

Grassroots

District 1 News

Farm Bureau Thrives Through Changes



Dave Daniels

WFBF District 1 Director

There have been some changes in your organization this year, but what has stayed the same is that Patti Wilhelme and I are still representing you and helping the counties achieve their goals. I want to give you a run down and a perspective from my eyes.

Our new CAO, Bradley Uken, has extensive Farm Bureau history. He worked for Illinois Farm Bureau for many years and knows membership and services go hand in hand. He is learning about WFBF and brings fresh ideas with him.

Our Governmental Relations department has 2 new hires, Jason Mugnaini and Tim Fiocchi. Both bring a wealth of knowledge from the State Capitol. Erin Tomasik is taking over local affairs and Tyler Wenzlaff on federal affairs is working hard on the Federal Milk Marketing Order hearings as well as the hopeful passage of the farm bill this year.

Beth Schafer has been with WFBF for over a year and manages Ag in the Classroom. She's worked on getting additional grants and expanded her work with Milwaukee Vincent School, an agriculture school. We can always do more to educate people of all ages about where their food comes from.

In the Public Relations department, Kylie Ver Kuilen was recently hired.

Her main duty will be the district newsletters. She will also work on the website, news releases and Rural Route. All our publications are important to keep our members informed and share ideas among counties.

Mandy Ganser heads up member benefits and is putting renewed emphasis on how members use them. She is creating different ways to get the word out on those benefits. We, as a Board, are looking at programs that will put more value in membership, so watch for potential new benefits.

Rachael Gerbitz is working on our Leaders of the Land program. This program aims to connect the people, infrastructure and distribution of what we produce. The e-newsletter, Stewards, started this year to emphasize the sustainability of Wisconsin agriculture.

The new Foundation Director, John Hromyak, will lead and build relationships with individuals and agri-businesses to support the mentioned programs and others within our organization.

These are a few of the new faces and programs that WFBF will move forward with in the coming years. Many other individuals help to make this organization the trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward. In closing, may your harvest be bountiful, safe and rewarding. I hope you can find time to attend a Farm Bureau function over the winter or take some time for family and network with other members.

**this article was included in the county annual meeting booklets*

There's No "I" in Team



Patti Wilhelme

WFBF District 1 Coordinator

This year's membership and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting theme is It Takes A Team. Without you, our members, the Farm Bureau wouldn't be the thriving organization it is. Farm Bureau has so many different teams, starting at the county level and working all the way up to the national level. Regardless of what level you are

helping with, it is important to always remember the history of Farm Bureau, where we came from and where we are headed. The past shapes the future of Farm Bureau and I'm excited that you are a part of the team.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is a grassroots organization, meaning that everything we do begins at the county level. Your county board of directors is a team, they look at the history of the county to move the county forward into the future. Each county has numerous committees, which are also part of the team, and help divide the work that needs to be done. Throughout the state of Wisconsin, there are 61 county Farm Bureaus.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is comprised of nine districts, which also have their own team. Each district has a district board of directors and

committee members who represent District 1 on state committees and put on events for members. The membership year runs from October to September, and as of the end of September 2022, District 1 had a total of 6,988 members and 2,818 voting members.

As mentioned, we have district members who represent us on statewide committees. There are numerous committees and time commitments and I want to thank anyone who has served or is currently serving on a state committee.

As of the end of the membership year in September 2022, WFBF had a grand total of 47,391 members, of which 22,724 are voting members. The goal is for us to have a gain in membership each year,

I want to thank all of you for being a Farm Bureau member in your county. With your membership, you are also a member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and American Farm Bureau Federation. It's amazing to know that your voice at the local level can be carried on to the national level and influence policy. Thank you for attending your county annual meeting and for letting your voice be heard in creating policy for Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Thank you, also, for trusting us with your membership to move agriculture forward.

As an African Proverb said, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." As a team, we are a strong organization moving forward.

**this article was included in the county annual meeting booklets*

District 1 News

YFA Updates

Kendall Riskedal

District 1 YFA Committee Member

Fall is here and that can only mean one thing — YFA Conference is just around the corner! We are so excited for this year's event. So many fun activities, competitions and workshops will be held. District 1 will be representing the group well with several competitors and workshop speakers taking part.

Competitors:

•Discussion Meet:

- oAndrea Edquist, Kenosha County
- oWhitney Rathke, Ozaukee County

•35 Under 35:

- oLindsay Baneck, Jefferson County
- oLibby Hafften, Jefferson County
- oJacki Moegenburg, Ozaukee County
- oLeah Weninger, Washington County

Workshop speakers:

- Ann Horack (The Rise to Management, moderator)
- Christine Bender (The Rise to Management, panelist)
- Libby Hafften (Shoppers in the Know: A Panel on Consumer Marketing, panelist)
- Lindsay Baneck (The Rise to Management, panelist)



Andrea Edquist, Kenosha County, discussion meet finalist.



Whitney Rathke, Ozaukee County, discussion meet finalist.

We're also really excited for Friday night, when we'll have an 80s cover band and an outfit competition. So, rummage through your parent's closets or stop at your nearest thrift shop to pick up your favorite neon headbands and spandex!

2024 – Preview

As we finish another year, it's also a great time to look ahead to 2024. We're already starting to get events planned and dates on the calendar. If there are any events you'd like to do next year, please reach out as there are funds at many different levels (state, district and county) to support our activities. We'd like to do another Brewers game and tailgate next year, but we welcome other ideas and input as a district. Please reach out to Darren or I with any questions or input – 630.391.0190.

Membership, A Team Effort

Patti Wilhelme

WFBF District 1 Coordinator

The membership year is from October 1 to September 30 each year. Each county has a goal to have one more member than the previous year, giving them a membership gain. This year, counties worked hard up until the end, and I want to recognize the counties who put in the effort and achieved a gain.

The following counties achieved a voting gain: Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee and Waukesha. Congratulations to the following who had a total gain: Jefferson, Milwaukee, Walworth and Waukesha.

As of September 30, District 1 had 2,734 voting members and 7,019 total members.

Recently all the District 1 counties have increased their dues to \$65. Here is a breakdown of your dues.

- WFBF \$50
- AFBF \$5
- Accidental Death Policy \$.80
- County Services Fee \$3
- Remainder \$6.20 to County Farm Bureau

When you get your renewal notice, please note that the \$10 donation to the Volunteers for Agriculture® and \$5 to the WFB Foundation is optional.

The member benefit portion on the WFBF website has also been updated. You will now be prompted to log in when you visit the website. If you ever have any issues, please contact me.

Paying your membership dues makes you a member in your county, Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau. Thank you for being a member!

Ag Day at the Capitol

If you are interested in attending the 2024 Ag Day at the Capitol on January 31, RSVPs are due by January 24 to Patti Wilhelme at pwilhelme@wfbf.com or 262.689.1838 (call/text).

The 3 p.m. Capitol visits have been scheduled.

- Ozaukee and Washington County: Room 225 Northwest
- Kenosha and Racine County: 328 Northwest
- Jefferson, Walworth and Waukesha County: 400 Northeast

An email reminder with the meeting room information will be sent to registered participants prior to Ag Day at the Capitol.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation invites you to attend
AG DAY AT THE CAPITOL
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Monona Terrace Convention Center • Madison, WI

Early Registration Deadline: January 24
Cost: \$30 per person by registration deadline.
\$60 after deadline and at the door.

Tentative Schedule of Events:
11:00 a.m. Registration
11:30 a.m. Opening Program
12:15 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Legislative Briefing
3:00 p.m. Leave for Capitol Visits

Visit wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol for the latest information.

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

Thank You to Our Sponsors:
Rural Mutual **GROWMARK**

Online Giving Day

Patti Wilhelme

WFBF District 1 Coordinator

Thank you to all the District 1 counties for donating to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Online Giving Day! Combined, District 1 counties donated \$7,500 to the foundation.

The Online Giving Day was held on August 2 and raised more than \$55,000.

The WFB Foundation was established in 1988 to provide support for agricultural education and leadership programs. The foundation supports Ag in the Classroom, the YFA program, the Promotion and Education program, the Leadership Institute and more.

If you are interested in donating to the WFB Foundation, visit wfbf.com/foundation.

Annual Meeting Celebrates Success



President Randy Mitchell led a great annual meeting.



Vice President Tony Schadt read through the eight local, one federal and internal resolution.



District 1 Director Dave Daniels provided the WFBF update.



Promotion and Education Chair Ashley Schlender announced the scholarship recipients.



Board member Steve Jones conducted the election of directors and delegates.



The notice of call was given by Secretary and Treasurer Melissa Gross.



There were 47 total attendees and 28 voting members at the annual meeting on September 24 at Fairview Inn.

Did You See Us Floating Around?

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau has a float that is taken throughout the county in numerous parades. We hope that you saw us out in the community this summer and be sure to watch for us next year.



The float was pulled by Roger Zimmerman in the Lake Mills Parade.



The candy throwing crew in the Lake Mills Parade.



Community members lined the streets at the Lake Mills Parade.



Randy Mitchell pulled the float in the Ixonia parade.



The side-by-side followed the float in the Ixonia parade.



Steve Knoebel pulled the float in the Gemuetlichkeit parade.

Jefferson County Board of Directors

Following the Jefferson County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Randy Mitchell, President
- Tony Schadt, Vice President
- Melissa Gross, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Insight FS office in Jefferson. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Randy Mitchell at 414.899.4822.



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau is led by a group of dedicated volunteers. The board of directors includes (Front row, from L to R): Vice President Tony Schadt, President Randy Mitchell, Secretary and Treasurer Melissa Gross, Promotion and Education Chair Ashley Schlender. (Back row, from L to R): YFA Chair Lindsay Baneck, John Morris, Steve Jones, Dawn Jones, Eugene Mess, Steve Knoebel, Dan Schmocker. Not pictured: Tim Medenwaldt, Tyler Troiola and Roger Zimmerman.

Service to Agriculture Award Winners

Lindsay Baneck



Lindsay Baneck presented the Service to Agriculture Award to Tim Finger.

Our first Service to Agriculture Award goes to Tim Finger. Tim is one of our local Rural Mutual Insurance Agents based out of Lake Mills. Tim has been an insurance agent for many years and has developed very deep connections with local farmers and agriculturists. Tim is a friend of the farmer; he goes above and beyond to make sure his customers are taken care of extremely well. Tim is very personable and navigates the insurance world with ease, so his customers don't have to. Being a landowner himself, Tim understands the importance of having a good relationship between landowners and insurance

agents. On the Farm Bureau side, Tim is one of the top recruiters for Jefferson County Farm Bureau membership. Tim attends almost all our monthly board meetings and is actively involved with updates for the Farm Bureau board. Tim is an active member of the Jefferson County Agribusiness Club, volunteered his time with the Farm Technology Days committee when it was in Jefferson County and is a big supporter of local 4-H clubs and FFA chapters. Tim has donated time and money to many of the local youth organizations in this county. He is passionate about supporting young agricultural students in our community. For this and many other reasons, we are honored to present our first Service to Agriculture Award to Tim Finger.

Our next Service to Agriculture Awards goes to an iconic duo from the Jefferson County Fair Park. For over 20 years, Gail Zastrow and Roger Kylmanen were the leaders and faces of the Jefferson County Fair Park. Gail Zastrow worked as the Fair Park Administrative Secretary for 20 years. From 1994 to 2014, Gail was the go-to lady at the fair park. Gail did it all; helping plan entertainment, getting food vendors set up, and, most importantly, making sure the youth exhibitors had the best experience they could. When Gail retired, she said that her favorite part of the job was working with the hard-working youth of the county to make sure they had a positive experience

at the fair.

Gail was quoted as saying, "Way back when, I wanted to be a teacher and just never got there. So, the youth programs have always been my favorite part of the fair. The things the kids learn by participating in 4-H and being able to present what they did, I just think it's a wonderful learning experience. And learning about agriculture is such a great thing, and so necessary."

Roger Kylmanen was just as essential to the success of the County Fair for 21 years. When Roger retired just a few short years ago, he was the Fair Park Supervisor. While Gail was the go-to lady at the fair, Roger was the go-to guy. Roger did everything and did it all with a smile. Roger made sure that every event at the fair park was a success, especially the week of the County Fair. He could be seen setting up gates in the sheep barn one minute and setting up the sound system in the dairy barn the next minute. Roger was always pleasant to be around and when the days get long during fair week, it was such a joy to see Roger still running around on his golf cart with a smile. Both Roger and Gail can be credited for the success of the Jefferson County Fair for over 20 years. In a time when it is extremely important to connect people in agriculture with those who are not, we are extremely grateful to have two people so willing to make this event a success for our community. Sometimes life is not fair, and Roger passed away this year after just a few short years of retirement. We miss him deeply, but we are so grateful to have had an ally like him for so many years at the fair park. Gail is enjoying retirement and still participates in the County Antique Tractor Pulls. Gail was in attendance and Roger's wife, Daisy, attended as well to accept this award in his memory. Thank you to both of you and for embracing the importance of the Jefferson County Fair to our community.



The late Roger Kylmanen (Daisy Kylmanen pictured center) and Gail Zastrow (pictured right) accepted Service to Agriculture Awards.

Kenosha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha
KenoshaCountyFarmBureau

Kenosha County Board of Directors

Following the Kenosha County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Kevin Muhlenbeck, President
- Tim Edquist, Vice President
- Dan Kevek, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Kevin Muhlenbeck at 262.206.4140.



The Kenosha County Farm Bureau board members include (from L to R): Wes Hawkins, YFA Chair Ryan Edquist, Secretary and Treasurer Dan Kevek, Promotion and Education Chair Kim Muhlenbeck, President Kevin Muhlenbeck, Vice President Tim Edquist. Not pictured: Ben Harback.

Scholarship Awarded

Kim Muhlenbeck

This year's \$500 scholarship award recipient is Madisyn Henderson, daughter of Craig and Sue. She is a 2023 graduate of Union Grove High School. She is currently attending Iowa State University for agricultural business. Madisyn has been highly active with the Union

Grove FFA, serving as secretary and vice president. She was also involved with the Yorkville 4-H Club, serving as secretary, president, junior leader and numerous other activities. Besides keeping busy with school and other organizations, she has been doing the bookkeeping for Wilks Brothers Farms.

Please join us in congratulating Madisyn Henderson for receiving the scholarship and wish her the best of luck in her studies at Iowa State University.



Annual Meeting Held on September 26



President Kevin Muhlenbeck ran the meeting.



Dave Daniels, District 1 Director and Kenosha County Farm Bureau member, reported on behalf of the state.



Rural Mutual District Agency Manager Jason Bender provided the Rural Mutual update.



Board member Wes Hawkins read the invocation.



Carl Daniels went through the nominees for directors and delegates.



The annual meeting was held on September 26 at the Birchwood Grill. There were 17 voting members and 23 total attendees who enjoyed socializing, dinner and the meeting.

Farm Safety and CPR Training

Kim Muhlenbeck

We held an informative meeting on July 22 for any and all Farm Bureau members at the Paris Township Hall and Fire Department. Those in attendance were Dave Daniels, Lori Edquist, Jane Weis, Kevin & Kim Muhlenbeck and Waupaca County YFA Committee member Jennifer Hoewisch.

The class was led by Farm Bureau member and Paris Rescue EMT Dean Holloway. He teaches EMT training at local area colleges and hospitals.

We were instructed on basic CPR procedures and how to use the AED defibrillators. We were then taken outside to be shown how to properly use a fire extinguisher to put out a fire. The class ended with a demonstration on how to apply a tourniquet properly as well as how to use Narcan and where we could get it. As an extra bonus, we were given a backpack with some supplies to have on hand which included gauze pads, pads that have a blood clotting drug in them and two kinds of tourniquets. Everyone was then able to ask questions while enjoying some Kringle, coffee or water.



Annual Meeting Held September 18

Nine people, four voting members, attended the Milwaukee County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on September 18 at Benny's Café.

Voting members approved the minutes and financials, voted on the directors and officers and elected John Napientek to be the delegate to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in December. Voting members also approved bylaw changes, one of which was to increase the dues to \$65 effective December 1.

Patti Wilhelme, District 1 Coordinator, reported on the membership numbers and congratulated the county on achieving a total and voting gain. She reported on

the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and essay contest as well as talked about upcoming events.

Lou Korth, from Rural Mutual Insurance, provided an update. Rural Mutual has been rated A+ by AM Best and is also a Ward's Top 50 Company. If you have a Rural Mutual farm policy, you received a farm dividend this past year.

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has been very generous in supporting Milwaukee Vincent High School and has made a donation again this year.

Essay Contest Winners Awarded Cash Prizes



On Friday, June 2 Patti Wilhelme went to Carrollton Elementary in Oak Creek to present the essay contest winners with their prizes. The two students read their winning essays and the class was awarded with an ice cream treat. From L to R: Mrs. Tanya Ristic, first place winner Lily Brazgel, second place winner Kayla Buska and WFBF District Coordinator Patti Wilhelme. Lily received \$30 cash and Kayla received \$20 cash for their winning essays.

Milwaukee County Board of Directors

During the Milwaukee County Annual Meeting, the following board members were elected:

- Scott Ninnemann, President
- Henry Kiesow, Vice President
- John Napientek, Secretary and Treasurer
- Elroy Honadel, Board of Directors Member

The board meets quarterly. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Scott Ninnemann at 414.617.2960.

Racine County

wfbf.com/about/counties/racine
RacineCountyFarmBureau

Thank You, Fair Stand Volunteers

Judy Uhlenhake

Thank you to all the fair volunteers for helping in the Cream Puff Stand. Special thanks to the committee that helped pull it all together — Jim Waldron, Traci Himebauch, Jenny Waldron, Kelly Malchine, Scott Davel, Kayla Wilson, Judy Uhlenhake, Tasha Hegemann, Linda Hegemann and Kellyn Himebauch-Shine.

I would also like to thank all the day chairs for leading the stand on your day.

We had a very successful year despite dealing with some weather issues. We are always looking for new ideas to make the stand better. If you have any, let us know. We look forward to next year and seeing many of you in the stand.



Thank You, John Scott

Jim Waldron
President

After numerous years on the Racine County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, John Scott did not seek reelection this year. His voice at the table will be greatly missed and we thank him for his years of service.

John was elected as Vice President in 2015, 2016 and 2022. From September 2017 until September 2022, John was President. John is currently involved with the state Policy Development Committee and we know that he will continue to be involved for years to come.

I thank John for his guidance and help when I was elected President last year.

Mercantile Building at Racine County Fair

Traci Himebauch

The Racine County Farm Bureau has created a display in the newly renovated Mercantile Building at the Racine County Fair for the last two years. Last year we had the help of the members of the Racine County Young Farmers and Agriculturists program.

The display consists of many old and new aeries of farms across Racine County. The members have reached out to the owners of the local farms in the county. Copies of the aeries are sent to us and from there the team prints off the photos and then puts them in a frame to be ready for the display.

Along with the display of aeries, we chose three featured farms to do an interview with to get to know the history, current activity and what they predict and hope for the future of the farm. We came up with this

idea last year, with the help of the YFA, to allow a couple farms each year get their "shining moment." The videos are usually 15-25 minutes long and they play continuously for the fairgoers to view. We provide benches for people to sit down and enjoy the videos for their entire length if they wish. This year the featured farms were: Schaal Dairy Farm, Burlington; Weis Farm, Burlington; and Skewes Farm, Union Grove. We ask the featured farms for personal photos of different generations of the farm as well as unique old and new photos that we can display with the interview. This year we did a display on Racine County Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Farm Bureau. This display included a little bit of the history, old photos we found of the Women's Committee of Racine County, the current Racine County Farm Bureau Board and fascinating statistics that we found online regarding agricultural impacts on Racine County. This has been such a great opportunity for Racine County Farm Bureau as we get to interact with more farms around the community and get Farm Bureau's name out there more! We hope this allows us to get more members into the Racine County Farm Bureau as this display continues to grow each year.



A Little Background on the Mercantile Building

This building is the oldest building on the Racine County Fairgrounds as it was built in 1927 with money raised by merchants from the City of Racine. The merchants wanted a building to display their wares for the fair. It sits on Racine County Old Settlers Park Property. The Old Settlers Society gifted the park to Racine County with the understanding that the Racine County Fair could always have a five-day fair on the property free of charge. The building has housed open-class departments during the fair, such as photography and vegetable classes.



Approximately ten years ago, Racine County closed the building to visitors as it was deemed dangerous due to its disrepair.

There were many discussions about trying to restore the building but nothing serious ever came about

it. Finally in 2019, Julie Moyer, Marge Martin, Ag Society volunteers, Union Grove Lions, Union Grove Kiwanis and other interested individuals came up with an idea called Save the Mercantile Building. Their goal was to raise

\$100,000 to help restore the building and make it safe for visitors to enjoy. They met their goal with the help of Racine County Executive, Jonathan Delagrave, who donated \$50,000 and the rest were all from private donations. The renovations included lifting the building up to pour a new foundation, straightening some walls, new windows and fresh paint on the inside and outside. Their goal was to have the building ready for the 100th Racine County Fair in 2022, and they succeeded!

Now it is filled with an array of history of the Racine County Fair and local historical group displays. The Fairgoers can now walk through the building and enjoy it. Do not forget to stop by the Mercantile Building when you are visiting the Racine County Fair to check out the Racine County Farm Bureau aerial display and all other displays in the building.

Ag Ambassador Farewell



Madisyn Henderson
2022-2023 Agricultural Ambassador

I had such an amazing year serving as the Racine County Agriculture Ambassador. Racine County is such a special place, and I was honored to represent it.

The year was full of lots of Racine County events, farm visits and school visits. Throughout my first few months, I attended many local farms and interacted with people throughout the community.

Throughout the year, I ran an Agriculture Literacy Program where I visited local grade schools every week and did an activity that touched on all aspects of agriculture. The diverse and interactive lessons included learning about crops and tractors, interacting with a calf, making homemade butter and lip balm and an agriculture jeopardy. Educating the youth in our community is very important and was one of my favorite things I did.

I also attended Farm City Night at the Cotton Exchange. The summer was full of lots of fun events within Racine County. Some highlights included the Fairest of the Fair Finals, Racine County Breakfast on the Farm, Waterford Dairy Days and of course the 101st Racine County Fair.

The year was nothing short of incredible. I am so thankful for the opportunity to share my passion and grow as an agriculture advocate.

Ag Ambassador Update



Sam Hammiller
2023-2024 Agricultural Ambassador

I am so excited to be this year's Agricultural Ambassador. Here is a little bit about me.

My agriculture career started in high school where I was heavily involved with FFA and held multiple positions. I spent many years showing pigs, sheep and turkeys at the Racine County Fair.

I currently work in Agronomy and am going to school, virtually, at Northwest Iowa Community College. In my

free time, I enjoy working with sheep and growing our herd of Horned Dorsets.

I look forward to a great year of advocating, educating and sharing my passion for agriculture in Racine County.

One of my first events was handing out milk to the soccer players and their family at the Annual Kiwanis Days hosted by Burlington Kiwanis Club. The weather was perfect and interacting with the players and their families was fun.

The milk was generously donated by Racine County Farm Bureau, Racine County Dairy Promotion and Burlington Kiwanis Club.



Keynote Speaker, Beth Schaefer, Hit of Annual Meeting



Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaefer talked about Ag in the Classroom and concluded with a fun Kahoot!



Jim Waldron ran his first Racine County Annual Meeting as President.



Racine County Agriculture Ambassador Sam Hammiller introduced herself to attendees.



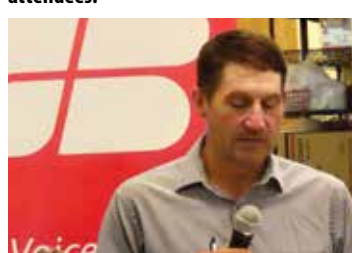
Board member Kayla Wilson gave the notice of call. There were 17 voting members and 26 total attendees.



The WFBF updates were provided by District 1 Director Dave Daniels.



The Rural Mutual report was given by District Agency Manager Jason Bender.



John Scott read through the resolutions. John 'retired' from the board of directors and we thank him for his years of service. He continues to be involved and is on the state Policy Development Committee representing District 1.

Racine County Board of Directors

Following the Racine County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Jim Waldron, President
- Traci Himebauch, Vice President
- Jim Hanson, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at River City Lanes in Waterford. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Jim Waldron at 262.206.4025.



The Racine County Farm Bureau board of directors is led by a dedicated group. Pictured (Front row, from L to R): Brian Schaal, President Jim Waldron, Secretary and Treasurer Jim Hanson. (Back row, from L to R): Promotion and Education Chair Judy Uhlenhake, Scott Davel, Vice President Traci Himebauch, Kayla Wilson. Not pictured: Keith Jacobson, YFA Chair Joe Mealy.

Save the Date: Bowling Social

We hope you and your family will join us for a bowling social on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3 p.m. at River City Lanes, Waterford. Pizza and soda will be provided.

Watch the next newsletter and the Facebook page for additional details.



Walworth County

wfbf.com/about/counties/walworth
Walworth County Farm Bureau

New Location for County Annual Meeting



Terry Papcke ran his last annual meeting as county President. We thank Terry for his many years of service to Walworth County Farm Bureau!



The resolutions portion of the meeting was run by Greg Sawtelle.



The annual meeting was held at Wilson's Whistle Stop. There were 52 total attendees and 42 voting members who voted on policy, directors and delegates.



Dave Daniels, District 1 Director, provided an update on behalf of WFBF and thanked the Farm Bureau Proud Club members for their work on membership.

Vendor of the Year at Walworth County Fair

Kathy Papcke

The Ice Cream Tent was another success at the Walworth County Fair! This year, we were recognized as Vendor of the Year.

We have sold ice cream cones and sundaes at the Walworth County Fair for a very long time. Being held for six-days over Labor Day weekend, the Ice Cream Tent is our biggest fundraiser. We sold over 150 three-gallon tubs of different flavored ice cream, with Butter Pecan being the all-time favorite.

I want to thank the members who volunteered and the board members who helped with some repairs and painted the screened house and floor. The Ice Cream Tent wouldn't be possible without you, our dedicated volunteers.

We look forward to seeing you again at next year's fair.



Window Contest Winner

Kathy Papcke

For the past 20 years, the Walworth County Farm Bureau has sponsored a contest for 4-H clubs, held during June Dairy Month. 4-H clubs are to ask local businesses if they can do a display in their front window and have it displayed for the entire month of June. Each year, the 4-H clubs are given a different theme. This year's theme was "Till the Cows Come Home."



This year's 4-H Dairy Window Display Winners were:

- First Place: LaGrange 4-H Club
- Second Place: Flame Throwers 4-H Club
- Third Place: Linn 4-H Club
- Participation: Elkhorn 4-H Club, Lake Beulah 4-H Club, Sharon 4-H Club, Sugar Creek 4-H Club

Dairy Breakfast Recap

Kathy Papcke

The Walworth County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast was held at the County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 17, 2023. There were about 2,700 people who attended the breakfast.

A huge thank you to the Nelson Family for hosting the farm tour. Two coach busses gave free rides to the dairy farm.

Thank you to Compeer Financial for serving the ice cream, the many volunteers and corporate sponsors.

The Coffee Cake Contest started 9 years ago. We used to have volunteers donate coffee cakes to serve at the breakfast, but with more food safety rules, we decided to add a Coffee Cake Contest instead. This has been a successful change.

Coffee Cake Contest Winners

Adults: 1st place Penny Becker, 2nd place Danielle Adams, 3rd place Pastor John Mancusi

Youth: 1st place Charles Duesterbeck, 2nd place Evelyn Thelen, 3rd place Freya Adams



Rib Fest

Kathy Papcke

Rib Fest is a five-day event of music and BBQ put on by the Walworth County Fairgrounds Board of Directors.

The Walworth County Farm Bureau has sold soda, water and milk as a fundraiser for the last four years. This year we sold over 12,000 bottles of soda or water.

Thank you to all the members for coming out to Rib Fest to volunteer. This is a fun way for us to raise funds for the programs that we support in Walworth County.



Walworth County Board of Directors

Following the Walworth County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Greg Sawtelle, President
- Scott Simons, Vice President
- Ann Brost, Secretary
- Rick Thelen, Treasurer

The board meets on the first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Greg Sawtelle at 262.903.6260.

As you will notice, new faces joined the board and new leadership was elected. We want to thank those board members who did not seek reelection at this year's county annual meeting. Thank you to Terry Papcke and the late Sue Thelen. We greatly appreciate all that you have done for Walworth County Farm Bureau over the years.



The Walworth County Farm Bureau Board of Directors include (from L to R): Treasurer Rick Thelen, Bill Holtz, Leslie Reinke, President Greg Sawtelle, Kathy Duhigg, Rick Getka, Secretary Ann Brost, John Erbenraut, Rick Bottlemey and Vice President Scott Simons. Not pictured: Rick Adams, Sydney Bender, Kathy Tober and Breck Ward.

80th Annual Meeting Draws Large Crowd



Washington County has the largest annual meeting throughout the state. There were 156 total attendees and 49 voting members in attendance. The meeting was held on October 3 at The Columbian.



President Randy Thull ran an exceptional meeting. Randy's term on the board was complete, but he was elected as Promotion and Education Chair so he will continue to be active with the board of directors.



Secretary Ken Falk gave the notice of call as well as presented the minutes and financials.



The two essay contest winners read their winning essays to the group and were presented with their medals and prize packs. Congratulations to Miller Kozlowski and Marlena Shera!



John Falk presented the Service to Agriculture Award to Dr. Jeff Halverson.



Mike Strupp, Food Stand Co-Chair, reported on the fair.



Vice President Mike Kannenberg ran the resolutions portion of the meeting and the elections.



Dave Daniels, District 1 Director, congratulated the county on a successful year.



The Rural Mutual Insurance report was given by District Agency Manager Ken Bosman.



Jason Mugnaini, WFBF Director of Governmental Relations, gave a brief update.

Thank You, Fair Volunteers!

Mike Strupp
Food Stand Co-Chair

The best six days of summer goes by so fast! I want to thank everyone who helped make the fair stand a success.

We are proud to serve dairy products and this year we sold 252 gallons of ice cream, 3,150 half pints of chocolate milk and 750 half pints of white milk. We used 58 pounds of butter, 136 quarts of whipping cream and 335 pounds of medium cheddar cheese.

This year we had a new menu item – French Fries – and they went over really well. We sold 2,700 six-ounce trays of French Fries.

We thank you all for your help and look forward to seeing you next year.



A lot of smiling faces and fun had by the volunteers in the food stand.



Fairgoers love the Farm Bureau Food Stand.

Boots on the Ground

District 1 Director Dave Daniels and Washington County Farm Bureau member Carl Wolf traveled to Washington D.C. from June 5-7.



New on the menu this year, French Fries!!



French Fries were the talk of the fair.

Dr. Jeff Halverson Awarded Friend of Agriculture Washington County Board of Directors

When a person has spent their entire career being an advocate for the dairy industry, you must think he grew up on a dairy farm. Well, that is not the case for this year's recipient of the Friend of Agriculture award.

Growing up in New Jersey, he never worked with a cow before college. He started working at the Colorado State University dairy and at Paclamar Farm in college. These experiences changed his career aspiration from civil engineering to veterinary medicine, specifically with dairy.

He graduated from Colorado State University's School of Veterinary Medicine in 1989. He thought there would be no better place to be a dairy veterinarian than the dairy state, Wisconsin.

For the past 34 years, he has not only been doing his best helping farmers treat and prevent illness in their dairy cattle, but also volunteering his time educating children and adults about the dairy industry and agriculture at farm breakfasts, to 4th grade children at the Falk Family Farm, Sundae on the Farm, and school career days. His contribution goes beyond the cows.

This year's recipient is a true friend of the farmer. Whether he is lending a hand, and ear, or sharing a bag of fruit snacks, he has always made himself available to help whenever anyone is in need.

This year's recipient of the Friend of Agriculture was awarded to Dr. Jeff Halverson at the County Annual Meeting in October.

Please help congratulate Dr. Jeff Halverson and thank him for being a true Friend of Agriculture and for making an impact in Washington County.



Following the Washington County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Mike Kannenberg, President
- Ken Falk, Vice President
- Peter Muth, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Mike Kannenberg at 920.980.2237.

The members who are no longer on the board include Barbara Schulz Kluever, Mark Schaefer and Carl Wolf. We welcome our new board members Matt Beck, Allen Dornacker and Leah Weninger.



The board included (Front row, from L to R): Vice President Ken Falk, Leah Weninger, President Mike Kannenberg, Secretary/Treasurer Peter Muth and Promotion and Education Chair Randy Thull. (Back row, from L to R): John Falk, Tyler Hetebrueg, YFA Chair Mark Schaefer Jr., George Muth, Allen Dornacker and Matt Beck.

Waukesha County

Delafield Brewhaus Hosts Annual Meeting



Tom Oberhaus, President of Waukesha County Farm Bureau, led a great annual meeting on September 7. He also thanked Sean Beres for his years on the board of directors as he did not seek reelection.



Nominating Committee Chair Ron Williams led the election for directors and delegates.



District 1 YFA Committee members Darren and Kendall Riskedal attended and Darren provided updates on behalf of the YFA Committee.



Vice President Jim Renn conducted the resolutions portion of the evening.



WFBF Director of Governmental Relations, Jason Mugnaini, provided updates related to policies.



The WFBF reports were given by District 1 Director Dave Daniels.



The annual meeting had a total of 31 attendees and 19 voting members.

Waukesha County Board of Directors

Following the Waukesha County Annual Meeting, the board of directors held their reorganizational meeting. The following officers were elected:

- Tom Oberhaus, President
- Jim Renn, Vice President
- Ryan Brueggemann, Secretary and Treasurer

The board meets on the first Thursday of the month. If you are interested in being involved, contact President Tom Oberhaus at 262.337.1386.



Waukesha County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has many dedicated members. They include (from L to R): Rick Carr, Rob Schuett, Secretary and Treasurer Ryan Brueggemann, Promotion and Education Chair Jay Moore, Scott Porter, Ken Rosenow, Dave Morris, Chris Mommaerts, Vice President Jim Renn, President Tom Oberhaus and Ron Williams. Not pictured: Brad Audley, Don Bartholomew, Dan Downing, Brittany Gerrits, Charlie Oberhaus, Dave Swan and Tony Weber.



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“

You aren't just a number here. I've never had to spend a long time on hold. They understand my livelihood and why it's so important to make sure I'm insured properly while also understanding that my dollar needs to go further. They somehow continue to make that happen.

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