



Grassroots

District 9 News

District Director Report

**Brad Olson**

WFBF District 9 Director

First, welcome to all our new county Farm Bureau Board members around District 9. You serve an important role in our organization. Thank you for your willingness to provide leadership for your county Farm Bureau.

As I write this, harvest is in full swing. For those who hunt, gun season

is just around the corner and Thanksgiving with friends and family is on the horizon. Having said that, by the time you are reading this all these things will have passed. I hope the harvest went smoothly, your hunt was successful and you were able to spend quality time with loved ones.

With only a few weeks left in 2023 it's time to look forward to 2024. We assess our businesses each year, we also need to assess our County Farm Bureaus. Each of our County Farm Bureau Board members were tasked with providing strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of their county Farm Bureaus. With surveys completed and responses compiled, we can start to plan how to move forward in strengthening our counties and promoting agriculture and Farm Bureau in our communities.

Within our district, there are opportunities to collaborate with non-ag groups on hosting events; I encourage everyone to be on the lookout for events where Farm Bureau could be involved. Anytime agriculture can partner with non-ag we have the ability to tell our side of agriculture to those who may have little to no understanding of what we do.

Finally, while it may not seem like it, spring elections are right around the corner. Towns with a five-member board and every county board seat in Wisconsin will be up for election in April. Serving on these boards is an excellent way to ensure our agricultural heritage is protected. Contact your local town or county clerk to find out details on the nomination process and deadlines. Remember, most things start at the local level, both the good and the bad, it is vital that agriculture has a seat at the table.

As always, if you have any questions or comments my door is always open and my phone is always on.

Happy Holidays and God Bless,

Brad Olson

District 9 Director

brad_vickyolson@yahoo.com | 715.566.2249

What is Your "Why"?

Katie Mattison

WFBF District 9 Coordinator

What is Farm Bureau? What does Farm Bureau do for me? Why should I join Farm Bureau? These are questions I hear on a regular basis. While we all want a simple answer, there isn't one.

Farm Bureau is something different for everyone.

Farm Bureau is "A voice for farmers." From activities, events and ag promotion at the county level, to state conferences and trainings, Ag Day at the Capitol, working with elected officials and leadership training. Farm Bureau provides "A vision for Agriculture."

Farm Bureau provides networking opportunities. I joined Farm Bureau in 2011 to meet other farmers my age. I could have never imagined where Farm Bureau would have taken me in the short 12 years that I have been a member. From YFA committees at the county and state level, to Leadership Institute to learning how to work with local and state elected officials, to becoming a better public speaker and as a staff member for the past 10 years.

Why did you join Farm Bureau? Some joined for the Ag in the Classroom program that teaches ag literacy to K-12 students. Some joined for the legislative representation. Some joined to hold insurance with Rural Mutual Insurance. Some joined just because somebody asked you.

I encourage you all to read an article that is under the Dunn County Farm Bureau section titled "Making Connections through Farm Bureau." Everyone's perspective is different on why they are a member.

Farm Bureau is many things for many people. Reach out. Get involved. Get active. There are so many things here for you. Find your 'Why' with Farm Bureau.

Don't miss out on two incredible opportunities coming up right away in 2024 to discover the 'why' behind Farm Bureau.

- On January 31st, Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison, an annual event open to Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists, presents information on state issues affecting agriculture. Additionally, attendees will take on the role of a lobbyist for a day and meet with state legislators.

- On March 1st, the IGNITE

Conference will be hosted in Eau Claire, offering members an opportunity to come together, engage with each other, and enjoy informative training sessions following 4 tracts: Policy, Issues & Advocacy, Communicating for Agriculture & Farm Bureau, Governance & Organization, and Building Farm Bureau.

We hope to see you at one of these upcoming events.



Where Do My Farm Bureau Dues Go?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is a grassroots membership organization that relies on membership dues as a primary source of revenue. Each County Farm Bureau is no different. You might be wondering, where does all the money paid in membership dues go and what do they do with it? It would be easy to show you a copy of the budget that we have and say, this is what we do, but would it be as easy to do that without understanding the breakdown of dues and allocations that the money has?

Membership Dues: \$65/Year

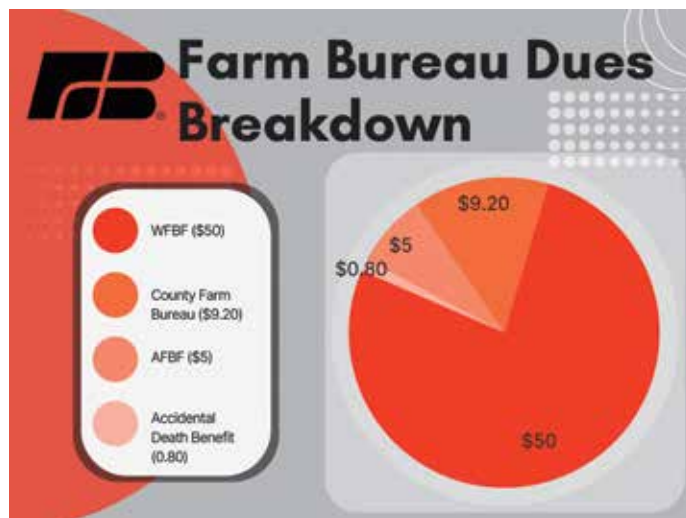
•**WFBF Dues (\$50)** are used to support activities, provide staffing and conduct programs around the state. Consumer education, issue advocacy and member publications are services that are also funded with state dues. To carry out its mission, Farm Bureau has several programs to ensure farmers have an effective voice. Farm Bureau also has leadership and educational programs to empower its members to be strong leaders in their communities. These programs include:

- Legislative representation
- Volunteers for Agriculture®
- Leadership trainings
- Public and media relations
- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Promotion and Education Program

•**County Farm Bureau Dues (\$9.20)** is the portion of your dues that are used to support activities that take place right in your county. There are many things that each County Farm Bureau does including hosting educational workshops, agriculture promotion events, planning and sponsoring local events as well as scholarships and other programs for youth, consumer education activities and member service programs in your county.

•**American Farm Bureau Dues (\$5)** are used to support activities at a national level. It is these funds that support your voice at our nation's Capital as well as the many programs that AFBF has in place to educate consumers, share the message of agriculture and provide online resources to its members.

•**Accidental Death Policy (\$0.80)** is accidental death insurance for the member, their spouse and children. The benefit payment for a member and member's spouse is \$2,000. The benefit payment for member's children is \$1,000. The child must be under 24, not married and residing in the same household as the member.



As you can see, there are many programs and activities that are supported by the dues you pay each year. Farm Bureau members want to see their businesses and rural communities prosper. They want to be heard when decisions affecting their lives are made by elected officials. That is why they join Farm Bureau. We hope you'll continue to support your County Farm Bureau so we can continue to be a voice for agriculture.

Voluntary Contributions

When you receive your bill to renew your Farm Bureau membership you will see two additional voluntary contribution amounts. If you choose not to contribute, you can simply subtract the voluntary amount from the amount on the line marked 'total'.

Volunteers for Agriculture (\$10)

Volunteers for Agriculture® (VFA) is Wisconsin Farm Bureau's political action committee. Since 1990, the VFA has helped elect candidates who work for agriculture interests in Madison. The VFA builds strong relationships with legislators of both parties to help us achieve our legislative priorities.

Farm Bureau Foundation (\$5)

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's mission is to support agricultural education and develop rural leaders. The WFB Foundation solicits and accepts contributions to assist with educational activities and instruction of young people in subjects useful and beneficial to the agricultural community in Wisconsin. Since its creation in 1988, the Foundation has made contributions that support the future of agriculture.



A Lasting Legacy



Many of you knew Jim Holte. He was a humble man, a servant leader, and the true definition of farmer. Jim led a life of service: service to agriculture, to his community and to his family. He was an active member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau for more than 40 years. He represented District 9 on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board for 24 years, serving as the organization's president for seven of those years. He will be missed by all who had the privilege of meeting him. Jim was one of the good ones.

Jim Holte passed away on October 22, 2023, due to complications from

Multiple System Atrophy, Type C, two days before his 70th birthday.

Unfortunately, Jim's work here on earth ended way too soon. Thankfully, Jim was a great teacher. He taught us through his words and his actions. Jim's final newsletter piece as District 9 Director and WFBF President from November 2019 resonates just as true today as it did when he wrote it five years ago. If he would have had the opportunity to say goodbye to all of us today, his message would have likely been similar to his final district newsletter message:

"As this will be my final opportunity to write a column for the District 9 newsletter, I have a great many people to thank for allowing me to represent District 9 on the WFBF Board and RMIC Board for several years. I count many people as friends, and many are "farmers." We take for granted the title of "farmer". It has a meaning that runs deep with qualities like,

- hard-working
- honest
- trusting and trustable
- independent

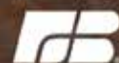
I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet many people across the state of Wisconsin and across the U.S. We may produce a wide variety of livestock and crop products, but each has that "farmer" thing about them."

We can all play a part in continuing Jim's work of advocating for the agriculture community and the people we love. By doing so we can see the ripple effects of his legacy continue for years to come.

Farm Bureau is about family and carrying our legacy through to the next generation. It is about supporting one another in the face of challenge and celebrating together in moments of triumph. As a diverse membership, we collectively work together to move the organization forward – whether that be in the county board room or on the policy development floor – and ultimately do what we do best: protect and preserve Wisconsin agriculture for the next generation. After all, the greatest thing to leave for the next generation is our legacy.

The District 9 County Farm Bureaus have collectively donated \$2,100 to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation in memory of Jim Holte.

If you wish to donate to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation in Jim's memory visit wfbf.com/foundation.



2023 35 UNDER 35 FINALISTS

The 35 Under 35 award program recognizes and celebrates the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic practices. This is the second year of the program which was developed by the YFA committee. Nominees were judged on criteria in five categories: Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Service, Sustainable Self, Sustainable Storytelling and Sustainable Future.

Congratulations to the District 9 Finalists in the 35 Under 35 program:



BRITTANY OLSON
SUSTAINABLE SELF



KRISTIN QUIST
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



BRADY ZUCK
SUSTAINABLE SERVICE



Kristin Quist and Brady Zuck were selected as winners for their respective categories at the 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference.

You Matter. Your Life has Purpose. You are Loved and this World is a Better Place because You are in it.

Brittany Olson

Barron County Farm Bureau Member and Mental Health Advocate

As a lifelong mental health advocate, suicide awareness is one of my pet projects. After all, like a lot of diseases, anxiety and depression can be fatal if left untreated.

Every suicide I hear about weighs heavily on my soul. Three University of Wisconsin-River Falls students have died by suicide this semester alone and my heart is particularly shattered.

If there was anything I could say to everyone who saw no other way out of their pain than to end their own existence, it would be this: "You matter. Your life has a purpose. You are loved and this world is a better place because you are in it."

Furthermore, seasonal depression is something to watch for (both in ourselves and those around us) as fall turns the page into winter. Seasonal depression is thought to be triggered by decreasing sunlight and if you find

yourself in this category you're in good company with millions of Americans affected every year.

If you think you or someone you love might be suffering from anxiety and/or depression, be straightforward and realize that what you're going through is treatable. Seek medical care from your primary healthcare provider and check psychologytoday.com for available mental health practitioners and therapists near you. I feel no shame in needing a multifaceted approach to improve my mental health and neither should you.

I'll leave you with a couple more reminders. You, dear reader, matter. Your life, dear reader, has purpose. You, dear reader, are loved and this world is a better place because you, dear reader, are in it.

Lastly, dear reader, be kind and gracious to everyone you meet. You never know what someone is going through and people may forget what you did or said to them but they'll always remember the way you made them feel.



Managing life's challenges in healthy ways allows participants to take better care of themselves and others.

This interactive program helps adults cope with stress & difficult times. WeCOPE has been shown to reduce stress and depression, increase positive affect, and improve healthy behaviors.

This FREE 7 week program meets via Zoom once a week for 1 hour. Participants gain the most from the program when they are able to practice skills between sessions.

A workbook and journal are provided to support this practice.

January 9 – February 20, 2024
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/R5kdvK9YYEmJeJ54A>

County Educator Contacts:

Grant County (Bev): beverly.doll@wisc.edu 608-723-2125
Green/Lafayette (Bridget): blmouchon@wisc.edu 608-328-9440



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.

Mental Health Resources

National Farm Medicine Center at Marshfield Clinic in Wisconsin

•<http://www.marshfieldresearch.org/mfmc>

•Phone: 1.800.662.6900 or 715.389.4999

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

•800.273.8255 or TEXT Hope to #741741

•988 – CALL OR TEXT

FarmWell Wisconsin

•24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline 888.901.2558

•Tele-counseling and counseling voucher program

UW-Madison Division of Extension

•<http://farms.extension.wisc.edu/farmstress/>

•<http://extension.wisc.edu/health/behavioralhealth>

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)

•<http://namiwisconsin.org/>

Mental Health America (MHA)

•<http://www.mhawisconsin.org>

President's Message



Sam Olson

Barron County Farm Bureau President

As fall starts to give way to winter, it's time to wrap everything up. This applies to crops, clothing and Farm Bureau.

A dry summer gave way to a wet fall adding some insult to injury in the crops department. As I write this, we've had a dry stretch allowing most farmers to get most of their crops in and wrapped up. I'm sure manure

application and the last cover crops will be going in right behind the combines. The yields were surprisingly good for us and I hope the same was the case for you.

Yesterday was t-shirt weather. Today requires a sweatshirt. Tomorrow and next week look like we'll need to pull out the winter clothes for the season. Be sure you plan for the weather over the next few months. Layers are ideal so you can add or remove as necessary to stay comfortable. Be sure to keep some extra coats, hats and mittens in the car this winter to be

prepared for a worst-case scenario.

Barron County Farm Bureau wrapped up our year at our Annual Meeting held in September. In addition to our resolutions that will go on to the WFBF Annual Meeting, we were able to recognize some additional accomplishments. Julie Wadzinski presented on her trip to Washington, D.C. We recognized Sierra Solum who is moving on to the next level in the YFA Discussion Meet. Brittany Olson was selected as a 35 Under 35 finalist. Sierra and Brittany will compete at the YFA Conference held in conjunction with the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Barron County was able to wrap up our membership with a gain in members! We welcome all our new members and look forward to finding ways to get you and our returning members involved, connected and invested to get the most value out of your membership.

Thank you to our new YFA Chair, Ryan Erickson, three of his students and Skills USA members for wrapping up repairs on the Food Stand! Hopefully, 2023 wraps up the streak of bad weather during the Barron County Fair.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy (and safe) New Year!

Farmers of the Barron County Watershed

Submitted by Ilisa Ailts, Farmer Led Watershed Coordinator

2023 has been an eventful and successful year for the Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds group and its members. The watershed, founded in 2016, started out with roughly 7 active members in the group and has grown to an outreach of hundreds of farmers and partners and roughly 40 participants throughout this year's meetings, field day events and incentive programs.

This year the group helped fund two conservation-focused incentive programs and held two summer field events, with full meals donated by ARM Services and AB Seed and Consulting. Topics of discussion ranged from small grains and cover crops, programming to support conservation practices such as permanent buffers in fields, water infiltration and a thorough walk-through of the group's demo plot and practices near Chetek.

The watershed group is funded by an annual DATCP grant and requires

equal match through volunteer hours and donations. It is amazing to see the amount of time and monetary investment into the group's mission to "design, teach and implement soil health and water quality farm practices for farmers in Barron County." There is a passion in this group and its members, you only have to show up once to hear and see it as farmers share their values and goals as well as encouragement and resources.

The watershed group has some new energy mixing into a solid core foundation while participating in cutting-edge research and techniques to support the implementation of conservation practices. The group has been once again funded by DATCP for 2024 and is looking at partnering with other entities to bring in collaboration as well as the ability to share new, exciting approaches, such as the role of technology of robots and drones in the application of cover crops before or after harvest.

To receive more information about the Farmers of the Barron County Watershed, please reach out to the coordinator, Ilisa Ailts at: ilisaailts@gmail.com.



Farmers of the Barron County Watersheds August 2023 Demo Plot Tour.

Get Involved with Barron County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Barron County Farm Bureau? The board meets the second Monday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/barron/>

President

Sam Olson

Vice President

Karyn Schauf

Secretary and Treasurer

Joe Braml

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

Ryan Erickson

Board of Directors:

Andy Bensend

Craig Hamernik

Mitch Hoff

Noah Voelker



From L to R: District 9 Directors – Brad Olson, Andy Bensend, Karyn Schauf, Craig Hamernik, Sam Olson, Ryan Erickson, Joe Braml, Noah Voelker and Brianna Crotteau. Not pictured: Mitch Hoff

Meet New Barron County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair: Brianna Crotteau



Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 3

Type of Farming Operation: I don't own a farming operation, but I have helped with my family's maple syrup production business and I also work part-time at Gehl Acres Farm (dairy farm) in Cameron, WI.

Other Occupations: Dairy Pilot Project Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member? 1. Being able to collaborate with a lot of people who love agriculture just as much as me.

2. Being able to learn more about agriculture

through Farm Bureau workshops.

3. Staying up to date on current agricultural issues through Farm Bureau annual and county meetings.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry?

I believe that it is most important to be a part of the ag industry to know and be a part of how our food is made. I truly believe that being in the ag industry has taught me to be thankful for everything you have and also appreciate the many people who work day after day to feed and clothe everyone in the world.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? Barron County Youth Shooting Sports, Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs



APPLY NOW

**BARRON COUNTY
FARM BUREAU
SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

**FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION
AND REQUIREMENTS VISIT:**

wfbf.com/about/counties/barron





Meet New Chippewa County Farm Bureau President: Maddie Woodward

Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 3 between WI and MN

Occupation: Territory Manager for Pioneer Seed

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member? Informing the public about agriculture - it's the best feeling to teach them something new and have them engage with ag in a fun way!

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? It allows us to understand the people that produce our food and make good decisions around what we support!

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? FFA - I love spending my time helping kids that were in the same place I was a few years ago!

Meet New Chippewa County Farm Bureau Board Member: Michael Ripplinger



Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 10

Type of Farm/Farming Operation: Beef and Grain farm

Other Occupation: Recently retired from a farm retail store

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member? Being advocates for the ag community.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry?

Because a large percentage of the population is so far removed from the ag industry, they don't understand what it takes to put food on their table.

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? Senior Warden for my Church.

Get Involved with Chippewa County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Chippewa County Farm Bureau? The board meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting.

Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/chippewa/>

President

Maddie Woodward

Secretary and Treasurer

Michael Ripplinger

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

Maddie Woodward

Promotion and Education Chair:

Gabriela Strobel

Board of Directors:

Heidi Benson, Jason Benson, Tim Hager

Paulette Kressin, Wayne Geist



Front L to R: Gabriela Strobel, Maddie Woodward, Paulette Kressin and Heidi Benson. Back L to R: Michael Ripplinger, Wayne Geist, Jason Benson and District 9 Director – Brad Olson. Not Pictured: Tim Hager.

Come for the Chili and Stay for the Agriculture Education!

The first annual Chippewa County Chili Cookoff was a success! Local businesses were invited to bring chili, including an ingredient grown in Chippewa County for a friendly competition. Participants learned about local agriculture and voted on three categories, creativity, local ingredient and taste. Clover Leaf Farm Supply was the Golden Ladle winner with the best tasting chili. Royal Construction represented with a white chicken chili which won the creativity section. Sokup's Market in Chippewa Falls, WI used green peppers, jalapenos, onions, tomatoes and beef as their locally grown ingredients to take home the win in the local ingredient category.

Chippewa County Farm Bureau knows that local agriculture education is crucial to supporting the agricultural community; we are excited to continue connecting local producers, businesses and consumers in the coming years with this event.

Special shout out to Chippewa Valley Floral, Bushell and a Peck Apple Orchard, Red Cedar Agronomy, Compeer Financial for supporting the Chippewa County Farm Bureau's first annual Chili Cookoff event.



Businesses participating in the chili cookoff were Chippewa County Farm Bureau, Clover Leaf Farm Supply, Sokup's Market, Red Cedar Agronomy and Royal Construction.



Attendees to the event voted on the best chili in one of three categories: best local ingredient, best tasting and most creative.



Winners of the First Annual Chili Cookoff with Chili Cookoff committee members Maddie Woodward and Gabriela Strobl (L to R).
Best local ingredient: Sokup's Market (they used green peppers, jalapeños, onions, tomatoes and locally processed beef)
Best tasting (and the winner of the golden ladle): Clover Leaf Farm Supply LLC
Most creative: Royal Construction, Inc. (made white chicken chili with corn bread)

President's Message



Ben Sand

Dunn County Farm Bureau President

Hello All,

Dunn County Farm Bureau has a lot to be "Farm Bureau Proud" about this last year. We have done many things of which I hope to not miss in this message.

In March we had three events. The first was the fourth session of the Farmer Meeting Series where we had Cathy Asher of Security

Financial Bank discuss what lenders are looking for in your financial statements and discussed what "good" numbers are according to the ratios developed by Dr. David Kohl and the Farm Financial Standards Council. The second was a Sap Tour hosted by Justin and Kristyn Jensen where we were able to learn the process of making maple syrup. For our third event, we were a co-sponsor for Menomonie's Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours which was hosted at John and Julie Govin's, farm where members of area businesses were able to gain some agricultural education along with learning about what Dunn County Farm Bureau is and how we support Agriculture.

Around that same time, my wife Haily and I also officially started our two-year term on American Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Committee. We headed out to Washington, D.C. to American Farm Bureau Federation's headquarters, where we had an update on

policy, YF&R committee training and media training to name a few.

Our next big event was in June where we co-sponsored Farm Night at Red Cedar Speedway with Dunn County Dairy Promotion and other local agricultural businesses. Brent Creaser and the crew at the speedway did a phenomenal job marketing and putting this Farm Night on! This year, they took the extra time to make the trophies milk cans!

Before we knew it, July was here and it was time for the Dunn County Fair. The fair not only brought excitement for the kids with projects and showing animals but also brought a group of Farm Bureau members together to run the food stand which is our main fundraiser to help our county be able to provide scholarships as well as engage members and our community through education and activities.

In September we had our Annual Meeting where we were able to have some fun along with our business meeting. We played a few rounds of bingo, networked, built relationships and had Brian Winnekins, from WDRN Radio, speak to us on some impactful experiences he has had during his career.

We have a lot to be Farm Bureau Proud about this past year, but I feel the best is yet to come. From your county board, we all are looking forward to this year and what we can do to make a difference for agriculture, our communities and most importantly our members.

Thank you for your continued support, please reach out if you have any questions, ideas or are looking to become more involved.

Happy Holidays,
Ben Sand

Meet New Dunn County Farm Bureau Board Member: Tyler Nigon



Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 1

Type of Farming Operation: Dairy, cash crop, maple syrup

Other Occupations: Agricultural Research and Data Science

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member? Community involvement and opportunity to support the ag industry through advocacy and policy

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? Ag is vital to our world and economy, the farm upbringing provides unique benefits to families and has a special culture and to contribute ideas and actions that improve the industry and society as a whole

Are you involved with any other organizations or activities? Coaching youth sports, church involvement, agronomy and soil science societies

Get Involved with Dunn County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Dunn County Farm Bureau? The board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting.

Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn/>

President

Ben Sand

Vice President

Kevin Gilbertson

Secretary and Treasurer

Mark Schaffner

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

Haily Sand

Promotion and Education Chair

Kristyn Jensen

Board of Directors:

Carl Casper, Tony Christopherson,
Doug Clark, Justin Jensen, Tyler Nigon,
Marv Prestrud, Tara Prochnow, Dale
Quilling



Seated L to R: Ben Sand, Marv Prestrud, Doug Clark and Carl Casper. Standing L to R: Haily Sand, Tony Christopherson, Dale Quilling, Al Shannon, Mark Schaffner, Justin Jensen and Tyler Nigon. Not pictured: Kristyn Jensen and Tara Prochnow.

Making Connections through Farm Bureau

Anna Dahlka

Dunn County Farm Bureau Member

Unlike many of my fellow Farm Bureau members I didn't grow up in agriculture, but I found a love for it through my friends and family who took the time to share their experiences and passion for the industry. I grew up in Northern Wisconsin where our main industry is logging and paper making. Up until 2020 I didn't realize how much of an agricultural background the area really had. During COVID, I spent some time in Rhinelander with my then-boyfriend (now husband). Normally we'd go out to dinner or the movies, but instead we started taking nightly walks to the family farmstead that was owned by his aunt and uncle. As I got to know them, I learned a lot about



how they lived through dairy farming in the 80s and then the changes in the 90s and early 2000s as people tried to keep up with the growing dairy industry, how they evolved and moved toward crop farming to keep up. Crops and dairy fascinated me, so I started getting to know our other farmer neighbors in the area to learn from them too.

From there I joined the Dunn County

Farm Bureau to connect with other people in agriculture that I could learn from. I met Stephanie Doane at our Pumpkin Palooza event in late-September

and she invited me to tour Chippewa Valley Bean and

hang out during corn harvest. It was one of the coolest experiences I've ever had! From getting my first ride in a semi to riding in the combine and watching the grain cart driver as we unloaded on the go. I also got to unload a semi and watch the grain flow from the pit up the leg and over the drag into the dryer. It was a whole new world for me and



I'm so appreciative of the Doane's for letting me tag along during harvest. In Northern Wisconsin we have much smaller and hillier fields so a lot of people use a 4-row JD 4420 or something of the like, so the Case IH 7240 I rode in at Doane's was amazing to me.

I'm hoping to continue learning from my other Farm Bureau members and eventually be able to raise my own small beef herd, crop farm and help at dairy farms in the area. From the smell of fresh cut corn to watching the sunset from the farmhouse porch to the unique sound of an International 5088 starting up, it all drew me into agriculture and expanded my horizons to new friends and traditions.



Red Cedar Conservation Farmers 2023 Research Plots Results Presentation

Trial 1: Cover Crop Termination Timing at Different Nitrogen Rates

Trial 2: Manure Incorporation vs No Incorporation at Different Nitrogen Rates

**FEBRUARY 13, 2024
10AM-3:30PM**

**Lunch provided
Registration to come**

**Contact Tina Barone with questions:
tbarone@co.dunn.wi.us
715-231-6533**

**Viking Bowl
108 S Main St
Colfax, WI 54730**



Funding for this was made possible, in part, by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). The views expressed in written materials, publications, speakers, and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of DATCP; nor does any mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organization imply endorsement by the State of Wisconsin.

Dunn County Farm Bureau®

APPLY NOW

**DUNN COUNTY
FARM BUREAU IS
OFFERING
SCHOLARSHIPS
IN 2024!**

Visit: wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn for further details on the application process and requirements.



Get Involved with Pierce County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Pierce County Farm Bureau? The board meets on the third Thursday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/pierce/>

President

Travis Kopp

Vice President

Kevin Ballman

Secretary and

Treasurer

Peter Kimball

Young Farmer and

Agriculturist Chair

Connor Ballman

Board of Directors:

Dave Bechel

John Krings

Paul Tonsager



Front L to R: Travis Kopp, Dave Bechel and Paul Tonsager. Back L to R: Connor Ballman, John Krings, Kevin Ballman and Peter Kimball.

Thank you!

Pierce County Land Conservation Department would like to thank the many producers, land owners, and contractors that have worked with our office this past year to put conservation on the land.



Do you know of old wells no longer in use? Help protect groundwater by getting them properly closed! Call our office today at 715-273-6763 for more information and cost share funding applications.

Polk Burnett

wfbf.com/about/counties/polkburnett
polkburnettfarmbureauwi

Meet new Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Board Member: Eric Antonson



Number of Years in Farm Bureau: 1

Type of Farm/Farming Operation: Cow/calf beef operation, cash crop and custom farming operations

Other Occupations: Plowing snow

What do you think are the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member? One of the greatest benefits of being a Farm Bureau member is being a voice for rural America and the farming community.

Why do you think it is important to be a part of the ag industry? It is important to be part of the ag industry because there are so few people involved in agriculture these days. Those who are not involved in agriculture are becoming more removed from the rural way of life and understanding how their food is brought to their table.

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Bowling Night

Friday, January 12

7-9 p.m.

McKenzie Lanes

75 WI-35

Centuria

FREE Bowling and Pizza!

Questions or to RSVP, contact
YFA Chair Mickie Dado
at 715.417.1902

**Polk Burnett
Farm Bureau**

APPLY NOW

**Polk Burnett
Farm Bureau**

POLK BURNETT FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN 2024!

**FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION
AND REQUIREMENTS VISIT:**

wfbf.com/about/counties/polk-burnett

Get Involved with Polk Burnett Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Polk Burnett Farm Bureau? The board meets the second Thursday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/polk-burnett/>

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Vice President

Chris Owens

Secretary and Treasurer

Eric Antonson

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

Trent and Mykayla Dado

Promotion and Education Chair

Maria Owens

Board of Directors:

Sara Byl, Rebekah Gustafson,
Erik Melin, Josh Roos, Ted Tietz



Front L to R: Sara Byl, Mykayla Dado, Rebekah Gustafson and Maria Owens. Back L to R: Eric Antonson, Erik Melin, Chris Owens, Travis Senn and Ted Tietz. Not pictured: Josh Roos.

Building Bridges



Travis Senn

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau President

With the holidays officially upon us, I find myself taking more time to appreciate the many blessings in my life. After all, that's what we do during the holidays. We gather with friends and family, reflecting on the past year and all for which we are thankful.

For us in Polk and Burnett Counties, we have much to celebrate. This year, our county hosted its first-ever Harvest Party. The idea emerged from discussions on getting more folks engaged and involved. We want to build a stronger community — within Farm Bureau and beyond.

It's no secret that our area has had its fair share of disagreements about agriculture. But at the end of the day, we all want the same thing — thriving farms and a healthy environment. Why, then, is it so hard for us to find common ground?

We can build a bridge between production agriculture and our rural communities. By opening our doors to our neighbors, we can showcase the great work happening on our farms. Modern agriculture looks vastly different today than it did even 30 years ago, but the principles we live by are no different from what they were 100 years ago. We want to produce quality, affordable food, fuel and fiber for our neighbors and protect the land that provides for us.

This year's Harvest Party was a humble start to something I hope continues growing each year as a celebration of the rich agricultural heritage within our communities. We are already planning next year's event to ensure a joyous celebration of our farmers and those who support them. I imagine we will have even more to be thankful for by next year's holiday season.



The First Annual Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Harvest Party was a success. We look forward to making it bigger and better for next year.

thank you to our
SPONSORS!

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Burnett Dairy Cooperative
Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

Thank you to the generous sponsors that helped make the First Annual Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Harvest party a success.

Polk County in the Process of Updating Farmland Preservation Plan

Polk County Environmental Division is currently in the process of updating the county's Farmland Preservation Plan. The current plan adopted in 2014 is set to expire December 31st, 2024.

A farmland preservation plan is a guiding document that establishes a vision for the future of agriculture in the county. The plan attempts to anticipate future trends and maps land that is expected to remain in agricultural use for the next 15 years. As a guiding document for municipalities, the plan itself is non-binding and does not impose land use restrictions.

Why is Polk County completing a Farmland Preservation Plan?

The Farmland Preservation Plan is one component of the Farmland Preservation Program, which is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). Having a certified farmland preservation plan makes properties eligible for program tax incentives. Once a county farmland preservation plan is certified, it also establishes the opportunity to designate an Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA)

and/or certify a farmland preservation zoning district, further protecting valuable farmland from development.

What are the benefits of a Farmland Preservation Plan?

Landowners in a County with a DATCP-certified Plan have access to additional resources and tools.

These include:

- » Farmland Preservation Tax Credits
- » Agricultural Enterprise Area designation
- » Farmland Preservation Agreements
- » Grant Funding and resources through DATCP and other agricultural-based agencies

The planning process provides towns and landowners a platform to voice their experiences, concerns and recommendations for farmland preservation efforts in Polk County. For more information, please contact the Polk County Environmental Services Division at 715-485-8699.

Rusk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk
f Ruskfarmbureauwi

This Matters

Serenity Hetke

Rusk County Young Farmer and Agriculturalist Chair

"Oh we have this lady today." I heard one of my 6th graders say as he walked in the classroom.

"This lady?" I thought, "Am I really so unimportant that they don't even remember my name?"

I've recently started serving through AmeriCorps at the Flambeau School. My project is in Ag STEM. Teaching 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th and 8th graders about different agricultural-related topics. I spend one hour each week with each class of students, all studying the same topic and then changing it up for next week. I was kind of thrown into it unsure what the purpose was, what I was here to accomplish, where the program was going to end up. All I was sure of was that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of students.

I spent my first couple of weeks training and preparing for the rest of the school year. In those weeks, I started becoming very excited for the year ahead as I got introduced to resources and ideas. My creative energies started flowing and I dove into planning for the school year! I started planning lessons on plant life, animal systems, feed rations, building projects, and field trips to the tractor dealership! I was very, VERY excited!

As the days, hours and minutes drew closer to my first class with students, the nerves began to rise. When the students walked into my classroom, my

heart was beating fast! "How do I make them like me?" "What if I don't remember their names?" "What if I'm no good at teaching?" "I have ZERO experience in teaching!" Those were some concerns running through my head. However, when I opened my mouth to speak, some strange words rolled off my lips, "Hello everyone, my name is Miss Hetke." The words came out so naturally but sounded so weird. When did I become a teacher? This was never part of my plan! But it has been working out.

It was the second week of teaching when I first thought my students did not care very much about me. They didn't remember my name or the things we had talked about the week before. I was just "This lady." Now, 4 weeks later, my students greet me with smiles and excitement for the coming class period. My fears of being no good at teaching have been slowly washed away with every class going better than I would have expected. I am in love with this experience!

"Miss Hetke, I drew you something!" one of my students whispered to me after class. She handed me a folded-up piece of paper and walked away. I carefully unfolded the

scratch paper that came out of the 6th grader's binder and a grin covered my entire face. A simple pencil drawing of a highland cow. I had mentioned in passing the week before that I love highland cows and this student wanted to honor me by offering me her talent in drawing a picture of one for me.

"This matters." I finally thought. "My students care. I know they are going to remember the things I teach them."



APPLY TODAY!

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE IN 2024



Rusk County Farm Bureau is proud to offer scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2024 who wish to pursue higher education.

Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2024. To apply, please visit: wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk

Get Involved with Rusk County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Rusk County Farm Bureau? The board meets the first Wednesday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk/>

President

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Betsy DuSell

Board of Directors:

Howard Carter, John Kalepp, John Weinert



Sawyer County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer
SawyerCountyFarmBureau

Nutrient Management Training

Tim Seidl

Assistant Conservationist, Sawyer County ZAC

Sawyer County is hosting Nutrient Management Training sessions on March 18th, 19th and 20th, 2024. Training location will be determined by the area of highest interest. This course is designed for participants to develop a nutrient management plan that will meet the NRCS 590 Standard requirements. Participants will enter soil test information into the software program, SNAPPLUS and will develop a plan using the data. Subjects include conservation plans, field mapping, soil test analysis, manure management, crop selection and crop nutrient requirements.

March 18, 2024 – Certification Class

10:00 Welcome, session objectives, program opportunities/requirements, etc.-Tim Seidl, Sawyer County ZAC

10:15 590 Intro/What is NM/manure application precautions – Andrea Topper, DATCP

10:30 Soil sampling and soil test guidelines – Michael Geissinger, UWEX
NPK – Michael Geissinger, UWEX
PH – Michael Geissinger, UWEX

11:30 – 12:30 Lunch provided

12:30 Nutrient credits from manure and legumes – Michael Geissinger, UWEX

1:15 Intro to SNAP Plus – All

1:45 Time for questions, flex time, or adjourn early

3:00 Adjourn

March 19, 2024 and March 20, 2024 – Update Class

*Only need to attend morning or afternoon class.

8:00 – 11:30 – Morning class update (Please contact Tim to sign up at 715-634-6463)

11:30-12:30 Lunch provided

12:30 – 4:00 Afternoon class update (Please contact Tim to sign up at 715-634-6463)

4:00 Adjourn

Participants will be eligible for reimbursement for a limited number of soil samples (taken within the last two years). Soil samples will need to be sampled on a one sample per five-acre basis and analyzed by a DATCP approved laboratory.

Participants will also be eligible for partial reimbursement for manure analysis and participation stipend.

This course is for anyone who applies nutrients to their fields. Both crop farmers and livestock farmers will benefit from Nutrient Management Training.

Completion of the course will allow you to take ownership of your farm's nutrient plan for the next four years with just a few hours of classroom instruction.

Even if you have another individual write your nutrient management plan, this is a good opportunity to further your understanding about how to implement your plan.

The state requires an updated Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) for every year farmers are in the program (ss 91.80). Nutrient Management Plans will need to be turned into our office by email, mail, or dropped off by June 1, 2024, for the 2024 growing season. Attached is an agenda for the course.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Seidl, Sawyer County Assistant Conservationist at (715) 634-6463.



Get Involved with Sawyer County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Sawyer County Farm Bureau? The board meets the second Wednesday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer/>

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Connor Beissel

Board of Directors:

Dale Beissel

Jordan Pasanen

Jon Winiarczyk



Front L to R:
District 9 Director
– Brad Olson, Mike
Robers and Andy
Winiarczyk. Back L
to R: Connor Beissel,
Dale Beissel, Marty
Ewert and Jon
Winiarczyk. Not
pictured: Jordan
Pasanen.

Apply Today!
Applications are due April 1, 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sawyer County Farm Bureau will be offering scholarships to Sawyer County graduating high school students in 2024.

Find the application and requirements at
wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer.

St. Croix County

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

Meet Rural Mutual Insurance Company Agents: Barbi Manter and Harmony Cole



Barbi Manter has expanded her agency team to Baldwin after opening her Eau Claire office in 2021. She relocated back to Wisconsin with her husband and youngest daughter to be closer to her family. Barbi is a proud Gulf War Navy Veteran, who served with her dad who was born and raised on a farm here in Glenwood City and who was also in the Navy commissioned and de commissioned the USS Wisconsin. Wisconsin has always felt like home to her and now she is enjoying growing her agency with Rural Mutual Insurance and planting more roots with her family in this awesome state. She has been in the Insurance Industry since 2007. She has 4 amazing children and 7 awesome grandchildren. Two of her children have also started a career protecting people with Rural Mutual Insurance and she could not be prouder. Her background is in Crop Insurance Underwriting and Insurance Agency Management. She looks forward to helping people protect what is most important to them. She believes a farm is more than just land and crops, it is a family's heritage and their future. Reach out to her and her team and discuss how she can help you protect just that!



Harmony Cole is a new agent for Rural Mutual Insurance Company with offices in Baldwin. She and her family relocated to Wisconsin from Ohio in early 2023 to be closer to her mother, Barbi Manter, who is also an agent with Rural Mutual. Harmony and her husband Stuart have three beautiful children and three loving pets. They are most excited to now be around more family, especially for the holiday season. Harmony studied at the College

of Business at Ohio University and graduated in 2016. She became an insurance agent because she wanted to help people navigate tricky insurance language and provide her clients with peace of mind. Harmony has a passion for people and her mission is to build meaningful relationships with her clients while making sure they are properly protected. She makes it a priority to guide each client through their questions and provide the products and knowledge that will serve them best. Outside of work and being a young mom, Harmony's hobbies include sewing, baking and DIY crafts. Prior to becoming an insurance agent, while being a stay-at-home mom, Harmony ran a successful online clothing boutique where she handmade children's clothing and accessories. Her favorite part about running her past business was creating Halloween costumes and shipping them across the US for little ones to wear. She also loved creating custom pieces based off her customers' visions. Harmony provides attention to detail in all lines of work and she looks forward to meeting you and helping you with all your insurance needs! Thank you for welcoming her and her family into St. Croix County!

Insurance Products offered: Auto, Home, Farm, Business, Life, Annuities. Life and Annuity products are offered through Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Office phone: (715) 226-2622

Emails: hcole@ruralins.com / bmanter@ruralins.com

Office location: 990 Hillcrest St. Suite 102

Baldwin, WI 54002

Contact Barbi or Harmony today before you pay another insurance bill and ask them how they can help!

Get Involved with St. Croix County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with St. Croix County Farm Bureau? The board meets the first Monday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix/>



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Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair

Lexi Cook

Board of Directors:

Jenna Achterhof, Vanessa Achterhof, Lynn Brosi
Dave Kruschke, Jim Lund, Dean Mueller, Gary
Peterson, Randy Roquette, Leslie Svacina, Greg
Zwald



Seated L to R: Lexi Cook, Leslie Svacina and Dave Kruschke. Kneeling: District 9 Director Brad Olson. Standing L to R: Amy Shafer, Melanie Peterson, Jim Lund, Vanessa Achterhof, Randy Roquette, Jenna Achterhof, Greg Zwald, Dean Mueller and Steve Mueller. Not pictured: Lynn Brosi and Gary Peterson.



\$500 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications must be postmarked by
March 25, 2024, and can be found at
wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix/.

St. Croix County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce that it will
award up to four (4) \$500 higher education scholarships to
graduating seniors.

The scholarship will be awarded to graduating high school seniors
enrolled in an accredited college, university or technical college.
The applicant or his/her parents must be a current St. Croix
County Farm Bureau member.



Superior Shores

wfbf.com/about/counties/superiorshores
superiorshoresfarmbureau

Get Involved with Superior Shores County Farm Bureau

Are you interested in being more involved with Superior Shores Farm Bureau? The board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Contact a member of the board of directors with any questions or if you are interested in attending a meeting. Their contact information can be found at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/superior-shores/>

President

Gregg Johnson

Vice President

Linda Johnson

Secretary

Alan Schiefelbein

Treasurer

Josh Huray

Board of Directors:

John Radinger



Front L to R: District 9 Director Brad Olson, Linda Johnson and Gregg Johnson.
Back L to R: John Radlinder, Josh Huray, District 9 Coordinator Katie Mattison
and Alan Schiefelbein



FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION
AND REQUIREMENTS VISIT:

wfbf.com/about/counties/superior-shores



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This Issue Contains Highlights for:

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Sawyer County
St. Croix County
Superior Shores

“

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