



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Seasons Greetings.

And just like that, fall has come and gone. As we begin to prepare for another year, my hope is everyone had a safe and bountiful harvest.

As this year draws to a close, we have so much to be thankful for. This year brought many accomplishments for Wisconsin Farm

Bureau members and staff. We celebrated the Government Relations team's work on the Agricultural Roads Improvement Act, the Public

Relations team's award-winning website, Gather Wisconsin, and the Operation team's work establishing the upcoming year's budget. We also celebrate achieving total membership gains made possible with the help from membership workers and the Member Relations team.

Your team is already hard at work preparing for a new year and new goals, and I look forward to seeing what we accomplish in 2024. I want to thank all of you for your hard work which ensures another successful year for District 3. You are all great role models within Farm Bureau and your communities.

It is an honor and a privilege to be serving as your District 3 Director. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and informed.

Finalists Selected in Inaugural 35 Under 35 Program

Thirty-five individuals have been selected as Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 Award finalists. The award is presented by WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in partnership with Insight FS.

The 35 Under 35 program recognizes the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities.

In the second year of the program, 45 innovative and deserving YFA members submitted video applications. Applications were evaluated for their involvement in one of five categories – Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Future, Sustainable Self, Sustainable Service and Sustainable Storytelling.

"The YFA Committee is ecstatic to see how many young farmers and agriculturalists were nominated for the 35 Under 35 program," said WFBF YFA Committee Chair Savannah Brown. "We look forward

to recognizing and meeting these deserving individuals in December at the YFA Conference. Congratulations to all the finalists!"

The Sustainable Service category recognizes individuals who are serving agriculture through trade skills or advisory roles. The District 3 finalist in the Sustainable Service

category is Tammy Wiedenbeck (Grant County).

The Sustainable Environment category recognizes individuals who are good stewards of the land and their resources. The District 3 finalist in the Sustainable Environment category is Eldon Henthorne (Vernon County).

The Sustainable Self category recognizes individuals who are serving their community through leadership, mentorship and mental health advocacy. The District 3 finalist in the Sustainable Self category is Andrew Dal Santo (Grant County).

"The 35 Under 35 program has been a success again in 2023," said Insight FS General Manager Ben Huber. "It is refreshing to see the leadership qualities and sustainability initiatives being driven by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and the YFA program, and Insight FS is proud to be a partner again in 2023. Congratulations to all the nominees and finalists; you are the best and brightest our industry has to offer!"

Each finalist will receive an embroidered vest sponsored by Insight FS. The top individual in each category will be announced during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December. The finalists are also invited to attend an exclusive networking reception during the conference.



District 3 News

Farm Bureau Proud Club Recognizes Volunteers

Each year WFBF recognizes membership volunteers who have made an extra effort to promote Farm Bureau by signing up five or more new members.

These members will be acknowledged at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December during the Farm Bureau Proud Club Banquet on Saturday evening.

Congratulations to the following District 3 members who signed up at least five new members and continue to work hard to keep Farm Bureau strong and growing.

Curt Miller and Tammy Wiedenbeck will also be recognized as 'Top 10' statewide membership volunteers. Curt signed up a total of 19 new members and Tammy signed up 11 new members.

Thank you to these volunteers for promoting Farm Bureau and its membership benefits.

For more information about Farm Bureau membership incentives, please contact District 3 Coordinator Katie Fitzsimmons at 608.574.9920 or kfitzsimmons@wfbf.com



Pat Dearth, Crawford County



Katie Roth, Grant County



Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant County



Krista Dolan, Iowa County



Adam Heisner, Iowa County



Trevor Jacobson, Iowa County



Don Ley, Iowa County



John Meyers, Iowa County



Tim Appell, Lafayette County



Curt Miller, Lafayette County



Robert Nigh, Vernon County

Young Farm Bureau Members Advocate for Agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers and Agriculturist members met with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. to discuss issues impacting agriculture on September 13. Issues discussed included Waters of the U.S., Federal Milk Marketing Order reform and the upcoming farm bill.

The September 11-15 trip was available to Farm Bureau members active in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program. The program provides members between the ages of 18 and 35 with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while networking with their peers.

While in Washington, D.C., YFA members met officials from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture where they discussed issues pertaining to WOTUS, FMMO and the farm bill. The 21 young leaders also met with Senator Tammy Baldwin,



Senator Ron Johnson and their member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This trip allowed me to see our grassroots organization in action," said Iowa County Farm Bureau member Megan Yager. "Visiting with our lawmakers drove home the importance of our Farm Bureau membership and involvement."

A visit to the Brazilian Embassy on September 12 included an overview of the country's agricultural commodities, export markets and their focus on sustainability initiatives. They also met with other state Farm Bureaus for a presentation by the National Pork Producers Council.

District 3 Members who attended the D.C. trip were: Andrew Dal Santo, Grant County; Kent Jerrett, Grant County; and Megan Yager, Iowa County.

District Picnic Tradition Continues On

The District 3 Family Picnic was held on August 13 at Blackhawk Lake in Highland. This year the picnic was held in conjunction with District 2. Farm Bureau members and their families enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, good company and a few games of sand volleyball. It was a great event to close out a busy summer!



District 3 News

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

In my latest adventure, I traveled to the vibrant country of Thailand, where our group learned about the story of Big Bee Farm, an example of excellence in the honey industry. Originating as “Thep-prasit Honey Farm” in 1999, this small business grew into

Thailand’s leading bee farming company, now known as Big Bee Farm. Their unique journey led them to become pioneers in various aspects of apiculture, including beekeeping farms, food manufacturing, a bee acupuncture clinic and even a tourist bee farm.

In 2011, Big Bee Farm made history by establishing Thailand’s first apitherapy (a form of alternative medicine using honey, bee venom, royal jelly, propolis and beeswax to promote health and healing) clinic and training center, showcasing the diverse health benefits of honey. Did you know that real honey, when mixed with water, forms a distinct honeycomb pattern? This natural wonder signifies its authenticity, packed with



antioxidants, antibacterial properties and brain-boosting elements in as little as a spoonful consumed per day.

My adventure didn’t end there as it provoked my curiosity into the honey industry! As I returned home, research shows that Wisconsin’s honey industry is buzzing. In 2022, Wisconsin produced an incredible 2.92 million pounds of honey, a 48% increase from the previous year. The state’s biodiversity plays a significant role in this success story, as bees pollinate an array of crops including apples, cranberries, cucumbers, watermelons, cantaloupes, cucumbers, squashes, tomatoes and blueberries. Blueberries and cherries, for instance, depend up to 90% on honeybee pollination, emphasizing the crucial role bees play in our food ecosystem.

For those eager to enjoy the nectar of Wisconsin’s bees, look no further than local honey producers. The Wisconsin Honey Producers Association (WHPA) offers a fantastic resource, guiding you to local honey makers. Explore the unique flavors derived from Wisconsin’s diverse vegetation, ranging from clover and basswood to sunflowers and cranberry blossoms. As I continue to learn and promote different parts of the agriculture industry like honey, you can too by visiting Wihoney.org/find-local-honey!

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Casey and Morgan Lobdell
District 3 YFA Committee Representatives

Happy holidays, District 3! It’s hard to believe 2024 is right around the corner. As 2023 draws to a close, we celebrate completing our first year on the YFA Committee. This year alone has been full of many new Farm Bureau experiences

and we’re just getting started!

We have much to update you on since we last left off. Starting in July, we had a YFA summer committee meeting in Black River Falls where we finalized plans for the 2023 YFA Conference. It was a great time checking off final tasks and bonding with fellow committee members. We hope District 3 YFA members enjoy what we have planned for this year’s conference!

Straight from our YFA getaway, we jumped hands-on into Farmers Appreciation Day. When your District Coordinator is also an immediate family member, this means we sometimes get volunteered to take on additional small tasks. In this case, the small task was helping coordinate the Iowa County Farm Bureau Parade float. So, after a quick pit stop at the car wash, we got Casey’s truck shined up for the parade route. All jokes aside, we were so grateful to be a part of an awesome event that recognizes

farmers. Special shoutout to the Farmers Appreciation Day Committee for all their hard work planning the day!

The next event on our calendar was the District 3 Discussion Meet hosted at The Meat Schoppe in Lancaster, Wisconsin. We enjoyed a wonderful meal and tour from Keri and Kelsi Retallick. The participants delivered a quality Discussion Meet where they deliberated young farmers securing their financial future. Congratulations to Ben Cooper, Andrew Dal Santo and Sam Pinchart for advancing to the state-level contest. We know District 3 will be well-represented this December!

We closed out the summer by hosting a District 3 picnic in conjunction with the District 2 YFA Chairs. We were happy to carry on the summer picnic tradition at Blackhawk Lake in Highland this year. Coincidentally, the picnic happened to fall on one of the few days it rained this summer. So, while we waited out the much-needed moisture, we enjoyed the great food and company. Once the light showers passed, attendees ventured out to the sand volleyball court for a few friendly games.

The fall proved to be just as busy with it being county annual meeting season. We were honored to attend almost all the annual meetings in District 3. Thank you to all those who hosted us. We enjoyed giving updates about the happenings at the state level.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us during our first year on the committee. We cannot wait to see what 2024 brings!

YFA Members Cheer on the Madison Mallards



YFA members attended the Madison Mallards game on Saturday, June 17. The group traveled by bus to Madison and enjoyed socializing and the game. The event was planned by Iowa County YFA Chair, Elizabeth Spink.

District 3 News

District 3 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 27 at The Meat Schoppe. Keri and Kelsi Retallick introduced themselves and shared their mission of serving locally sourced meat products to their customers. Members received a behind-the-scenes tour of their store front, followed by a delicious catered meal.

The Discussion Meet gives YFA members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

This year's district topic was: Production agriculture requires a lot of capital. Young farmers and ranchers face challenges in 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 resources - to run their farms and ranches?

Ben Cooper (Lafayette County), Andrew Dal Santo (Grant County) and Sam Pinchart (Iowa County) will represent District 3 in the State YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



Discussion Meet competitors (from L to R): Mia Hillebrand, Andrew Dal Santo, Sam Pinchart and Ben Cooper. Andrew, Sam and Ben are moving on to the finals.

Collegiate Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville had a busy fall semester. The students participated in several recruitment events, took part in homecoming activities and hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet. The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau.



The Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet was held on October 5. Participants included (from L to R): Ella Walters, Katelyn Meinholz, Breanna Cisketti and Isaac Ward. Isaac and Katelyn were selected to move on to the state competition held during the YFA Conference in December.



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Ag in the Classroom Update

Livia Doyle

Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Hello District 3 Farm Bureau Members! My name is Livia Doyle and I serve as the Iowa County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator. Alongside our family, my husband and I raise beef cattle and grow crops east of Mineral Point. Additionally, this is my fourteenth year in education. I work in the Mineral Point School District and have been teaching fourth-grade for the past thirteen years.

I love this time of year as harvest season provides so many avenues to incorporate agriculture into the classroom. Just this past week, my students and I attended a virtual field trip to an Ohio Soybean Farm. Students learned from Farmer Nathan about the lifecycle of a soybean and the many uses of soybeans. Additionally, we got to climb up inside a combine and tour the inside of the cab. Students learned about auto steer technology and how the inside of a combine works. Lastly, Farmer Nathan took the students to the field and showed us how a combine harvests beans in the field. Students loved seeing and being inside this big piece of equipment. Although this field trip was virtual, it still provided students with a greater understanding of what farmers are doing in the fields during harvest season.

Second Grade Teacher, Keri Radtke of Mineral Point Elementary School received a grant through Farm Bureau to incorporate agriculture into each month of her

curriculum. Throughout the school year, she plans to read an agriculture-related book each month and then students will do an agriculture-related activity that ties in well with the book. During the month of September, Mrs. Radtke invited her son Blake to be a guest reader. He talked about his experience working at an apple orchard, shared with students about the life cycle of an apple, how apples are harvested and read a book to the students about apples. Afterward, students enjoyed eating apples for a yummy treat!

This year's book of the year is called I Love Strawberries by Shannon Anderson. This beautiful picture book shares the story of a young girl's love and determination to grow strawberries from seedling to strawberry. This year's essay contest focuses on our state's sweetest agriculture industry - fruit! The essay topic is "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-full!" Wisconsin is the number one producer of cranberries and is a leader in the production of cherries, apples, and strawberries. What a fun essay topic for fourth- and fifth-grade students to explore this school year! All essays are due to County Farm Bureau Coordinators by April 15, 2024. Now is the perfect time to make connections and reach out to classroom teachers. Consider offering teachers a visit to their classroom to share your agriculture story. Youth of all ages are curious and want to learn. Food is all around us. Farm animals and food pique student interest.

Please reach out to me or your county's Ag in the Classroom Coordinator if you want to become more involved or need help incorporating any agriculture lessons or activities into the classroom or community events.

District 3 News

Ag in the Classroom Spotlight



Iowa County Farm Bureau Member, Blake Radtke of Mineral Point with second-graders.



Iowa County Farm Bureau Member, Blake Radtke of Mineral Point, visits a second-grade classroom and shares his experience working at an apple orchard.

Crawford County

wfbf.com/about/counties/crawford
CrawfordCountyFarmBureau

Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 19 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

JoAnn Cooley, County Executive Director at USDA-Farm Service Agency, served as the guest speaker. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Crawford County members passed 8 resolutions:

State

- We support a rural EMS program that encourages more personnel easy access to be certified to respond quickly in rural areas.
- We support deer herd reduction in highly populated areas.
- We support funding to rural EMS to improve and purchase needed equipment.
- We support property purchase agreements listing manure storage structures and other contracted conservation projects so that buyer is aware.
- We support summer school funding to support tractor, ATV/UTV, and snowmobiling safety training.
- We support that any energy generation project that needs a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, must also be required to have an agricultural impact statement.

- We support the dairy revitalization plan.

Federal

- We support increased transparency in milk checks, including all premiums and deductions to include producer price differentials cooperative re-investment or loss and transportation.

Don Brown, Lori Brown and AV Roth will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: AV Roth (President), Don Brown (Vice President), Mary Jo Johnsrude (Secretary/Treasurer), Lori Brown, Pat Dearth, Ron Ellefson, Craig Hromadka and Leroy Peterson.



Dishing Up Dairy Deliciousness

The Crawford County Fair took place August 24-27 in Gays Mills. Crawford County Farm Bureau members were busy at the Dairy Bar serving up delicious products to fairgoers. The menu included pie, all sorts of ice cream treats, grilled cheese and lemonade.



Summer Picnic

The Crawford County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic is an annual event that brings together Farm Bureau members to socialize. This year's picnic was held on July 20th at Eastman Park. Some of the highlights of the event are the delicious food and hearing updates from legislators. This year, Representative Loren Oldenburg joined to share an update from the Capitol. Thank you to all who continue to join us for this annual event.



Grant County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Tuesday, September 26 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Jason Mugnaini, WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations, served as the guest speaker.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 7 resolutions:

State

- We support colleges and universities requiring agriculture courses as part of their general education curriculum.
- We support property purchase agreements listing manure storage structures and other contracted conservation projects so that buyer is aware.
- We support requiring processors to continue the milk purchasing agreement from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current

codes if necessary.

- We support that any Wisconsin energy generation project that needs a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, must also be required to have an agricultural impact statement.
- We support the dairy revitalization plan.
- We support the government investment in more research to invent more uses for recycled ag plastic.
- We support the transferring of a Grade A permit from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current codes if necessary.

Andrew Dal Santo, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Katie Roth, Christina Winch, Peter Winch and Abby Walker will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Peter Winch (President), Allen Johnson (Vice President), Katie Roth (Secretary/Treasurer), Josh Bailie, Andrew Dal Santo, Jason Heberlein, Kent Jerrett, Charisse Orth, Derek Orth, Jackie Seelow and Abby Walker.



The Grant County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



Richard and June Johnson were recognized for their years of service to Grant County Farm Bureau.

President's Message



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello District 3! I am happy to share Grant County Farm Bureau has been hard at work these past few months with a variety of activities. Back in August, we hosted our food stand at the Grant County Fair, which is our main fundraiser of the year. We're lucky to have a great team of

members and board of directors to make this event successful every year. Thanks to everyone's efforts, 2023 was another successful year for the food stand. We look forward to reinvesting these profits back into our community and organization!

In September we had our county annual meeting at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. Grant County Farm Bureau members gathered to vote on policy, to be sent to the state level and voted at the annual meeting. This truly demonstrates the grassroots process and why this

organization is so important. At the conclusion of the annual meeting, I was honored to be re-elected as President for another year. I look forward to another year of serving Grant County Farm Bureau!

At the annual meeting we were able to recognize Richard and June Johnson for their service to Grant County Farm Bureau. Richard retired from the board and June retired from the Promotion and Education Committee. Together, they have served over 40 years on the board and committee. They have played an instrumental role in the county, and we thank them for their years of service to agriculture and Farm Bureau.

There are many upcoming activities and I invite you all to take part. One of the first events of the year will be Ag Day at the Capitol on January 31st. Grant County Farm Bureau will be sponsoring ten members to attend. The event is very informative regarding state policy and provides members with the opportunity to meet their representatives. Please reach out if you have any interest in attending or would like additional information. Until then, I wish everyone safe and happy holidays!

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo

Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Committee Chair

Happy holidays from the Grant County YFA. Thank you all who came out to Blackhawk Lake for the joint District 2 and District 3 YFA picnic. It was proof that you can make a 15% chance of rain turn into 100% by either putting some hay down or planning an outdoor Farm Bureau event. Although it was only enough rain to settle the dust, we still had a great turnout. The grilled burgers, hotdogs, corn and salads were great, and the deserts were even better. It was great to see everyone come together on the sand volleyball courts and attempt to play after such a great meal.

I look forward to seeing you all again this December at the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference. I hope you all have a safe holiday season!

County Fair Activities

The Grant County Fair was held August 16-20 in Lancaster. Highlights of the fair include both the Farm Bureau Food Stand and the Agriculture Education Tent.

The food stand proved to be a great success this year. As always, the pork chop, cheeseburger and brat patty plates are a fairgoer favorite.

The Agriculture Education tent was a big hit with many kids and adults stopping by to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry. Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit farm animals, color the wall mural and win a variety of prizes.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to work at the stand and tent. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food and learning opportunities that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.



Grant County Community Investment Grant

This past May the Cuba City FFA Chapter was selected as a recipient for the 2023 Grant County Community Investment Grant. The FFA chapter submitted a detailed application, explaining that if selected, they would use the funds to purchase new signage to sell their sweet corn. The Grant County Farm Bureau was happy to award them the grant and were thrilled to see their new signage!



Iowa County

wfbf.com/about/counties/iowa
IowaCountyFarmBureau

Iowa County Farm Bureau Sponsors Field Meals

Emi McCarville

Pecatonica FFA President

On September 8th, the Pecatonica FFA Chapter delivered meals to farmers in the Pecatonica Area School District. The chapter's officers spent the morning and afternoon going around to different area farms to thank farmers for what they do, along with delivering them meals. The Pecatonica FFA would like to thank the Iowa County Farm Bureau for their generous donation to help with this event!



Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Thursday, September 21 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed 9 resolutions:

State

- We support the Dairy Checkoff Reform Proposal.
- We support requiring processors to continue the milk purchasing agreement from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current codes if necessary.
- We support that any Wisconsin energy generation project that needs a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity must also be required to have an agricultural impact statement.
- We support the Dairy Revitalization Plan.
- We support the Wisconsin legislature amending state statutes to give local governments greater control of overseeing and approval of energy generation projects.

Federal

- We support the Dairy Checkoff Reform Proposal.
- We support raising the Tier 1 coverage cap on dairy margin from 5 million pounds to 7 million pounds.
- We support increased transparency in milk checks, including all premiums and deductions to include producer price differentials cooperative re-investment or loss and transportation.

Internal

- We support WFBF creating a special committee to develop tools and resources to support farmers as they consider energy-related projects on their land, both for their own use and as part of larger projects such as wind, solar, transmission lines or pipelines.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Kyle Levetzow and John Meyers will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan (President), Justin Doyle (Vice President), Dan Adams (Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Daentl, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow, Don Ley, Matt Limmex, John Meyers, Jason Steffes, Elizabeth Spink and Megan Yager.



Promotion and Education Committee Update



Megan Yager

Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Hey there! As always, summer and fall have flown by in the blink of an eye. During the past months, the Iowa County Farm Bureau has stayed busy with plenty of Promotion and Education activities, which means I have many updates to share!

Starting in July, the

Iowa County Farm Bureau was thrilled to be a part of the 37th annual Farmer's Appreciation Day. The weather could not have been better and there were many folks in attendance. We had a float for the parade and the kids helped pass out string cheese and yogurt. It was a wonderful parade lasting for over an hour. The Iowa County Farm Bureau also had a food stand again this year. We grilled 250 steaks for sandwiches and served them in a sack lunch with chips and string cheese. It was a very successful event. We would like to thank our food sponsors Compeer Financial, Organic Valley and Walmart. I would also like to extend a thank you to the many wonderful Farm Bureau member volunteers who helped out. These volunteers were the biggest reason for our success!

Next up was the Iowa County Fair, which took place on Labor Day weekend in Mineral Point. Again, this year, Iowa County Farm Bureau was a top sponsor of the Master Showman Contest. The top two senior showmen from the beef, dairy, goat, sheep and swine project competed for the overall title of Master Showman. Exhibitors are evaluated on their ability to answer questions and how well they show each species in a series of rounds. The judges rank the participants on their showing ability, species knowledge and attitude in the show ring. This year's Iowa County Master Showman Contest winner was Annie Robinson from Mineral Point!



In addition, a benefit pie auction was held at the conclusion of the competition, raising \$4,500 for scholarships and prize money. Anyone who has previously competed in the contest and is furthering their education is eligible for the scholarship award. Two past participants were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients included Joey Robinson, Mineral Point and Julia Searls, Cobb.

In September, I had the pleasure of attending the Farm Bureau YFA Washington, D.C. Fly-In. Several young Farm Bureau leaders from across the state of Wisconsin were able to visit Capitol Hill and meet with our elected representatives in Congress. It was truly a wonderful experience seeing our

grassroots organization work on a national level. It also drove home the importance of Farm Bureau membership and the work we do to bring policy to the discussion.

The Iowa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on September 21 at Hi Point Steakhouse. We had a great turnout of over 60 people, and it was our best attendance in years. The meal was wonderful and there was plenty of discussion about

policy. We also held a silent auction to raise money for scholarships that the Iowa County Farm Bureau gives out every year to high school seniors.

The final Promotion and Education activity of the year was sponsoring stickers for all Iowa County Safety Day participants, which was held on September 26. Iowa County Farm Bureau President, Krista Dolan played a large part in organizing this event

with the Iowa County 4-H Extension office. The event highlighted many different safety sessions, including farm safety for fifth graders in Iowa County.

It has been a great year full of Promotion and Education activities in Iowa County and I look forward to many more events in the new year. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season celebrating with family!

Iowa County Safety Day

Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

As the needs and safety concerns for all residents of Iowa County continue to grow and evolve, so do the safety concerns for our local youth. After 25 years, The Iowa County Extension 4-H has partnered with the Iowa County Farm Bureau to form the Iowa County Safety Coalition and bring back an Iowa County Safety Day for all fifth-grade students at the public and private schools in the county.

On September 26, we hosted 255 students who rotated through nine sessions to learn about the safety and dangers of UTV/ATVs, PTOs, vaping, lawnmowers, tornadoes, animal safety, Stop the Bleed, and basic first aid. We also heard from Kyle Thompson a farm accident survivor! We had a presentation from the Iowa County Sheriff's Department on the DARE program and from Alliant Energy on the dangers of down power lines.

This event would not have been possible without our sponsors and volunteers! We thank everyone for their donations to put this event on!



DodgeFest Food Stand

Iowa County Farm Bureau served steak sandwiches at the 2023 DodgeFest on August 5th. It was a great evening mingling with community members while enjoying some live music!



Lafayette County

wfbf.com/about/counties/lafayette
LafayetteCountyFarmBureau

Lafayette County Fair Food Stand

Farm Bureau members served up delicious food at this year's Lafayette County Fair. The steak sandwiches continue to be a fairgoer favorite, helping to make it one of the most profitable years yet. Funds raised from the food stand are used towards educational programs and scholarship awards for qualified individuals pursuing careers in agriculture. Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time to help make the food stand a success.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on Tuesday, August 22 at The General Store in Wiota. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions.

Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Ben Cooper, Curt Miller and Joe Riechers will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Christina Benson (President), Tim Appell (Vice President), Casey Lobdell (Secretary/Treasurer), Ben Cooper, Paul Johnson, Josh Kamps, Curt Miller, Olivia Holland, Joe Riechers, and Jordan Torstenson.



Meet: Ben Cooper, Director

Occupation: Farmer

College/Major: Iowa State 2022, Dairy Science

Agricultural background: I grew up on our family's dairy farm north of Wiota, WI. We milked 60 Holstein cows. I began spending time in the parlor while I was still in a playpen. As I got older, I continued spending time on the farm and fell in love with farming. In 2014 we sold the cows and I took that really hard. I had always planned on coming home to milk cows after college but Grandpa was ready to be done milking and Dad didn't want to take it on by himself until I was home. It took Dad a little while to decide what we were going to do in the future. In 2016 we began buying dairy bull calves from area farmers for beef and bought 10 beef cows and have since expanded both.

Family: Bob and Nikki Cooper, Gracie and Brody. Dad and I also farm with my Grandpa Bob Sr. and Grandma Pat.

Brief description of the family farm: When we started, we only had about 14 pens to work with, but we have expanded to 42 individual pens and the capacity to feed about 60 calves if we are using group pens. We buy about 250 calves each year and sell about half as feeders and finish the rest. We have expanded to



50 Angus beef cows and sell their calves as feeders each year. We have 250 acres of cropland and sell grain off whatever isn't used for feed.

What is your favorite job to do on the farm?

Working with calves, just typical daily chores in the calf barn.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? I joined Farm Bureau to help make a difference, meet people and because Joe Riechers kept calling me.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau?

I have only become an active member recently, but I have had lots of fun networking and meeting people. I'm looking

forward to getting involved in more events in the future, such as the YFA conference in December.

I am Farm Bureau proud because... Farm Bureau is made up of farmers and works for the farmers. In a changing world, it can often seem that more and more people are fighting against agriculture, but Farm Bureau gives farmers a voice.

Preferred tractor color: Green, but we have a whole rainbow of different colors on our farm

Favorite ice cream flavor: Cookies and Cream

Hobby: I enjoy playing softball, skiing and traveling when I have time!

Tis the Season



Christina Benson

Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Tis the holiday season, which brings us a time for joy and celebration. On a less exciting note, this season also brings us snowstorms and colder temperatures. Thus, begins my "after hours job," dedicating evenings and weekends to bringing in loads of wood from the farm. It makes me stop and think how many things have changed over the years on

farms and how some things stay the same.

Years ago, farm families did what we are doing now, gathering crops and lumber. How many cattle have rested under tree branches that now provide warmth to our homes? Pretty amazing how simple practices can provide some of our greatest needs. For instance, a roof over our heads, food on our tables and heat in our homes, surrounded by those who support us.

Take some time to reach out to others as the season change can be hard. Waking up to work before sunlight and going home in the dark can take a toll on everyone.

As always feel free to call or message me at 815.275.4400 with your questions and suggestions. Have a safe & healthy holiday season!

Richland County

wfbf.com/about/counties/richland

Fair Time Fun in Richland County

The Richland County Farm Bureau distributed promotional stickers at this year's Richland County Fair. The event aimed to promote the importance of agriculture and farming in our community, as well as educate fairgoers about the role that Farm Bureau plays in supporting local farmers.



President's Message



Josh Joseph

Richland County Farm Bureau President

Hello fellow Farm Bureau members, my name is Josh Joseph and I am the new President of the Richland County Farm Bureau. I follow the long reign of past president, Dick Hauser, who I greatly thank for leading the organization for so many years. Dick played an instrumental part in getting me involved in Farm Bureau and is a longstanding role model within the community. I wish him the best of luck as he continues his very busy life of agriculture and community involvement.

Here is a bit of a bio to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Richland

County raising Holstein steers with my father and helping on the family's dairy farm after school and during the summers. I graduated from Kickapoo High School and went on to attend UW-Richland and UW-Platteville where I majored in Ag Business. Upon graduation from college, my brother and I bought a small farm and herd of beef cows. My wife, Kristen, and I met at the end of college and were married after she graduated from "THEE Ohio State" as a Food Animal Veterinarian. She now operates Joseph Veterinary Service, LLC serving beef, dairy, sheep and hog producers. We now reside outside Ithaca with our 2 sons, 1 dog, 2 horses and somewhere between 200-400 sheep depending on the season.

I look forward to serving as the Richland County Farm Bureau President, helping advocate for ag policy and serving the membership. If you have questions or would like to talk, feel free to email me at josej5604@gmail.com or give me a call at 608-604-9819.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Monday, September 25 at The Phoenix Center in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed 7 resolutions:

State

- We support a rural EMS program that encourages more personnel easy access to be certified to respond quickly in rural areas.
- We support funding to rural EMS to improve and purchase needed equipment.
- We support that any Wisconsin energy generation project that needs a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity must also be required to have an agricultural impact statement.

Internal

- We support WFBF working with the Wisconsin Technical College System \ to develop a farmer course for entrepreneurial agriculture and those individuals seeking to run their own farming operation.
- We support the Rural Mutual Insurance Company providing financial support for tractor safety courses across the state.

- We support WFBF creating a proactive special committee to develop educational tools and resources to support farmers as they consider energy related projects on their land, both for their own use and as part of larger projects such as wind, solar, transmission lines or pipelines.

- We support the re-establishment of the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Award programs for national competition.

Dick Hauser and Josh Joseph will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Dick Hauser (President), Josh Joseph (Vice President), Germaine Hying (Secretary) and Bill Hying (Treasurer).



Vernon County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on Thursday, September 28 at The Eagles Club in Viroqua. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed 13 resolutions:

State

- We support a rural EMS program that encourages more personnel easy access to be certified to respond quickly in rural areas.
- We support funding to rural EMS to improve/purchase needed equipment.
- We support summer school funding to support tractor, ATV/UTV and snowmobile safety training.
- We support a modification to the existing 4-day December gun hunt to include the harvest of bucks to encourage hunters.
- We support extending the 9-day gun deer season to encourage deer herd reduction.
- We support local locker plants accepting cows with broken legs for personal processing.
- We support property purchase agreements listing manure storage structures and other contracted conservation projects so that buyer is aware.

Internal

- We support WFBF working with the Wisconsin Technical College System to develop a farmer course for entrepreneurial agriculture and those individuals seeking to run their own farming operation.
- We support the Rural Mutual Insurance Company providing financial support for tractor safety courses across the state.
- We support WFBF creating a proactive special committee to develop



educational tools and resources to support farmers as they consider energy-related projects on their land, both for their own use and as part of larger projects such as wind, solar, transmission lines or pipelines.

- We support increased transparency with all regular and internal policy resolutions.
- We support increased partnership with all Wisconsin commodity checkoffs to create an environmental stewardship coalition.
- We support the re-establishment of the Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement Award programs for national competition.

Alex Bringe, Andy Diehl, Drew Hendrickson, Eldon Henthorne and Travis Klinkner will serve as delegates to the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Alex Bringe (President), Kevin Larson (Vice President), Andy Diehl (Secretary/Treasurer), Drew Hendrickson, Cosette Henthorne, Eldon Henthorne, Dave McClurg, Robert Nigh, Scott Sherry and Steve Wagemester.

Promotion and Education Update

Drew Hendrickson

Vernon County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair



Hello District 3, my name is Drew Hendrickson and I am the newly elected Vernon County Promotion and Education Chair. I am happy to share that Vernon County Farm Bureau had a busy summer planning Promotion and Education activities in the county.

Back in August, we put together a booth at the Vernon County Night Out, where we emphasized the importance of farm safety. Members and I handed out 'Farm Safe' stickers and farm safety literature for attendees. Of course, the highlight for children was getting to climb up into the tractor cabs to get their picture taken! It was a great opportunity to interact with community members to also teach them about roadway safety when passing farm equipment. The timing of the event couldn't have been better to spread this message with the busy harvest months quickly approaching.

To close out the summer, Vernon County Farm Bureau distributed buckets to

youth livestock exhibitors at the Vernon County Fair in September. Each bucket featured a Vernon County Farm Bureau logo and contained educational literature. It was a great activity to increase interaction with young agriculturists in the county and promote farm bureau!

It was a great summer for Vernon County Farm Bureau, and I look forward to helping put on these activities again next year! If you ever have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out at 608.606.1999 or hendricksonfarming@gmail.com. In the meantime, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season!





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