



Grassroots

District 2 News

District 2 Director Report



Arch Morton Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

Hello fellow District 2 Farm Bureau members!
I'd like to mention some of the things that Wisconsin Farm Bureau has been involved in lately. In early June, our WFBF Board of Directors, along with members of our Farm Bill Task Force and Dairy Committee, traveled to Washington D.C. We had issue briefings with American Farm

Bureau before our congressional visits with Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ron Johnson. We also met in smaller groups for visits with our house representative. On our last day, we went to the Ukrainian Embassy and learned more about their agriculture and the struggles that they are facing with the Russian invasion. It was a very interesting, important trip leading up to the 2023 Farm Bill.

In May, I was one of five WFBF Board of Directors and Governmental Relations staff members who testified before the State Senate and Assembly Committees on Transportation. The issue was the Agricultural Roads Improvement Program (ARIP). We were successful in our efforts as both the assembly and senate passed the bill, and Governor Evers signed it into law in June. This program allocates \$150 million towards the improvement of roads that are used for agriculture. I encourage members to have their town boards apply for this funding.

During June and July, our CAO and our four executive directors held



Ken Levzow, farm bill committee member from Columbia County, and Arch Morton, Jr. traveled to Washington D.C.

listening sessions in four locations throughout the state that were well attended. Members were able to ask questions and get to know them. It was a great success.

I have mentioned only a few of the many things that have been happening with Farm Bureau. There are so many activities and events going on at the county, district and state level to be involved in. I hope that you will join us in the important and fun things that we are doing. It's my pleasure to serve as your District 2 Director!

Members Discuss Policy Resolutions



Farm Bureau members gather to discuss policy during the District 2 policy development meeting held on July 31 at the Verona Town Hall.

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 Insurance Company GROWMARK

A Year in Review: Promotion and Education Committee



Kari Schoenike

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, District 2 Representative

It has been a busy year for the Promotion and Education Committee facilitating a variety of activities and events.

State-wide Leadership Bootcamp was held in November 2022 in Warrens. This event focused on connecting with consumers and marketing of

on-farm businesses. Derek Orth launched the day with an engaging keynote presentation, followed by a panel of several Farm Bureau members currently running on-farm businesses. The day concluded with a visit to the Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center.

The Promotion and Education Committee hosted activities at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December 2022. This included an activity area in the tradeshow with a photo booth and crafts. The committee also hosted the Sunday morning devotional and assisted with fundraising efforts.

In March, the Promotion and Education Committee assisted in hosting the Ag LEAD Summit in Fond du Lac. The conference included a range of exciting sessions focused on leading your own self-development, engaging consumers, advocating for agriculture and developing agribusiness. The talk of the event was the consumer panel hosted by the Center for Food Integrity which gave us unique perspectives on consumer's attitudes and opinions towards agriculture.

The Every Farmer's Dream Tour, hosted by District 2 YFA and Promotion and Education Committee, returned in April. We welcomed both Farm

Bureau members and non-members to a tour of Scag to learn about lawn mower production and a visit to Marsh Haven Nature Center to learn about birds of prey and their important connection to agriculture. We wrapped up the day with a visit to Ooga Brewing Company.

In May 2023, the P&E Committee convened for our summer meeting. We used this opportunity to refine committee efforts and identify three priorities to guide actions going forward. We will focus on member training and education, consumer resource management and advocacy.

The Promotion and Education Committee worked hard to plan the 2023 Leadership Boot Camp on Saturday, October 28 in Fond du Lac. The focus of Boot Camp was storytelling strategies. Sessions included a dynamic keynote presentation by Lady Farmer Darci Daniels, a sustainable storytelling panel hosted by 35 Under 35 Finalists and a deep dive into Farm Bureau's Gather Wisconsin website and associated programming as a tool for consumer agriculture education. We hosted a pre-conference event at La Clare Creamery. This included a tour, cheese tasting and dinner featuring La Clare products. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed Leadership Bootcamp. The Promotion and Education Committee looks forward to hosting Bootcamp again in 2024 and planning is already underway!

Planning is also underway for the Promotion and Education Workshop at the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting. Be sure to review the conference program for the exact time and location.

I look forward to continuing to serve District 2 and further connecting with the Farm Bureau members of Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock, and Sauk counties!



Leadership Institute Class Learns How to Testify

Eric Wuthrich

Green County Participant

After a 6-month break, the WFBF Leadership Institute recently spent a day at the home office and Wisconsin State Capitol where we learned about testifying in front of legislature as well as the process involved in creating laws. The class was fortunate to speak with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Governmental Relations team members Jason Mugnaini, Tim Fiocchi, Tyler Wenzlaff and Erin Tomasik about what their jobs entail and how they are involved at the Capitol.

On day two of the session, we visited the Capitol building and practiced testifying in front of the group. Following the practice session, we participated in a Capitol tour to see where all the magic happens.

It was great to catch up with everybody after a long summer break. We are looking forward to our next session where we will travel to Michigan and visit their Farm Bureau!



Eric Wuthrich practiced giving a testimony at the Capitol during the Leadership Institute training.



WFBF Leadership Institute recently spent a day at the home office and Wisconsin state Capitol.

A Year in Review: Young Farmer and Agriculturist



Brady and Kat Peper

District 2 YFA Representatives

We can't believe this is already our second year serving on the WFBF YFA Committee representing District 2. Last year we were able to attend each county's annual meeting and really enjoyed visiting and meeting new people.

We have had a busy year planning both district and statewide events. Starting out the year we brought back the Every Farmers Dream Tour in partnership with the District 2 Promotion and Education Committee. The day began at Scag Power Equipment where we were able to see the assembly of different models of lawnmowers from start to finish. Next, we toured Marsh Haven Nature Center. We were able to see some live raptors and learned how they are a benefit to agriculture and pest control. The day ended at Ooga Brewing where the owner and brewer talked about the brewing process and its link to agriculture. Of course, we couldn't leave without doing a little beer tasting as well.

In July we held a YFA social in conjunction with Farm Technology Days in Baraboo. On Tuesday after the show, we met at Draft City Taproom and Eatery. We were able to enjoy a variety of drinks on tap, along with some tasty appetizers and great conversation. At the end of the month, we held our District Discussion Meet at the beautiful Verona Town Hall. We had a great discussion and the three finalists moving on to the state competition are: Nate Zimdars from Dane County, Brooke Trustem from Rock County, and Scott Timm from Green County.

We tried a new event in August and teamed up with District 3 to host a Farm Bureau family picnic at Blackhawk Park. We grilled some burgers and

brats, and everyone brought a side dish to pass. We played volleyball and had some good old family fun by the lake. In September, Brady and I attended the YFA D.C. fly-in with about 20 other YFA members. While in D.C. we met with our representatives, AFBF, Brazilian Embassy and advocated for Wisconsin agriculture on the Hill.

Lastly, a big part of what we do on the committee is plan for a fun YFA Conference in December. On Friday night we are having an 80s theme night, so be sure to wear your best 80s outfit for some great prizes! We will also be having a live band that evening for the entertainment. There are great keynote speakers lined up like Coach Kiah and a variety of workshops from first aid to consumer marketing to Farm Bill. District 2 will be well represented again this year in the YFA awards. We have two finalists for the Farming for the Future Award: Jacob and Eliza Bobolz from Rock County, and Sydney Flick from Columbia County. We also have two finalists for the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award: Julie Sweney from Dodge County, and Brooke Trustem from Rock County. District 2 has finalists in all 5 categories of 35 under 35 contest. The finalists are:

- Sustainable Storytelling: Sarah Hetke from Sauk County, Stephanie Hoff from Dane County, and Teyanna Marx from Dane County.
- Sustainable Environment: Scott Timm from Green County.
- Sustainable Future: Brooke Trustem from Rock County.
- Sustainable Self: Tess Zettle from Green County.
- Sustainable Service: Julie Sweney from Dodge County, Eric Wutrich from Green County, and Nate Zimdars from Dane County.

Like always if you have any questions about the YFA program or have ideas for events please reach out to us! We're looking forward to another year representing District 2 on the WFBF YFA Committee.



A great discussion was had on the topic: Production agriculture requires a lot of capital. Young farmers and ranchers face challenges gaining access to the capital they need to start or grow their operations. What tools are currently available, and what new programs could be introduced, to help young people access financial resources – and make sound financial decisions – to run their farms and ranches?



District 2 YFA Discussion Meet participants include (from left to right) Brooke Trustem from Rock County, Nate Zimdars from Dane County, Scott Timm from Green County, and Sarah Hetke from Sauk County.

District 2 News

Over \$8,300 Raised at Golf Outing Fundraiser

Sam Skemp, Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on the outcome of our D2 Golf Outing Fundraiser for this past year. Before I get into the details of our activities, I want to remind everyone how the funds are used. The profits from this fundraiser are divided between the District 2 counties based on their participation in the event. For the most part, funds raised are used for: college student scholarships, Agriculture in the Classroom, YFA Program, materials for our farm safety demonstrations, agriculture promotions, legislative and local affairs committee activities and more.

The event took place on August 8 at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. The weather was perfect for a golf outing and everyone enjoyed the day. The activities for the day were: hole-in-one prizes, hole events, 50/50

raffle, silent auction prizes, ball toss, and putting contest. The outing was a best ball event with a lunch served on the course followed by a buffet of snacks during the program.

As chairman I want to thank the District 2 committee members for the help and thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraising event. Whether it was putting a team together to golf, helping with the events, contributing prizes for the silent auction, participating in the 50/50 raffle, or being a hole or lunch sponsor, we couldn't have accomplished everything without your support.

Make sure you keep an eye out for details on next year's District 2 golf outing fundraiser. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Over \$8,300 was raised during the District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser.



There was a four-way tie to be broken during the ball toss.



Chuck Ripp is heading onto the golf course for a great day.



Tommy Brennan participates in the putting contest.



Mike Duerst sells 50/50 raffle tickets during the golf outing.



Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents support the golf outing.



Sam Skemp, Golf Outing Chair, thanked sponsors for their support during the awards banquet.



Each county in District 2 contributed silent auction items for the golf outing fundraiser.



The D2 Golf Outing winning team.

District 2 News

NEW District 2 FAU Competition a Great Success!

Dustin Williams, Chairperson

The inaugural District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (FAU) Discussion Meet Contest took place on July 31, 2023, at the Verona Town Hall, held in conjunction with the D2 YFA Discussion Meet contest and policy development meeting. The D2 FAU Committee requested that each county in District 2 send one candidate to represent their county at this first-of-its-kind event. Members had to be over 35 years of age to participate. A great discussion focused on the following topic: "From wind to solar, alternative energy conversations have been rising to the top in many rural communities across Wisconsin. What role, if any, should Farm Bureau play in the conversations surrounding alternative energy, land use and policy to ensure that needs and wants of all members are met." Interesting conversations were had and a very good discussion about the topic and potential solutions were shared. Shawn Monien was awarded the FAU Discussion Meet traveling trophy for his winning performance in the contest. He will have the right to return next year to defend his title. We hope that county members will consider being part of this contest in 2024.

A collaborative team of Farm Bureau representatives from all District 2 county Farm Bureaus began meeting in 2022 to discuss the idea of hosting

competitive events for members over 35. Members of this committee include Ken Lezow from Columbia County, Jeremy Skemp from Dane County, Ross Heidemann from Dodge County, Dustin Williams from Green County, Logan Frei from Rock County, and Craig Sandmire from Sauk County.

Initial discussions of this committee centered around activities and competitions that could foster and enable those who age out of YFA to continue participation and stay engaged in the Farm Bureau organization. After further discussions, the committee focused attention on hosting competitive events for those over 35 because there are currently few competitive award areas in the Farm Bureau organization for these members. The discussion meet contest was an easy way to make use of everyone's time, offer a new opportunity to those over 35 and worked well in conjunction with the D2 YFA Discussion Meet and policy development meeting. This committee is also interested in the establishment of other contest areas. The committee's goal is to continue to provide district and potentially statewide opportunities for those over 35. We hope that other districts may consider starting their own competition so we might eventually be able to hold a state contest.



Dustin Williams moderated the inaugural District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited Discussion Meet.



The discussion focused on the topic: "From wind to solar, alternative energy conversations have been rising to the top in many rural communities across Wisconsin. What role, if any, should Farm Bureau play in the conversations surrounding alternative energy, land use and policy to ensure that needs and wants of all members are met."



District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited chair Dustin Williams presents the winning trophy to Dodge County participant Shawn Monien.



Discussion Meet participants include (from left to right) Tim Wellnitz from Rock County, Mike Duerst from Dane County, Shawn Monien from Dodge County, Cal Dalton from Columbia County and Tommy Brennan from Sauk County.

Forever Grateful to Participate in the YFA D.C. Fly-In

By Scott Timm, Green County participant

My name is Scott Timm from Monroe in Green County where I am an agricultural entrepreneur and farmer. I was very grateful to attend the 2023 YFA Washington D.C. fly-in. I proudly represented Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Green County Farm Bureau while in D.C. The trip was 5 days of jam-packed opportunities to grow, learn and network with people from across the globe.

We were briefed on many important issues at American Farm Bureau before going to the Hill to talk to our representatives from our areas. I talked with Representative Mark Pocan, Senator Ron Johnson and Senator Tammy Baldwin and their staff. We had great talks about important Wisconsin ag issues and encouraged them to keep working on the farm bill because our current system very much relies on that. We wanted to make sure they always know our door is open at WFBF and that you can trust our grassroots organization with your questions. A big takeaway is that time is so limited that you must always have a solid plan. Preparing as a team is critical and don't be afraid to address even the smallest details before, such as who is going to be the first one to say a word!

I gained so much knowledge from this first trip to Washington D.C. We got to learn so much about our history. Did you know farming was one of George Washington's main strengths? When I stop to think about it, that actually doesn't surprise me because of the value I know agriculture brings to the world. He also was an engineer and did lots of design work with water, which should also not be a surprise to you because we know how important

it is to be able to manage water. At the Brazilian Embassy we were updated about Brazil's outlook on agriculture, which was very interesting, and in turn stemmed many great questions. We saw so much and yet left so much for next time!

The questions I brought back with me are ones that I feel if we can address will continue to keep us strong and ready to have the hard talks. Senator Ron Johnson told our group that it is very contradictory when we come to lobby wanting less regulation and more federal government (republican values), while still supporting government subsidies, such as crop insurance which means more federal government. I am not saying that I don't believe the answers are somewhere in the middle, and that subsidies and crop insurance aren't current valuable tools for our farmers, but where do our conflicting statements leave us?

Most others who attended would agree with me that it very much felt like Senator Tammy Baldwin and her staff gave us the most time and ears out of all our representatives. She and her staff seemed very knowledgeable and work very hard for our farmers. It also felt like agriculture for the other candidates wasn't as high of a priority. I am in line with endorsing the best person representing and working for our farmers. I know this is a question in many members' minds, and especially the YFA members, the next generation, of WFBF. We can communicate and be transparent in this topic. I believe WFBF has the responsibility and the talent to be leaders in coming to the middle, having the hard talks and ensuring a positive future for our organization.

I will be forever grateful for this experience and sharing it with many others that helped make it that much more enjoyable!



At the Brazilian Embassy we were updated about Brazil's outlook on specifically agriculture.



Young Farmer and Agriculturist (YFA) members participated in the YFA D.C. Fly-In in September.



YFA members visited the Library of Congress. Did you notice where they put agriculture in this mural? Right at the top!

Dane County

 wfbf.com/about/counties/dane
DaneCountyFarmBureau

A Message from the President



Tom Jelinek

Dane County Farm Bureau President

I want to congratulate Dane County Farm Bureau Board Director and Promotion and Education Chair Lindsey Tjugum on the birth of her baby boy, Liam Nicholas.

Also, I want to thank all of the Dane County membership workers. Your great effort helped DCFB accomplish both a voting gain and total gain. I especially

want to thank the Rural Agents for their tireless efforts.

Now, DCFB is preparing for the many activities that take place during the fall and winter. I am calling on all YFAs to go to our Facebook page and see the great activities that Heidi Smith has planned. These activities will be both fun and educational. Check them out! Finally, get involved and be a voice for agriculture.



Winter Meeting - Save the Date!

Save the date!

Dane County Farm Bureau

Winter Meeting

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Rex's Innkeeper, Waunakee

Invite with complete details to be mailed in January.

Ag in the Classroom

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

Food for America Grants for Dane County FFA Chapters

Dane County Ag in the Classroom would like to support our county FFA Chapters as they visit classrooms and conduct activities during the 2023-2024 school year. We also would like to ask the chapters to help us with two of our focus areas for this school year: the 4-5th grade essay contest and reducing the amount of food waste.

To qualify for the funding, the chapter needs to show how they are helping to promote the essay contest topic "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full" with schools in their district. More information about the contest can be found at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/> and our county contest information is at: <https://fb.me/e/2Xv9EKDUh>

The other focus is on reducing food waste. Whether this awareness is with elementary, middle school or high school students, or with the community, we ask that chapters incorporate an awareness of food waste in their activities. It can be a separate activity or incorporated into other activities. You can find resources at <https://www.agfoundation.org/> and <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/>.

Grant amount: \$200 per chapter during the 2023-2024 school year. \$100 for promoting the essay contest and \$100 for a focus on reducing food waste.

School Districts/FFA Chapters eligible: Belleville, Cambridge, DeForest, Edgerton, Marshall, Mt. Horeb, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie East, Sun Prairie West, Verona and Waunakee.

Applications: You can submit a request for the funds anytime during the school year. The project summary, number of contacts made and outcomes must be included for payment. Payment may be made before or after the project is completed. If it is granted prior to the project, a follow-up report must be submitted within 30 days of the activity. Projects must be completed between September 1, 2023 – June 1, 2024.

Send applications to Darlene Arneson, Dane County FB AITC, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589.

If questions, email: arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or call: 608-873-7209



Dane County Ag in the Classroom 4th-5th Grade Essay Contest



2024 Essay Topic - "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full."

Lessons, Rubric, Standards, What to Write About, and Resources-

<https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

Tailor the essay contest to focus your students' essays and support your curriculum needs. Create your own or use these writing prompts as a guide for your young writers. This year's essay contest focuses on our state's sweetest agriculture industry - fruit! Wisconsin is the number one producer of cranberries and is a leader in cherry, apple and strawberry production. Our state's history, communities and economy have been brought to fruit-ion through agriculture endeavors.

Contest Rules

- Open to Wisconsin 4th and 5th grade students
- Limited to one essay entry per student
- Maximum essay length is 400* words for 4th grade, and 500* words for 5th grade
- Essays must be typed or handwritten in INK
- Entries must include at least 3 documented references
- All entries must be submitted by April 15, 2024**
- All entries must include the Required Entry Information
- Awards will be presented to top essays in each grade level at the county, district and state level

*Maximum word lengths DO NOT include bibliography, captions or works cited.

**Entries may be submitted online or mailed directly to county essay coordinator.

Dane County Prizes and Incentives: Dane County Ag in the Classroom will award both a 4th and 5th grade winner. For each grade level: 1st place- \$50, 2nd place- \$25, and 3rd place- \$10. The first-place winners will receive the \$50 cash prize along with a classroom presentation and two first place students, parents and teacher will be invited to the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on September 12, 2024.

Entries are due POSTMARKED, DELIVERED, or EMAILED by April 15, 2024! Send to Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589. Email: arnesonfamily5@gmail.com. Call if questions 608-873-7209.

Your Farm Bureau Board of Directors & Chairs



Front L-R: Tom Jelinek, Sarah Shimshak, Brandon Larson, Lindsey Tjugum, Kadence Senkowski, Heidi Smith. Back L-R: Scott Eastwood, Jeremy Skemp, Mike Sanders, Mike Duerst, Darlene Arneson, Sam Skemp. Not Pictured: Pat Canales.

Spahn Selected as Scholarship Recipient



Kevin Spahn is a class of 2022 undergraduate student as well as an athlete at the University of Wisconsin River Falls majoring in dairy science. He lived and grew up on his family's dairy farm in Ashton, Wisconsin, right outside of Madison, which is where his passion for the agriculture industry started.



Summer Ag Promotions Fun: Dairy Dice, Learning Lanes and Barnyard Babies

By Lindsey Tjugum and Sarah Shimshak, Co-Chairs

The Promotion and Education Committee was busy this summer meeting consumers at several events.

To kick off the summer and celebrate National Dairy Month, we attended the Dane County Breakfast on the Farm at Kahl Family Farm where we interacted with visitors by testing their agriculture trivia with the “dairy dice”.

In July, we attended the Dane County Fair, where we sponsored the Learning Lanes and exhibitor educational grants. We awarded money to a group of 4-Hers from the Waunakee Whirlwinds to create an educational display for their poultry exhibit. We also hosted a scavenger hunt with questions from this display and others, with a sweet reward of a cream puff or cheese curds, graciously sponsored by the Stoughton FFA Alumni stand.

Committee members were also active at the Lodi Ag Fair earlier in July, volunteering around the fair and organizing the Barnyard Babies tent. Dane County Farm Bureau sponsored updated signage with agriculture facts for the Barnyard Babies tent.



Dane County Breakfast on the Farm goers tested their knowledge with the dairy dice.



Waunakee Whirlwinds 4-H poultry project was awarded a Dane County Farm Bureau Ag Educational Grant to help create a display in Learning Lanes at the Dane County Fair.



Committee members were active at the Lodi Ag Fair earlier in July, volunteering around the fair and organizing the Barnyard Babies tent.

Policy Development Meeting Generates Resolutions

By Sam Skemp, Chair

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

With more than 48,000 members representing all aspects of agriculture, WFBF is a respected voice for agriculture with legislators, the Governor, state agencies, the media and other ag organizations.

This year we held our policy development meeting on July 12 at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. We had several committee members there and reviewed current policies along with discussing current issues being faced. Proposed policies were brought to the Dane County Farm Bureau Board and approved. They are then presented at our county annual meeting to be voted on by Dane County Farm Bureau voting members. The proposed policies were passed at our annual meeting and now will go to the WFBF Policy Development Committee to be reviewed, and if approved, they will be voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

With Farm Bureau being a grassroots organization and policies starting at the county level, your involvement is very important. I thank all the committee members for their participation.



Building the YFA Program

By Heidi Smith, Chair

As we continue to build the Dane County Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, we've welcomed a few new members over the past year! Throughout the year, we've had the following events: co-hosted YFA night at Treinen Farm with Columbia County, Trivia Night at Mr. Brews in Waunakee, YFA at Madison Capitols vs Dubuque Fighting Saints, WFBF at the Fiserv Forum PBR with YFA's in Wisconsin, Wollersheim Winery tour and tasting, Trivia Night at Hop Haus Brewing Company in Fitchburg and Trivia Night at Varsity Bar & Grill in Sun Prairie.

Looking forward to this upcoming year, it is my goal to host more activities on a rotation within Dane County, as well as working with surrounding counties to co-host events to increase involvement and membership. In addition, I will also be working with UW-Madison Collegiate Farm Bureau to include our collegiate members which will create the bridge to YFA following their CFB experience. I look forward to a year full of recruiting and networking with others who share the same interest in agriculture. As always, you can stay up to date by liking the “Dane County Farm Bureau & YFAs” Facebook page!



Great Speakers at County Annual Meeting

By Jeremy Skemp, Co-Chair

On September 14, Dane County Farm Bureau hosted its annual meeting at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee, WI. There were 62 total people in attendance, 40 of which were voting members.

Mike Duerst, Brandon Larson, Mike Sanders and Sarah Shimshak were reelected to the board of directors. Lindsey Tjugum was elected to serve as the Promotion and Education Chair and Heidi Smith was elected to serve as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair.

Nine delegates and three alternates were selected to represent Dane County Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Those in attendance were also treated with dinner and a few speakers.



Jeremy Skemp and Scott Eastwood register people for the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.



Sam Skemp led the policy resolutions discussion and Kadi Senkowski brought forth a policy resolution.



Stephanie Hoff, Mid-West Farm Report farm broadcaster, served as the emcee.



Bradley Uken, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's Chief Administrative Officer, tested members with ag trivia.



Sam Kube, first place in the 4th grade essay contest, did an excellent job reading his essay.



Sam Skemp gave a presentation about the WFB Foundation and encouraged members to support.

Green County

wfbf.com/about/counties/green
GreenCountyFarmBureau

A Message from the President



Josh Schenk

Green County Farm Bureau President

Imagine being a farmer in 1923 and attending the first Green County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting! The Surge Milker was newly released dairy technology and Ford Motor Co's Fordson tractor made up 75% of the tractor market. Following the end of WWI in 1918 the agriculture economy declined through the 1920's. Mechanization, technology and improved

farming practices led to an agricultural surplus and depressed prices for farmers. By the early 1920's farm finances had deteriorated, and farm

bankruptcy filings were on the rise. With nearly 4 million farms in the U.S. at the time, farmers recognized the importance of the grassroots member organization that was formed in 1919 known as American Farm Bureau.

Today, Green County Farm Bureau is one of 2,800 county Farm Bureaus represented in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. There are nearly 6 million members representing 2 million farms. It is humbling to think of the many members that represented Green County Farm Bureau throughout 100 years, the changes in farming, and all the efforts of Farm Bureau members to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture.



Centennial Celebration at the Annual Meeting

By Josh Schenk, President

The Green County Farm Bureau Centennial Annual Meeting was held August 22 at the Albany Lions Club. There were eighty attendees with twenty-eight voting members. Essay contest winners read their essays about the importance of the dairy industry and coloring contest winners showed off their work. Coloring contest winners received Culvers gift cards and essay winners received a copy of the book "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish."

During the annual business meeting, members elected Ashley Letcher, Tyler Rupnow and Amy Silver to serve three-year terms as directors. Tess Zettle was appointed as Promotion and Education Chair and Allison Gorr as YFA chair

to each serve one-year terms. Ben Huber, Amy Silver, Aleron Wasserstrass, Dustin Williams, Eric Wuthrich and Tess Zettle were elected as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting with John Dieckhoff as an alternate. Members adopted six policy resolutions to go before the WFBF Policy Development Committee.

Paige Blair and Carmen Montgomery were recognized for their years of service as retiring directors and Dubuque Fire was presented with the 2023 Friend of Agriculture Award for its long-time involvement with Rural Safety Day. The evening was completed as Bradley Uken, WFBF CAO, presented his background and future direction of WFBF membership. Eric Wuthrich and Jaclyn Lee led attendees in a game of trivia to celebrate Green County Farm Bureau's 100 years.



The Green County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at the Albany Lions Club.



Josh Schenk welcomed members to Green County Farm Bureau's Centennial Annual Meeting.



The Green County Dairy Queens handed out cheese and poured milk.



Tess Zettle awarded the top essay contest winners with a copy of the book of the year, Tales of a Dairy Godmother.



Essay contest winners: 1st place Layla Siegel, 2nd place Baylee Hessling and 3rd place Michael Klopfenstein.



Coloring awards: 2nd place Clovie Jeremiason and 3rd place Haddie Junk. 1st place Riley Bald was unable to attend.



Josh Schenk recognized Paige Blair and Carmen Montgomery for their years of service.



Josh Schenk presented the 2023 Friend of Agriculture Award to Dubuque Fire.



Bradley Uken, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's CAO, gave a memorable presentation.



Members enjoyed trivia as part of Green County Farm Bureau's centennial celebration.



Green County Farm Bureau board of directors (from left to right) include Dustin Williams, Tyler Rupnow, Aleron Wasserstrass, Allison Gorr, Ashley Letcher, Ben Huber, Erin Mullett, John Dieckhoff, Josh Schenk, Eric Wuthrich, Amy Silver and Tess Zettle

Rural Safety Day Educates 270 Students

By Amy Silver, Co-Chair

On September 20, Green County Farm Bureau hosted roughly 270 fifth grade students at the fairgrounds in Monroe for Rural Safety Day. Students rotated through stations that included grain bin safety, animal safety, fire safety, trailer safety, EMS, PTO safety, electrical safety, health services, ATV safety and chemical safety. This day was made possible by our generous sponsors and volunteers that graciously donated their time. It was a great way to celebrate National Farm Safety and Health Week in Green County!



Our welcome with all the 5th graders present!



Students were able to try to get a pair of work boots out of corn with a rope tied around! The corn creates so much pressure!



Dustin Williams teaches Tractor & PTO Safety! Thank you to Johnson Tractor for donating the equipment for the day!



Green County EMS covering "Stop the Bleed" and how to handle emergency situations!



Green County Ag Chest graciously donated all of the ice cream that was served!



Eastland Grain teaching Grain Bin Safety! The "Great Wall of Rescue" is what emergency responders use to help someone trapped in a grain bin.



Dubuque Fire Equipment & Monroe Safety let EVERY student practice spraying a fire extinguisher. SO IMPORTANT!

Farm Safety Programs

By Dustin Williams, Chair

Farm and Tractor Safety has always been a focus of the educational efforts of Green County Farm Bureau. There are several programs that have been implemented including Tractor Safety. That is also evident in the addition of the very successful Rural Safety Day event geared towards 5th grade students.

For a long time, the Wisconsin and National Tractor Safety Certification was taught through the collaborative efforts of local high school instructors, Green County Farm Bureau, UW Extension staff and Blackhawk Technical College staff. Thanks to those who helped teach that over the years!

In 2021 Blackhawk Technical College took on the opportunity to start offering the Purdue University safety training at the Monroe Location of BTC. BTC instructor Dustin Williams worked with Cheryl Skjolaas, WI Farm Safety Director, and Alissa Grenawalt, Dane County Ag in the Classroom, to put together a hybrid model of instruction. Students attend 15 nightly 1-hour Zoom sessions and four face-to-face sessions to practice and complete their tractor driving test. The course consists of over 24 hours of instruction and meets the federal and state requirements for Tractor Safety Certification. There were 22 students who participated in the spring 2023 course. Students were 12-16 years of age and traveled from Rock, Green, Dane, Walworth, Lafayette and Dodge counties to participate.

Blackhawk Technical College also offers a full 3-credit course in Ag Equipment Safety and Operations as a required class in the 2-year Agribusiness/Science and Technology Associate Degree Program. This course is designed for students 18 years and older. It covers all aspects of farm safety and includes a tractor driving and equipment safety section as well.

Farm Bureau continues to support these programs and offers assistance as needed.

UW Extension gifted 2023 graduates with first aid kits to take home to their own operations.

Farm Safety is an integral part of our industry. Green County Farm Bureau continues to advocate and promote farm safety in all programming. If you have questions about the Tractor Safety Training offered at Blackhawk Technical College, please reach out to board member Dustin Williams at 608-439-8210 or dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu.

Welcome New Board of Directors: Ashley Letcher and Tyler Rupnow

Ashley Letcher



I'm Ashley Letcher, and I live in Albany. I work at the USDA-NRCS in Green County where I am a programs assistant. I also help out with calf chores at the Rollin' Green Dairy Farm. I am the 2024 Green County Miss United States Agriculture where I will spend the next year advocating for the county and will be running for state in December. I recently graduated from Blackhawk Technical College with my Agribusiness Specialist 1 year degree and with my Agribusiness Science and Technology Associate's Degree. I have been very involved in many agricultural organizations such as Professional Agricultural Students where I served as the State Vice President in 2021-

2022. I am currently the Albany FFA Alumni Treasurer in Training. I'm looking forward to meeting some more people in the agriculture industry in Green County and meeting new Green Country Farm Bureau members!

Tyler Rupnow



My name is Tyler Rupnow. I am 32 years old. I grew up on a dairy farm in Green County. I purchased my own registered Ayrshires and Holsteins in March of 2010 and milked on halves until 2016. I had the opportunity to rent/purchase a farm a mile from my parents farm in 2016. My parents and I work together with equipment and labor. In January of 2023 I decided to quit milking cows and focus on crops and transitioning to beef cattle. I had been working for Insight FS seasonally for a couple years in my spare time and this year I took a full-time crop and operations specialist position, where I do field applications and I am working into an agronomist

role. I'm interested in being a Green County Farm Bureau board member to help promote agriculture and to gain leadership opportunities and skills.

Rock County

Ag in the Classroom Partners with FFA Chapters

By Stacy Skemp, Chair

Ag in the classroom this year worked closely with the Rock County FFA chapters to ensure that we had up to date contact information for every 4th and 5th grade teacher. The book of the year "Tales of the Dairy Godmother" by Viola Butter was distributed to elementary school teachers in Rock County along with lesson plan resources. We had multiple entries for the fourth-grade essay contest and hope next year we will have many more. The Milton FFA partnered with the Ag in the Classroom committee to utilize the Farm Bureau's books of the year from the past to teach about agriculture in every 4k-3rd grade classroom during the 2022-2023 school year.

The Ag in the Classroom committee is hoping to expand and partner with other Rock County FFA chapters to reach every 4k-3rd grade classroom. Every Rock County 4th grade classroom had the opportunity to take part in a Food for America program with the local FFA chapters and take a field trip out to a farm and learn about different facets of Rock County agriculture. If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Stacy Skemp skemps@milton.k12.wi.us.



Milton FFA students are teaching the kindergarten classes at Milton East using the Pizza Garden. The pizza garden is a self-sufficient garden shaped like a pizza. Kindergarten classes learn about all of the ingredients in a pizza and have the opportunity to plant the entire pizza garden at their school. The garden is then cared for by kindergarten families during the spring and summer. Families can harvest the produce to take home.

YFA is Rockin' in Rock County

By Brooke Trustem, Chair

What an amazing year for Rock County Farm Bureau! The Young Farmers and Agriculturists committee had another great year filled with fun events locally and statewide. From making charcuterie boards at Thanksgiving time to volunteering in the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the fair, YFA members enjoyed making new connections and visiting with old friends. I am excited to focus on the future and continue to with fellow Rock County Farm Bureau board members and coordinate more events in our county. Look for new professional and service events coming this fall!

On another YFA-related topic, three of our Rock County YFA members were selected as the top four finalists for their respective award areas. Jacob and Eliza Bobolz are finalists in the Farming for the Future Award. This award recognizes YFA members who excel in their farm involvement, future goals, leadership abilities and participation in Farm Bureau and other organizations. To quote Wisconsin Farm Bureau President, Kevin Krentz "This year's finalists are some of the best and brightest young farmers in Wisconsin." Additionally, I have been selected as a top finalist for the Outstanding Agriculture Professional Award which is based on members of Farm Bureau's Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program who excel in their leadership abilities, agriculture involvement and participation in Farm Bureau and other civic and service organizations.

Thank you for another "rockin" year with Rock County Farm Bureau!

Centennial Celebration Takes Annual Meeting Crowd Down Memory Lane

By Mary Hookham, Chair

This year's Rock County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held at the Barn on Prairie, Janesville, on September 25. Of the 55 people in attendance, 27 were voting members.

President Jill Uhe recognized Steve and Kathy Earleywine with the Distinguished Service Award; Friend of the Farm Bureau Award was given to Larson Acres; and Trailblazer Award was given to Kenny Ballmer.

Brooke Trustem will continue to serve as the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair and Jill Uhe will serve as the Promotion and Education Chair. The board had four open seats to fill this year. Unfortunately, only one seat was filled when Josh Peterson, who was up for re-election, accepted another three-year term. WFBF Annual Meeting delegates include Logan Frei, Doug Rebout, Brooke Trustem, Jill Uhe, Tim Wellnitz. Alternates: Sheila Everhart, Jacob Bobolz.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers here in Rock County! Farm Bureau is a very important organization for farmers, and we are grateful for your willingness to participate!

The county proposed eight policy resolutions for members to vote on this year: 1) We support funding a Wisconsin Office of Agricultural Tourism (WiOAgT) for support, research and growth of the agricultural tourism industry, 2) We support state, county and local governments to reduce restrictions of farms to

offer agricultural tourism experiences, build a retail center, and not to restrict the number of events held at private agricultural event venues that do not sell alcohol, 3) We support research on the economic viability of alternative energy sources, 4) We support Wisconsin State Law to require an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) in order to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct all energy generation facilities, 5) We support siting of solar energy generation facilities be required to avoid high-quality farmland and soil-types, 6) We support changes to the Farmland Advisory Council. The Council should be co-chaired by the Department of Revenue and DATCP. The committee should be made up of 80% active farmers, 7) We support the right of property owners to appeal citations from government agencies to the appropriate jurisdiction of the court and 8) We support the right of property owners to appeal citations from government agencies to the appropriate jurisdiction of the court.

After handling essential business, President Jill Uhe moderated a discussion between Rock County Farm Bureau members Doug Rebout and Steve Earleywine and WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken. The group looked back on memories in the county over the last 100 years and provided attendees with hope for the future of farming.

Rock County Farm Bureau would like to thank this year's annual meeting sponsors: George Auction Service & Real Estate, LLC, Sauk Valley Bank and The Scharine Group, LLC.



55 participated in the Rock County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.



Legislators presented a legislative citation in honor of the 100th anniversary and contributions to our community.



Jill Uhe presented the Distinguished Service Award to Steve and Kathy Earleywine.



Jill Uhe presented the Friend of Farm Bureau award to Larson Acres.



Jill Uhe presented the Trailblazer Award to Kenny Ballmer.



Kirk Leach was recognized for his years of service.



Kirk Leach presented a variety of policy resolutions for voting members.



Jill Uhe moderated a centennial celebration discussion.

Thank You Fair Food Stand Volunteers

By Ed Hookham, Co-Chair

Thanks to all our volunteers! Finding good volunteers is the hardest part of what we do. We are happy to pay our nonprofit groups to run a shift. Please let others know and send them our way.

We had a good year.

Income of \$42,600

Expenses of \$27,300

That is approximately 4,500 burgers, 3,000 brats and hot dogs, and 3,500 milkshakes.

Thanks again and looking forward to another good year.



Rock County Board of Directors



L-R: Josh Peterson, John McCarthy, Kenny Ballmer, Jill Uhe, Jason Bender, Brooke Trustem, Tim Wellnitz and Mary Hookham. Not pictured are Emily DeLong, Robb Leach and Josh Speich.

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients

Cade Austin



Cade Austin is the son of Ron and Michelle Austin. Cade is currently a Junior at Iowa State University majoring in Agricultural Business with a minor in Agricultural Systems Technology. Cade's ideal career would focus on auto steer, data collection and data management illustrating the economic benefits of precision farm practices to the producer. Cade has grown up surrounded by agriculture with his family, as an active Milton FFA member in high school, and cannot wait to make his mark in the agricultural industry upon graduation in May 2025.

Luke Trustem



Luke Trustem is the son of Jim Trustem and Sandy Larson. Luke is currently a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville majoring in Dairy Science with an emphasis in Agricultural Business. Luke's ideal career would be in animal nutrition sales or commodity procurement with ALCIVIA while continuing to be involved on his family's farm. Luke has grown up surrounded by agriculture with his family at Larson Acres, was an active Evansville FFA member in high school and cannot wait to make his mark in the agriculture industry upon graduation in May 2024.

Sauk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sauk
SaukCountyFarmBureau

A Message From the President...

By Mike Turner, President

I hope all is well with everyone as we have had another, anything-but-normal growing year. As harvest nears, it has amazed me how a lot of the crops have grown after the last couple of rains. It just proves to have a little faith and it will turn out ok.

This year has been a busy one but has also been a quiet one in the county. This next year more talks will be had at a state level about the upcoming farm bill, and of course, another round of elections.

This coming year as a county board, we are trying to get more member involvement on committees and in general. All of our committee chairs have great ideas and just need a little help to make the ideas become a reality. If you know of anyone or are interested, let any of the board members know. I hope you all have a safe harvest this fall.

The Ag in the Classroom 'Ag Lady'

By Nancy Liegel, Chair

Hi, a note from Nancy Liegel, Sauk County's Ag in the Classroom coordinator. We serve Sauk County second graders in the Baraboo, Reedsburg, River Valley, and Sauk Prairie School Districts. The 2022-2023 school year was a very busy year! I attended 21 classrooms, five times per school year. It was so much fun and so rewarding.

On National Ag Day, I read the essay contest book "Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's Ice Cream Wish" by Viola Butler. After reading the book, I made vanilla shakes with bananas and strawberries for students in two classes. They all enjoyed them so much.

I did a Sauk County coloring contest of cow pictures for National Ag Day this year. There were 268 participants, and we gave out cow suckers to the winners. The essay contest was very well received with 286 participants from Sauk County 4th and 5th grade students. There is lots of talent and it was fun reading them all.

I attended the Sauk County dairy breakfast with an Ag in the Classroom table with many handouts that were ag-related for the kids.

I love being called the Ag lady, Miss Nancy or Mrs. Liegel as I'm seen during the summer events. Hopefully, 2023-2024 will be a super year with new presentations.



School has started and so has Ag in the Classroom presentations.



Nancy Liegel enjoyed visiting her great nephew, Beckham's classroom.

Autumn Mack and Karen Reisinger Join Board of Directors

Autumn Mack



My name is Autumn Mack (Schlieckau). My family and I live in Sauk County just outside of Loganville. I currently work as a Rural Mutual Insurance agent and own a business with my husband. I am a 4th generation farmer and currently raising our 5th generation. Farming has always been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up on my grandparents' dairy farm on Hwy 23, helping feed calves, riding along to rake hay, or my personal favorite, watching my dad milk cows in the rotary parlor. After my grandpa sold the farm, and then passed in 2007, my father then took over the family farm where he switched gear from dairy to beef and crops. I then helped raise cattle, assisted my younger sister with her show heifers, helped plant beans, did various field work and even became a professional grain cart driver. My goal is to one day take over our family farm from my father and continue to grow it. I am truly excited about serving on the board and hope to help make a difference and bring some more much-needed attention and awareness to the agriculture industry.

Karen Reisinger

I was born and raised on a farm and had the privilege of marrying a farmer, working side by side for twenty years and another 28 years with my children. I am excited to be back on the board seeing new ideas implemented since I stepped off for a year. I am enjoying retirement with lots of reading and quilting. Traveling is next on the agenda!

Annual Meeting Speaker Highlights Wisconsin Agriculture

By Tommy Brennan, Co-Chair

The 2023 Sauk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on August 24 at Compeer Financial in Prairie du Sac. There were 46 in attendance with 21 voting members. An excellent meal was served by Catering by Carter.

The guest speaker was Jason Mugnaini, WFBF's Executive Director of Governmental Relations, and he gave a memorable presentation regarding recent wins and future challenges in our great state of Wisconsin concerning agriculture and related businesses.

Minutes and financials were presented and approved. There were five directors elected including Nancy Liegel, Kat Peper, Karen Reisinger, Craig Sandmire and Autumn Schlieckau.

Promotion and Education Chair is Sarah Hetke for the upcoming year.

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair is Brady Peper for the upcoming year.



The Sauk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held at Compeer Financial.



Jason Mugnaini gave a memorable presentation.



Karen Reisinger awarded Allison Ahrensmeier with her scholarship certificate.



Brady and Kat Peper shared their experience and an update as the District 2 YFA Representatives.



District 2 Director Arch Morton, Jr. shared Farm Bureau highlights from this past year.

Beef Giveaway, Wisco Wine and Cheese and Member Benefits at the Food Stand

By Sarah Hetke, Promotion and Education Chair

The Promotion and Education Committee had a busy year! We have a small, but mighty committee that makes these events possible. We encourage other members to join us so we can make an even greater impact throughout the county.

In May, the committee assembled beef grilling prize baskets that were given away through a random drawing. The drawing boxes were placed at businesses throughout the county where shoppers could register to win throughout the week. Two winners were selected and awarded the basket to enjoy during Beef Month and throughout the summer grilling season.

June Dairy Month was also a busy time for our group. We hosted the first-ever Wisco Wine and Cheese with Balanced Rock Winery. This event featured Sauk County cheesemakers Carr Valley Cheese and Cedar Grove Creamery. Their cheese samples were paired with wine from Balanced Rock. Attendees were able to try unique cheeses like butterkase, gouda and fontina which exposed them to new flavors. There were 55 people who attended the event, which was incredibly exciting for our first time. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Farmer Angel Network (\$200) and Beyond Blessed Pantry (\$200).

Wrapping up our summer, we featured member benefits information at the Farm Bureau food stand at the Sauk County Fair. We created laminated signs that were on each picnic table around the food stand. These signs highlighted money-saving member benefits and ways Farm Bureau benefits the local communities and students in agriculture programs. There was also a QR code for people to access the online member sign-up form.

We're looking forward to continuing to plan activities and welcome more members to join us. If you or another member you know wants to help plan Promotion and Education events, please encourage them to reach out to Sarah Hetke (612.388.7717), Kat Peper (209.639.1715) or Nancy Liegel (608.963.2511).



Fair Food Stand Continues as Largest Fundraiser

By Kat Peper

It was another successful year in the books for the Farm Bureau food stand at the Sauk County Fair. This year we had the addition of cream puffs that were a big hit and will be returning to the menu next year.

Thank you to all those who volunteered at the food stand! We wouldn't be successful without the time donated by our volunteers.

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and the proceeds go to support scholarships, local agriculture youth, agriculture education and much more. Looking forward to seeing you all at next year's fair, July 8-14, 2024.



Sauk County Board of Directors and Outgoing



The board welcomed Autumn Mack and Karen Reisinger as newly elected Sauk County Farm Bureau board directors. The board thanks Eunice Yanke and Pete Giese for their years of service.



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— Joshua

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