

# Grassroots

## District 5 News



### District Director Update

**Kevin Krentz**

District 5 Director and WFBF President

Farm Bureau continues to advocate for members on all levels. We have a full-staff team focused on supporting our members. From legislative outreach to consumer engagement and so much more.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau has a ton to celebrate in what we have accomplished and what we are

working on this year. Consumer outreach is extremely important to farmers. Thank you to all the volunteers who work hard advocating for agriculture. The Ag in the Classroom program is a premier educational program in Wisconsin. We continue to adapt to find more resources for you but also create more content for teachers to fit into their curriculum. The state legislature has seen the importance of this program as well and has supported it by adding another \$50,000 annually to help strengthen it for years to come. Earlier this year WFBF launched a new website "Gather Wisconsin", engaging consumers in a way never done before. By bringing together resources from across agriculture and building a one-stop website. Helping educate consumers on modern farming practices as well as giving them the opportunity to ask farmers questions. WFBF continues to find new ways to advocate, educate and support members doing the same. These programs among many others are funded through our Foundation. This year the WFB Foundation held its second annual Giving Day. We set a record by raising over \$55,000. The Foundation also supports the Leadership Institute, the Young Farmers and Agriculturalists committee and the Promotion and Education committee.

On the legislative front, WFBF has been working at the local, state and federal levels. Pushing for the ARIP – Agriculture Road Improvement Program to help towns and local municipalities identify and improve roads and bridges supporting agriculture. The 2023-25 Biennial State Budget was also ag-friendly by funding processor improvement grants, grants protecting our waters, nutrients and soils, agriculture export promotion program and addressing PFAS contamination. We also continue to support the Farm & Industry Short Course in finding a new home at UW-River Falls.

What Farm Bureau does best is support members and align opportunities for members. WFBF is a major sponsor of Ag Day at the Capitol every year. This is a great opportunity for members to get updates on current legislation from our government relations team as well as interact with legislators on why certain bills are important to you and your farm. Please consider attending Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison at the end of January.

This year WFBF also traveled to Washington DC twice with member groups. In June a portion of the WFBF Farm Bill committee and dairy committee traveled to D.C. to advocate on Wisconsin priorities within the Farm Bill. In September a group of Young Farmers and Agriculturalists members traveled to Washington, D.C., to discuss a variety of issues from Farm Bill to labor needs.

Not everyone has the ability or time to travel to meet with representatives and Wisconsin Farm Bureau is well suited for this as well. WFBF has a very qualified and capable government relations team advocating on our behalf every day. Whether it be state budget, roads, wolves, Farm Bill, Federal Milk Marketing, Labor, education, or so much more, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation continues to advocate on behalf of our over 48,000 members. Thank you for lending your voice.



**SEVEN  
Superstars  
D5**

### District 5

### Farm Bureau Proud Club Members



Congratulations to  
District 5 for scoring 801  
points and winning the It  
**Takes a Team**  
membership challenge!



**Trayton Greenfield**  
Fond du Lac County  
40 members signed

Congratulations to these  
members that signed at least 5  
new members during the past  
membership year and will be  
recognized as Farm Bureau Proud  
members.



**Pete Badtke**  
Green Lake County  
5 members signed



**Dave Gneiser**  
Green Lake County  
5 members signed



**Reuben Hopp**  
Fond du Lac County  
5 members signed



**Steve Kutz**  
Green Lake County  
5 members signed



**Kevin Krentz**  
Waushara County  
5 members signed



**Kevin Radloff**  
Winnebago County  
6 members signed



**Steven Sabel**  
Fond du Lac County  
5 members signed



**Dave Wilke**  
Green Lake County  
5 members signed



**Aaron Wachholz**  
Marquette County  
5 members signed

# District 5 News

## District Promotion and Education Update



The District 5 Promotion and Education Committee summer tour was held on July 27 at North Road Flower Farm located near Pickett. Over 15 attended from 5 different counties in the district. Attendees toured the farm, learned about fresh floral design and had the opportunity to create their own fresh bouquet.



On September 23, the district held a joint Promotion and Education Committee and Young Farmer and Agriculturalist event at Alsum's Farm near Grand Marsh. Members had an opportunity to tour Alsum's pumpkin packing facility and see pumpkins and potatoes being harvested.

## District Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Update

The Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues. The District 5 Discussion Meet was held on August 14 at Pete Badtke's farm near Ripon.

Alana Biermeier from Juneau County and Chad Bruss from Green Lake County will represent the district at the WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturalists Discussion Meet Contest that will be held during the WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturalists Conference on December 1-3.



### Meet: Victoria Smith, District YFA Chair

Marquette County Farm Bureau member Victoria Smith was appointed as the new District 5 Young

Farmers and Agriculturalists Chair. She will begin her duties in December at the WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturalists Conference. She will serve a three-year term. She replaces Jeff and Sara (Menard) Huber from Adams County. Thank you to Jeff and Sara for doing a great job the past three years serving the district.

2023

IT TAKES A TEAM

WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference  
December 1-4, 2023



## Extension Update



**Natasha Paris**

Extension Regional Crops Educator

Hello Farm Bureau Members! I hope your harvest is going well. Here at Extension, we are busy preparing for a winter meeting season packed with informative and engaging sessions to help you grow. Another thing to consider is that there will be a new funding round for Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Grants coming soon. Please contact us if

you are interested in applying. If you would like to receive updates on when local events are happening, please call or email your local Extension office and provide an email address so we can send you email notices. Here are a few updates on what to expect, I look forward to seeing you this winter!

### Pesticide Applicator Training:

If your certification is expiring, you should have received a postcard. All dates and info are available at [patstore.wisc.edu](http://patstore.wisc.edu). There are multiple ways to obtain certification. 1) Attend a "watch party" training and test day at a county Extension office. 2) Study the book at home or online and take the test at a county Extension office or a Pearson Vue testing center. Watch party and test dates in District 5 are as follows:

- 1/25 Green Lake
- 2/15 Juneau
- 3/5 Winnebago
- 3/28 Fond du Lac
- 2/27 Adams
- 4/16 Waushara



### Badger Crops & Soil Update Meetings:

This is your chance to spend a day with other farmers, ag professionals, Extension staff, and Extension Specialists! There are four meetings around the state that will bring expertise related to sustainability and innovation. The dates most applicable for District 5 are November 28th in Fond du Lac and November 29th in Stevens Point. If you cannot attend in person there will be a livestream on November 28th. See the flyer image for more information, hope to see you there!

### Wisconsin Water and Soil Health Conference:

This new conference combines the best of the Discovery Farms Conference and the Cover Crop Conference into one great event! Hear from guest speakers, farmers, and Extension Specialists at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells on Dec. 7-8. See the flyer for more information.

**Other events to mark your calendars for: (Note that this list is not everything, we are always adding more!)**

- Jan. 9-11: Wisconsin Agribusiness Classic, Madison
- Jan. 18: Winter Beef Meeting, Wautoma
- Jan. 22-23: Wisconsin Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference, Wisconsin Dells
- Feb. 1-3: GrassWorks Grazing Conference, Wisconsin Dells
- Feb. 6-8: Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Conference, Stevens Point
- Feb. 7-8: Nutrient Management Training, Montello
- Feb. 16: Weed Management Meeting, Montello
- Feb. 21: Nutrient Management Training, Green Lake
- Feb. 29: Green Lake Processing Crops Meeting
- Mar. 6: Hancock Processing Crops Meeting

*Natasha Paris is the Regional Crops Educator for Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara, and Adams. She can be reached at 608.228.8325 or [natasha.paris@wisc.edu](mailto:natasha.paris@wisc.edu)*

## 2023 BADGER CROPS & SOILS UPDATE MEETINGS

Balancing Sustainability and Innovation

The annual UW Badger Crops & Soils Update meetings will be offered in 4 one-day in person sessions along with 1 virtual session this year. Five CEUs are approved for the following areas: 2.0 crop management, 1.0 pest management, 1.0 soil & water and 1.0 nutrient management. The meetings will present the latest information on agronomic, pest, and nutrient management research coming out of University of Wisconsin with a lens to on-farm application. The in-person registration fee of \$150 includes lunch. The virtual registration fee is \$125. Registration deadline is November 17th.

Click or scan to register

	Monday November 27	Tuesday November 28	Wednesday November 29	Thursday November 30
	9:00 am – 3:00 pm			
IN-PERSON SESSIONS	Deer Valley Lodge Barneveld	UW-Oshkosh Fond du Lac Campus Fond du Lac	Holiday Inn Stevens Point	Best Western Plus Conference Center Eau Claire
VIRTUAL SESSION	Webinar broadcast			

FOR MORE EXTENSION INFORMATION:  
<https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/badger-crops-and-soils-update-meeting/>





## A Message From The President



**Kay Olson**

Adams County Farm Bureau President

I am hoping that everyone had a safe spring, summer and now will have a safe fall. It is hard to believe that another year has passed. We were so excited to have had our annual meeting with Marquette County this year. Both counties felt it was a success and hope to continue holding our annual meetings together in the future. If you missed the annual meeting, you will be able to read our committee reports for the year and other news in this newsletter.

I want to thank my board of directors as we have ended yet another successful year. I do need to mention one board member and that is Bruce Marti. Bruce has been on the board ever since he was 20 years old. He took a place on the board after his father passed away. Bruce has been on your board of directors for 66 years. No, that is not a typo, he has held that position for sixty-six (66) years. Bruce and I have had endless conversations over the years as I would pick him up for meetings. I remember a time when the Farm Bureau would pass out coupons to the fairgoers for a free ice cream bar. They would have a freezer in the commercial building, and you would take your coupon there and Bruce or other board members would give you your ice cream bar. To think that is how their ice cream tradition started and now we dip around twenty different flavors of Cedar Crest Ice Cream in our own little building we built in the old milk house and around the stanchions they used to milk cows in at the fair.

It saddens me to let you know that Bruce passed away a week before our county annual meeting. Bruce and I talked on the Friday before he passed and during our conversation, he said to me that I needed to make

sure his children joined Farm Bureau. I will truly miss my dear friend and board member. My board and I extend our sympathies to his children and family.

My pet peeve is when I see and hear people who are so upset because of farm machinery slowing down traffic on our roads. I see them passing in a NO PASSING ZONE and almost running not only the farm machinery but oncoming traffic off the road. And for what? Just to get somewhere a few minutes early. At the same time, these people who are upset over that, never complain about the ATV/UTVs on the road only going 35 miles an hour and slowing down traffic. In my opinion, that is because they are the ones impeding traffic when going on the roads with their ATV/UTVs. With the Amish moving into our county, we need to be mindful of them on the road. We need to learn that we all have to share the road.

As you can see from our committee reports we have had quite the year. Sometimes it does not seem like we do a lot but when you see it in print, we do. This is why your support with your membership is important to us. We could not do the programs that we do without the dollars we get back from WFBF for each of our memberships and renewals.

In closing I want to thank each of you who helped with our programs, helped at our ice cream booth at the fair and who continue your support with your membership. Thank you.



## Adams County Year-end Committee Reports

**Kay Olson**

**Membership Committee**

We made both our voting goals and gains this year. This means we received bonuses of \$1,800.00. WFBF sets a goal of twenty new members each year. We all need to work just a little harder this coming year. As our county loses more farms, farmers and ranchers, it gets more difficult. We depend on friends and family signing up as voting members. Remember, if someone has a vested interest in agriculture, they can be a voting member in Adams County. Simply put, if they like to eat, sign them up. If you know of someone who wants to be a member contact a board member and we will help you sign that person up. You do get rewards for signing up at least five new voting members. This past year everyone who signed up a new member received twenty (\$20.00) dollars per member signed. That is quite the reward for signing up members. I do not know what the state will offer this coming year for membership. Our membership year begins on October 1st. Let's work on our membership starting now.

I would like to congratulate all who have helped sign new members and/or have shown the benefits a Farm Bureau membership. I also thank everyone who paid his or her dues on time. This is the biggest plus for us. Your Farm Bureau dues are \$65.00. We appreciate it when you get your dues notice if you pay it immediately even though you have a month or so to pay it. It is easy to set that notice aside and forget about it since it comes so early. Your notice might say you owe more, but your dues are only \$65.00. When it says total amount due that includes a donation to the Foundation and the VFA (the political part of WFBF).

I personally would like to thank Jim Wehinger, our Rural Agent in Adams, for all of his support in helping us reach our goals. Thank you, Jim.

I encourage all members to become more involved and challenge each of you to sign up a new member this coming year.

## Legislative and Policy Development Committee

Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison gives you the opportunity to meet your state legislators and express your concerns regarding state policies of interest to you. I would encourage you to attend this event. Notice of Ag Day at the Capitol is always published in the Rural Route and on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF) website which is [www.wfbf.com](http://www.wfbf.com)

All members are encouraged to read their Rural Route, which contains current state and national legislative information.

I would also encourage you to read your district newsletter which comes out several times a year. In this newsletter you not only get your county news, but you also get District 5 news. I would encourage you to view our Facebook Page, Adams County Farm Bureau, Wisconsin to see what is happening.

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](http://wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol) for the latest information.

Presented by: **Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation**

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



## Ag in the Classroom, Promotion and Education, Young Farmers and Agriculturalists Committees and Board of Directors

Two books have been ordered this year for Ag in the Classroom. The Book of the Year is I Love Strawberries and the other is Potatoes & Pirates. We think the Potatoes & Pirates is perfect for our county with the number of potatoes grown here. We have been invited to work with UWEX and a library on their reading programs.

We have supported many organizations this past year. We have donated to many students as they apply for trips and paid their registration fees for programs to help produce great leaders in the future. We also provide registration and hotel fees for those attending the WFBF and Young Farmers and Agriculturalists meeting. We offer up to eight scholarships each year to graduating seniors or to those already in college or trade school. We sponsor the yearly Tractor Safety program in our county by giving each student who takes the course an SMV sign. This year we gave the six youth who attended and passed each a sign.

We had a successful event with our ice cream booth at the fair. I would like to thank those who volunteered to help. We can always use more help and hope all members consider helping in future years. We have this event and our membership drive as our only fundraisers each year to provide the money for our programs.

The Young Farmers and Agriculturalists Committee held several fun events such as bowling and tubing and have also participated in the state WFBF Young

Farmer events, in which Jeff and Sara (Menard) Huber serve as your District 5 YFA representatives. Jeff Huber is the chairperson for our Young Farmers Committee. If you have any interests or questions, please feel free to contact him.

## 2023-2024 Adams County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



L to R: Sara Menard Huber, Jeff Huber, Birdie Johnson, Gary Bula, Richard Grabarski, Lynda Bula, Kay Olson

# Fond du Lac County



wfbf.com/about/counties/fonddulac  
FondduLacCountyFarmBureau

## A Message From The President



### Reuben Hopp

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

I am excited to report that the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau had another great year, and we continue to be the leading agricultural organization in the county. Here are just a few highlights:

At last year's WFBF Annual Meeting held in December, we had a great group of members

who attended the event. Our county once again had nine delegates to represent our county at the resolutions portion of the Annual Meeting and help approve policy for the state. We also had a great group of Young Farmers and Agriculturalists members attend the Young Farmers and Agriculturalists conference.

Nine members from the county attended the Ag Lead Summit conference held in March in Fond du Lac. We learned about ag advocacy and tips on how to engage with consumers when educating them about agriculture.

Ag Day at the Capitol was held at the end of March. I attended that event along with Roger Grade and Steve Sabel. Over 250 members from across the state attended the event, and we had the opportunity to be a lobbyist for the day. We were briefed on current ag issues and state budget priorities and then had the opportunity to meet with our state representative and state senator to discuss ag issues.

Our Ag in the Classroom program continues to grow under the

direction of Kelly Pollack. The committee purchased over 50 copies of the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year and mailed a free copy to every elementary school in the county. The county also participated in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest, and we had one of the district essay winners.

This year Grace Clark was our scholarship winner and will be receiving a \$1000 scholarship.

For the past year I had the opportunity to serve on a task force at the state level to look at our state foundation. I enjoyed the opportunity to serve on this group. In August the state held one day online giving day. Prior to the giving day they encouraged counties to contribute. Our board approved to make a one-time donation of \$5000 to the foundation. Our foundation supports our Young Farmers and Agriculturalists, Promotion and Education, the Leadership Institute, and 4-H and FFA sponsorships.

Our largest fundraiser of the year is our fair food stand. I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone that serves on the food stand committee. I especially want to thank Sarah Breuer for all her help in ordering the food and making sure everything runs smoothly during the fair. We continue to invest a lot in the building and have made quite a few updates this year including updating the ceiling, new tables and new countertops and cabinets. A huge thank you to Roger Grade, Steve Sabel and Steve's sons Michael and Johnathan for the countless hours they spent providing all the labor to make those improvements. Also thank you to Rural Agent Mike Immel for volunteering at the food stand. We appreciate your continued support.

We once again had a booth at the Alto Fair on August 9-10. Thank you to Jenny Leahy and Grant Buwalda for helping with the booth.





In addition to our food stand, we also do the Brandon Brat sale every year in August. Again, it was a great fundraiser for our organization. Thank you to everyone that helped.

We had a successful fair and those profits will continue to fund our Ag in the Classroom, Promotion and Education, Young Farmers and Agriculturalists programs. As well as contributions we make to 4H and FFA and our scholarship program. We sponsored the County 4-H Key and Citizenship award. This year's Key Award was Jake Biermann. The 4H Citizenship Award was given to Calista Vande Berg.

Grant Buwalda was appointed as our new Young Farmers and Agriculturalists chair and has already begun working on organizing activities for our members ages 18-35. If you are interested in getting involved, I encourage you to reach out to Grant.

We also continue to work hard on membership. If we don't continue

to maintain and grow our membership numbers, we will not be able to continue all our programs and activities. Our county was able to make our early bird goal in the spring of the year. We are now focused on picking up renewals so we can make a voting and total gain in membership by the membership year-end deadline of September 30. A special thanks to Trayton for all his work on membership. Also, a special thanks to our District Coordinator Becky Hibicki.

I want to thank the entire board. We have a great group of directors, that make my job as president easy and enjoyable, so thank you! I also want to thank each of you for your membership and for taking the time to attend our annual meeting. It's truly appreciated. Thank you again and God Bless.



## Grades Receive County Service to Farm Bureau Award

Roger and Sandy Grade received the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Service to Farm Bureau Award at the county's recent annual meeting. This year's recipients of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Distinguish Service to Ag goes to Roger and Sandy Grade. Roger & Sandy Grade started farming in Fond du Lac County in 1972. Moving here to find better available land to continue their dream of dairy farming. They have 4 children and 11 grandchildren: Marsha (Steve) VanArk, Brian (Torrie) Grade, Janet (Travis) Clark and David (Torrie) Grade.

Leading by example, they instilled a foundation of leadership and service into their children and generations to come. The farm has grown to 140 cows and 1,000 acres of land. Roger and Sandy are still involved in the daily operations of the farm, but management has been transitioned to David, Janet and Travis.

Over the years, Roger has been involved in many community and agricultural organizations. He was a 4-H leader for 25 years and served on the Fond du Lac County 4-H Leaders' Association Board including one year as president. Roger is a member of the Fond du Lac County Holstein Association serving six years on the Board, including President. He is a charter member of the Fond du Lac Area Agribusiness Council. Roger has also served 29 years on the Badgerland Financial Board of Directors, where he held many key leadership roles on the Badgerland board. Roger was a member of the Pickett Cooperative Board for nine years and is an active member in his church, Rosendale UCC, as a trustee.

For the last several years Roger has been instrumental in the success of the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau. He serves on the board of director and plays a very important role in the county fair food stand committee, where he has spent countless hours helping and overseeing all the repairs and updates to the fair food stand building. Both Roger and Sandy volunteer countless hours at the fair food stand. Their family hosted the district policy development meeting this fall at their farm and they are always willing to volunteer and help with any Farm Bureau program and activity.



Board of Director Steve Sabel (Left) presented the County Service to Farm Bureau Award to Roger and Sandy Grade

## 2023-2024 Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



Front row L to R: Earl Sipple, Grant Buwalda, Reuben Hopp, Trayton Greenfield – Membership Chair, Elmer Held, Roger Grade. Back row L to R: Ray Halbur, Jenny Leahy, Mark Horsch, John Ruedinger, Mark Steffes, Christine Duscheck, Chris Pollack, Tim Haack, Steve Sabel

## A Message From The President



**Pete Badtke**

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Hello Green Lake County Farm Bureau members;

As the fall corn and bean harvest is happening, I want to let you know what is going on with your county Farm Bureau. A BIG thanks to all who helped in any way at the Green Lake County fair food stand.

Without the many generous volunteers, our biggest fundraiser would not be a success. Also, we did a Brandon brat fry in September with nice weather for good sales.

On Tuesday, September 12 we had our annual meeting at the Farmview Event Barn. A big thanks to Jean and Bob Bahn for hosting our annual meeting. Jason Mugnaini, WFBF Executive Director of governmental relations gave a short presentation of what's happening in Madison, at the Capitol and around the state. Jason is a huge asset to WFBF and is on top of ag politics! Chris Retzlaff was elected to serve on our board replacing Yolanda Woloszyn. Yolanda decided not to run and has served as a director for many years as well as food stand coordinator and on the Women's Committee. Thanks for your service, Yolanda. Also, delegates elected for the WFBF annual meeting in December are Dave Wilke, Dave Gneiser, Natasha Paris and myself. We have 4 delegates this year instead of 3 because we were able to exceed our county membership goals.

On Thursday, December 14 anyone interested is invited to attend an agriculture wildlife damage meeting with Jacob Bergstrand, M.S. Natural Resources student from UW Stevens Point. Jacob is doing research on wildlife damage and wants to meet with farmers as part of his studies. The meeting will be at Jim Hebbe's farm shop, N6123 Swamp Road, Princeton.



Also please plan on attending Ag Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, January 31. This is another great opportunity for you to meet your legislators and discuss issues important to your farm. Thanks for your membership and wish everyone a safe harvest and Happy Thanksgiving!

## 2023-2024 Green Lake County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



Seated L to R: Jim Hebbe, Dave Wilke, Emily Strahota, Irene Kutz, Standing L to R: Jordan Paris, Al Weckwerth, Steve Kutz, Pete Badtke, Dave Gneiser, Chris Retzlaff, Chad Bruss. (Not pictured: Natasha Paris)

## Corso Recognized as Woman of the Year



Sam Corso (right) was recognized as the 2023 Green Lake County Women of the Year. Women's Committee members Yolanda Woloszyn (left) and Irene Kutz (center) presented the award to Sam at the county annual meeting held on September 12 at the Farm View Event Barn near Berlin.

# Juneau County



wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau  
JuneauCountyFarmBureau

## President's Report

**Kip Weber**

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

Thank you to everyone who attended the County Annual Meeting on September 21 at the Hustler Creamery. We had a great turnout. I was elected, along with Sally Turpin, to serve as a county delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting. The resolutions that the county passed at the Annual Meeting are included in this newsletter. I encourage you to read through the policies and please reach out if you have any questions.

Congratulations to Young Farmers and Agriculturalists member Alana Biermeier who will represent the district at the WFBF Young Farmers

and Agriculturalists Discussion Meet contest. Alana was also selected as a finalist in the 35 Under 35 contest. Congratulations, Alana.

The county was also selected for one of the County All-Star Awards, for the wine and cheese tasting event we held in March. We will be putting together a display that will be part of the trade show at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Our county also reached both a voting and total members gain this year. Thank you to each of you for supporting our county Farm Bureau and for being a member. It is truly appreciated.

Happy Fall.





**2023-2024 Juneau County Farm Bureau Board of Directors L to R: Alana Biermeier, Kip Weber, Sally Turpin, Amy VanderMark, Pat Stanke, Kelly Green, Brian Bries, Matt Degner, Matt Schmidt, Tonra Degner**



**Rep. Tony Kurtz addresses attendees at the Juneau County Farm Bureau annual meeting. The annual meeting was held September 21 at the Hustler Community Creamery in Hustler.**



**Juneau County Ag in the Classroom coordinator Tonra Degner (left) with the county Ag in the Classroom essay winners. The essays winners read their award-winning essays at the county annual meeting.**

## Marquette County



wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette  
MarquetteCountyFarmBureau

### President's Report



**Aaron Wachholz**

Marquette County Farm Bureau President

Happy Autumn Marquette County and District 5!

Nature's most colorful and beautiful time of the calendar is here with school back in session, days shortening, harvests well underway and a cornucopia of vibrant colors and smells everywhere!! The harvest brings

a time of plenty and sincere gratitude for all that the land has produced in the past year. Thanksgiving is the culmination of fall where God is recognized for His countless gifts bestowed on us from His merciful and gracious hand of provision.

Many people will be happy to see this crop season come to a close with the 2023 drought, challenging margins due to soaring input costs and market fluctuations. Frustration and fear are commonplace in our country due to governmental discord and inflation has become our new normal; Why would there be ANYTHING to be thankful and content about this year?

2023 had its many struggles and setbacks, but it was a year of eye-opening success as well. Marquette County was hit hard this year with drought, earning us the illustrious honor of ranking in the top counties around the state for the least amount of total rainfall! Yet, with so little the crops of our county were extremely resilient. Early harvests of corn and soybeans are indicating far better yields than expected and grown on 4-6" of rain for the entire growing season! Crop breeding and its technology have advanced further in the last 10 years than our forefathers could have ever dreamed of! We have crops to harvest with a fraction of our normal precipitation that 50 years ago would have resulted in a total loss. Without the test of 2023, we would never have known what our crops could truly endure.

It's easy to just complain, get angry, or depressed, or just try to cope with it in some other way to just make the world and its problems go

away. Agricultural pressures through extreme struggle and disaster make us stronger and challenge us as farmers even though the experience hurts. God can use these trials for our good to draw us nearer to him, by showing us how desperately we need Him! Let's be thankful even for this year. God has blessed us greatly in WI agriculture. Let's give Him the glory for all we have harvested this year!

God bless you all greatly this harvest!

### 2023-2024 Marquette Farm Bureau Board of Directors



**L to R: Chris Smith, Dave Kappel, Victoria Wachholz, Heather Schwochert, Dillon Schwochert, Tammy Hamilton, Aaron Wachholz, Dennis Fenner, Kaycee Bittelmann, Jordan Bittelmann, Al Klapoetke**



## President's Report

**Mike Leahy**

Waushara County Farm Bureau President

As you read this, most of harvest will be wrapping up. As I write this, we just recognized National Farmers Day. Vegetable harvest is coming to an end and grain harvest is just beginning. To those who measure a day by the acre and not by the hour, I salute you.

We had one of the most successful Waushara County Fairs in recent history! Paul, Kyle, Sarah, Chuck, Lynn and the rest of the food stand committee did an outstanding job organizing and running the stand this year! I also would like to thank all the volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this a successful year!

I would like to thank Paul Jarvis for all the behind-the-scenes work he did acting as our "general contractor". The countless phone calls, meetings and permits all led to the completion of our beautiful new building. This building will be an asset for generations! I would also like to thank all the donors. We had over 50 individuals and farms donate anywhere from \$100 to \$5000 dollars! This project wouldn't have been possible without all the generous support from our members and the community.

Operating the food stand at the fair is the primary source of fundraising for this organization. Money raised supports our Ag in the Classroom program, Young Farmer and Agriculturists and Promotion and Education committees. In addition, the County Farm Bureau provides scholarships, supports youth in local 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters and is committed to conducting programs and activities that promote agriculture in Waushara County. The 2024 Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year is titled "I Love Strawberries," and each of the 4th-grade classrooms in Waushara County will receive a copy. In addition

to receiving the book, each classroom will receive information on the 2024 essay contest. Each year, the essay contest topic is gleaned from the Ag in the Classroom book of the year. This year's topic is "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-full"! There are many wonderful prizes to be won. For more info on the Ag in the Classroom program or to volunteer check out Lynn's report in this newsletter.

Our Young Farmers and Agriculturalists program has been very active this year. Miranda has held a fish fry and bowling event at Madell's in Poy Sippi. Then a cookout and farm tour this past summer. The Young Farmers and Agriculturalists program is for Farm Bureau members between the ages of 18 and 35. It provides members with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while networking with their peers. If you know of anyone interested in participating in the Young Farmers and Agriculturalists program, please send Miranda or me their contact info so that we can include them in future event updates.

In conclusion, the board continues to work hard to promote agriculture and share the passion we all have for this wonderful way of life. I look forward to the exciting challenges this next year will bring. Have a bountiful and safe harvest!



## 2023-2024 Waushara County Farm Bureau Board of Directors



L to R: Kyle Thom, Glenn Arveson, Sara Stelter, Adam Jones, Lynn Leahy, Chuck Brewer, Ryan Nowak, Cory Biely, Mike Leahy, Jon Deppe, Kevin Krentz, Paul Jarvis  
Not pictured: Miranda Ewald and Ken Williams

# Winnebago County

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## 2023-2024 Winnebago Farm Bureau Board of Directors



L to R: Brock Baker, Kelly Lloyd, Jennifer Carpenter, Rebecca Poppy, Randi Brooks, Jaime Remer, Sarah Marie Verstegen, Linda Mullins, Amanda Volp, Kevin Radloff, Charlie Knigge, Russ Kriha, Brian Poppy, TJ Beck.





## President's Report

**Amanda Volp**

Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

Wishing a happy fall to all my fellow Winnebago County Farm Bureau members! It is one of my favorite times of the year with the leaves turning, cooler sweatshirt weather and, of course, harvest. We have had good harvesting weather so far and everywhere I look someone

is out in the field combining, trucks are hauling grain, and farming equipment is taking up the roads. I love it!

It has been a busy summer. Updates from the county:

On May 6, we hosted our 4th Annual Drive by Steak Fry for May Beef Month. We sold 150 steak plates and cheeseburger bags. The event was held at Brighton Acres again, where we were able to set out tables and chairs for those who wished to "dine in". Poppy Family Farms brought a cow and calf pair that customers were able to see firsthand and ask questions about. We had a meat cut ID challenge again this year and raffle baskets filled with beef products. As always, the feedback we received was spectacular and people still appreciate the reason for the event.

June Dairy Month was a success with the promotional events both at our Drive-Thru Grilled cheese event held at Olson Farms in Larsen on June 10 and June Dairy Days held at the Leach Amphitheatre in Oshkosh on June 17. We have since been supporting our "Refuel with Chocolate Milk" campaign and donating milk to local schools for players during sports events.

National Ice Cream Day was celebrated with a promotional event on July 23 at Leon's Frozen Custard in Oshkosh. Did you know that no matter how you scoop it, Wisconsinites love their ice cream, consuming 72 million pints of ice cream in 2022? In July, weekly ice cream sales are 18% higher than during the rest of the year.

The Winnebago County Fair was the first week in August in Oshkosh. Our Farm Bureau food stand had another great year and the committee did an outstanding job raising funds used for activities throughout the year. We brought back the daily menu special items that corresponded with what animals were being exhibited during the day. For dairy day we had the Cheese Curd Cheeseburger. For swine day, we had a pork loin sandwich or bacon cheddar brat. And for beef day we had our famous bacon cheeseburger. For a kid-friendly menu item, we had popcorn chicken on the main daily menu and they were a hit! Hot menu items that will always make their comeback were homemade french fries, hot ham and cheese sandwiches, roast beef sandwiches and deep-fried cheese curds. New this year, we had our very first Friday Fish Fry, where we were able to showcase Winneconne FFA's Tilapia project. People LOVED getting a Friday Fish Fry meal at the fair! A huge thank you to Beck's Meats and Festival Foods for their support! And to the many FFA students, members and non-members who volunteered their time to help make it run smoothly, we couldn't do it without you!

Our county annual meeting was held on Sept 6 at Brighton Acres. With over 50 people in attendance, we updated members on events happening on the county level and state levels, along with listening to local legislators. We had 2 new board members join us, Sarah Marie Versteegen and Jennifer Carpenter. We are so excited for some fresh energy and all the ideas and leadership they are bringing to our county. Food was catered in from Parker Johns in Oshkosh and as always Adam and Gina at Brighton Acres take such good care of us and support our events!

National Pork Month is October, so of course we have to celebrate! We had a pork promotion event hosted at Petals and Plows, outside Ripon on October 15. Menu items included grilled hot ham and cheese, Porky Sr on a stick (corn brat), Porky Jr on a Stick (corn breakfast sausage link), homemade applesauce and chocolate milk. We paired up our event with their Not So Scary Halloween Party. Besides the pork menu items, people

participated in our raffle baskets and guessed how many pumpkin and candy corn candies were in mason jars. We received some support from the Wisconsin Pork Association and truly everyone enjoyed the creative items we had.

Lastly, we submitted an application for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau County Activity of Excellence award for our Community Night event held back in January. We got the exciting news that we were one of them selected to be featured at the WFBF Annual Meeting, along with the county receiving \$500. Since, we had the application all done for the state we were encouraged to apply for the American Farm Bureau County Activity of Excellence Award. I am honored to say that we were 1 of 24 chosen, out of 151 applicants to represent Wisconsin at the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah in January 2024. At both Annual Conventions, we will be having a booth displaying Community Night. As a county we are so grateful for these recognitions and are humbled to be able to represent Wisconsin at the AFBF Convention, Jan 20-22.

Looking ahead, the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center on Dec 1-4.

I pray that the harvest season has been safe and bountiful for all and continues to be as we finish out the year. God bless.

## "Porktober" Event a Success

**Amanda Volp**

On Sunday, October 15 we celebrated National Pork Month at Petals and Plows. We paired up with their Not so Scary Halloween Party. Our pork promotion consisted of a pork-themed menu, pork product raffle baskets and a fun candy game for the kids. The menu included a grilled hot ham and cheese sandwich, a Porky Sr on a Stick (a corn brat), a Porky Jr on a Stick (a corn breakfast sausage link), homemade applesauce and chocolate milk. We had 4 raffle baskets for people to purchase tickets for if they wished, which included a ham basket, a breakfast basket with bacon and sausage links, a grilling basket with pork chops and brats and a kid-friendly basket with gift certificates and candy. A fun game for the kids was filling 2 mason jars with pumpkin candies and candy corn and having them guess how many were in each. The closest guess won the jar! The Wisconsin Pork Association generously donated some funds to help cover costs and we were also able to hand out lots of pork and apple information to guests. The guests really enjoyed the creative menu items, and we had a beautiful day promoting pork in our county!





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