

# Grassroots

District 5 News



## District Director Report

Kevin Krentz

District 5 Director

2024 brings an interesting year for Wisconsin agriculture. As we enter a tumultuous election season that will consist of a potential rerun of the 2020 presidential race and redrawing state legislative maps prior to the election. Both have the potential to greatly affect agriculture and the 2024 election could be one of the most important

elections in a generation. We all will be tired of the political advertisements by November, but we must be engaged in this election cycle.

Before the election, we have important work to get done. We are pushing for a statewide health care bill to provide self-insured individuals with another option for health care. Nationally we continue to stay involved in the Federal Milk Marketing Order reform as well as passing the Farm Bill.

Low commodity prices, as well as potential extended drought, only add to the stressors of Wisconsin farmers in 2024. The Farm Bureau will work diligently to help farmers protect their farms. But Farm Bureau staff can't do it alone. It takes all of us to advocate for agriculture. From engaging our elected officials, to testifying to USDA, to submitting policy to the Farm Bureau policy book, we all play a key role in the success of Farm Bureau. I want to thank everyone for being part of that team!

Lastly, some of you may have not heard, I was not reelected president of Wisconsin Farm Bureau in December. I want to reassure everyone, I will continue to advocate for all agriculture, fight for federal dairy policy reform and voice the concerns of our district no matter what leadership role I am in.

Thank you all for everything you do,

Kevin Krentz  
District 5 Director



2024

Friday, March 1 | Eau Claire  
Saturday, March 2 | Neenah  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Registration Fee:  
\$80/member  
\$50 for new county Farm Bureau Board Directors  
(directors in first three years of service)

### Agenda

9:15 a.m. Registration Begins  
10:00 a.m. Kickoff and Welcome Networking  
Speaker: Jenny Holterman  
11:15 a.m. Lunch  
12:00 p.m. Workshops - Session 1  
1:00 p.m. Workshops - Session 2  
2:00 p.m. Workshops - Session 3  
3:00 p.m. Closing Reception  
4:00 p.m. Adjourn

### Workshop Topics

#### Policy, Issues & Advocacy

- WFBF Policy Development: A Grassroots Process
- I Farm. I Vote.
- Issue Resolution and the Government Relations Team



#### Communicating for Agriculture & Farm Bureau

- Building a Brand
- Expecting the Unexpected: Crisis Communication
- Communicating County Activities



#### Governance & Organization

- I Move That: Making the Most of Your Meetings
- Building a Board that Works for You
- Understanding the County Farm Bureau Services Program



#### Building Farm Bureau

- Farm Bureau Membership - What Does it Mean and Why Should I Care?
- How to Ag in the Classroom without a Title
- County Farm Bureau Program Idea Sharing

For more information or to register:



wfbf.com/events/ignite-conference/





# District 5 News

## Extension Update



**Natasha Paris**

Extension Regional Crops Educator

Happy New Year from Extension!  
See below for events being held in District 5 and online.

If you need Pesticide Applicator Training, visit [patstore.wisc.edu](http://patstore.wisc.edu) to order the book and select your test site.

Also, our annual Focus on Forage Webinar Series is coming up with the following dates:

- February 28 Focus on Alfalfa
- March 6 Focus on Annual Forages
- March 20 Focus on Pastures

Each webinar runs from 12:30-2:00 p.m., visit [cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu](http://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu) to register.

Hope to see you soon!

Natasha Paris  
Regional Crops Educator  
Marquette, Waushara, Green Lake, & Adams Counties  
UW-Madison Division of Extension  
[natasha.paris@wisc.edu](mailto:natasha.paris@wisc.edu)



Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service, or activity. For an accommodation or communication assistance, please contact [natasha.paris@wisc.edu](mailto:natasha.paris@wisc.edu)



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## PROCESSING CROPS MEETINGS

Mark your calendar for one or both of these meetings specifically for commercial vegetable growers!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH - GREEN LAKE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH - HANCOCK**

9am-12:30pm \$25 Lunch Included

Register at: [go.wisc.edu/142ctw](http://go.wisc.edu/142ctw)

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Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## FARM PULSE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & ANALYSIS

### A self-paced online course

that will assist farmers in evaluation their finances, taking the pulse of their farm business, and setting goals for the future of their operation

*"I would highly recommend it to farms who are passionate about the field, but don't have the knowledge for the finance structure."*  
-course participant

- Identify which records to collect for your farm business
- Compare and contrast financial strengths and weaknesses
- Organize financial information into financial statements
- Define the structure of balance sheets, income statements, statements of cash flow, and statements of owner equity
- Interpret financial statements for the analysis of a farm's financial position and financial performance
- Illustrate your farm's plan to communicate with your lender

For more information:  
[go.wisc.edu/farmpulse](http://go.wisc.edu/farmpulse)  
[katie.wantoch@wisc.edu](mailto:katie.wantoch@wisc.edu)  
608-354-3992



February 16th, 2024  
9-11:30am, Montello  
480 Underwood Ave

## WEED MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Register here: <https://go.wisc.edu/1k9nn9>



Extension  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



**Rodrigo Werle, Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist:**  
Weed Management in Challenging Times



**Glenn Nice, Pesticide Applicator Training Program Manager:**  
Keeping You Safe While Protecting Your Crops



**Natasha Paris, Regional Crops Educator:**  
Planning for Herbicide Restrictions in Your Rotation

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## District Promotion and Education Update



**Jenny Leahy**

District 5 Promotion and Education Chair

Happy New Year! It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve the district as the Promotion and Education chair and to be a member of the state Promotion and Education committee. Again, this year, you can expect tours, networking opportunities and chances to build your skills. Watch your email, Facebook and newsletters for upcoming events.

An event to put on your calendar is the Wisconsin Farm Bureau IGNITE conference this spring. It will be a one-day workshop held in Eau Claire on March 1st and in Neenah on March 2nd. IGNITE features workshops in different tracks that help members build their advocacy, communication and

leadership skills. The conference also provides networking opportunities for members. Hopefully, you can attend!

As we begin another year it is time to begin planning Promotion and Education activities for the year. There are several great resources for you to use when your county hosts a Promotion and Education event. Farm Bureau provides resources on the Ag in the Classroom and Gather Wisconsin websites. Ag in the Classroom provides activities that can be used with students in the classroom or at your events. Gather Wisconsin is geared toward providing consumers with information about agriculture. Most producer/commodity groups also provide resources, so reach out to them rather than reinvent the wheel. Consumers want to connect with the farmers who grow their food, so sharing your story will also be your greatest resource. Good luck with your events!

## District YFA Update



**Sara Huber**

Outgoing District 5 YFA Chair

Sign off from your District 5 Young Farmer and Agriculturist chairs:

We have had the BEST time serving you for the last three years. We've made new friends and truly feel a part of the Farm Bureau family. Thank you to everyone who has attended YFA events

and I look forward to the years to come with your new chair Victoria Smith. Some of our favorite memories include the Washington, D.C. fly-in, WFBF Annual Meeting, fall farm tours and every county that has invited us to their county YFA events! 2023 we hosted six district-wide YFA events for our counties. These included winter tubing, a pasture walk, a Timber Rattlers game, summer tubing, the discussion meet and a pumpkin/potato farm tour. Thank you all for your time in getting young farmers and agriculturalists involved. You're in great hands with Victoria and hope to see you all at the next YFA event!

Thanks,  
Jeff and Sara Huber

## Meet Your New District YFA Chair



**Victoria Smith**

District 5 YFA Chair

Hello everyone:

I wanted to take a minute to introduce myself! I'm Victoria Smith and I am the new District 5 Young Farmer and Agriculturist representative.

A bit of background about me: I work at two Head Start centers, one in Oxford and one in Wautoma. I also work part-time at the Westfield Library. I have been very active in Marquette County's Farm Bureau for many years. My goal in my time of being the YFA chair is to encourage unity in the district. I would love to hear what works well for your YFA events, where you are struggling and how you would like me to help in your success.

Around this time in previous years, we have had a snow tubing event. In the time constraint of winter and planning, would this be something you and your counties would be interested in? If not, what winter events would you recommend?

Please reach out to me for anything, I am here to help in your success.

You can email, text, shoot me a Facebook message, or even snail mail if you feel so inclined!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Victoria Smith  
608-369-1486

**Farm Bureau YFA members are invited to attend. Come early to get a good seat.**

**Trivia Night**

**Attention all trivia fans!**

**FEBRUARY 8  
6:30 PM**

**For more information contact  
YFA chairs Chad Bruss at  
920.229.2494 or Miranda Ewald  
at 920.647.1441**

**KNUTH'S BREWING CO.  
221 Watson Street, Ripon**

## Wisconsin Farm Bureau Delegates Set Policy for 2024



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 level.

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 brown fields, 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 the Wisconsin Farm Bureau'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.

## Farm Bureau Selects Members for Inaugural WisGO Team

Fifteen Wisconsin Farm Bureau members have been selected to serve on the organization's inaugural WisGO Team.

The WisGO Team is WFBF's first line of contact when speaking on agricultural issues. Members of this year's team will develop a skillset to effectively interact with media representatives as well as educate and influence others on prominent issues impacting agriculture. Members will learn effective strategies to share their stories to a broad audience through multiple media platforms.

"As the trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward, Farm Bureau is excited to offer this new opportunity for members to grow their advocacy skills," said WFBF President Brad Olson. "This year's WisGO team exemplifies our state's agricultural diversity and we look forward to helping these members grow and flourish as agriculture advocates in the coming year."

Members of the 2024 WisGO Team include: **Andrew Dal Santo**, Grant County; **Sydney Flick**, Columbia County; **Mitch Giebel**, Juneau



County; **Libby Hafften**, Jefferson County; **Rachel Harmann**, Door County; **Ben Huber**, Green County; **Kaitlyn Kesler**, Calumet County; **Lynn Leahy**, Waushara County; **Kyle Nilsestuen**, Trempealeau County; **Derek Orth**, Grant County; **Brooke Trustem**, Rock County; **Sally Turpin**, Juneau County; **Kelly Wilfert**, Manitowoc County; **Dustin Williams**, Green County; and **Eric Wuthrich**, Green County.

**Special congratulations to District 5 members, Mitch Giebel, Sally Turpin and Lynn Leahy.**

WisGO Team members serve as official spokespersons for Farm Bureau and agriculture issues. These members will serve as influential and authoritative individuals to be called upon for media interviews, legislative testimony and social media advocacy.

Throughout the program, participants will gain a deeper understanding of agricultural issues, expand their network with fellow farmers and agriculturists across the state and be a voice for Wisconsin agriculture.



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Learn more about your Farm Bureau member benefit savings by scanning the QR code or visiting [wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits](http://wfbf.com/membership/member-benefits).



\*WFBF member benefits may be changed or discontinued at any time without notice.\*



# District 5 News

## WFBF Leadership Institute

The WFBF Leadership Institute is a year-long, premier leadership training course with the mission to develop strong and effective county Farm Bureau leaders.

### Why participate?

- To develop and refine your follower and leader skills.
- To learn from experts, exchange ideas and gain confidence.
- To improve your communication and speaking skills.
- To learn how to craft an effective ag message and work with media.
- To develop friendships and find creative solutions to challenges through teamwork.
- To explore domestic and international agricultural issues.
- To join in the political process at the local, state and national levels.
- To create a written leadership plan for your personal development and the improvement of your county Farm Bureau.

### Who can participate?

Any voting member of Wisconsin Farm Bureau may submit an application to participate in the program. Each class is limited to 15 participants. Classes are selected based on building a team learning environment.

### What are the expectations?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau expects WFBF Leadership Institute graduates to use the leadership skills and abilities they have developed in the program to become actively engaged and involved in their county Farm Bureau. Eventually, they may expand their leadership involvement in Farm Bureau and their community.

Get more information at: <https://wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute/>



## District 5 Counties Offer Scholarships

All seven counties in the district offer a county scholarship.

**Adams County:** \$100 scholarships awarded to graduating high school seniors. Application deadline June 30. Contact Kay Olson at 608.572.1429 for more information.

**Fond du Lac County:** Several scholarships available for graduating high school seniors and those already enrolled in post-secondary education. Application deadline is April 1. Application available at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/fond-du-lac/>

**Green Lake County:** Application deadline is March 1. Scholarships available. <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake/>

**Juneau County:** \$250 scholarship awarded to a graduating high school senior. Application deadline April 1. Application available at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau/>

**Marquette County:** \$250 scholarship awarded to a graduating high



school senior. Application deadline is April 1. Application available at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/marquette/>

**Waushara County:** The county offers the Gordon Krentz Memorial Scholarship and the Bleskey Memorial Scholarship. Application deadline is April 1. Application available at: <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/waushara/>

**Winnebago County:** Winnebago County is offering their scholarship program through the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. More information available at: <http://www.foxriverscholarshipcenter.org/finder/search/scholarship>

•One scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to a graduating high school senior, who is attending any high school in Winnebago County.

•One scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded to a student who is in college or technical college, who is a high school graduate from any high school in Winnebago County.



## President's Message



**Kay Olson**

Adams County Farm Bureau President

As I sit here thinking of what to say to our membership, I am reminded that it is the start of the new year. When I say that I mean it is the start of the calendar year of 2024. To many it means the end of their tax year, the time to make resolutions and to say, "out with the old and in with the new." I am just amazed that 2023 is gone and 2024 is here.

There are many starts for the "new year" in various organizations. Our Farm Bureau new year begins October of each year which means we start our fiscal year and time to sign up new members. Each year our goal from WFBF is to get 20 new members by the end of March. Now with that said that would be another end of our membership year to qualify for a bonus for Adams County. We have just a few farmers/ranchers left so we have to look outside the box. As a reminder, our membership consists of anyone who has a vested interest in Agriculture. According to your board of directors, that means if you like to eat you can be a voting member of Adams County Farm Bureau. It is not an easy task each year to get new members or to retain our membership. That is why I ask you if you know someone who you think might benefit from being a Farm Bureau member ask them to join or if you would like, you can give one of your board members their name and ask them to talk to that person.

In January we will be going into the classrooms with our Ag in the Classroom program. Our class sessions will include activities with our two books, Potatoes for Pirate Pearl and I Love Strawberries. We also will be awarding art kits to the first-place winners in the Land and Water Conservation Poster competition. Our Young Farmers and Agriculturists will be hosting a few activities with the YFA committees from other counties. We find value in sharing with other counties. In February will be supporting the A-F FFA with their annual Pancake Supper and the FFA Farm Forum for those who are interested in attending. March will find us supporting the Moundview Hospital Foundation Fundraiser.

With 2024 being a leap year we will have one extra day in the year. Instead of 365 days we will have 366 days. That doesn't seem like much, but that extra day just might help some of us.

My wish for you is that 2024 brings you and your families good health. I wish you enough...

Kay Olson, President

I leave you with this quote: *"The challenge of leadership is to be strong but not rude; be kind but not weak; be bold, but not bully, be thoughtful but not lazy; be humble, but not timid, be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly."* — Jim Rohn

## Message From Heather Gayton – Outreach Program Manager for the UW- Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS)



As a proud Adams County Farm Bureau member, professional educator, beginning niche market farmer and current Outreach Program Manager for the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS), it is with great enthusiasm and passion for agricultural and conservation education programming that I write to you with updates about UW-Madison's Farm and Industry Short Course (FISC) program as we venture into 2024.

A quick refresher: As announced in early 2023, this past fall the residential FISC program moved to its new home at UW-River Falls, and UW-Madison's short course program has shifted to offering new, more targeted trainings for farmers and agricultural professionals.

A great example of our new programming is Ag Forward. By the time you read this, FISC at UW-Madison will have just completed our inaugural Ag Forward short course, which ran from January 16-19, 2024, at the Center for Dairy Research on the Madison campus. The course was open to industry professionals as well as university and tech college students and several students from UW-River Falls' residential FISC were in attendance. World-class UW-Madison faculty presented research and facilitated sessions around topics within the dairy industry including ag economics, nutrition, reproduction, genetics and animal welfare. Other goals of the program included providing opportunities for networking, ag career exploration and collaboration.

In the office where I work – the CALS Office of Extension and Outreach – we are in the process of planning some top-notch training programs and professional development opportunities that will connect industry professionals to the innovative research and development happening in the college. We also want to continue to explore synergies with UW-River Falls' residential FISC program and other educational

institutions and initiatives supporting education within the agricultural sectors.

We welcome input from you, as industry professionals, to address educational needs and skill gaps within your respective sectors. Adapting to the ever-changing world across the diverse sectors of industry is a challenge. Navigating these complex systems will require collaboration and synergy. What are the educational and training gaps within your sector? Please reach out to me directly with ideas for future short course offerings. I look forward to learning about your experiences moving forward.

Warmly,  
Heather Gayton  
[heather.gayton@wisc.edu](mailto:heather.gayton@wisc.edu)

## Adams County Members Attend YFA Conference



Adams County Farm Bureau members attended the WFBF YFA Conference held December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.



## President's Message



### Reuben Hopp

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

Happy New Year Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau Members.

I first wanted to reflect on a big change for Fond du Lac County this year. At the end of 2023 Trayton Greenfield

announced his retirement as our county membership chair. After 50 years he decided to retire from this position. We want to thank him for all the work he did on membership in the county and for the many members he signed over the years.

Also, I want to thank Steve Sabel for agreeing to take over as our new county membership chair.

This year we had the opportunity to have nine delegates attend the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. The delegates attended the district caucus, business meeting and the resolutions session.

Also, congratulations to Lindsay Fowler who graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute class. As we move into 2024, the Farm Bureau continues to represent you on the state and national level. Locally we offer a scholarship program, support the county 4-H program and local FFA Chapters, continue to work on growing our Ag in the Classroom program and our work hard to promote agriculture throughout the county.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member. Without your membership we would not be able to do what we do in Fond du Lac County.

God Bless.



Trayton Greenfield retired after serving as the Fond du Lac County membership chair for 50 years. Trayton was recognized for his years of service. Pictured from left WFBF District Director – Kevin Krentz, Trayton Greenfield and Fond du Lac County President Reuben Hopp



Fond du Lac County member Lindsay Fowler (right) graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute at the recent WFBF Annual Meeting.



## Fond du Lac County Members Attend YFA Conference

Fond du Lac County YFA members at the district meeting held Friday night at the WFBF YFA Conference on December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

The county will be hosting a bowling night later this winter. If you are interested in attending or getting more involved with the county YFA program, contact county YFA chair Grant Buwalda at 920.324.4775.

## Green Lake County



wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake  
GreenLakeCountyFarmBureau

### 4th Annual Green Lake County Farm Bureau Roast Pork Barbeque Dinner Fundraiser Saturday, April 6, 2024 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

American Legion Hall  
853 West Main Street, Princeton  
WI

Contact Steve Kutz at 920.229.9767  
to purchase advance tickets



The menu includes:  
BBQ Pork Loin  
Cheesy Hash Brown Potatoes  
Baked Beans  
Apple Sauce  
Kaiser Roll  
Milk  
Culver's Ice Cream





## President's Message



**Pete Badtke**

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Hello Green Lake County Farm Bureau members. As 2024 is now in full swing, not too long ago in early December was the WFBF Annual Meeting. Green Lake Farm Bureau was well represented this year with Dave Gneiser, Natasha Paris, Dave Wilke and myself serving as delegates setting policy for

WFBF. Also attending the Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference portion were Augie Swanke, Sam Corso, Chad Bruss and Kennedy Hoch, as well as Steve and Irene Kutz who attended the Farm Bureau Proud Club banquet.

One of the workshops I attended was the PepsiCo Sustainability workshop led by Dan Christenson, senior director of governmental affairs with PepsiCo. Dan talked about how PepsiCo as a company is about half beverage and the other half is chips (all the ones ending in "itos," like Doritos, Cheetos etc. and potato chips). He explained how PepsiCo is working directly with potato farmers in Wisconsin and white corn growers in a few other states sustainably growing corn and potatoes. It was a very down-to-earth presentation. PepsiCo understands the challenges farmers are faced with and is engaged directly with their corn and potato growers to advance sustainability. Another popular workshop was on the

latest craze of solar companies wanting to lease or buy farmland for solar farms. This seems to be a controversial topic. They discussed the pros and cons of moving ahead with these solar developers and how to navigate as landowners to work with these companies.

Coming up on Saturday, April 6, we will be holding our 4th Annual Pork Dinner, stay tuned for more details about this year's event.

As always, thanks again for your continued membership and please reach out to me or any board member if you have any questions or concerns on your farm. Farm Bureau gives you a voice locally, in the state of Wisconsin and the United States.



Green Lake County Farm Bureau President Pete Badtke speaking at the WFBF delegate session.

## Bruss Competes in Discussion Meet



Green Lake County Young Farmer and Agriculturist chair Chad Bruss competed in the Discussion Meet contest at the WFBF YFA Conference in December. Bruss competed in two quarterfinal rounds and advanced on to the semifinals.

The YFA Discussion Meet gives a YFA member an opportunity to demonstrate his or her speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. A contestant is judged on his or her problem-solving skills as he or she discusses timely topics with colleagues.

## Green Lake County Members Attend YFA Conference



Green Lake YFA members attended the WFBF YFA Conference December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. From left: Sam Corso, Chad Bruss, Auggie Swanke, Natasha Paris and Kennedy Hoch.

# Juneau County



wfbf.com/about/counties/juneau  
JuneauCountyFarmBureau

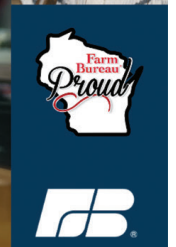
### Farm Bureau YFA Bowling and Ax Throwing Hart's Hooterhaus - Hustler

205 South Street, Camp Douglas  
Friday, February 16 @ 6:30 pm

Event hosted by the Adams, Juneau, Monroe and Vernon County YFA Committees

For more information contact Juneau County YFA Chairs Sally Turpin at 608.462.3387 or Alana Biermeier at 608.548.5016 or check out the Facebook event page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/cV4N5WLUIQMzMPVB/?mibextid=9VsGKo>





## President's Message



**Kip Weber**

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

I served as a delegate for the county along with Sally Turpin at the WFBF Annual Meeting held in December. I always enjoy the resolution session as well as discussing and

learning about issues that are affecting farmers in other parts of the state.

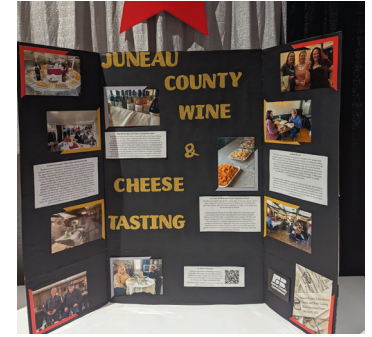
Congratulations to YFA Alana Biermeier who represented the county in the Discussion Meet and was a finalist in the 35 Under 35 contest.

At this year's WFBF Annual Meeting, the Juneau County Farm Bureau won a County All-Stars Award for our Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting Event that was held this past March. Keep an eye out for more information on the 2024 Wine and Cheese Tasting Event that will be held later this spring.

As always, thank you for your membership and supporting the Juneau County Farm Bureau.



Juneau County YFA member Alana Biermeier (second from right) was named a finalist in the 35 Under 35 competition.



Juneau County Farm Bureau won a County All-Stars Award for our Annual Wine and Cheese Tasting event.

## Juneau County Members Attend YFA Conference



Juneau County Farm Bureau members attended the WFBF YFA Conference held December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. From left: Sally Turpin, Cody Biermeier and Alana Biermeier.

# Marquette County

## President's Message



**Aaron Wachholz**

Marquette County Farm Bureau President

Happy New Year Marquette County and District 5.

I pray this finds you enjoying 2024. The new year brings a fresh start and opportunity. It also brings a new year full of events, new people and new potential.

2024 will have multitudes of Farm Bureau events from our Wine and Cheese Tasting at Lunchcreek Winery, our Ag in the Classroom Farm tour or our Annual All-Member Picnic. I encourage all members to come to as many events as your schedule will allow. The events we host are more enjoyable when you are with your Farm Bureau family!

This year will be filled with new people. Our county will be attempting to sign 17 new members by March 31. These new members may have

been former members at one time or totally new to Farm Bureau. If you are a seasoned member, please do all you can to welcome these new faces or tell as many people as you can about your passion for Farm Bureau and help sign a new member.

2024 brings the unopened and unexpected potential of another year in Marquette County Farm Bureau. It could be the best year that we have ever had! Be part of it. Giving a little of yourself by volunteering at some of our events will make your experience much more fulfilling. Witness agriculture's impact. Help us educate and advocate as we engage children on a real farm to see how and where their food comes from. See Farm Bureau serve us all. Farm Bureau is nothing without you and me as members.

Join me and be a part of it all. I challenge you to give a little bit more to Farm Bureau, because in the end Farm Bureau will give back to you more than you ever thought possible! 2024 the NEW FRONTIER of potential for Marquette County Farm Bureau! God be with you, my friends!



## Wine + Cheese Tasting

February 10, 2024  
12pm-3pm

Lunch Creek Winery  
W1845 County Rd E  
Neshkoro, WI 54960

Hosted by Marquette County Farm Bureau  
+  
Lunch Creek Winery



## President's Message



**Mike Leahy**

Waushara County Farm Bureau President

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and Young Farmer and Agriculturists Conference was held the first weekend of December. It was great seeing all the county YFA members that attended the conference this year and reconnecting with members from across the state that came and attended the Annual Meeting that followed.

There were many interesting speakers and breakout sessions again this year. An interesting one was on solar leasing of farmland. Large-scale solar projects have become commonplace throughout the countryside. UW Extension held a breakout session discussing the resources and fact sheets available for individuals looking at becoming involved in a solar land lease. More information and the fact sheets can be found at [farms.extension.wisc.edu/articles/resources/search/solar](https://extension.wisc.edu/articles/resources/search/solar).

Happy and blessed new year everyone.



Adam Jones (left) and Mike Leahy served as delegates for Waushara County to the WFBF Annual Meeting held in December.

## Waushara County Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education Update



**Lynn Leahy**

Waushara County Ag in the Classroom and Promotion and Education Chair

Hello everyone, my name is Lynn Leahy and I am Waushara County's Ag in the Classroom Chair and Promotion and Education Chair. Although I hold both roles, they are distinctly different from each other. Ag in the Classroom focuses solely on agriculture lesson plans for grades K through 12 students. Promotion and Education

allows members to engage consumers and bridge the gap between field to fork by inspiring and equipping farmers to convey the significance of agriculture to the public. We are looking for individuals interested in serving on both committees. Ag in the Classroom committee members would present agricultural lessons and activities in a classroom setting. Promotion and Education committee members would help plan and participate in community events, sharing the incredible world of agriculture. Some opportunities require under an hour of your time! If you are interested

in either committee, don't hesitate to contact me at (608) 558-9713 or [ldickman87@gmail.com](mailto:ldickman87@gmail.com).

Ag in the Classroom Update: As in many years past, we have purchased the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year. The 2024 book is titled I Love Strawberries and each of the 4th-grade classrooms in Waushara County will receive a copy. In addition to receiving the book, each classroom will receive information on the 2024 essay contest. Each year, the essay contest topic is gleaned from the Ag in the Classroom Book of the Year. This year's topic is "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-full!" There are many wonderful prizes to be won. You can find more information here: <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>. If you have children in school and would like to present lessons in agriculture in their classroom, please get in touch with Lynn. There are many free lessons and activities available from Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom and the American Farm Bureau Foundation that can be utilized.

Promotion and Education Update: We are looking for new opportunities in the Promotion and Education space. Please let me know if you had of any events that would give us access to consumers. We are looking to implement a few events over the next year.



The Waushara County Farm Bureau donated SMV (Slow Moving Signs) for all the graduates of the Tractor Safety program offered through Fox Valley Technical College.



2023 County Ag in the Classroom Essay Winners



2023 Waushara County Ag in the Classroom Winner



## President's Message



**Amanda Volp**

Winnebago County Farm Bureau President

And just like that another year has flown by. Welcome to 2024 Farm Bureau my friends! I hope this newsletter finds you and your family in good health going into the new year and that you were able to spend the holiday season with loved ones. I always enjoy the new year, it is a time where we can start fresh, try something new and find ways to better ourselves in the process. I challenge you to set big

goals and strive to accomplish them in this new year!

Winnebago County Dairy Promotion and the County Farm Bureau got festive and into the holiday spirit just after Thanksgiving and participated again in Brighton Acres 2nd Holiday Event and Christmas in the Village, taking place on November 24-25 and December 1-2. We supplied milk and cookies to be given out with Santa and provided smores for anyone in attendance. The event was a smashing success again and the decorations they had were magical.

Thank you to our members who attended the 104th WFBF Annual

Meeting and YFA Conference which took place the first weekend in December in Wisconsin Dells. It is always a great opportunity to network with fellow state Farm Bureau members and see what special events each county is doing. The three of us, Charlie Knigge, Linda Mullins and myself, had the honor of being a judge for the State Discussion Meet and see firsthand the hard work and dedication the contestants put into the competition. Linda Mullins officially graduated from the Leadership Institute class that weekend and received her recognition plaque from former WFBF President Kevin Krentz. Our county was also selected as a County All-Star award winner for our Community Night event and had a booth at the annual meeting explaining that event. The county was also selected as an AFBF County Award of Excellence winner.

I was also able to represent Winnebago County Farm Bureau on stage as we generously donated to the Foundation Giving Day County Farm Bureau challenge. Thank you to our county delegates that took time to sit in on the business meeting and resolution's session; Linda Mullins, Charlie Knigge and myself. That is the heart and soul of what Farm Bureau represents.

Cheers to a new year full of bountiful harvests, good health and fun! God bless you all!



Board members Sarah Marie Verstegen and Charlie Knigge helped had out smores at the Brighton Acres holiday event.



Amanda Volp, Charlie Knigge and Linda Mullins served as delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.



Winnebago County Farm Bureau was awarded a WFBF County All-Star Award and an AFBF County Award of Excellence for the Community Night event that was held in February and proceeds from the event were donated to St. Jude's.



Winnebago County member Linda Mullins (right) graduated from the WFBF Leadership Institute at the recent WFBF Annual Meeting.





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