracts for land enrolled in CRP are 10-15 years in length.

Under continuous CRP signup, environmentally sensitive land devoted to certain conservation practices can be enrolled in CRP at any time. Offers for continuous enrollment are not subject to competitive bidding during specific periods. Instead, they are automatically accepted provided the land and producer meet certain eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

For more information, including a list of acceptable practices, contact your local FSA office or visit [fsa.usda.gov/crp](http://fsa.usda.gov/crp).

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Giving Day

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will host its second annual Giving Day on Aug. 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

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

 Wisconsin Farm Bureau<sup>®</sup> FOUNDATION

## Don't burn bridges; Build them

By Travis Senn, Polk Burnett Farm Bureau

There is a growing disconnect between the general public and the agricultural community, resulting in misconceptions about our food and how modern farms produce it.

With fewer people directly tied to production agriculture, engaging the public about agriculture's importance and the challenges our farmers face has become more and more difficult. Narratives surrounding how farms impact our communities and the environment are often one-sided, driven by a vocal minority.

While misinformation runs amuck, it can be tempting to bring the pitchforks to the town hall, demanding the public rubber stamp our way of life. But I urge us to keep this train of thought parked at the station.

Rather than burning bridges with anger and frustration, we must build them with transparency. Agriculture must be open and honest about our practices — even if the conversations can be uncomfortable. By being transparent, we can help to dispel myths and build trust with consumers.

Unfortunately, there isn't a silver bullet here, either. We must build bridges within our communities — in our schools, town boards, local groups, community events and more. Hosts tours of your farm with schools, youth groups and elected officials. Hand out cheese, milk or ice cream at community festivals. Anything you can do to help families establish a personal connection to where their food comes from.

It's no secret that Burnett and Polk counties have had their share of challenges on the local front in recent years. Activists have worked to implement local ordinances that over-regulate animal agriculture to an

absurd degree — one even dictating hours of operation.

Rather than slinging mud in newspapers, it is more impactful for us to invite our community members to engage with us. When you open up the barn doors, you showcase that you have nothing to hide.

I recently attended a county conservation committee meeting. Several attendees voiced concerns about large farms. Still, almost all who spoke commended the owners of a large family dairy for 'doing it the right way' — even those speaking up against large farms. This farm is very involved in their community and transparent about how they operate. Their neighbors know the farm strives for continuous improvement and wants what is best for their family, the farm and the community as a whole.

At the end of the day, we all want the same thing — thriving rural communities.

Successful farmers provide good-paying jobs for our communities. They stimulate the local economy through the purchase of goods and services from implement and parts dealers, mechanics, veterinarians, feed mills, fertilizer and seed dealers, bankers and so many more.

This year, our county is working toward building bridges through our first annual barn dance. The event will be a night to celebrate our community with food and fun. We are still working out the details, but we aim to unite not only our members but the entire community together in celebration.

While I expect agriculture will always have its detractors, I hope our county can showcase the positive work being done and highlight our community's gratitude to the dedicated men and women that provide the fiber on our backs and food on our tables.

## Ag Day on Campus Event Grows Connections

Farmers across Wisconsin and the rest of the nation are beset by struggles of many sorts, and while those difficulties are real, there is much to celebrate in modern agriculture too, organizers of Ag Day on Campus at UW-River Falls say.

This year's annual event took place on Tuesday, April 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and highlighted the importance of the agriculture sector. Many agriculture-related advances, such as technology-driven farm-related jobs and efforts to open new ag markets, are signs that farming, despite challenges, has a bright future, organizers said.

"This event really helps show that no matter who we are or what we do in our lives, we all are tied to agriculture in some way," said Katrina Hoesly, co-chair of Ag Day on Campus and a junior from Denmark who is majoring in ag marketing communications and agricultural business.

Ag Day on Campus was started in 2012 and is put on by the UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau chapter. The attendance by many on campus and



from the surrounding community is evidence of the recognition of agriculture's importance, said Joe Schlies, who is co-chairing this year's event with Hoesly and is a senior agricultural business major from Denmark.

"You have people from all walks of life who come to this event, people from the other programs on campus

who attend," he said. "It shows how agriculture influences all of us."

After a 9:30 a.m. opening ceremony at the University Center Riverside Ballroom, event attendees visited more than 20 booths set up by student organizations and businesses, many of which featured interactive activities.

Later in the afternoon, a dinner featuring Wisconsin-grown foods took place at 5 p.m. in the Agricultural Science Hall followed by a panel of agriculture experts from Bailey Nurseries, Compeer Financial, and John Deere, discussing the future of the agriculture industry. Then, at 7 p.m., the acclaimed Kansas-based Peterson Farm Brothers performed their farm-related musical parodies.





## Congratulations

### to the 2023 Barron County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following individuals who were chosen to receive \$250 scholarships from Barron County Farm Bureau:

- Bryce Colburn from Cumberland High School
- Regina Frisle from Prairie Farm High School
- May Wallace from Rice Lake High School



Bryce graduated from Cumberland High School. He is the son of Brent and Heather Colburn. He plans to attend UW-River Falls and majoring in agriculture engineering.



May graduated from Rice Lake High School. She is the daughter of Kurt and Stacy Wallace. She plans to attend either UW-Eau Claire or UW-Superior and major in elementary education.



Regina graduated from Prairie Farm High School. She is the daughter of Dean and Leslie Frisle. Her plan is to attend UW-Madison and study agriculture.

*Congratulations to the Barron County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients!  
We wish you the best of luck in the future!*

*We need you!*



*Your help means a lot!*

## Barron County Farm Bureau is seeking

- Fair Food Stand Chair (Paid Position)
- Volunteers for Food Stand Committee

For more information, contact Craig Hamernik at 715.418.0053 or hamernik@chibardun.net.

## BARRON COUNTY FAIR

JULY 19-23

# Chippewa County

wfbf.com/about/counties/chippewa

## President's Message



Wayne Geist

Chippewa County Farm Bureau President

Hello Chippewa County Farm Bureau members.

The Chippewa County Farm bureau hopes this spring was the one you wanted it to be. Livestock is expanding, fields are getting planted and things are happening whether we are ready or not. Please remember there are a lot of professionals from seeds

to soil who we depend on, and this can be a crazy time for them as well.

In March, I attended Council of Presidents and Ag Day at the Capitol for the first time. The experience was educational and inspiring. I would encourage all farmers to get involved with their local legislators. To be involved can take many forms, simply sharing information with your local Farm Bureau board members is a start. I would like to thank the Chippewa County Farm Bureau board for their involvement and

leadership.

A special thanks goes out to Katie Mattison for putting my name in the ring to sit on the Third Congressional District Agricultural Advisory Board, with Congressman Derrick Van Orden and for all farmers. This board is a voice for farmers in the upcoming farm bill. We have had our first kick off meeting and I have great hopes that our voices are going to be heard and considered. With that said, please share what you feel needs to be heard.

June 10 will be our June Dairy Day event, held at Bushel and a Peck Apple Orchard. Look for more information in the mail with an opportunity to help. A Young Farmer event is in the works, a farmer-led watershed event will be held on June 23 and on June 24 we are hoping to have a chili cook off. Stay tuned for more information.

Stay safe, stay healthy.  
Wayne Geist II



## Attention Young Farmer and Agriculturist Members in Dunn and Chippewa Counties!

Join the Chippewa and Dunn County Young Farmer and Agriculturist chairs, Maddie Weninger and Haily Sand, for a night out at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair.

**Thursday, July 13 at 8 p.m.**

The first 10 people who RSVP will get free concert tickets (you must pay your own admission into the fair).

Not a part of the first 10 to RSVP, that's okay! We can still get tickets, so we are all in the same section! So come join the fun!

Please RSVP to Maddie (715.491.7496) or Haily (608.397.0046) by **Monday, July 10.**

**JOIN US FOR A DAY ON THE FARM + AT THE LAKE!**

**JUNE 23, 2023**

**Tour Stop #1 - Noon-3pm**  
**Mike and Rosanne Zwiefelhofer farm**  
**8358 County Hwy. C, Bloomer, WI**

- Tour of the farm highlighting conservation practices, field plots, edible beans, cover crops, and more
- Ice cream treats locally produced by Klemish Creamery of New Auburn

**Tour Stop #2 - 3:30-7pm**  
**Wisconsin Farmers Union's Kamp Kenwood**  
**19161 79th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI**

- Lake Wissota Improvement & Protection Association will offer pontoon tours highlighting water quality efforts
- Cookout featuring Zwiefelhofer farm's beef and beans, paired with local beer & cheese

**FREE TO ATTEND - RSVP BY JUNE 16TH!**

920-539-8728 | tbpanzer@gmail.com | wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events

**Celebrate June Dairy Month**

With Chippewa County Farm Bureau, Chippewa County Milk Promoters, Inc. and Bushel and a Peck Apple Orchard

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**

**Bushel & A Peck Apple Orchard**  
 Wayne & Lisa Geist

**18444 County Highway 00**  
**Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**

- **8:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.**  
Pancakes - Sausage
- **10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**  
Ice Cream - Apple Pie

**FREE**

Sponsored by:  
 Chippewa County Farm Bureau  
 Chippewa County Milk Promoters, Inc.  
 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

Like "Bushel and a Peck Apple Orchard" on Facebook for updates!

For all questions contact Chippewa County Farm Bureau Board member, Lori Gardow @ 715.723.6666

## Dunn County Recognizes Ag in the Classroom Essay Winners

The Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom essay contest brought in essays from across Dunn County. The essays submitted were all noteworthy of praise. All entrants did a fantastic job with the topic, "You're Gonna Need Milk for That - Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." The essay correlated with the book of the year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother" by Viola Butler.

Michael Christensen, from Colfax, WI was selected as the District 9 Essay Contest Winner. He is a 5<sup>th</sup>-grade student in Suzanne Blomberg's class at Colfax Elementary School.

**Michael Christensen from Colfax was selected as the District 9 Ag in the Classroom essay contest winner.**





## Join Us for a Picnic and Pumpkins!

Cross off a couple of things on your fall 'to-do' list like visiting our pumpkin farm, carving some pumpkins (yes, we will take care of the clean-up), having a bonfire and making a fall craft with leaves.

We will have hot dogs and chips for a quick bite to eat. Whether interested in pumpkins to decorate your front porch or to carve, we will have pumpkins galore for purchase.

If you are interested in joining the fun, please do your best to RSVP to Haily Sand (608.397.0046) so we can have enough food prepared!

**When: Saturday, Sept. 30 – 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Where: N3511 Hwy 25, Menomonie (just north of Downsview)**

If you have questions, find the event on Facebook or contact Ben or Haily Sand!



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**DUNN COUNTY FAIR**  
**JULY 26-30, 2023**

**LOOKING TO MEET SOME FELLOW COUNTY FARM BUREAU MEMBERS?**

**JOIN US AT THE DUNN FARM BUREAU FOOD STAND! WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DURING THE WEEK OF THE FAIR. SHIFTS RUN STARTING AT 10:00 A.M. TILL ABOUT 10:00 P.M.**

**If you can help, sign up at [bit.ly/2023DunnCountyFair](https://bit.ly/2023DunnCountyFair) or contact Haily Sand at 608.397.0046.**



## Congratulations to the 2023 Dunn County Farm Bureau Scholarship Recipients

Dunn County Farm Bureau is excited to announce that they have chosen five recipients to receive \$250 Dunn County Farm Bureau scholarships. Congratulations to the following individuals who have been chosen to receive scholarships:

- Mariyah Creaser, Menomonie
- Nicolaus Jensen, Colfax
- Abby Schlough, Boyceville
- Hailey Hanestad, Boyceville
- Meghan Prochnow, Menomonie

*Congratulations to the 2023 Dunn County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients! We wish you the best of luck in the future!*



Creaser



Hanestad



Jensen



Prochnow



Schlough

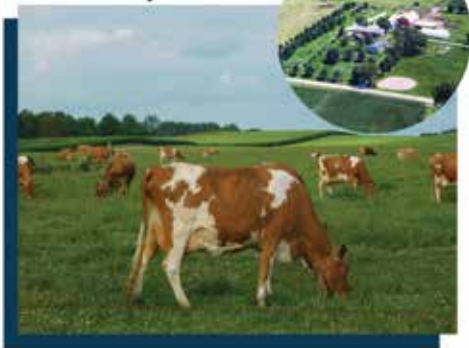
# Pierce County

## Pierce County Dairy Breakfast Saturday - June 17th, 2023 7:30am - 11:30am

Ages 12+ \$8 | Ages 5-11 \$5 | Ages 4 & Under - Free | **Cash Only**

Follow us on Facebook: Pierce County Dairy Promotion

Maple Bud Farm / Erlandson Family  
N5718 530th St.  
Ellsworth, WI



PANCAKES  
SAUSAGE  
ELLSWORTH  
CHEESE CURDS  
CULVERS  
CUSTARD  
KWIK TRIP  
MILK  
WATER & COFFEE



Rural Mutual  
Insurance Company  
Leah Saufl Agency

Pierce County  
Farm Bureau



COMPEER  
FINANCIAL



KWIK TRIP

## Pierce County Awards AITC Essay Winners

Travis Kopp, Kevin Ballman and Christine Ballman recently reviewed submissions for Ag in the Classroom essay contest. They reviewed an almost state record of 130 submissions from five schools in Pierce County. A huge thank you to school administration, teachers and all 4<sup>th</sup>- and 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students for their time, efforts and creativity in support of agriculture in Wisconsin.

Reviewing 130 submissions may seem initially like a daunting task, however several of our young minds inspired us in their ability to write about the essay topic "You're Gonna Need Milk for That-Wisconsin Dairy Fuels our Bodies, Communities and Economy." This very essay topic gleaned from the 2022-2023 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Book of the Year "Tales of the Dairy Fairy-Chuck's Ice Cream Wish," by Viola Butler, illustrated by Ward Jenkins. In support of the Wisconsin academic standards for English, language arts and social studies together with contest guidelines, two individuals stood out. For 4<sup>th</sup>-grade Penelope Heiniger from Prescott Intermediate School, teacher Michelle Jansen and from 5<sup>th</sup>-grade Lilian Ault from Spring Valley Elementary, teacher Jennifer Stevens. Additionally, Penelope Heiniger, a 4<sup>th</sup>-grade student from Prescott Intermediate School in Pierce County has been selected as the Farm Bureau District 9 4<sup>th</sup>-grade essay winner for the 2023 Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. Penelope's essay will move on to be judged at the state level for the potential to be the state winner.

It is exciting to celebrate the accomplishments of our students in support of Wisconsin agriculture. A huge thank you from the Pierce County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator for the support our students receive through our school administration, teachers, and parents. Also, a huge thank you to previous Pierce County Ag in the Classroom coordinators and all those whom have worked to promote Ag in the Classroom in Pierce County.

## Pierce County Farm Bureau Attends Earth Fest in River Falls

On April 22, Pierce County Farm Bureau participated in the education outreach activity, River Falls Earth Fest. The event was planned for Glen Park; however weather moved it to UW-River Falls University Center. Members Travis Kopp, Kevin Ballman and Kevin's family staffed the booth. The time went by so fast with the constant flow of curious individuals.

Topic of the booth was "Keep Your Soils Covered." Pierce County Farm Bureau coordinated with Sylvia Kehoe, Professor Animal and Food Science, to obtain use of a plasticized sheep rumen and another smaller model of the rumen for the event. The plasticized rumen was a



Pierce County Farm Bureau members Christine Ballman, Travis Kopp and Kevin Ballman hosted a booth at Earth Fest in River Falls.

huge attention getter for our booth. Several individuals inquiring what is that? Simply put, forages that cover our soil are most efficiently processed by four compartment ruminant animals into food products we enjoy; ie: milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, yogurt and various meat products a person desire all while preserving our soils into the future.

Travis Kopp, President, brought several seed meters from a planter to demonstrate how seed is metered through our planters. Youngsters, young adults and adults all enjoyed making their own corn baby to take home and watch grow. Several applications for membership were handed out and a great time was had by all.

## Polk Burnett

wfbf.com/about/counties/polkburnett  
polkburnettfarmbureauwi

### A Win for Agriculture

By Sara Byl, Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Member

For those of you who have been following us in Polk and Burnett Counties with the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Ordinance, I have an update! On April 4, my town, Laketown, elected two new supervisors. Those two candidates are pro-agriculture and were also endorsed by Polk Burnett Farm Bureau. Merle Larson and Ron Peterson had their first town meeting on April 19. At this meeting they unanimously voted with the chairman to rescind the CAFO ordinance and to suspend any legal dealings with the lawsuit against Laketown!

This is a huge victory, not only for our town, but for all of us in agriculture. This has been a more than five year battle in our area of Polk County. There were many town meetings where farmers and ag supporters would speak up only to have their words fall on deaf ears.

The hardest part of this whole ordeal was when a five-town partnership committee was formed. These five towns, (Laketown, Bone Lake, Luck, Eureka and Trade Lake) elected representatives to sit on a committee to decide how to regulate farming. Not a single farmer was allowed on this committee and no ag organizations or professionals were contacted for agriculture's voice. It was made up of citizens who thought they knew enough from Google searching and listening to their own side propaganda to make decisions on how we can farm. If that does not scare any farmer, I do not know what would. Many of us sat at these meetings where we were not allowed to talk. We walked out frustrated every time. But we never gave up! We kept going to these special meetings as well as town meetings because we knew we had to.

We spent a lot of time talking with the opposing side, but it is hard to talk with someone who does not want to listen. That is the roadblock we fell upon many times. Thankfully, in the end, we had folks in our town who made it to the polls and voiced their support by checking the box for change, knowing what Merle and Ron planned to do.



We know that our battles up here in Polk and Burnett Counties are not done yet. We still have four towns: Luck, Bone Lake, Eureka and Trade Lake that still have this ordinance or similar in place. We suspect they will keep trying to flip our county and town boards every election. Polk Burnett Farm Bureau will continue to be diligent about what is going on up here.

This will have to one day be settled by the courts to show precedence that townships cannot overstep their grounds and regulate farmers. We are thankful for District 9 who diligently advocated for us at the state and local level and for Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce Litigation Center for pursuing a lawsuit.

With Laketown as an example, this is your reminder to never give up. If you have an issue, step up and ask for help. Contact your local boards, state organizations, anyone you can that will listen. You must have a team behind you to guide you along the way. It will be hard; there will be stressful nights and days but never give up on what you believe in. You must have a voice.



## Luck FFA Ag on the Lawn

Luck FFA held their Ag on the Lawn event on Friday, May 12. Polk Burnett Farm Bureau members hosted a booth for students to learn about agriculture.

Students participated in a number of different activities.



Chris and Maria Owens hosted a booth on behalf of Polk Burnett Farm Bureau at Luck Ag Day on the Lawn.

## Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

Kyler Hansen and Tristin Kreuser Peterson have been selected to receive 2023 Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Scholarships in the amount of \$300 each.

**Kyler** is a senior at Osceola High School. He is the son of Craig Hansen and Kasha Hansen. He is deciding between University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, St. Olaf College and UW-Madison to study political science.

**Tristin** is a senior at Grantsburg High School. She is the daughter of Tim and Jenny Kreuser Peterson. She will be attending Winona State University to study nursing.

Applicants were asked to complete an application that included their future education plans, community and school activities and write an essay identifying what they felt were the top three current agricultural issues and propose solutions to each.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

*Kyler and Tristin! We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.*

## Rusk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk  
Ruskfarmbureauwi

## It's Farmers Market Season

By Janet Hetke, Rusk County Farm Bureau member

Farmers market season is upon us. Rusk County has a farmers market in Ladysmith every Wednesday afternoon from noon to 4 p.m. and Saturday morning from 8 a.m. to noon. There is also a farmers market in Bruce on Friday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m.



The Ladysmith market was established in 1990 with the help of the Rusk County Farm Bureau. There were only about a half dozen producers at that first market. It has since grown to as many as 20 vendors and the second market on Wednesday was added a few years later.

The farmers market trend has made a way for consumers to know their food producers and encourages a community that benefits everyone.

Look up your local farmers market. It could be a great place to recruit new members for your county's membership goals.

**Ladysmith - Wednesdays, Noon - 4 p.m.**  
**Saturdays, 8 a.m. - Noon.**

**Bruce - Fridays, 1 - 5 p.m.**

Come for  
lunch and to  
thank area  
farmers

# THANK A FARMER LUNCH

Sponsored by  
many local  
organizations

Hot dogs  
and brats  
for lunch

JUNE 17  
10-2

**HANK'S FARM  
AND FOOD**

Marshall Rd  
Sheldon, WI. 54766



PUT ON BY RUSK COUNTY FARM BUREAU

## Sawyer County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

Congratulations Cassie, Katie and Carter! We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.



Cassie Bishop graduated from Winter High School. Her plan is to attend UW-River Falls for pre-veterinary medicine.  
Katie Pasanen graduated from Winter High School. She plans to attend UW-River Falls and major in Dairy Science.  
Carter Roberts graduated from Winter High School. He plans to attend UW-River Falls to study agriculture engineering.

*Have you "herd"?*

## Save the Date for the Sawyer County Dairy Breakfast

Brought to you by:



SATURDAY, JUNE 24  
SAWYER COUNTY  
FAIRGROUNDS  
6:30 A.M. - 11 A.M.

## St. Croix County

wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix  
f StCroixCountyFarmBureau

### ST. CROIX COUNTY'S HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN SWEEP

SEPT. 21-22

This is open only for St. Croix County residents. The first 500 lbs. of qualifying agricultural hazardous waste is free. Fees for paint and stain will apply. Farms are required to pre-register by Thursday, Sept. 14. Call 715.531.1907 or download the form from the county website and email it to kris.poston@sccwi.gov.

sccwi.gov/1042/Collection-Events

Scroll to Hazardous Waste Collection Event



2023 St. Croix  
County

## Farm City Day

Saturday,  
Aug. 12

Croes Udder Dairy,  
Deer Park

# SAVE THE DATE





ST. CROIX COUNTY FAIR  
JULY 19-23, 2023 | GLENWOOD CITY

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Please consider helping at the St. Croix County Farm Bureau Food Stand. Volunteers are needed to help prep the stand prior to the fair as well as during the week of the fair.

Sign up by contacting Melanie Peterson at 715.505.1378 (call or text).

## Superior Shores

wfbf.com/about/counties/superiorshores  
superiorshoresfarmbureau

### Have a "Scoop on Us"

Superior Shores Farm Bureau, along with Rural Mutual Insurance Company, the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and the Chequamegon Dairy Association would like you to help us celebrate June Dairy Month!

Stop into Twin Gables in Brule during the month of June to enjoy a free scoop of ice cream on us to celebrate our great dairy farmers in Wisconsin.

## Celebrate June Dairy Month ..... with ..... *"Dairy on Us"*

Receive \$2 off your purchase of dairy in June at the following locations:

- Tastes of Wisconsin  
420 Lake Shore Dr W  
Ashland WI
- Benoit Cheese Haus  
23920 Co Hwy F  
Benoit WI

Sponsored by:  
Superior Shores Farm Bureau  
Chequamegon Dairy Association  
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin





**County Farm Bureaus**  
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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Permit No. 124

## This Issue Contains Highlights for:

Barron County  
Chippewa County  
Dunn County  
Pierce County  
Polk Burnett  
Rusk County  
St. Croix County  
Sawyer County  
Superior Shores

# Farm Safety Is Our Business



As Wisconsin's #1 farm insurer, Rural Mutual is dedicated to helping the agriculture community stay safe and properly protected.

Learn more about farm safety and find a local agent at

[www.RuralMutual.com](http://www.RuralMutual.com)

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