

Grassroots

District 7 News

District Director Report



Brian Preder

District 7 WFBF Board Representative

I've always enjoyed spring; it brings not only warmer weather, but it's time to get back in the fields. Spring also reminds us of the importance of our local roads to farmers.

Those local roads were a big focus for the 250 members attending this year's Ag Day at the Capitol. Wisconsin has been spending money

to update the interstates, bridges and interchanges; the last mile of road our products travel to the consumer.

It's time to spend money on the first mile of road: our local roads that we travel every day. Members asked for one-time funding of \$150 million dollars specifically for local roads, culverts and small bridges. Since Ag Day at the Capitol, a bill has been introduced to do just that.

Ag Day also gave members the chance to meet the new faces at WFBF. Since the beginning of the year we've welcomed our new CAO Bradley Uken; Jason Mugnaini as our new Executive Director of Governmental Relations, and Tim Fiocchi as the new Senior Director of Governmental Relations. They bring years of experience in Farm Bureau or working in the state capitol with rural area representatives. I'm excited to have Bradley, Jason and Tim join our dedicated staff.

We continually engage with our agriculture partners, but what about those who are impacted by the food we produce and are outside the agriculture community? In March the WFBF Board met with Feeding Wisconsin. We discussed the impact of the Wisconsin Farm to Food Bank

Program that's funded through DATCP. The funding provided about 1.2 million pounds of food. It was great to see the impact the program had in providing the funds for food purchases, but that the program also helped our farmers by purchasing food from Wisconsin.

We continued the day touring CERTCO, an independent grocery distributor, that supplies stores from Woodman's to the local family-owned stores. We were joined by Brandon Scholz, President of the Wisconsin Grocers Association. The discussion around the supply chain really highlighted the challenges in the current system and the similarities we face as farmers. We wrapped up the day at DATCP with an ag policy discussion with Wisconsin Agriculture Secretary, Randy Romanski.

In many of the newsletters, I speak about the importance of relationship building. The relationships we have with our local and state representatives and agriculture partners have been and always will be important. Building relationships with those not in the agriculture community is just as important. Over the next year, I challenge you to find a local group whom you can build a relationship with.



Bernie Vander Heiden and Brian Preder met with new 5th Assembly District Representative Joy Goeben at Ag Day at the Capitol.

Farm Bill Listening Session Held at NWTC

On the blizzarding day of Feb. 22, 8th Congressional District Representative Mike Gallagher held a listening session at the North East Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay, specifically to find out from area farmers which parts of the Federal Farm Bill are working for Wisconsin farmers and which ones aren't. Five Farm Bureau members from the area participated in the discussion.

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President Bob Fox said, "I felt the meeting with Representative Gallagher went well; we could have used more time."

The topics covered were:

- Keeping the nutrition programs and farm programs together.
- Financing manure digester programs.
- Reducing paperwork for the NRCS programs, as the amount of paperwork prevents smaller farmers from participating. Shorten the five-year contract; weather dictates the planting of crops.
- The importance of international trade.

Waupaca County Farm Bureau board member Don Lutz said, "We were able to very actively engage in the discussion. It was as good of a discussion as you could have in an hour."



Members from Brown, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano and Waupaca counties participated in a Farm Bill listening session hosted by 8th Congressional District Representative Mike Gallagher at NWTC on Feb. 22.

Leadership Institute Class 15



Amanda Williams

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute Participant

This past January, I joined 13 other Farm Bureau leaders as we started our Leadership Institute experience. The Leadership Institute is a year-long leadership training that is intended to develop great leaders for not only Farm Bureau but also our communities.

Thus far, we have gotten together for three different sessions. Some of the topics we have explored have been public speaking, Farm Bureau 101, advocacy, social media and what it takes to be a team.

My personal experience with the Institute has been nothing short of incredible. I have been forced out of my comfort zone, especially in public speaking, and grown as a leader. This course has helped me with finding my why, or my purpose when it comes to agriculture. It has given me the confidence to share more of my agricultural story.

The networking and friendships you make are another benefit! There is something to be said about joining a group of like-minded people who are all trying to better themselves.

I can't wait to see where the rest of this journey takes us! If you are looking to grow not only as a leader but as a person, I highly encourage you to apply for the next Leadership Institute class!

District YFA Report

Jake Hoewisch

WFBF YFA Committee District 7 Representative



The YFA hockey game event at the Resch Center in Green Bay was attended by 48 District 7 members.

March was a busy month. On Saturday, March 4 we got together for bowling and pizza at New London Lanes. We had a nice turnout and enjoyed some family fun.

On March 26 we teamed up with District 6 and attended a Green Bay Gamblers hockey game. It was an intense game and went into overtime. Unfortunately, the Gamblers lost, but we had a great time conversating with some awesome people and enjoyed some pizza at the Green Bay distillery after the game. Thank you to everyone who attended. We are hoping to get together in late fall for an event - stay tuned.

The 35 Under 35 Award program recognizes and celebrates the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities.

This recognition is open to Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturists members ages 18-35. Nominees will be judged on criteria in one of five categories. The categories include:

1. **Sustainable future:** Preserving generational success on the farm.
2. **Sustainable environment:** Being a good steward of the land and resources.
3. **Sustainable storytelling:** Using a platform to share agriculture's sustainability successes.
4. **Sustainable service:** Serving agriculture through leadership, mentoring and teaching.
5. **Sustainable self:** Taking care of yourself and going above and beyond for the community and others.

Nominations are available now and will close on June 1. For more information about the program and to nominate, visit bit.ly/WFBF35Under35.

We hope that everyone has a successful planting season and a great summer.



District YFA members got together for some relaxation and family-friendly fun at New London Lanes on March 4.

Humor Corner

By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

Why did the farmer separate the chickens from the turkeys? He sensed "fowl play"!

Courtesy of Michelle Paustian, Rural Health Initiative health specialist.

What has ears but can't hear? A cornstalk

Punctuality is the ability to guess how late everyone else is going to be.

Parent: "Are you stealing your little sister's Easter basket candy?"

Child: "No, I'm teaching her how to share."

What is a tree surgeon? A branch manager.

When all you have in your toolbox is a hammer, all problems become nails!

Principal: "This is the third time you've been sent to my office this week! What do you have to say about that?"

Student: "Thank goodness it's Friday!"

It's a good thing to be nobody! Nobody's perfect.

When we seek advice, we may already know the answer – but wish we didn't.

No matter what age I am, as far as I'm concerned old age is 20 years from now.



District 7 News

ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative

By Michelle Paustian, Tara Knaack and Dawn Dingeldein; Rural Health Initiative Health Specialists

The ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative continues with our mission to improve and sustain the health and safety of rural families by empowering each person to live their unique best life. Our geographic service area includes Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago counties with recent expansion to Ripon and the surrounding area.

NEW! Point of Care Testing (POCT)

In addition to core services offered at no cost to participants (blood glucose, cholesterol, triglycerides, hemoglobin A1c, health coaching), Rural Health is now offering convenient point-of-care diagnostic tests which provide reliable, actionable results within minutes. Point of Care Tests are provided for a fee (billed to insurance or cash pricing) and include:

- Urine
- Influenza (A and B)
- Strep

Call one of our Outreach Health Specialists today to partner with you in your health journey!



Shawano

Dawn Dingeldein, RN
920.422.7286
Dawn.Dingeldein@thedacare.org



Winnebago
Ripon

Renee Foist
920.422.7289
Renee.Foist@thedacare.org



Waupaca

Tara Knaack
920.422.7298
Tara.Knaack@thedacare.org



Waushara

Debbie Walrath, RN
920.422.7287
Deborah.Walrath@thedacare.org



Outagamie
Winnebago

Michelle Paustian
920.422.7295
Michelle.Paustian@thedacare.org

Community Involvement

The Rural Health Initiative and staff are invested and active in local communities:

- Breakfast/Brunch on the Farm
- Outagamie Dairy Promotion Board
- Rural Wellness Programs (Black Creek, Clintonville)
- Shawano County Dairy Promotions
- County Fairs
- FFA Alumni - Volunteer
- Church Councils and Faith Community Events
- Fremont Wolf River EMS (Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago counties) - Volunteer
- EMS Fund Raising Events
- Volunteer Fire Department

District 7 Students Participate in FFA Farm Forum

It was a great learning experience.
- Elliot

I learned so much about agriculture technology and about how I can continue to stay involved in my community after I graduate.
- Makayla

I learned about agriculture technology and Collegiate Farm Bureau. Another thing I learned at this conference is the technology of drones and robot tractors. I was surprised to see how difficult it is to learn how to fly a drone.
- Elwood

Sponsored by Shawano County Farm Bureau:



Clintonville FFA

Sponsored by Waupaca County Farm Bureau:



Waupaca FFA



New London FFA

Thank you for your generous sponsorship of the great learning experience at the FFA Farm Forum!

Sponsored by Rural Mutual Insurance Agent Casey Boye:



Oconto Falls FFA



Gillett FFA

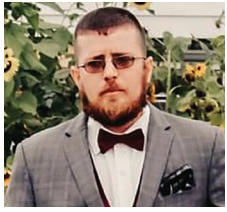


Suring FFA

The FFA Farm Forum was a great experience, we learned about new and innovative technology that may shape the future of agriculture as a whole. We also were informed about possible future job routes in various agricultural fields. Overall, the whole event was very fun and informative. I was provided with new possible ideas about what I might pursue after high school along with what education I may need to find my future job.

- Landen

President's Report



Jake Bula

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy folks! As I write this, winter is still deciding if it wants to stay a bit longer or not. I myself look forward to the new beginnings spring brings and with that all of the activities

the year will hold. Along with our usual music in the park, our Ag in the Classroom committee has some exciting plans involving some area youth. As we educate our youth about the wonderful world of agriculture, I am reminded of an interview response from my great-grandpa Billie: "Keep educating the next generation as they earn their connection to the farm."

Now in our world, most youth aren't able to experience farm life, but as adults, we can provide education from our experience and try to bridge the gap as it were. The possibilities of agriculture are quite endless, and it brings joy to spread knowledge of such a fascinating part of our world.

With spring planting season here, I encourage everyone to be safe and be smart. Until next time keep your furrows straight and true!

Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Bev Brecklin, Langlade County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

Hello everyone! When you read this, it should be looking and feeling a bit more like spring. As I write this, we have a lot of snow on the ground in Langlade County, mostly from the March snowfalls.

Despite the weather, I have been trying to plan a couple of beef promotions for this June and July. When I am able, I will apply for another \$250 in grant money from the Wisconsin Beef Council. I will incorporate the first beef promotion for our Music in the Park fundraiser on June 5, 2023, in Antigo. The second promo will be at a store in July and the date is to be determined.

Beef is an important part of Wisconsin's economy. There are four ways that beef is marketed. Beef can be labeled grain finished, grass fed, certified organic and naturally raised. 91% of U.S. cattle farms and 80% of feedlots are family-owned. We need beef in our diet, and it is good for you. So, this summer, we hope to see you at our beef promotion events in Antigo. We will have beef promotion items available along with recipes. Last summer, the sunglasses and cup koozies were a hit. Hopefully, we will have a good and safe spring and summer season!

Music in the Park Fundraiser

By Dick Bolen, Music in the Park Committee Chair

It's finally time for spring and summer and with that in mind it's time for Music in the Park. This year we have an early date of Monday, June 5 with the Lovin' Country Band.

Please keep in mind we will be needing donations of pies, cakes and cookies. Barbeque beef sandwiches, chips, soda, water and ice cream

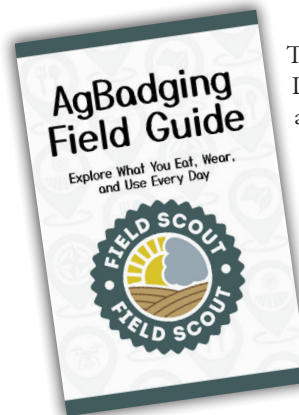
will also be available. Please contact Dick Bolen or Tom Houdek if you are interested in donating desserts to help our fundraiser.

We are looking forward to seeing you there.



AgBadging Field Guide

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



Langlade County is going to Summer School. The Ag in the Classroom fall training had left Langlade County with many ideas for taking ag education to the public. One that piqued our interest is the new AgBadging Field Guide. We see this as a great opportunity to team up with local schools and 4-H to create the environment for youth in the 4th-5th grade level to come together to learn many aspects of agriculture and earn their Field Scout badge at the end. The Menominee Tribal School in Neopit has agreed to work with us to provide a summer school session. Some of the activities being planned

are seed sprouting, soils, photosynthesis, pollinator hotel, farmers' markets and eating plants. Although, youth can complete this guide outside any formal education, bringing these groups together with Farm Bureau is a win-win for all of us.

Plow Day Plans

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

Langlade County Farm Bureau will be participating again in the Northwoods Tractor Club's 12th Annual Old Time Plow Days event to be held May 6 at the Polar Recreation Park. This year's LCFB demonstration will be the Mini Rainfall Simulator we were given at the Ag in the Classroom training held last fall. At a time when everyone is very aware of our environment, this handy tabletop demonstration will provide a visual and hands-on experience that will educate not only the young and the not-so-young but also some of the more experienced agriculturists on the importance of keeping roots in the ground.

Another fun learning experience we are planning for this blast from the past event is making ice cream in a bag. Everyone loves ice cream, and this is sure to be a draw to our table.



President's Report



Cindi Wautier
Marinette County Farm Bureau President

What's moving and shaking in Marinette County? Our board of directors has some new things coming up for our county! We are doing a Farm Neighbors Care distribution to visit and thank local farmers. We will deliver care packages around the area to check in with farmers to show our support and remind them to take a break now and then, and to stay safe during the hectic and stressful time when they are out in the fields!

Additionally, we will have an awesome connecting point for local Marinette County direct market producers to share their business information and make connections with potential consumers at the Breakfast on the Farm event on June 25 at Van De Walle Farm, W8303 W 22nd Rd, Crivitz, Wis. Make sure to look for the Marinette County Farm Bureau Buy Local Station/Banner! Remember to Buy Local!

Speaking of shaking- We will need volunteers to scoop ice cream and make shakes at the ice cream stand this year. If you have a few hours available, any and all volunteers are welcome. Contact me, your county president, at cindi.wautier@gmail.com to get more details on volunteering.



The fair ice cream stand is both a fundraiser and a dairy promotion. Please consider volunteering a couple hours serving delicious dairy products to folks during the fair.

YFA Report

By Trevor Van Drisse, Marinette County Farm Bureau President

As I'm writing this report it's sunny and 72 degrees, I hope by the time you all get to reading it the weather is just as nice. In the last article I mentioned that we would be doing a joint event with Oconto County; unfortunately, we were not able to get something organized this spring. We do have high hopes for an event yet this year so make sure to keep an eye out for it!

We were pleased to have nine folks attend the annual District 6 & 7 YFA Green Bay Gamblers hockey game at the Resch Center. The game was a nail-biter that went into overtime and kept us all on the edge of our seats. As it turned out, the Gamblers didn't win the game but afterwards,

we were able to enjoy some great pizza and conversation with other county members at the Green Bay Distillery, a short walk from the stadium.

I hope you're all enjoying this spring weather and getting ready for the summer months to arrive.



Oconto County

wfbf.com/about/counties/oconto
OcontoCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



Dennis Jahnke
Oconto County Farm Bureau President

Is it spring yet?! It's going to be near 80 degrees in two days, but my cherry trees aren't even budded out yet. Very strange weather but we have been spared the worst. My sisters in Oregon and California have been having a late spring

also and then, you know the California story. At least they live on higher ground. I can't wait to get seeds in the ground. My vegetable garden that is.

I was listening to a show on the radio about the loss of decorum and manners in the USA. Partly to blame are our leaders who seem to have lost any semblance of dignity in their behavior. Many are still doing their job, but others are a disgrace to the positions we elected them to. There is also the internet where one can threaten life or degrade someone and hide behind that anonymity. I personally have never been affected by any of that directly, but I only have to turn on the news.

I watched a market report the other day and it looks like farm prices are decent for once, partially due to problems internationally. Inputs are problematic but what's new. My garden soil enhancer went up 40% from last year so I feel your pain! Have an uneventful planting season!!

Brat Fundraisers

By Dennis Jahnke, Oconto County Farm Bureau President

Do you have an appetite for summer fare; brats, hamburgers and hot dogs from the grill? Well then be at Iverson's Piggly Wiggly June 3 or July 7. Our Farm Bureau members will be grilling these summer treats from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The proceeds are used for classroom activities promoting agriculture to area 4th graders and leadership seminars for area FFA students. Come and join us! You know you want to.



We're having a
COOKOUT!



Saturday, June 3 and Friday, July 7
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Iverson's Piggly Wiggly, Oconto Falls



Oconto Breakfast on the Farm

By Ken Harter, Breakfast on the Farm Committee

The 2023 Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm makes a return visit to Kohls Dairy Farm LLC on Sunday, June 11 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Kohls hosted previously in 2007 when Ken, Mary and family operated the farm and one additional year earlier. This year their son, Curt, and his family, current owner/operators are the hosts. The farm is located at 6214 Klaus Lake Rd, Gillett, just west of the City of Gillett.

This year's event is the 16th under the management of the current organizing committee led by Jordan Rank and Bobbie Windus which includes a cast of hundreds of additional volunteers. It will feature the familiar pancakes, scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, and porkies, topped off with ice cream sundaes. Visitors will be able to tour the farm facilities and enjoy educational exhibits, fun kids' activities, and musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$10 on the day of event. Advanced sale tickets are available for \$9 and can be purchased at: Kelly Lake Kwik Stop - Kelly Lake; Pat's Market - Gillett; Lena Fast Stop - Lena; Peshtigo National Bank offices in Gillett and Oconto Falls; and NEW Credit Union offices in Oconto, Oconto Falls, and Suring. Oconto County Farm Bureau is one of the organizations helping with the event and will have a display and information in the education tent.



For additional and up-to-date information check out the Oconto County Friends of Agriculture Facebook page: facebook.com/ocbotf.

Ag Policy Work Continues

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Farm Bureau Policy Development Chair



Oconto County Farm Bureau's board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant at 8 p.m. Members are welcome to attend and bring policy issues to discuss.

Rural roads, proposed alternative dairy growth management programs, wolf management, rural broadband access, producer-led watershed groups and support for meat processors are just some of the ongoing issues affecting rural Wisconsin and agriculture this year. The legislature and Governor are working on the 2023-25 biennial state budget in which the agriculture industry has several priority requests.

Despite there not being elections now that we are past the contests for Supreme Court and county and local officials, there is much national and state policy and budget work going on that it behooves those in agriculture to keep up on.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, in addition to having the governmental relations staff communicate Farm Bureau policy priorities to legislators and agency heads, makes information and updates available to members so that you can communicate your concerns and wishes to your representatives. The policy tab on the WFBF website at wfbf.com/policy/ takes you to resources to allow you to stay up-to-date on legislative and congressional activity on bills of interest.

Ag Newswire is a weekly email newsletter that includes Farm Bureau, political and other major ag-related stories. Subscribers receive an email each Friday with the most recent Farm Bureau and Wisconsin agriculture news. Ag Newswire subscriptions are free to any Farm Bureau member.

Community Garden Tool Donation Request

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

As the Promotion and Education Chairperson for the Oconto County Farm Bureau, I would like to take



this opportunity to share our community garden aspirations in the City of Oconto Falls. An acre of ground will be transformed from lawn into vegetable and fruit production, west of the Oconto Falls Ambulance Station, on property of HSHS St. Clare Memorial Hospital. Half of the area is designated for community garden plots, and the other half will be planted with vegetables and fruit crops for the Kingdom Come Food Pantry and The Nurse's Nook.

We are very excited to see this project come to fruition. My ask is, if you have any gardening equipment in good condition and no longer have a use for it, such as hand tools, shovels, rakes, etc., would you be willing to donate them to this worthy cause? Donated items can be brought to either Oconto Falls Ambulance Station, by their main entrance door on the east side of the building, or to Oconto Falls High School, setting them by the greenhouse door. For information about securing a plot for yourself, please email ocontofallscommunitygarden@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration, and happy spring!

Ag in the Classroom Report

By David Schneider, Oconto County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



Process, Pollinators and Honeybees. We also did a local honey taste test.

Agriculture in the Classroom is on the move in Oconto County again! I taught a few classes in the public schools in Oconto and at St. Anthony School in Oconto Falls in February and March. Topics covered included: Wisconsin Farm Bureau Book of the Year, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Essay Contest, Pollination

A Message From The President



Bob Fox

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

This has been quite a winter. Heavy snow one day, a few days later temperatures in the 30s, and half the snow's gone again.

In early March I was at the WFBF office for a Volunteers for Agriculture meeting. I had the opportunity to meet new hires, Bradley Uken, WFBF Chief Administrative Officer; Jason Mugnaini, WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations; and Tim Fiocchi WFBF Senior Director of Governmental Relations.

I attended the Ag LEAD Summit March 17-18 in Fond du Lac. The opening keynote speaker was Chris Hinrichs. Chris talked about transformational leadership, or how to inspire the best in others. There were three, one-hour breakout sessions, with three choices in each. I enjoyed the three I attended. They were "Turning Information into Action", "Reignite Your Strategy of Storytelling", and "Tackling Tough Topics". The speaker for the dinner program was Bradley Uken, and Friday

night's entertainment was Dueling Pianos.

Saturday started with a Center for Food Integrity consumer panel, hosted by Allyson Perry. The panel consisted of five people that were the main grocery shopper in their homes and did not live or work on a farm. My takeaway is that we need to continue informing the public that we are producing a safe product in a sustainable way and keeping the environment in mind.

Jordan Henry from the AFBF closed the program with her session "What's Next in Your Advocacy Journey?" where we had a chance to map out our plans to put into action the ideas we gained at the conference.



Bob Fox attended Transformational Leadership session at the Ag LEAD Summit.

Ag Day at the Capitol

By Randy Tenpas, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Member

On March 29, more than 250 farmers and agriculturists gathered in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol. Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event for Wisconsin Farm Bureau members to learn more about state issues impacting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

We started the day with Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski reviewing state initiatives in agriculture including increasing export opportunities, educational programs and investments to the processing industry. He encouraged everyone to continue to be strong advocates for our communities.

After lunch the afternoon session was a legislative panel comprised of Senators Howard Marklein and Joan Ballweg, and Representatives Tony Kurtz and Nancy VanderMeer. Discussion topics included local farm supply chain issues, labor shortage, animal health and farmer-led conservation.

The afternoon's program concluded with Farm Bureau members traveling to the State Capitol where we had the opportunity to meet with our local legislators to discuss agriculture topics. It was a great learning experience for me, and I appreciate the opportunity to represent Outagamie County Farm Bureau.



Randy Tenpas and Steve Jentz (left) discuss agricultural issues with Senator Racheal Cabral-Guavera, Representative Dave Murphy and their staff members during Ag Day at the Capitol.

Adventures in Dairyland

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Chair

The Adventures in Dairyland ag literacy program is wrapping up another wonderful and successful year. There were 1,536 students in 21 schools that participated in the six-week program that teaches 4th graders in Outagamie County the farm-to-table process with dairy products.

Many thanks to the eight volunteer instructors and seven dairy farms that gave up their time to teach classes and give farm tours. We greatly appreciate all your efforts!

If you know of a school in Outagamie County that would like to participate or if you would like to become a volunteer instructor, please reach out to Kelly Oudenhoven at 920.378.4744.



Octoberfest Creampuffs Fundraiser

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Creampuff Committee Chair

Outagamie Farm Bureau will have a booth on College Avenue on Sept. 30 at Octoberfest selling cream puffs and coffee again this year. This is our largest fundraiser for the year so save the date to support and help on Sept. 30. The funds that are raised are used to fund Ag in the



Classroom, 4-H programs, FFA Farm Forum and Breakfast on the Farm to name a few.

We will need volunteers starting at 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30. Contact me to volunteer a little of your time while you enjoy the day at Octoberfest, bernardvanderheiden@gmail.com or 920.766.9377.

Century Farm Recognitions at the County Fair

By Mike Salter, Outagamie County Farm Bureau Board Member



This year the Outagamie County Fair will again be recognizing Outagamie County farms that have remained in a family for 100 or more continuous years. Century farms will be recognized at a special ceremony during the Outagamie County Fair which will take place July 19-23. The recognition is sponsored by the Outagamie County Farm Bureau on Sunday afternoon.

Farms must be located in Outagamie County and have proof of continuous family ownership. Any type of farm is eligible. Applications must be received at the Outagamie County Fair Office by July 1. Call 920.833.2941 for more information. You can find the application for the award on the fair's website at outagamiecountyfair.com/century-farm.

Breakfast on the Farm

By Kelly Oudenhoven, Breakfast on the Farm Chair

The 35th Annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm will be held on Sunday, June 11, at Vande Hei Dairy Farm located at N8370 County Rd Y, Seymour, 54165. Hosts Allen and Nicole Vande Hei and the Outagamie County Dairy Promotion Committee are excited to welcome everyone back to the farm where they can enjoy a delicious dairy breakfast which consists of an egg omelet with ham and cheese, pancakes with maple syrup, breakfast ham, yogurt, a variety of cheeses, Manderfield's cinnamon rolls, ice cream, milk, and coffee. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

There will be many activities for all ages including farm tours, antique tractors, a children's area and new this year... a car show!! For more information, updates, or if you would like to volunteer, please check our website, www.outagamiecountydairypromtion.com or our Facebook page, Outagamie County Dairy Promotion. Any questions please call Kelly at 920.378.4744.

Shawano County

wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano
ShawanoCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



Neil Christianson

Shawano County Farm
Bureau President

Happy spring to everyone. I'm looking forward to warmer temperatures.

In March,

Bob Krause and I attended the Council of President's meeting in Madison. We were introduced to our New Chief Administrative Officer, Bradly Uken. We were briefed on a few possible policy development changes and received an update from the Farm Bureau Bank. Also, we were updated from Ag in the Classroom coordinator, Beth Schaefer on some exciting ideas coming to the classroom. We learned from other county Farm Bureaus' success stories on how they ran different projects in their counties.

Our brunch committee is in full swing planning this year's brunch. More details to follow in this newsletter.

Now it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage... *A man is pulled over by a police officer for a broken headlight. The cop looks in the car and sees a collection of knives on the backseat. "Sir," he says. "Why do you have all those knives?" "They're for my juggling act," the man replies. "Prove it," says the cop. The man gets out of the car and begins juggling the knives just as Sven and Ole drive by. "Cripes," says Ole, "I'm glad I quit drinking. That new sobriety test looks pretty hard."*

Ag Day at the Capitol Report

By Neil Christianson, Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Bob Krause, Ken Matsche and I attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 29. We started out at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. We heard from Randy Romanski, Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary. We were briefed by the WFBF governmental relations team on legislative session priorities to discuss with our representatives. Then we headed to the Capitol, where we met with our elected representatives and discussed several different hot topics.

One of those is rural road improvement. WFBF and the Wisconsin Ag Coalition are requesting \$150 million of one-time funding for improvements to local roads, culverts and small bridges which impacts Wisconsin's agricultural economy. This program focuses on the infrastructure farms use most by providing grants to improve roads that are posted for weight restrictions. The funding would require them to be built to standards that would enable modern agriculture practices to operate on them.

Here are some of the other topics discussed:

- Support state bonding for the groundbreaking Agricultural Education Center in Plover
- Support the continuation of the successful Wisconsin Commodity Food Bank Purchasing program (DATCP)
- Maintain funding for Producer-Led Watershed Protections Grant Program (DATCP)
- Maintain funding for County Conservative staffing (DATCP)
- Support continued funding for the Dairy Innovation Hub (UW)
- Provide an increase in funding for Ag in the Classroom (DATCP)
- Support LRB-2210 to modernize and simplify Wisconsin's Farmland Preservation tax credit program to combat farmland acreage loss and spur farmer participation.



Wine and Woods 2023

By Anna Jones, Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

Thanks to the generosity of Hoffman Family Farm as hosts as the Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA held a winter Wine Walk on Feb. 19. We had a great turnout with approximately 35 in attendance including quite a few kids. Everyone loaded up on snacks, a beverage and hit the woods in some of the most pleasant weather that February could provide. It was great to see the kids pulling each other around in sleds on whatever snow they could find!

Thank you to all who attended this event and stay tuned for more hands-on and collaborative YFA events as we head into spring and summer.



Feb. 19 was a beautiful day for the Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA Wine Walk in the Hoffman Farm woods filled with plenty of family fun.

Shawano County Farm Bureau

Shawano Plat Books on Sale

And Just in Time for Father's Day

\$20.00

Available at area locations or contact
Ken Matyas at 920.810.2245
matyaskenneth@gmail.com

Dairy Dash & Stroll 5K Run/Walk 2023

By Amanda Williams, Dairy Dash Chair

The 9th Annual Dairy Dash & Stroll 5K Run/Walk will be held in conjunction with the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm this year at Synergy Family Dairy in Pulaski. This 5K course will consist of a dirt/off-road course accompanied by a series of hills and fluctuating terrain. Participants will enjoy scenic views of the farm including barns, dairy cows, wooded areas, crop fields, and other events taking place at the Brunch on the Farm. The 5K starts at 7:00 a.m. After completing the course, participants will receive refreshments and we invite you to stick around for brunch and all the other activities taking place. We will also have prizes for top males and females in age categories.

Registration prior to June 23 is \$30. Please visit active.com to register online. Day of registration will be available at the farm for \$35. Registration includes your brunch ticket and Dairy Dash t-shirt. We look forward to seeing you all on June 25 for the Dairy Dash & Stroll 5K Run/Walk!



First Summer Farm Bureau Get-Together!

By Ken Matsche, Shawano County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

Hey Shawano County Farm Bureau members! Mark your calendars for our first-ever Summer Get-Together sponsored by the SCFB Promotion and Education Committee! Shawano County Farm Bureau invites all members to attend the event planned for the evening of Saturday, July 22.

Hosted by Matsche Farms, Inc. of Birnamwood, we are planning to cook out, have farm tours and other activities for members to participate in. Come meet fellow Farm Bureau members and enjoy some great food! Watch for more information coming soon!



Ag in the Classroom Report

By Ken Matsche, Shawano County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

Here is the essay that was selected as the Shawano County winner this year! Congratulations Preston Braun for writing this excellent essay! Preston is a 4th grader at St. John Lutheran School in Shawano.

You're Gonna Need Milk for That

Why is milk so important? Milk is so important because our economy, body, and community benefits from dairy products. You're gonna need milk to keep each of these three things strong and healthy.

Wisconsin's dairy industry makes a big impact on our economy. Dairy generates \$45.6 billion for the state each year. Wisconsin ranks second in the nation for milk production and first in cheese production. All of this milk is produced on 6,572 dairy farms. Ninety-five percent of these farms are family owned. All of this builds a strong economy in the state.

Our diet should include three dairy products each day. Dairy products give our bodies important nutrients including calcium, phosphorus and protein. These nutrients give us energy and build strong bones. Chocolate milk is good after a workout or sports because it helps to repair and rebuild damaged muscles. Drinking milk also keeps us hydrated and healthy.

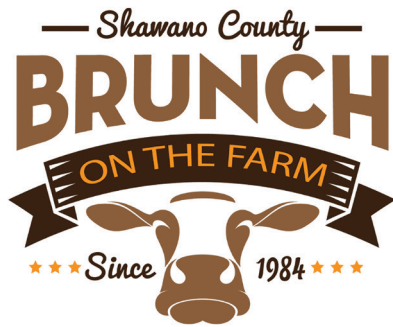
The dairy industry helps our communities fight hunger, educate

people where their food comes from, and cares for the land. People can donate dairy products to local food banks for those in need. Schools offer milk with every meal so students can have this healthy choice each school day. My family's farm hosted the 2019 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm. We were able to educate the 4,500 people there the importance of Wisconsin's dairy industry and where their food comes from. Farmers take care of the environment to keep the land, air and water safe for us while they farm. All of these things help make the communities stronger.

Thankfully, we have our Wisconsin dairy farmers to produce milk and other dairy products to keep us all strong and healthy. I plan on farming with my cousins on our family's dairy farm as a career someday. I am excited to continue this family farming tradition to help build strong and healthy economies, bodies and communities because you are gonna need a whole lot of milk to do that!

Shawano County Brunch on the Farm

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch on the Farm Chair



Synergy Family Dairy
June 25, 2023

The 39th Annual Shawano County Brunch on the Farm is on **June 25!** Our host farm is **Synergy Family Dairy** which is owned and operated by Jay and Heather Jauquet, along with their children Mason, Carter and Evan. They milk 650 cows, raise all their youngstock and own 565 acres of land in Pulaski.

Join us for a morning of family fun

including a hearty country breakfast, cows and, of course, an ice cream sundae! Get a running start to Brunch on the Farm with the Dairy Dash and Stroll 5k at 7:00 a.m. followed by a Polka mass at 7:30 a.m. Activities for the whole family to enjoy are ongoing throughout the day, including wagon rides and farm tours, a scavenger hunt, "Ask the farm Expert" stations, kid's games, a petting zoo, live music and more.

Join us for Brunch as a volunteer with the Shawano Farm Bureau and receive a free ticket to the event. Sign up through the Brunch on the Farm website or contact Tami Gores at UWEX at 715-526-6136.

For more information, advance tickets, and sign up to volunteer check the Shawano County Farm Bureau website: www.shawanofarmbureau.com/brunch-on-the-farm

Shawano Brunch on the Farm:

Synergy Family Dairy, W2285 County S, Pulaski, WI 54162

Date: Sunday, June 25

Brunch Service: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Dairy Dash: 7:00 a.m.

Polka Mass: 7:30 a.m.

Event Tickets:

Adults (+11) - \$10.00

Kids (ages 4-11) - \$5.00

Little Kids Under 3 - Free

Advance tickets are available online, cash-only onsite



Menu: Scrambled eggs with diced ham, sausage, hash browns, cheese, cinnamon bread, milk and juice, all topped off with an ice cream sundae with strawberries or maple syrup.

Waupaca County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waupaca
WaupacaCountyFarmBureau

President's Report



Meredith Polar

Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

Happy spring – the snow has melted by us, and we anxiously await the fields to begin to turn green and to see and hear the tractors and implements working the land to begin another growing season.

Each year the county presidents and vice presidents are invited to attend a meeting in Madison called Council of Presidents. I have attended for four years on behalf of Waupaca County and always learn something about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau organization or county Farm Bureaus in our state that I did not know before attending.

This year we had an engaging lineup of speakers and topics. My favorite session is the County Farm Bureau success stories where counties share how they have done great work in either membership, Promotion and Education, or Ag in the Classroom. We heard from five counties that discussed how they worked out a plan to make each event a success. Their events ranged from the purchase of a fiberglass cow that they now have housed in her own trailer for ag education events to a Farm Bureau radio publicity project and lastly a farm safety training day for EMS/fire personnel that allows the attendees to work with farm rescue scenarios on a farm with modern farm equipment and technology. Neither of these programs happened overnight on a whim. But with the right elements, they are extremely successful and beneficial to helping tell our ag story.

Sometimes I think we get bogged down in the details and are overwhelmed by the thought of adding one more thing to our already busy lives. What I heard from each of the counties were specific steps that helped make each of these events and programs work. It takes three

things: planning, support and execution. Planning takes time initially to start our creative juices rolling and getting ideas out there for others to get excited about. Supporting those ideas with positivity, enthusiasm, time, and effort helps the events come together and allows our board and members to become involved together for a common goal. Executing the vision or ideas sometimes seems like the easiest part of the process when we have done the first two steps effectively.

Look for some new events or programs this year for Waupaca County as I have several pages of notes of events that I think can be implemented effectively in our county that will help promote agriculture, advocacy and sustainability.

The other interesting part of the Council of Presidents meeting is that there is a session that is held for only district directors and the county presidents and vice presidents. In previous years I have been surprised by the commentary that occurred during this session. I have come to learn that this session is where nothing is off-limits and speaking your mind makes for validation of your concerns as others often have the same thought as you do. We discuss many varied topics including voting methods at the annual meeting - Are clickers well liked and effective? Topics also included effective programs and benefits for members – Which ones work and which should we look to revamp/replace? The discussion can become charged at times, but as members of the same organization, we respect each other's opinions and more importantly we respect each other.

As we head into a busy spring season, try to keep yourself open to new ideas and events in Farm Bureau – try to be involved in at least one new activity this year and above all show everyone you interact with, Farm Bureau member or not, the respect you would want to be shown.

Fair Stand Committee Report

By Kaisha Nash, Fair Stand Chair

Now that the sun is shining and winter is behind us, let's look forward to the fair! The Farm Bureau Food Stand will be running each day of the Waupaca Fair in 2023 – Wednesday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Aug. 27. As always, we are looking for volunteers in the food stand. As a volunteer, you can look forward to working with friendly Farm Bureau members, a fast-paced environment, and if you volunteer for eight hours throughout the week, your annual Farm Bureau dues will be covered!

We welcome anyone over 10 years old (under 16, please bring a responsible adult along). We are looking for people to cook, take orders, restock supplies, wash dishes and make new friends. We are flexible and will make the best use of any skill or time you are willing to contribute! Look for an upcoming article with the link to sign up for your volunteer slots in the next few months. Feel free to bring your friends and family members to make an event out of volunteering - looking forward to seeing you there!



Farm Bureau's 2023 Ag Day at the Capitol

By Don Lutz, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board Member

On March 29, Wisconsin Farm Bureau members and others interested in advocating for policies directed at improving Wisconsin agriculture traveled to Madison to engage in Ag Day at the Capitol. Representing Waupaca County were Waupaca County Farm Bureau President Meredith Polar; District 7 Director, Brian Preder; Dick Piechowski; and Don Lutz.

Total attendance was good, as over 250 participants crowded the State Capitol to engage with their State Assembly and Senate representatives on behalf of Wisconsin agriculture.

Improving rural town and county roads in agricultural areas was the main request, with Farm Bureau advocating for a \$150 million budget allocation across Wisconsin. A major stipulation to local jurisdictions receiving these funds would be that resulting roads could not post weight limits on them at any time throughout the year. Other requests raised were quicker "residential hook-up services" to the internet now that many areas have had the main fiber cable buried along local rural roads, state grant funding to help attract a major soybean processing plant to Wisconsin, and some program, either a hunting season or financial reimbursement for damage from an escalating sandhill crane problem.



Captions: (upper right) Waupaca and Waushara Farm Bureau members met with Representative Kevin Petersen during Ag Day at the Capitol. (lower left) Waupaca Farm Bureau members met with Senator Joan Ballweg at the Capitol in Madison March 29.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest Results

By Kari Riley, Waupaca County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

With over 100 essays submitted from Waupaca County this year, it was awfully hard to select a winner. There were so many awesome stories, but the panel of judges managed to come to a decision. Congratulations Clayton Roberts, a 5th grader at New London Intermediate School. Here is Clayton's essay:

Wisconsin Dairy

Did you know that Wisconsin is known as "America's Dairyland"? No, it's not because we have the biggest or happiest cows either. There are many reasons why Wisconsin is recognized as the dairyland state. A lot has to do with the climate and soil. It also has a lot to do with our history and cheese production.

Wisconsin is known as a dairyland state but isn't known as the first place state. The first place dairyland state would be California with dairy production. Although Wisconsin isn't the leading dairyland state it's home to more dairy farms than any other state. Nearly 14,000 different dairy operations and ranks first for organic or grass based dairy farms.

Wisconsin has a strong history of dairy farming that started way back in history. Dairy farming and cheesemaking date back more than 160 years, before Wisconsin was even a state in 1848. Over half of the land in Wisconsin is owned by dairy farmers. Wisconsin has been an international leader in dairy and cheese technology for more than 150 years.

Wisconsin leads the country in the number of cheese plants and it is also number one in overall cheese production since 1910. Wisconsin's first cheese makers were farm wives who in the 1830s started making cheese in their kitchens as a way to store excess milk so it wouldn't go to waste. Today about 90% of Wisconsin's cheese is sold outside the state's borders and it is specialty cheeses such as Asiago, Edam, Gorgonzola and Havarti.

The majority of dairy farms in Wisconsin are still known to be family owned and operated. However, things look very different then the way farms used to be ran years ago. Families are passing their farms down from one generation to the next and running it together. Some may even be ran by two close families and they're utilizing each other to keep farming production going. My grandpa owns a dairy farm and has been farming for over 46 years. He was the one to start the farm but now runs it with his son and grandson to keep the farm growing and producing. I, too, one day hope to be part of running the family farm.



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