

Grassroots

District 4 News

District 4 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Members Tour Kwik Trip Operation

On April 21, 17 Farm Bureau members toured the processing operation of Kwik Trip. We met in the visitor's center which comes complete with a functional retail store which even had morning-savory Karuba on sale. We met our outstanding guide, Amy DuPont, who led us on all of our detailed tours. A blessing for the visit was the advanced sound system that allowed us to hear Amy as if she was walking next to each of us.

The first tour was of the dairy processing where we visited the bottle making plastic extruding machines which create all the bottles for the plant. Employee input along with former CEO Don Zeitlow's smiley face on each bottle make this container production unique to the industry. Next stop was the ice cream production section where Al Bohlinger, formerly of the Foremost plant at Waumandee, allowed us to sample six large buckets of Nature's Touch Ice Cream. We ate the number one flavor: Vanilla. Milk bottling was next and that operations doubles as the juice fill machines one day a week.

Our next area to experience was milk receiving. We had to be alert since this area of the plant has sanitizing machines that can spray at inopportune times. Amy says those are the ones that will soak you. Kwik Trip allows each truck to wash inside and out in the plant to improve sanitation. It takes more time but improves milk quality.

The adventure continued with the observation of the most productive bread plant in the western hemisphere. Bread and buns were flying by at an astounding rate. We received the intense view of the donut plant which alternates with the bread plant for tours. According to information on the website, Kwik Trip's bakery facilities in La Crosse produce more than two million donuts every week, or about 400 every minute.

The company employs more than 9,800 people at its 852 stores in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa, including more than 1,000 at its sprawling headquarters and food plants in La Crosse.

The District 4 group continued its experience

with a meal at The Crow in downtown La Crosse. Conversation and camaraderie were the words of the day when the group had time to share their opinions on the tour. A group departed for Driftless Axe to try axe throwing. We learned some members are far more accurate with weapons than others. Overall, an awesome activity for all involved.



Captions

1. The tour started at Don's Smiley face.
2. Derek Trescher put his axe throwing skills to work.
3. Orientation at the Sweets tour.
4. The group met at the visitor's center.
5. The group at The Crow in La Crosse.

District 4 Members Take Part in Washington D. C. Experience

Three District 4 members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors traveled to Washington, D.C., from June 5-7. WFBF District 4 Director and Vice President Joe Bragger, WFBF YFA Chair Savannah Brown and WFBF Promotion and Education Chair Brenda Dowiasch attended. The members went to D.C. to lobby Wisconsin's federal legislators on the farm bill priorities WFBF members worked on.

Having worked on the farm bill priorities over the last six months, the dairy committee and farm bill working group members were uniquely qualified to speak to legislators. On June 6, the group began their trip with an update from American Farm Bureau staff members on a variety of topics. AFBF Farm Bill priorities, environmental issues, trade, livestock, dairy and knowledge into what makes effective advocacy were discussed.

Members then put their advocacy skills to work by meeting with legislators on Capitol Hill. Members met with Rep. Tiffany and Rep. Grothman along with staff members from Congressmen Fitzgerald, Steil and Van Orden's offices. Participants were able to end their day meeting with both Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Johnson. The 2018 Farm Bill must be reauthorized by Sept. 30. To read WFBF's full list of priorities, visit wfbf.com/policy/current-issues.

Wednesday presented a unique opportunity for members as they traveled to the Ukrainian embassy where they met with Ukrainian ambassador to the US, Oksana Markarova. Members were able to hear firsthand about the devastation to families, farmland and infrastructure. Through extreme conditions, Ukrainian farmers are still able to produce

food to feed the local population and, when allowed export goods across the Black Sea and over rail as transportation infrastructure has been heavily targeted by Russian forces. According to the ambassador, rail lines are oftentimes in better condition than roadways.

Members asked about soil conditions and employment issues in an active war zone. The ambassador talked about how soil mitigation will have to be part of the reconstruction when the wars ends. The destruction of military machines and ordinances have left Ukrainian farm fields in ruins and decimated the livestock population.

The Ukrainian ambassador talked with members about how Wisconsin farmers can partner with Ukrainian farmers to rebuild agriculture in the country. Much of the country's livestock and agriculture infrastructure has been destroyed during the war, especially in the eastern part of the country. The ambassador talked about sharing knowledge and providing technical assistance when the country emerges from its war time state.

It was very clear that Ukrainian farmers are working through extreme conditions. WFBF's thoughts continue to be with the people of Ukraine as they navigate wartime challenges.



(L-R) Brenda Dowiasch, WFBF Promotion and Education Chair and Savannah Brown, WFBF YFA Chair.



Savannah Brown took a photo with Congressman Derrick Van Orden.



The group stood outside of the Ukrainian Embassy.



The group met with the Ukrainian Ambassador.

Updates and Reminders from Ag in the Classroom

AG LITERACY LEADER RALLY – FRIDAY, OCT. 27

We are teaming up with the Promotion and Education Committee to offer an Ag in the Classroom County Leader training as part of the annual Boot Camp Leadership series.

To ensure this experience meets your needs and expectations, please provide input on the training and topics.

INTRODUCING EXPLORING WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE



The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program is excited to fully launch a new series of resources for grades 3-5 – Introducing *Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture*!

Exploring Wisconsin Agriculture takes young Wisconsin learners on a journey through our state's past, present and future

using the lens of agriculture! This resource features five online learning modules and a mini "Ag Mag" focused on agriculture's role in Wisconsin's

history, economy and communities. Each lesson is aligned to Wisconsin state academic standards and includes supporting activities. To view the lesson, or brush up on your own Wisconsin Agricultural knowledge, visit wisagclassroom.org/exploring-wisconsin-agriculture.

The e-learning modules and mini ag mags are available to all Wisconsin educators at no cost, thanks to the generous support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, Compeer Financial and the Wisconsin Corn Growers Board. These new resources are the upgrade of the long-standing activity book, *This Business Called Agriculture*. We are excited to support elementary educators and students in growing their awareness and understanding of agriculture's impact on our daily lives.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a way to network, have fun and grow your ag literacy skills? Volunteer with Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom! From supporting events to judging grants, we have lots of opportunities that need your time, talent and expertise!

Two Students Selected as Winners of the Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest

Bree Stalsberg, a fourth-grade student from Fennimore, and Michael Christensen, a fifth-grade student from Colfax, have been selected as state winners in the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom contest. Wisconsin fourth- and fifth-graders were asked to write a 500-word essay with the theme, "You're Gonna Need Milk for That – Wisconsin Dairy support our bodies, communities and economy." In District Four, - Abby Ruff, from Alma Elementary in Buffalo County was elected as the district winner in the fourth grade. Kailey Knight from St. Boniface Catholic School in Buffalo County was selected as district winner in fifth grade category.

Bree is the winner of the fourth-grade contest. Her teacher is Emily Kamps at Fennimore Elementary School in Grant County. Michael is the winner of the fifth-grade contest. His teacher is Suzanne Blomberg at Colfax Elementary School in Dunn County.

Each year the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest to engage students in writing, reading and research through the context of food and agriculture. Essays were judged on content, grade-appropriate writing benchmarks, and creativity. This contest is open to all fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

More than 1,800 students wrote essays for the competition, which is sponsored by Culvers, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, WE Energies and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Essay entries were judged at the county, district and state levels – with stiff competition in each division. Nine district winners were named state finalists and received a prize package including a medal, Wisconsin dairy books, admission to the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center and Culver's prize pack. The state winner also received a plaque and prizes valued at more than \$250.

This year's fourth-grade finalists were:

District 1 - Marlena Shera, Saint Frances Cabrini, Washington County
District 2 - Layla Siegel, Monticello Elementary, Green County
District 3 - Bree Stalsberg, Fennimore Elementary, Grant County



District 4 - Abby Ruff, Alma Elementary, Buffalo County
District 5 - Joey Visger, Tri-County Elementary, Waushara County
District 6 - Julia Pielhop, Holy Family Catholic School, Calumet County
District 7 - Preston Braun, St. James Lutheran School, Shawano County
District 8 - Haley Penza, Almond Bancroft Elementary, Portage County
District 9 - Penelope Heiniger, Prescott Intermediate School, Pierce County

This year's fifth-grade finalists were:

District 1 - Miller Kozlowski, Miller Elementary, Washington County
District 2 - Evelyn Cooley, Kegonsa Elementary, Dane County
District 3 - Tara Lenzendorf, Seneca Elementary, Crawford County
District 4 - Kailey Knight, St. Boniface Catholic School, Buffalo County
District 5 - Alyssandra Hodorff, Faith Lutheran School, Fond du Lac County
District 6 - Stella Jauquet, Luxemburg-Casco Intermediate, Kewaunee County
District 7 - Clayton Roberts, New London Intermediate School, Waupaca County
District 8 - No finalist named
District 9 - Michael Christensen, Colfax Elementary, Dunn County

Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program provides teachers and K-12 students with an understanding of how their food is produced. The program seeks to work within existing curricula to provide basic information on our nation's largest industry: agriculture. Wisconsin's Ag in the Classroom program is carried out by a network of local educators, volunteers and representatives from agricultural organizations and businesses. The goal of the program is to help students gain a greater awareness of the role of agriculture in the economy and society, so that they may become citizens who support wise agricultural policies.

This is a space where food, farming and families gather.

At Gather Wisconsin, our focus is connecting you with the farmers growing and raising your family's food through education, valuable resources and sustainable ideas to support farmers from home.



Visit us now at gatherwisconsin.com.



Wisdom From Whalen



Kevin Whalen

District 4 Coordinator

"Without proper self-evaluation, failure is inevitable." - John Wooden

John Wooden, coach of the UCLA Bruins, set all-time records including four perfect seasons of 30-0, 88 consecutive victories, 38 consecutive NCAA tournament victories and 10 National Championships including seven in a row. He accomplished 885 wins out of about 1,100 games.

Wooden evaluated what his players did after each game, but always evaluated what he did as coach. His pursuit of perfection was nearly attained. We can learn from looking at what we do each day and compare it to what our "perfect" situation could be.

People could ask, "How does being involved with groups of farmers make you closer to perfection?" Let's look at it through self-evaluation. First, look at management. My ability to get things done when needed, to a level that ensures success. How do I learn to do this? The same way farmers have learned through the years. We look to older farmers or people with experience in the challenge we are undertaking. We attend activities where they share their wisdom, question them on specifics and try to emulate their actions.

Second, we look to make continuous improvement by maintaining relationships with people who share our conviction of being successful food producers. We support friends in their time of need and share our victories by joining together in social activities that allow us to continue traditions that our rural heritage is built on.

Third, we maintain our support by building a strong ties to our families and our supporting church or religion. As humans, we need to have individuals that we can rely on when times get tough. Most of the time daily work comes first, but in crucial times our soul needs to be fulfilled by the support others give us.

I am proud of the fact that all these things I have listed are tied to

WIS. FARM BUREAU

District 4

ANNUAL MEETINGS

BUFFALO COUNTY - AUGUST 24 RIPPLEY HALL

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY - SEPTEMBER 23 MATT KRENZ FARM

JACKSON COUNTY - SEPTEMBER 10 STEVEN KLING FARM

LA CROSSE COUNTY - AUG 13 SWARTHOUT PARK, WESTSALEM

MONROE COUNTY - AUGUST 20 CASHTON PARK

TREMPEALEAU COUNTY - AUGUST 15 SCHROEDER SHELTER BLAIR



Wisconsin Farm Bureau. As an organization, we are self-evaluating how we handle the attainment of perfection. Our Farm Bureau Family Feedback Sessions are allowing self-evaluation of the very group that can help all farmers reach their "Farmer Perfection."

Buffalo County

wfbf.com/about/counties/buffalo
BuffaloCountyFarmBureau

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Provides Sponsorship for ALS Walk to Recognize Carl Duley

Buffalo County Farm Bureau provided sponsorship in the June 10 Walk to Defeat ALS in Chippewa Falls in support of Carl Duley.

Extension agents are beloved by many farmers and business owners in the counties where they live and work – none more so than Carl in Buffalo County.

He began working at the county's offices in the early 1980s and continues to plan programs and work with farmers today despite the diagnosis of ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. But Carl has continued to work and hopes to be able to plan and attend more activities before he retires.

The walk was part of a national movement to raise money for ALS research, and this is the first year it has taken place in Chippewa Falls.



Carl Duley on right



Alice in Dairyland Taylor Schaefer with Kailey Knight, winner of the 5th grade Ag in the Classroom Essay contest. Kailey is from St. Boniface School in Waumandee.

2023 Buffalo County Dairy Breakfast Held at D S Farms in Alma

The 2023 Buffalo County Dairy Breakfast was held at D S Farms in Alma on Saturday, June 24. The breakfast was hosted by the 600-cow dairy farm which is a continuation of the Danzinger and Sons Farms originally owned by David and Melvin Danzinger. The farm is operated by Pat and Matt Danzinger who are sons of Dave and nephews of Melvin.

Breakfast was from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. along with music from the Ron Pronschinske band. Rides were provided throughout the morning to see many of the popular displays including a very popular machinery hill. Volunteers from local 4-H clubs, FFAs and other service groups provided servers, drivers and entertainment. A kids tractor pull was held and exhibited a large amount of effort by the little ones. Cheese curds were a highlight along with all of the other featured dairy products. Introductions of the 2023-2024 Buffalo County Dairy Princess Addison



Johnson and First Attendant Joette Wolfe were made.

A big thank you Buffalo County Farm Bureau board member Pat Danzinger and his brother for hosting this year's successful event.

Captions:

1. D S Farms hosted this year's dairy breakfast.
2. This year's Buffalo Dairy Breakfast poster.
3. Congratulations to the 2023-2024 Buffalo County Dairy Princess Addison Johnson and First Attendant Joette Wolfe.
4. Machinery hill was popular at this year's dairy breakfast.

Buffalo County Farm Bureau Helps Sponsor Safety Day



Thank you to the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day Sponsors.

The Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®, which is recognized as the largest rural safety and health education program for children nationally, provides education, training and resources to make rural life safer and healthier for all children and their communities. Sponsored by the Buffalo County Safety Day Committee and UW-Madison Division of Extension, in conjunction with the Progressive Agriculture Foundation and many local donors, the event for summer school students who just completed Kindergarten through eighth grades was conducted on Thursday, June 29, at the at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds in Mondovi from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. More than 450 youth from Alma, Cochrane-Fountain City, Gilmanton, Mondovi and other surrounding districts were registered for the learning experience. Buffalo County Farm Bureau is a gold sponsor of the event and participated since the start of the activity in 1995. Jan Schaffner, Buffalo County Farm Bureau board member, is an organizing committee member.

Each year, many children and adults are seriously injured or die on Wisconsin's farms. The purpose of Safety Day is to teach rural children how to prevent injuries and reduce the risk of farm and home incidents. During the Safety Day, young people participate in interactive activities that reinforce the importance of taking responsibility for their own safety, respecting safety rules and sharing safety tips with their family and friends. Hands-on demonstrations teach participants lifesaving first aid techniques and reveal the hidden hazards of rural life both on and off the farm. Demonstrations focus on ways to be safe when around animals, in the case of a fire emergency, and how to keep their hearing and vision safe when using chemicals and in daily interactions. Students also learned prevention strategies to avoid opioids and increase their positive mental health. Ultimately, the sponsors of Safety Day work to encourage youth to maintain a healthy respect for farm and home hazards throughout their lives to decrease the number of preventable deaths and injuries among rural children.



More than 400 attended Progressive Agriculture Safety Day in Mondovi.



Side-by-side safety shown by the DNR.



Tractor Safety was sponsored by local implement dealerships.



Animal Safety was demonstrated with hands-on dog handling.

Eau Claire Farm Bureau Shines at Augusta Bean and Bacon Days



The Eau Claire County Farm Bureau recently participated in the Augusta Bean and Bacon Days parade on July 2.

The weather was beautiful throughout the parade.

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau members handed out 1,000 beef sticks and assorted candy for parade attendees.

Brenda Dowiasch pictured with Farm Bureau Princesses Hadley Erdman and Hailey Erdman.



The theme for Eau Claire Farm Bureau Bean Bacon Days Parade float.



The whole crew that made the float possible for Bean and Bacon Days.

Bear Grass Dairy Hosts Eau Claire Dairy Breakfast

The second Annual Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm was held Saturday, June 17 at Bears Grass Dairy in rural Augusta.

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau members contributed everywhere from driving UTVs, to serving, to manning the information booth that Eau Claire County Farm Bureau had in the display building.

Members served as people to go get supplies, solve problems that sometime arose and helped keep all those people moving through the line. Servers gave out pancakes, sausage, cheese curds, custard and more from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.

More than one thousand people attended Eau Claire County's Breakfast on the Farm. This was only the second Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm. Previously it was called Breakfast in the Valley and was held at the county fairgrounds but never on an actual working dairy farm.

It's so awesome to have the county breakfast on a farm. It offers non-farm folks a small glimpse into what dairy farming actually looks like!



Eau Claire Farm Bureau is a diamond sponsor of Breakfast on the Farm.



The line for Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm.



Culver's was a big hit at the Eau Claire County Breakfast on the Farm.

Osseo-Fairchild Graduate Receives Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Scholarship



Jesse Groell of Osseo has been selected as 2023 recipient of the Eau Claire County Farm Bureau Scholarship. Groelle is a 2021 graduate of Osseo-Fairchild High School where he was also the class valedictorian. Groell

attended UW-River Falls where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural engineering technology.

Groell has been an active member of the community through his involvement in Russell Corner Badgers 4-H, Osseo Evangelical Lutheran Church, Christian Youth Alliance, Osseo-Fairchild FFA, high school

band, jazz band, National Honors Society, Osseo-Fairchild Track and Field and the high school quiz bowl team.

Groell is currently employed by Bert-Mar Farms in Osseo where he assists with milking cows, bedding, scraping floors and waste feed removal on the 90-cow dairy. He is also currently employed at Wathke Farms in Fall Creek milking 30-cows and performing silo maintenance. In addition to working on two farms, Groell lives on an 80-acre crop and beef farm assisting his parents with daily operations including field work and caring for 4-H animal projects.

Groell hopes to complete undergraduate research in the area of design of power and machinery. He hopes to one day intern for agri-business employers to get hands on experience solving problems and improving processes in the field with producers. Upon graduation, Groell hopes to work in agribusiness as a designer or field service engineer.

The Eau Claire County Farm Bureau would like to extend its congratulations to Jesse Groell on receiving this scholarship and wish him the best of luck in his future education.

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau at Trees, Bees and Cheese

Eau Claire County Farm Bureau celebrated National Pollinator week and June Dairy Month by sponsoring an information booth at the First Annual Trees, Bees and Cheese celebration on June 22 at the Beaver Creek Reserve.

The activity included various booths by pollinator supporters including Department of Natural Resources, Farm Bureau, The Prairie Enthusiasts, Trout Unlimited, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Participants were given over 90 minutes to visit the booths, one hour of a landowner panel discussion and a pollinator habitat field tour.

Activities

- 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. - Visit booths. Free refreshments were available.
- 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Mealtime and Landowner Panel Discussion/Q&A
- 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. - Additional time to visit booths.
- 7:00 p.m. - Optional pollinator habitat field tour.



Cassie Sonnentag, Kevin Whalen and Brenda Dowiasch helped man the booth.



The speakers were Johann Peikert, Kirk Dahl, Erik Keisler and Mark Goings.

The speakers were Johann Peikert, Kirk Dahl, Erik Keisler, and Mark Goings. These landowners spoke on what they had done along with what programs they used to fund the conservation and pollinator friendly improvements. The activity was coordinated by Myha Ewoldt, CRP Key Program Technician from the Eau Claire County FSA Office of the USDA - Farm Service Agency.

Jackson County

wfbf.com/about/counties/jackson
JacksonCountyFarmBureau

Sundae on the Farm

"Sundae on the Farm" was celebrated with the Kling Family on the Lincoln Road Dairy July 9 in the Taylor area. Nathan and Karen Kling's farm included a robotic milking system where attendees were be able to watch robotic milkers at work and to view the herd in the free stall barn. Nathan is a true agriculture advocate who serves as the Jackson County Farm Bureau president. His father Steven serves as the county's vice president.

The meal which was served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. included Ice Cream sundaes, milk, cheese curds and grilled cheese sandwiches. Wagon rides, kids games, scavenger hunt, petting zoo, and dress-a-calf judging were all included in the activity. Hillbilly Fever provided music to listen to as you enjoyed your favorite dairy product.

Duane Johnson, president of the Jackson County Dairy Promotion committee, stated that the day's activities helped to educate many of the participants about dairy farming since many individuals are at least a generation or two from living on a farm. Our area still benefits from the tremendous work ethic we inherited from previous generations that grew up on the farm. As an economic benefit each \$1 earned by a local dairy generates up to \$10.



Sundae on the Farm hosts.



A big crowd met at Kling's for Sundae on the Farm.



Miss Jackson County Dress a calf entrant.



Miss Black River Falls Dress a calf exhibit.

Jazmin Wagner Earns Jackson County Scholarship



Jazmin Wagner was raised on a small organic dairy farm, where she gives a hand in her family's business wherever it's needed. From milking cows, feeding calves, to assisting the family's veterinarian.

She has always had a heart for helping and caring for animals, for she has been surrounded by them her whole life. Her goal is to attend college at UW-River Falls where she will major

in Biology then continue her education at the University of Iowa State to become a large animal veterinarian.

Jazmin currently works at North Wood Vet Service where she will take her experiences to help her in college. She has been involved with many sports clubs and organizations throughout her high school career at the school district of Melrose-Mindoro. Being involved in wrestling and FFA since freshman year, she has learned many leadership skills and possesses a great work ethic. She will take and use these skills in hopes of succeeding on to veterinary school.

Monroe County

wfbf.com/about/counties/monroe
MonroeCountyFarmBureau

Monroe County Farm Bureau Participates in Career Show

On Wednesday, April 5, the Cashton FFA, and the Academic Career Planning Committee (ACP) spearheaded a career fair at the Cashton Community Hall. Eighth graders through Seniors came over from the school one group at a time to visit with almost twenty different companies.

The Monroe County Farm Bureau wanted to be involved and assist by sponsoring a booth. Agriculture careers are a topic that needs to be promoted, specifically in a farm-oriented town like Cashton.

Kori Blank, Cashton FFA Advisor said, "The FFA wanted to do it this last fall, and they sent letters out and didn't get much for response. The one they scheduled in the fall was on a weekend, however, so the FFA decided to switch it to a weekday and tag-teamed with the ACP."

The groups sent out new letters for the fair to area businesses and came together to make it happen.

Kori, a Farm Bureau board member, and director of the Agriculture in the Classroom program in Monroe County asked the county Farm Bureau to be involved early on. The booth was a good way to use the career selection online material that allows students to match careers with interests. The online Agriculture in the Classroom resources are cutting edge since they were released earlier in the year and had its debut at the career expo. Students participated in groups and successful participants were allowed to putt a golf ball for a chance at earning a cheese stick for making the shot. The cheese was sponsored by Monroe County Farm Bureau and

purchased from Kwik Trip.

Blank said, "When the FFA goes to the World Dairy Expo and state and national conventions, they always have some sort of career fair, and the students just love seeing the opportunities out there." The Cashton FFA officers really spearheaded wanting to do one in Cashton.

At first, Blank said, "That's not a small undertaking, it's going to take some work." But the officers really wanted to do it and put in the work to make it happen.

Blank said, "Sarah and Marley Schroeder were really the backbone behind doing the career fair. They're the ones that sent out letters to businesses and really stepped up to make it happen."

In talking with some junior students, some left with job shadowing opportunities and even job offers.

The Cashton FFA hopes to continue to have the fair in the future and build it to get more vendors to offer to the students.

Vendors included Monroe County Farm Bureau, Scenic Bluffs Healthcare, Mlsna Dairy Supply, the Bank of Cashton, Cashton School

District, Organic Valley, Monroe County Land Conservation and more.



Captions:

1. Young ladies matching careers on simulator.
2. The thrill of making the putt and winning string cheese.
3. A little to the left. A Senior tries her shot at putting.
4. Eighth grader trying from a little closer range than the high schoolers.

Coloring Contest

A prize is given to a winner in each age group.

To participate, you must be a resident of Monroe County.

Mail entries by **Friday, August 25, 2023**, to:
Peggy Wright
605 W. Wisconsin Street
Sparta, WI 54656

Age Groups: 3 & 4
5 & 6
7 & 8

Name:

Age:

Address:

Phone:



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Monroe County Dairy Breakfast Held

The 42nd annual Monroe County Dairy Breakfast was held June 3 on Mapltwin Farms.

Mapltwin Farms just outside Cashton hosted the event for the first time since 1986. Owned by the Peterson family, the property has more than 500 cows and 250 young stock. Co-owner Chris Peterson says it's rewarding to show off his family's hard work that has been happening since buying the property in 1956.

"It's huge," Peterson said. "I really tip my hat to my parents. They started it. A lot of hard work. A lot of labor. Stuck their neck out on a few items that they didn't know if it was going to work, but it did. If I could just get some people to come observe what we do each and every day, that's my number one task."

Jon and Sandra were married in 1957 and had three sons - Steven, Michael and Chris. Over the next couple decades, the family grew the farm and dairy operations.

- 1959 - New 126-foot dairy barn was built, replacing the old 86-foot barn, which needed a lot of repair. With the new barn, we were able to milk 50 cows.
- 1963 - New milkhouse was built and we joined the Grade A milk market to Hiawatha Dairies.
- 1964 - Corn crib combination building was built.
- 1967 & 1969 - Two cement silos were built.
- 1968 - Purebred, registered Holstein cattle were integrated into the herd.
- 1969 - New heifer barn was constructed with a free stall design.
- 1971 - New machine shed was built.
- 1974 - Harvestore high moisture corn silo was added.
- 1976 - 80-ft. Harvestore silo was erected.
- 1978 - Addition built on to the existing barn, which increased the cow herd from 50 to 70. Upgraded milking and automation feeding systems were added.
- Additional land was acquired. Farm owned 340 acres.
- 1981 - Second house was built on the farm.
- 1986 - Hosted Monroe County Dairy Breakfast
- 1987 - Purchased another dairy farm 3 miles from the home farm that has it's own milking herd.
- 1996 - New maintenance shop was constructed.

The 20-member dairy breakfast committee first approached the Petersons during the 2022 Monroe County Fair.

Chairperson Keith Giraud says the associated events taught people about the farming industry.

"It was just a fun day for kids," Giraud said. "Everyone had the opportunity to go through the milking parlor and walk out into the free stall barn. People saw how comfortable the cows really are. I like to stress that because with all the negativity out there, it's amazing. If you sit and watch those cows, how comfortable they are, there's nothing bothering them."

There was face painting, horse rides and displays of both old and modern farm equipment.

Thousands of people were served during the four-hour span from 7-11 a.m. The menu consisted of pancakes, eggs, and ham along with dairy products. There was ice cream sundaes from Culver's and milk to drink from Kwik Trip. Mapltwin Farms is a supplying partner for Kwik Trip.

Monroe County Farm Bureau manned the griddles in the pancake tent to keep all the participants supplied with flapjacks for the entire length of the breakfast. A big thank you goes out to the members that keep Monroe County dairy breakfast 'mooooo'ving!



Scott Schmitz orchestrated a griddle at the dairy breakfast.



Kori Blank manned the Ag in the Classroom booth at the Monroe County Dairy Breakfast.



Monroe County Farm Bureau and the Cashton FFA Sponsor Farm Safety Day

The Monroe County Farm Bureau and the Cashton FFA sponsored a Safety Day on Saturday, April 29 at the Cashton Elementary School. The event happened from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured 28 participants who learned about PTO Safety, skid steer Safety, confined spaces awareness, ATV /UTV safety, tractor operation and PPEs.

Volunteer instructors instructed in each area to lend expertise in avoiding dangers on the farm. The meal was sponsored by the Monroe County Farm Bureau and consisted of hot dogs, potato chips and kosher dill pickles with drinks. Participants enjoyed learning from the safety specialists and many people thanked the presenters for giving good advice to everybody.



Firemen demonstrated fire extinguisher use.



Safety day attendees tried out the Personal Protective Equip.



All participants were full of smiles learning ag safety.



Tractor safety was demonstrated using real equipment.



Derek Trescher presented on skid steer safety.

Trempealeau Farm Bureau Board Member and Ag in the Classroom Coordinator Elected as Wisconsin State FFA Officer



Jescey Thompson of the Galesville-Etrick-Trempealeau FFA Chapter was elected to a year of service as the 2023-2024 Section Three State FFA Officer during the 94th Wisconsin FFA Convention. His advisors are Kent Haake and John Nelson. Jescey's parents are Travis and Andrea Thompson.

A 2023 graduate, Thompson plans to attend the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and is hoping to major in Agricultural Communications with minors in political science and Spanish studies. After receiving his degree Jescey will either attend law school or seek employment in agriculture

or government policy. He credits his supervised agricultural experience projects in agricultural education, food service, and dairy production entrepreneurship as a gateway to having a broader impact on his community.

Jescey's involvement in FFA and his local community have also included serving as a chapter president and vice president, a state delegate, and a member of the Wisconsin State Convention Public Relations staff while participating in National Honor Society, his local Farm Bureau and 4-H, and the Junior Holstein and Brown Swiss associations.

"The beauty of FFA is that every chapter looks different and has its own set of struggles," said Thompson, who focused his chapter leadership on helping keep members actively involved. He hopes to take this experience to chapters across the section and state and help members grow their presence in their own local communities.

Thompson Wins Wisconsin FFA Agricultural Education Proficiency

Second Trempealeau County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator to Accomplish Feat

The 2023 Winner in Agricultural Education is Jescey Thompson of the Galesville – Etrick – Trempealeau FFA. This proficiency is sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service.

Jescey's passion for agricultural education first started when he had the opportunity to speak at the Trempealeau County Courthouse about land and water conservation. This experience ignited a passion in Jescey and led him to enrich the agricultural literacy of his community in a variety of ways including teaching agricultural lessons in his mom's classroom, serving as the Trempealeau County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator and creating a website which contains agricultural lesson plans and materials. Jescey feels the calling to learn more and do more to help others understand the importance of agriculture in any way possible.

Jescey's advisor is John Nelson.

We would like to recognize the state finalists in Agricultural Education:

Second: Amy Jentges Random Lake

Third: Cody Hudziak Weyauwega-Fremont

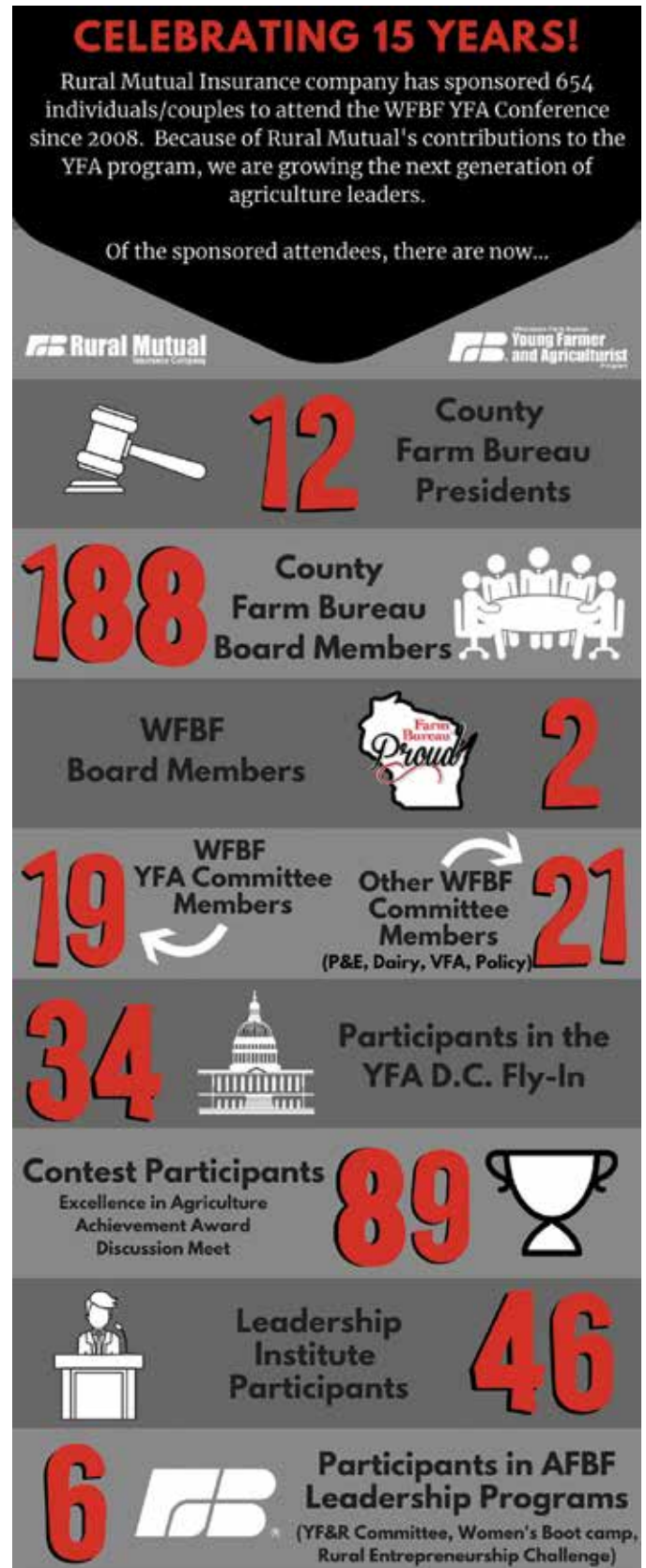
Fourth: Henry Koerner Big Foot

Fifth: Elizabeth Reinart – Granton

Thompson will find out this summer if he is selected as one of four national finalists. If selected, Jescey will compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., in November.

Apply for a Rural Sponsorship!

Where will Farm Bureau take you? Don't miss your opportunity. Ask your county YFA chair how you can be nominated for a Rural Sponsorship to the 2023 WFBF YFA Conference.



Trempealeau County Holds 45th Annual Land Conservation Contest

More than 30 students from three different schools competed in this year's 45th Annual Trempealeau County Land Evaluation Contest held on May 2. For this year, the contest was held at Eleva-Strum High School in rural Eleva, Wisconsin on the Hamlin Farm by the Trempealeau County Land Conservation department with support from USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff. This event is the second oldest county judging contest in Wisconsin.

Four soil pits providing a diversity of landscapes and soil were dug on a farm site adjacent to Eleva-Strum High School. Each of the sites were evaluated for position in landscape, slope, texture, structure and necessary conservation practices. **Team scores were as follows:**

Team/School Scores		
Rank	Team	Score
1	Arcadia - Senior	820
2	Arcadia - Junior	744
3	GET - Senior	729
4	GET - Junior	669
5	Eleva Strum - Junior	568
6	Eleva Strum - Senior	562

Land judging contests promote the importance of soil health and education, partnerships and teamwork. It is important for NRCS to stay involved with competitions like this because of the benefit the students get from it. It takes a lot of different hands to put together a competition. NRCS can help facilitate these competitions by having our soil scientists do the official scoring as well as helping with any questions before and after the competition.

Many soil conservationists participated in land judging contests as students, which helped them determine what individuals are looking for in a career. Individuals working as NRCS employees find out helping these contests and seeing the high school students learn can be a favorite part of the job.

Land judging serves as a tool to teach participants about soil science, health and management. The competition is designed to guide participants toward the understanding and importance of basic soil properties as they affect the use and management of soils, and best practices to preserve and manage natural resources, including soil and water.

Students were given the opportunity to not only learn about judging land and soil, but to earn a chance to compete at the state contest that will take place at Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe on Oct. 10.

The individual results are as follows:

Individual Scores			
Rank	Name	Individual Score	Division
1	Dustin Klonecki	281	Senior
2	Zachary Konkell	281	Senior
3	Connor Weltzien	278	Senior
4	Cole Kremer	264	Senior
5	Caleb Pronschinske	256	Junior
6	Jada Schmitt	248	Junior
7	Carson Wozney	248	Junior
8	Alec Grulkowski	247	Junior
9	Skylar Case	246	Senior
10	Nolan Burken	239	Senior

The State FFA Land and Soil Evaluation contest will continue to be held at a technical or four-year college over a two-year span. Blackhawk Technical College in Monroe will host the next two years of competitions.



Site being evaluated before students compete.



Photo of the winning teams.



Students being instructed on Land Evaluation.

42nd Trempealeau County Dairy Breakfast held at Jereczek Farm

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau's milkshakes attract all ages.

Trempealeau County Farm Bureau continued its long tradition of dairy promotion by participating in this year's dairy breakfast by supplying over 1,000 milkshakes to attendees on June 10 at the Jereczek Family farm. Trempealeau County Farm Bureau has been involved with the dairy breakfast for many years and this year's board of directors worked diligently to continue this great tradition. This year's hosts did an outstanding job of telling agriculture's story.

Meet the Jereczeks

Jacob and Mary Jereczek immigrated from the Kashubian region of Prussia (what is now Poland) and first came to the Pine Creek area in the early 1860s.

The farm would eventually be split between three of Jacob and Mary's son's - Frank, John and Paul. John married Pelagia Konkell in 1897 and bought his share of the farm a year later. One of their sons, John Jr., purchased the farm from his mother in 1935. Their youngest son, Hubert, purchased a neighboring farm of 77 acres in 1941. He would eventually purchase the homestead from his brother in 1962. Hubert married Mildred Maliszewski in 1944. They had four children - Jeanine (Robert Davis), Charlene, Jerry (Ruth Thomas), and Ken.

Ken purchased the 185-acre farm from his father on Jan. 1, 1976. By 1980, he purchased nearly 275 more acres in and around Pine Creek. In 1982, Ken married Diane Baker. Diane worked as a medical technologist in Arcadia before moving to Winona Health, where she has worked for more than 35 years.

In 1986, Ken and Diane purchased a farm on the eastside of Pine Creek that included a 38-stanchion tie-stall barn that they milked in until 2002. From 2000-2002, another original section of the Jereczek Homestead was rented from the siblings Lucille and Richard Jereczek. Their grandfather was Frank - one of Jacob Jereczek's sons. The 160-acre farm was purchased in 2002. This is the current location of the dairy set-up.

The milking parlor and free stall barn was built in 2006, the shop in 2010, the automatic-feeder calf barn (located in Pine Creek) in 2012, and the bunkers in 2013. Fall of 2022, 168 solar panels were installed on the free stall barn and 28 more for the house and outbuildings. Ken and Diane also had a 34 solar panel structure installed for their home.

Ken and Diane have four children - Paul, Sara, Emma, and Mark.

Paul and his wife Jolene (Orfe) live in the brick house on the dairy. Partially built by Paul's great-great-grandfather, their four children -

Bronson, Sophia, Silas, and Bain - are the sixth generation of Jereczeks to live on the property. Paul is the dairy's herdsman and Jolene is middle school teacher at Holy Family Catholic School in Arcadia.

Sara and her husband

Bruce Adams live at Fort Novosel, Alabama where Bruce is an Aviation Brigade Operations Sergeant Major. They have three children: Julian, Anelise, and Alaina. Emma and her husband Cory Licht live in Holmen. Emma works in Payroll/Accounting at First American Roofing and Siding, and Cory operates his own Snap-On Dealership. They have two sons: Kaiden and Asher. Mark lives in Pine Creek and is the dairy's mechanic and calf feeder.

Jereczek Homestead Dairy milks around 180 cows, twice daily. There are usually about 30 dry cows housed on bedded packs. During the late spring to fall months, dry cows are let out on pasture. Calves are raised at a separate location until about six months of age, when they are sent to a neighbor heifer grower (Dave Boberg) where they are kept until confirmed pregnant. All cows are artificially inseminated with the use of pedometers for heat detection. The main crops grown include corn - for grain and silage, soybeans, and alfalfa. Paul and Mark both own and rent additional acreage.

John Lambert has been combining for the Jereczeks since 1980. Corn and soybean planting are done by John and his son, Robert Lambert. The farm's chopping - corn silage and three crops of alfalfa hay - is done by Ted Konkell.

All of the 1,000 plus acres that make up Jereczek Homestead Dairy are continuous (neighboring land) including most of the original 1873 homestead purchased 150 years ago. This is the second time Jereczeks have hosted the dairy breakfast with the first time being the 2017 promotional event.

The quality of dairy promotion continued all day on June 10. Serving was from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the serving lines stayed full for the majority of the time. Trempealeau County Farm Bureau congratulates the Jereczek Family and hopes to continue supporting dairy in the county for many years.



The 2023 Trempealeau County Dairy Breakfast poster.



All groups worked well serving at the Trempealeau County Dairy Breakfast.



Everyone enjoying breakfast at Jereczek Farm.



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