



Grassroots

District 7 News

It's Been an Honor to Work for You!



Wes Raddatz

WFBF District 7 Coordinator

I'm retiring from my Farm Bureau career at the end of 2023, but I don't expect to disappear from Farm Bureau altogether. I've been a Farm Bureau member for 47 years, 27 as a staff member and 20 as part of the grassroots supporters and leaders that are the primary strength of the organization.

Early in my farming career, I found that Farm Bureau was a great way to continue building on the leadership skills I'd started developing in 4-H, FFA and college organizations.

Serving as the Winnebago County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Chair and participating in the WFBF Discussion Meet, Young Farmer Achievement Award and Young Farmer leadership seminars, took me to the next level of serving WFBF and led to my appointment to terms on the WFBF Dairy Committee and Policy Development Committee.

In 1993 I decided to take my ag career in a different direction

and ventured into agribusiness endeavors. I was very excited when an opportunity to apply for a job as a Farm Bureau Field Supervisor presented itself in 1996. Over my 27-year history with the WFBF staff, I've had the ability to work with many different county Farm Bureau boards to promote and develop their programs and membership. The aspect of the job I've found the most fulfilling is when I've been able to help new county Farm Bureau members and encourage them to undertake new roles and responsibilities. There have been many times I've been able to assist them in developing into leaders of the organization and the agricultural community, just as Farm Bureau gave me those opportunities earlier.

During my tenure as a Field Supervisor and District Coordinator, I've worked with lots of wonderful people who have become good friends. In addition, the Farm Bureau has enabled me to live my passion for supporting and promoting agriculture. Thank you, Farm Bureau friends, for your support and encouragement along this wonderful journey. I sincerely hope we'll be able to keep in touch and help the Farm Bureau continue to be a strong and vibrant organization. Thank you.



District 7 Coordinator, Wes Raddatz, retired last month after 27 years with WFBF.



Farm Bureau members from District 7 and around Wisconsin honor District 7 WFBF Coordinator, Wes Raddatz in his retirement of 27 years of service to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

WHO All county Farm Bureau leaders!

WHAT Learn more about Farm Bureau, share ideas and network with other Farm Bureau members and gain skills to help you engage, innovate and grow.

WHEN 2 - one-day options
Friday, March 1 | Eau Claire
Saturday, March 2 | Neenah
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day

SAVE THE DATE

ignite
Focus on. Network. Learn. Grow. Inspire.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

HUMOR CORNER

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

What do pigs use on a cut? Oinkment
(Courtesy of Michelle Paustian, Rural Health Initiative health specialist)

What's the difference between a hill and a pill? A hill is hard to get up, and a pill is hard to get down.

The sporting goods store had a sale on canoe paddles. It was quite the oar deal.

Why was the archaeologist depressed? His career was in ruins.

What does a worm do in a cornfield? It goes in one ear and out the other.

The judicial process is like a cow. The public is jabbed by its horns, the government has it by the tail, and the lawyers are milking it.

What do you call children of couch potatoes? Tater Tots.

Did you hear about the magic tractor? It went down the road and turned into a field.

Laughter is the best medicine. It has no unpleasant side effects.

We should all consider being more like a turtle. It only gets somewhere when it sticks its neck out.

Institute was Worth Every Minute!



Roseann Hoffman

Langlade County Institute Graduate

If you are looking to increase your Farm Bureau knowledge, learn more about government operations or expand your leadership skills, you need to apply for the Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. I was fortunate enough to be picked as one of the fourteen participants for the 15th Institute Class of 2023. The training was not easy but worth every minute of my time. The Farm Bureau friendships created will last a lifetime and I will be glad to have their support, and they will have mine, in whatever path we should happen to wander down.

Six weekends over a year-long commitment is very doable. We learned personality traits as they pertain to leadership, public speaking, testimony, government relations and working together as a team. Our class had Baby Boomers and Gen Z participants. It was good to see the world through other generations' eyes. Although our graduation was during the WFBF Annual Meeting, we will finish our training in June of 2024 when we travel to Washington, D.C. to practice our newfound skills on Capitol Hill.

Some people are put into high-profile positions but that doesn't make them good leaders. Other people are never recognized for the accomplishments they are part of because they can lead from behind. Leadership takes all kinds, don't be afraid to take this challenge.

Leadership Institute Class 15 Continued



Amanda Williams

Shawano County Institute Graduate

Earlier this year, I reported on the first half of my Leadership Institute experience. Since then, I, along with the 13 other class members, have graduated from the program. As a quick recap, the first sessions covered public speaking, Farm Bureau 101, advocacy, social media and what it takes to be a team. We had a break from in-person sessions over the summer. During that break, we had a few assignments to work on. One of those was an advocacy project. As someone who has a love for the dairy industry and teaching young kids about the industry, this was one of my favorite projects! I took a couple of calves to my children's daycare. We learned all about them, got to pet and feed them and finished the afternoon with some dairy-filled snacks!

Session 4 took us back to Madison and we learned more about the policy development process and working with our local government. This session was a huge eye-opener for me as to what all goes into policy development. The last session took class 15 to Michigan where we learned about the structure and programs that make Michigan Farm Bureau and their members successful.

December brought our graduation for the Leadership Institute at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Throughout this entire year, we have been taking everything we learned and creating our own Personal Leadership Development Plan. We are not done just yet though. In June, Class 15 and other WFBF Leaders will be traveling to Washington, D.C.

I am so thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Leadership Institute. I have grown so much professionally from it and truly believe I am a better leader and asset to my county Farm Bureau because of this program. If you are looking to grow as a leader and learn more about Farm Bureau at a state level, I highly encourage you to apply. As an added bonus, you'll come away with a group of friends for life!

WFBF YFA Committee Update

Jake Hoewisch

District 7 WFBF YFA Committee Representative

The 2023 Young Farmers and Agriculturists Conference was a great success. We kicked it off Friday night with a first-timers orientation and a social hour with the Fabulous Farm Babe, Pam Janke. All our young farmers were encouraged to dress up in 80s-themed clothes for dinner. During dinner, Savannah Brown gave her retirement address as the 2023 chair of our committee. There was also a beautiful tribute to Aly Sosnovske, a District 8 YFA committee member, who tragically died in a car accident earlier this year.

After dinner, we broke out into our district meetings where we got to know the young farmers in our district. We wrapped up the evening by



District 7 YFA Conference attendees

dancing the night away with the band, Union Road.

Saturday morning started with the discussion meet where Steph Jentz and Hallie Rehn competed. The keynote note speaker for brunch was Kiah Twisselman Burchett, known as Coach Kiah. We had some great breakout sessions later in the day that consisted of panel-led discussions about different industry leaders, farm safety, and women in agriculture, just to name a few. The YFA conference wrapped up Sunday morning with the completion of the final round of the discussion meet and the announcement of the winners for the Outstanding Ag Professional, Kaitlyn Kesler, and Farming for the Future, Sydney Flick. Overall, it was a great success and I look forward to next year. In the meantime, mark your calendars for the Gamblers Game on March 15 with pizza to follow at the Green Bay Distillery.



YFA members had some fun getting to know each other with some "icebreaker" games to start the meeting.

Langlade County

wfbf.com/about/counties/langlade
LangladeCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



Jake Bula

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy folks. As I write this it seems as if winter is here to stay. I recently attended the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference in the Wisconsin Dells. Throughout the conference, there was so much to learn. There were great breakout sessions and excellent keynote speakers. One

of the speakers presented a statistic that kind of woke me up. That statistic was that farmers are 3.5 times more likely to commit suicide than the rest of the general population. The stresses of low milk prices, low commodity prices and an unstable economy can really wear a farmer out. Place all that on top of the day-to-day stress of running a farm and it could lead to a terrible situation.

Depression is one of those things that a lot of people, men in general,

and more specifically farmers, don't talk about. It's seen as a stigma or a weakness when it's more common than we think. The biggest thing I've found is that it makes you think you are all alone and nobody cares, but really everyone has somebody who cares about them. There are so many different resources available to assist when you are struggling.

- Wisconsin Farm Center 24/7 Wellness Line 888-901-2558
- Farmers Aid Farmer Hotline 1-800-327-6243
- National Suicide Prevention Line – 988

These are just a few of the many resources available. There is always a better way. On a Farm Bureau level, we have our Farm Neighbors Care program. As I've said before, if you have a chance to stop by and check in with a neighbor just to chew the fat, I highly recommend it. You never really know when a person is struggling and sometimes the biggest help is just knowing someone cares.

In conclusion, I'm going to leave you with a quote from my great-grandpa Billie, "Keep thinking about next year and think next year will be better." Until next time, keep your furrow straight and true and be safe out there.

Langlade County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Update

Roseann Hoffman, Langlade County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

I had set a goal for 2023 to learn more about Ag in the Classroom and increase our county's participation in the program. Relatively new to the Farm Bureau, I was unaware of all the resources available. As far as goals and New Year's Resolutions go, this one was fairly easy to keep. During the fall Ag in the Classroom training, the idea of teaching a summer school program was explained. That turned into my putting together ten weekly lesson plans. I kickstarted my in-school activities with the Menominee Tribal School in Neopit and then ran a full ten weeks with the Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods in Antigo. Plans are underway to start our next session with the Shepherd's Watch Christian Academy in Birnamwood. The lessons included activities such as tabletop hydroponics, the cycle of life - incubating eggs,

live piglets, ice cream and cheese making, soil conservation and local foods and labeling. Expanded plans for 2024 are well underway to include taking several of the lessons to our county fair. A very interactive display booth that will not only expose the public to agriculture but also give our teachers a hands-on experience of what can be brought into their classrooms. I hope many of you enjoy Ag in the Classroom as much as I do. Here's to the New Year and all the new opportunities we can come up with.



Langlade County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The meeting took place on September 20 at the Skybrook Event Barn in Deerbrook. A sub sandwich dinner was provided by Insight FS. There were 26 members and guests present.

Keynote speaker, WFBF Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Beth Schaefer, spoke about new programs and resources.

Retiring Langlade County Farm Bureau board member, Dick Bolen, was recognized for his many years of service. President Jake Bula presented him with a custom-painted wall hanging and a gift card.

The election of board members took place. The following positions were elected:

- District 1 Director #1 (3-year term) Tony Koss
- District 2 Director #1 (3-year term) Remains vacant after Dick Bolen's retirement
- Director at Large #1 (3-year term) Roseann Hoffman
- Promotion and Education Committee Chair (1-year term) Bev Brecklin
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Chair (1 year term) Samantha Solin

Members elected delegates to represent Langlade Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting. The delegates elected were Jake Bula, Tony Koss and Roseann Hoffman. Tom Houdek and Dick Bolen were elected to serve as alternates.

Members voted on resolution proposals from the policy development meeting held in August. The resolutions that passed were:

1. In order to secure our food supply, we support the State of Wisconsin to review and enact new policies and legislation to better protect the state's agricultural land from foreign ownership. (add to General Government, Accountability, line 40)
2. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 12 line 27, add verbiage so that the line reads: This includes reimbursement for missing livestock and other domestic animals where there is evidence of wolves or a history of wolf/livestock conflicts on the farm.
3. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 line 26, replace the first sentence with, "We support all schools to have agriculture courses."
4. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 line 27, delete the sentence and replace it with, "We support School Districts recognizing agriculture courses as science credits."
5. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 lines 28 and 29, Move this line to be a separate individual paragraph reading: We support revisions in the teacher certification requirements to allow for dual certification in agriculture and science for education majors graduating in Wisconsin.
6. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 23 line 51, add: We oppose revocation of occupational and professional licenses due to unpaid state tax liability.



Dick Bolen (left) was presented with a wall hanging and gift certificate upon his retirement from the board of directors.



Beth Schaefer was the keynote speaker and talked about new resources from Ag in the Classroom.

Marinette County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The meeting was held October 1 at the Embers 1871 Restaurant in Peshtigo. The meeting began after a family-style chicken and beef tips dinner. There were 11 members and guests present.

Keynote speaker, Brad Uken, WFBF CAO, addressed the group about changes taking place in agriculture and Farm Bureau, and gave some suggestions for how Marinette County Farm Bureau could address them.

Jeff Mursau, 36th Assembly District representative, talked about issues he's been working on in the legislature.

The election of directors took place. The directors elected to three-year terms were Corey Kuchta and Chuck Rabitz. Group1, Director #3 and Group3, Director #8 positions remain vacant.

The Promotion and Education Committee chair position remains vacant, and the Young Farmers and Agriculturists Committee chair position remains vacant.

Election for delegates to represent the Marinette

Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting took place. The delegates elected were Corey Kuchta and Chuck Rabitz.

The members voted on the resolutions that were proposed at the Marinette County Farm Bureau policy development meeting in September. The resolutions that passed were:

State Policy Resolutions:

1. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4, add line 43: Private electrical generation businesses should be subject to the same regulations and environmental scrutiny as regulated utilities.
2. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4, add line 45: We support that Wisconsin State Law should require an Agricultural Impact Statement to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct a solar energy generation facility.
3. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 14 lines 33-35, add verbiage to make the statement read: In order to curb the constant attrition of private property rights, we reaffirm our belief in the rights of private property ownership, and in the ability of landowners to make wise land use decisions. We support legislation requiring any governmental entity to compensate property owners when its actions reduce property values.
4. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 6, add line 40: In order to

secure our food supply, we support the State of Wisconsin to review and enact new policies and legislation to better protect the state's agricultural land from foreign ownership.

5. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 lines 28 and 29, Move this line to be a separate individual paragraph reading: We support revisions in the teacher certification requirements to allow for dual certification in agriculture and science for education majors graduating in Wisconsin.

6. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 12 line 27, amend the line to read: This includes reimbursement for missing livestock and other

domestic animals where there is evidence of wolves or a history of wolf/livestock conflicts on the farm.

7. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 21 line 14, strike the sentence that reads: We oppose eligibility for tax relief under the Managed Forest

Law for cropland planted to trees.

8. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 line 26, replace the first sentence with, "We support all schools to have agriculture courses.

9. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 line 27, delete the sentence and replace it with, "We support School Districts recognizing agriculture courses as science credits."

10. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 12, add line 55. We support excluding seasonal agricultural workers from workman's compensation.

Federal Policy Resolution:

11. We support that those funds to Land Grant Universities from the sale of intellectual property (patents, royalties, etc.) garnered from commodity check-off grants should be reinvested in agricultural research instead of going into the university's general revenue funds.

Captions:

1. WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Brad Uken addressed the annual meeting about the challenges agriculture will face in 2024 and how Farm Bureau can help farmers address them.
2. 36th Assembly District Representative, Jeff Mursau, talked about legislative issues he's been working on.
3. Marinette County Farm Bureau President Cindi Wautier conducted the meeting at the Embers 1871 Restaurant in Peshtigo.



President's Report



Dennis Jahnke

Oconto County Farm Bureau President

2023 has been an odd year. Personally, I have had 7 appliances (including the submersible well pump) fail in 15 months. The least used was our TV at 8 years and the submersible at 34 years. It proves there have been quality products made in the U.S.A. for many years. We will see how long the new purchases last.

My garden and orchards were fantastic this

year. I had to water for 6 weeks in early summer though. We have two freezers that are full of lots of good eats. Our crops in this area were quite good, especially on the heavy soil. The lake is down so I know we are dry. My brother in the Abbotsford area is still wet. Go figure.

Our county Farm Bureau had a good year. Board participation was the best I have seen in many years. I would like to thank all involved for a very satisfying year. One sad note is the retirement of Wes Raddatz this December. He will be missed. He nursed our county through some difficult times with his dedication and cheerfulness. Best of luck to him in a well-deserved retirement.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The meeting was held September 26 at the S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant. The meeting began after a chicken and ham family-style meal. Twenty-three members and guests attended.

Retiring board member, David Schneider, was presented with a gift certificate.

Keynote Speaker, 36th Assembly District Representative, Jeff Mursau, discussed state budget initiatives that benefit Wisconsin agriculture.

Hallie Rehn gave a presentation about her experiences at the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

Elections were held for the board of directors. Dennis Jahnke, Fred Timm and Mark Alden were elected to 2-year terms on the board representing District 1, Walter Taylor was elected to a 1-year term as the Promotion and Education Committee Chair and Hallie Rehn was elected to a 1-year term as Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Chair.

The election was held for delegates to represent the Oconto Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Dennis Jahnke and Walter Taylor were elected as delegates with Ken Harter and Hallie Rehn to serve as alternates.

Members voted on resolutions that were proposed at the Oconto Farm Bureau policy development meeting in August. The resolutions that passed were:

1. Amend the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4 line 56 to read: We propose a local government have input over the siting/placement of alternative energy projects including large-scale solar energy projects.
2. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4, add line 43: Private electrical generation businesses should be subject to the same regulations and environmental scrutiny as regulated utilities.



Hallie Rehn gave a presentation about her experiences attending the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.



Keynote speaker, Jeff Mursau, talked about benefits for agriculture in the state budget.



Dave Schneider was presented with a gift certificate as he retired from the Oconto Farm Bureau Board this year.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Expands Scope and Impact at Oconto County Youth Fair

The Oconto County Farm Bureau board set a goal to expand their booth at the 2023 Oconto County Youth Fair. They rented three spaces to increase activities. New this year, they held a bucket raffle to increase funds for Agriculture in the Classroom programming, along with a kid's station to make winter bird feeders. This activity was showcased at a WFBF Annual Meeting. Many youths, parents and grandparents made pinecone bird feeders. The booth also hosted the Century Farms Display, produced by Joan Denis. Foot traffic increased and thus visitors stopped, easily conversing with booth workers. Fun was had by all, and we look forward to our continued success at the county fair.



The Oconto Fair Booth Committee set up a great place for folks to learn about and support agriculture.



The Oconto Farm Bureau fair booth was spacious and welcoming this year.

Promoting Ag-Friendly Government Policies is in Your Hands

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Policy Development Chair

The 2023-2025 Wisconsin State Biennial budget, signed into law by Governor Evers in early July, was very agriculture-friendly. Funding was included for improving rural roads serving agriculture, grants for meat and dairy processors, agricultural export promotion, farmer mental health programs as well as the maintenance of support for farmer-led watershed protection programs, Agriculture in the Classroom and several other programs of value to agricultural interests in the state. These wins didn't just happen. It was the result of coordinated work by ag interest groups in the state that have banded together in a coalition to lobby the legislature for policies and programs that are high priority for all of agriculture and rural Wisconsin. The Ag Coalition, the formation of which was led by Jason Mugnaini of the WFBF Government

Relations team, demonstrated how the combined strength of multiple agricultural interests in the state, working together, can get the attention of legislators and policymakers.

Getting legislation and policies beneficial to agriculture passed, however, needs more than talented lobbyists. It takes grassroots support to back those efforts from all over the state. When constituents communicate concerns and opportunities to their local legislative representatives, they pay attention.

An opportunity for Farm Bureau members to engage with legislators is coming up on January 31, 2024, with the annual Ag Day at the Capitol program in Madison. The one-day program updates participants on state issues affecting agriculture followed by visits with your legislators and staff.

Learn more and sign up for Ag Day at the Capitol 2024 at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation website - <https://wfbf.com/>.

Oconto County Farm Bureau Members Attend 2023 WFBF Annual Meeting

By Walter Taylor, Oconto County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

Several Oconto County Farm Bureau members attended the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. Hallie Rehn competed in the YFA Discussion Meet and we are really proud of her performance. Ken and Wally judged discussion

meet rounds, along with attending the annual meeting and business session for policy development. During their travels home, Ken and Wally stopped by to tour the new Food and Farm Exploration Center in Plover. This venue showcases agricultural enterprises in the central sands of Wisconsin and is a great destination for all ages to learn more about agriculture in that region of Wisconsin.



Ken Harter, Wes Raddatz and Walter Taylor at the WFBF Annual Meeting.



The WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference awards banquet.



Ken Harter and Walter Taylor toured the Food and Farm Exploration Center in Plover.

Outagamie County

President's Report



Bob Fox
Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

Greetings,

As I write this in the beginning of December, the growing season has been one for the books. From drought to a wet late season, as I drive around, everyone seems to have gotten their soybeans and dry corn harvested.

This year Ag Day at the Capitol is January 31 at the Monona Terrace Center in Madison. A panel

will discuss bills in the Assembly and the Senate concerning agriculture. From there we walk over to the Capitol and meet with our elected

representatives. There we talk with them about why the bills are important to our county.

Ag Day at the Capitol is open to anyone interested in attending. Please contact a county Farm Bureau board member for more information.

Ignite 2024 is another great conference you may want to consider attending. Ignite 2024 has 4 workshop topics:

- Policy, Issues and Advocacy,
- Communicating for Agriculture and Farm Bureau
- Governance and Organization
- Building Farm Bureau.

It will be held March 2 in Neenah.

I hope you all had an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

Octoberfest Creampuffs Fundraiser

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Creampuff Committee Chair

I want to thank those who helped to make this fall's fundraiser at Appleton's Octoberfest a huge success as we sold 1,200 cream puffs for a profit of over \$4,100. So, again THANK YOU ALL who helped throughout the day from Linda and me. The money earned will be used to support 4-H

and FFA programs throughout the year. The board also uses the money to support the Adventures in Dairyland program in Outagamie County where farmer volunteers go into the classrooms and teach 4th graders in over 20 Outagamie County schools about farming.



Promotion and Education Boot Camp

By Bob Fox, Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

On October 28, I attended the Leadership Boot Camp in Fond du Lac. The topic was Storytelling Strategies.

The Lady Farmer, Darci Daniels, talked about how important it is to keep your social media pages updated. If your page isn't updated on a regular basis, potential customers will pass over your page.

A panel of four finalists from the WFBF sustainability contest, 35 Under 35, talked about Sustainable Storytelling. They were a freelance writer, beef grower, farm radio broadcaster and a registered Jersey dairy farmer. They spoke on how they use media to get their word out to the public.



Sesquicentennial Farm Awards

Outagamie County Farm Bureau and the Outagamie County Fair Association have been working together to identify and honor Outagamie County Centennial farms and properties. The Outagamie Farm Bureau sponsors the farm signs and the Outagamie County Fair Association provides the Sunday afternoon event space in the entertainment tent. Outagamie Farm Bureau presents the families with the sign to post at their farm or property and introduces the farm family and reads the farm history to the audience. This year the master of ceremonies for the event was Rural Insurance agent Jason Munson.

Farm Bureau has been sponsoring the signs and running the Sunday afternoon program for about 8 years. To be a Centennial Farm Award

recipient you do not have to be a Farm Bureau member you just have to fill out a short form and present it to the Fair Association. The form to fill out is just a history of the farm and who has owned the farm for the past 100 years. This year the award was presented to two farms that have been in the family for 150 years.

So, if you know of anybody that has a centennial farm, direct them to the application on the Outagamie County fair's website, or have them contact a Farm Bureau board member. The application deadline for recognition at the 2024 Outagamie County Fair is July 1, 2024, but don't wait, apply now!



The Seitz family was recognized for their farm's 150th anniversary at the Outagamie County Fair in July.



The Baehman family celebrated 150 years of farm ownership at the Outagamie County fair.

Outagamie County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The meeting was held September 7 at Buzz's Pub and Grill in Freedom. A family-style chicken and beef tips dinner started the event. 38 members and guests attended.

Patrick Vande Hey was recognized for 25 years of continuous Outagamie County Farm Bureau membership.

A bylaw amendment to raise the county dues to align with the WFBF dues increase that took place beginning October 1, 2023 was submitted by the Outagamie Farm Bureau Board of Directors. The bylaw amendment passed with 16 in favor and one against.

Section 1. Annual Membership Dues: Effective November 1, 2023, the annual dues of voting and associate members shall be \$65.00. The board may change the annual dues of voting and associate members from time to time to an amount that will ensure the financial stability of the Outagamie County Farm Bureau and provides the prescribed amount to be remitted to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Cooperative in accordance with the by-laws of said association.

Members voted on the proposed resolutions that surfaced at the county resolutions meeting held in August. The resolutions that passed were:

1. We support that farmers should be able to thinly spread dredged material from drainage ditching maintenance projects on adjacent lands and should be able to do this as part of maintenance work

without obtaining a Chapter 30 or wetland fill permit.

2. We support additional staffing for State Drainage District administration.

3. Amend the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4 line 56 to read: We propose a local government have input over the siting/placement of alternative energy projects including large scale solar energy projects. An election was held for directors on the board.

- Directors elected to two-year terms from District 1 were: Ron Nelson and Dave Daniels.
- Directors elected to two-year terms from District 3 were: Randy Dorow and Steve Jentz.
- Elected to a two-year term as Director at Large #1 was Mike Salter.
- Elected as Promotion and Education Committee chair was Kelly Oudenhoven.

The members elected delegates to represent the Outagamie Farm Bureau at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Elected as delegates were Bob Fox, Bernie Vander Heiden

and Kelly Oudenhoven. Brittney Muenster and Mike Salter served as alternates.

Captions

1. Patrick Vande Hey was recognized for 25 years of continuous Farm Bureau membership.
2. Keynote speaker, former WFBF President, Kevin Krentz, talked about the challenges farmers may face in 2024.



Herdsmen of the Year Award

By Ken Matsche, Promotion and Education Committee Chair

For the first time, a Supreme Herdsman of the Year was selected at the Shawano County Fair. Sponsored by the Shawano County Farm Bureau, the award was selected by members of the Herdsmanship Judging Team. This year's recipient, Ivan Hintz, was recognized for going above and beyond, taking care of not only his animals but helping many other exhibitors around him. He was routinely observed helping keep the aisles clean and clear, making it easier for fairgoers to view the exhibits. Ivan did not stop there, as he was seen helping with garbage around the fairgrounds. Ivan did an excellent job representing all exhibitors at the fair. Congratulations, Ivan, for being the first recipient of the Herdsman of the Year Award and setting the bar high for future recipients!



Shawano County Farm Bureau members Jeff Styczynski and Sheri Beilke present Ivan Hintz with a plaque after being named the Herdsman of the Year.

President's Report



Neil Christianson

Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We had a successful County Annual Meeting in September at the Shawano County Park. There were 50 people in attendance. One of the highlights was recognizing our 40 and 50-year membership anniversary members. Celebrating 40 years was Brian Opperman, Donald Stuhr, Roger

Knueppel, Earl Schmidt and Shirley Buss. Celebrating 50 years was Bertholdt Krueger, Linda Spreeman, Edward Meverden and Edward Krueger.

Some of the 2023 accomplishments were:

- Sponsored 6 - \$500 scholarships for students continuing their education post-high school.
- Brunch 2023 at Synergy Dairy, the Jauquet Family was a huge success.
- Handed out string cheese and other dairy products at local parades.
- Sold ice cream at the Farm Bureau stand at the fair.

- Sponsored awards for the Shawano County Fair youth.
- Donated cheese curds for Gresham chem-free graduation party.
- Sponsored soft serve ice cream machine for Shawano Agricultural Society.

Your county delegates participated in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting in December at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. I would like to congratulate Amanda Williams for graduating from the Leadership Institute. Also, I'd like to congratulate Shawano County Farm Bureau member, Gary Tauchen for being honored with the Distinguished Service to Wisconsin Agriculture award.

I would like to thank Wes Raddatz for his 27 years of service as District 7 Coordinator and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement!

I want to thank each of you for your participation and we look forward to an even better year ahead.

Now time to pick on my Norwegian heritage....

Ole and Sven were trying to get a mule into the barn, but its ears were too long. Ole looked at the barn and then looked at the mule. Finally, he suggested raising the barn. Sven thought about this and said, "I tink it would be easier to dig a trench." No, you dummy," exploded Ole, "it's dah ears dat are too long, not dah legs!"



Bertholdt Krueger received recognition for 50 years of continuous membership.



Keynote speaker, Jamie Patton, explained how to promote soil health.



Vice President Bob Krause recognized District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz's retirement at the end of the year.

2024 Shawano Plat Books Available Now

By Ken Matyas, Shawano County Farm Bureau Plat Book Committee Chair

Fulfill your New Year's Resolution of supporting a local organization. The "New" 2024 Shawano County Plat Book is now available for only \$50.

3 easy ways to get one:

1. In person at: Premiere Banks, Kropf's Meats in Bowler or

at the Treasurer's Office at the courthouse.

2. Online at: www.wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano/ for the order form to get one shipped by mail (Plus \$10 for postage).

3. Or you can contact Ken Matyas at 920-810-2245.

All proceeds from sales goes towards promoting Agriculture Education and Awareness in Shawano County.



Ag in the Classroom Update

By Ken Matsche, Shawano County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Another year of Ag in the Classroom is off and running in Shawano County! So far, we have had several classes sign up for the Adopt-a-Cow program and several schools request the Book of the Year.

This past fall I had the opportunity to attend the fall Ag in the Classroom rally held in Fond du Lac. It was a great day of learning and networking. I was able to learn about several new hands-on activities that I think will fit great in the classroom activities we already have.

One of our biggest activities is the essay contest. This year's theme, "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruitful" is focused on the fruit production in our state. We are hoping that we can get submissions from every school in our county this year! If you have contact with a fourth or fifth-grade teacher in our county, please help us contact them and promote this great program!

Volunteering at Brunch on the Farm Pays Off

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch on the Farm Chair

The Shawano County Farm Bureau is proud to announce \$5,350 in donations to area agriculture student groups for their participation in the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm. This year 19 organizations received between \$50 and \$500 for their continued dedication and service to the annual event!

A student organization is eligible to receive proceeds from the Brunch for the number of volunteers they send. This includes: 5 or fewer volunteers receive \$50; 6-10 volunteers receive \$200; 11-20 volunteers receive \$400 and any group that brings more than 21 volunteers is eligible for \$500.

Also, Individual students who volunteer at Brunch are eligible for \$500 scholarships for continuing education. Applications for the Brunch on the Farm Scholarship will be available in January and due in March of 2024.

Shawano County Brunch Volunteer Donations

Club	Donation
Shawano Ag Ambassadors	400
Angelica 4-H	400
Belle Plaine 4H	500
Bonduel Cross Country	200
Bonduel FFA	400
Bowler 4-H	400
Caroline Aces	50
Clintonville FFA	50
County Line 4-H	200
Gresham FFA	200
Landstad 4-H	500
Lonesome Pines 4H	50
Maple Grove 4-H	500
Pella Eagles 4-H	400
Pulaski FFA	400
Shawano FFA	200
Tiger Tribe 4H	400
Waukechon Wildcats	50
Wolf River 4H Club	50

Waupaca County

WFBF Annual Meeting

More than 230 delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 104th Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will be included in the organization's policy book in 2024. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of the organization's annual grassroots policy development process. Topics discussed on the delegate floor included dairy, energy and transportation.

During the dairy discussion, delegates supported the transfer of Grade A permits from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current codes if necessary. Delegates also supported the implementation of a dairy revitalization plan on both the state and federal levels.

During energy discussions, members were diligent in their support of preserving Wisconsin agriculture land for agricultural production. Delegates supported:

- Wisconsin law requiring an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) to construct solar and wind projects.
- Requiring new solar projects have to utilize

brownfields, rooftops and degraded lands or low-yield, underutilized or marginalized farmland.

- Safety training for first responders around renewable energy sources.
- Making biofuels (both diesel and gas) more accessible for use across the state.
- Preserving Wisconsin agriculture land for agricultural production.

Delegates opposed farmland preservation tax credits to be claimed for land in solar energy projects unless it is an accessory use of the farm.

Delegates from Wisconsin's 61 County Farm Bureaus also supported:

- Initiatives to expand access to affordable rural childcare.
 - Increased financial support for crop damage due to wildlife.
 - Creation and state funding for a Wisconsin Office of Agricultural Tourism.
 - Reaffirmed support for a voluntary carbon credit market.
- On the federal level, delegates:
- Supported easing Farm Service Agency Beginning Farmer Loan requirements for young farmers pursuing the purchase of a farm.
 - Supported increasing the weight limit of drones.



(L to R) Wes Raddatz, Jake Hoewisch, Dick Piechowski, Jen Hoewisch, Lori Steingraber, Brian Preder, Wayne Steingraber, Dan Hintz and Al Tank

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

The meeting at the Bear Lake Resort in Manawa began after a buffet-style chicken and beef tips dinner and a presentation by guest speaker Brad Uken, WFBF Chief Administrative Officer. 34 members and guests attended.

The resolutions session was conducted by Vice President Al Tank. The resolutions that passed were:

State Resolutions:

1. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4, add line 43: Private electrical generation businesses should be subject to the same regulations and environmental scrutiny as regulated utilities.



2. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 4, add line 45: We support that Wisconsin State Law should require an Agricultural Impact Statement to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct a solar energy generation facility.



3. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 14 lines 33-35, add verbiage to make the statement read: In order to curb the constant attrition of private property rights, we reaffirm our belief in the rights of private property ownership, and in the ability of landowners to make wise land use decisions. We support legislation requiring any governmental entity to compensate property owners when its actions reduce property values.



4. In the 2023 WFBF policy book page 6, add line 40: In order to secure our food supply, we support the State of Wisconsin to review and enact new policies and legislation to better protect the state's agricultural land from foreign ownership.

5. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 2 lines 28 and 29, Move this line to be a separate individual paragraph reading: We support revisions

in the teacher certification requirements to allow for dual certification in agriculture and science for education majors graduating in Wisconsin.

6. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 12 line 27, amend the line to read: This includes reimbursement for missing livestock and other domestic animals where there is evidence of wolves or a history of wolf/livestock conflicts on the farm.

7. In the WFBF 2023 policy book page 21 line 14, strike the sentence that reads: We oppose eligibility for tax relief under the Managed Forest Law for cropland planted to trees.

Members elected delegates to represent the County at the WFBF annual meeting. The delegates elected were Wayne Eisentraut, Jake Hoewisch, Dick Piechowski, and Alan Tank. Dan Hintz, Tim Bowers, and Don Lutz were elected to be alternates.

Members also elected members of the Waupaca County Farm Bureau board of directors. Directors elected to three-year terms were Leah Hamilton representing district 1, Arnold Heise and Wayne Steingraber representing district 3, Dick Piechowski representing District 4, and Emily Huettl as a director at large. Directors elected to one-year terms were, Meredith Polar - Promotion and Education Committee Chair, Lora Korth - YFA Committee Chair, and Kari Riley - AITC Coordinator.

Captions:

1. WFBF Chief Administrative Officer, Brad Uken, addressed the group about the challenges facing Farm Bureau.
2. Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, Kari Riley, introduced the new book of the year about strawberries.
3. Wayne Steingraber recognized District 7 Coordinator Wes Raddatz for his retirement at the end of the year.

Thank You Food Stand Volunteers!

By Kaisha Nash, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Fair Stand Chair

Thank you for helping make the 2023 Waupaca County Food Stand a success. Volunteer, YOU are who makes everything work smoothly! Your efforts and time support the Farm Bureau's efforts and help make it a profitable undertaking. Sending unending gratitude toward those of you who helped in 2023.

Now, let's look forward - mark your calendars for August 21-25, 2024. Please plan to spend some time flipping burgers or selling drinks! We'd love

to have you in our fun and busy stand. No prior experience is required. Time spent volunteering is time well spent, we'll gladly accept and appreciate your efforts at the fair.

The funds raised at the fair stand help the Waupaca County Farm Bureau fund donations of Ag in the Classroom resource books to local libraries and schools, Young Farmer and Agriculturist events, Promotion and Education efforts, scholarships for 4-H Key Award recipients and FFA Farm Forum sponsorships for local students, among many other programs.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Scholarships Presented

By Al Tank, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Vice President

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Vice President Al Tank presented a \$500 Waupaca Farm Bureau scholarship to each of the Waupaca County 4-H Key Award recipients at the 4-H Leaders Association Banquet.

(L to R) Alan Tank, Verena Bartel of Waupaca, Abbey Acker of New London and Brooklyn Butzin of Waupaca.





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