

# Grassroots

## District 7 News

### Research Proves Farm Bureau Membership Makes You Live Longer!



**Wes Raddatz**

WBFB District 7 Coordinator

May was Mental Health Month, and I happened to read an article in the Green Bay newspaper on how a feeling of "being connected" was important to people's mental health. That reminded me of an article I wrote for county Farm Bureau newsletters many years ago about people living longer when they felt "connected" through an organization

like Farm Bureau. I think it just goes to show that although lots of things change around us, human nature remains constant.

Here is my article just as it was published in county Farm Bureau newsletters in November 2000.

In their book *Successful Aging*, physicians John W. Rowe and Robert L. Kahn review the health impact of being "socially connected." Several things about this connection seem to be important and apply to all people.

**"People who didn't participate in organized social groups and didn't draw comfort and strength from religion were seven times more likely to die within six months of surgery."**

Farm Bureau is much more than a "social" group. It deals with issues that affect farmer's livelihoods. It empowers them to take control of the problems they would have little chance of dealing with successfully if

they didn't have the support of other people with similar concerns. It also includes the social aspect of getting together with those peers to discuss the issues, and sometimes to just have fun talking, dining, or doing some worthwhile activity.

**"Just talking lowers blood pressure."**

Older women who didn't talk to others about their problems had higher blood pressure than women who did talk." Farm Bureau gives every member a chance to participate and talk about their problems and concerns. The Farm Bureau board of directors meets monthly to deal with current business and issues. Members are encouraged to come to the meetings or discuss issues with their director. Call your county Farm Bureau office to find out the times of the meetings, people to contact, or means by which you can be nominated to serve on the board of directors or an advisory committee.

**"People without strong connections to family, friends or groups were four to six times more apt to die in a six-year study, regardless of race, wealth, health, activity or use of health services."**

Get "connected" through Farm Bureau. Rowe and Kahn emphasize that, "Being connected is far more than having people around to help with chores. It means having emotional connections. Unfortunately, too many of us think of ourselves first. The irony is that by emphasizing our own needs instead of caring for others, we may hurt ourselves in the long run." Talk to your neighbors, relations and friends, and get them connected, too!

**Remember ... it's for your health!**

### Leadership Institute Class 15 – School's Out for the Summer!



**Roseann Hoffman**

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Institute Class 15 participant

I am really glad that I applied and was accepted to the 15th class of the WBFB Leadership Institute. The three classes we had so far were jammed packed with insight not only about working with other people but our own strengths and weaknesses. Confronting your own personality and then either embracing or adapting it can be difficult.

Wendy Volkert keeps you on task and busy for at least twelve hours each day but it's not grueling, it's fun and fast. The relationships that are being built with my classmates are going to last a lifetime. I already know that I will be able to reach out to any of them and they will be there for me in some aspect. That's more than I can say for any other leadership or networking experience I have had.

The hard part is now. We were released for the summer with assignments. And, just like high school, I am putting it off till Sunday. Wendy is there with email reminders to keep us on track. The differences in our careers, experiences and ages make for a well-rounded group and Wendy is able to bring out the best in all of us. Boy, she really is good.

I am excited to meet again in fall. Moving more into the government aspect of the course and my true weakness. I understand government, but how to advocate for my beliefs is the challenge. How to network and communicate with my representatives is the part that drove me to apply.

Bring it on Wendy! I am up for this challenge.



## DNR Wolf Management Listening Session

By Neil Christianson, Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Bob Fox, Outagamie County Farm Bureau President and I attended the DNR Wolf management listening session in Clintonville on July 12.

A lot of good discussions came out of the meeting. There were several individuals who got up and discussed their hunting experiences with wolves and how it has affected the population of the white tail deer herds. I shared about how Shawano County farmers are affected by some wolf and cattle interactions. Recently, a beef calf was killed by wolves in Shawano County.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau supports a wolf goal of 350 or less in the state. One of the obstacles is to get wolves removed from the Endangered Species List. Please reach out to your Congressmen and Senators to discuss removing wolves from the Endangered Species List.



By Wes Raddatz, District 7 Coordinator

**What do you call a farmer who tells bad jokes? Corny.**

*(Courtesy of Michelle Paustian, Rural Health Initiative health specialist)*

**Where do horses go when they're sick? To the 'horse'pital.**

*(Courtesy of Michelle Paustian, Rural Health Initiative health specialist)*

**A bored shepherd passed the time thinking about sheep jokes.**

**The shepherd told them to his dog, but he'd herd them all.**

*(Courtesy of Michelle Paustian, Rural Health Initiative health specialist)*

**What food stays hot no matter how cold it is? A pepper.**

**Patient: "What's the best thing to do for a poor memory?"**

**Doctor: "Just forget about your problem."**

**If you can't be a good example, be a terrible warning.**

**When I got the bill for my operation, I found out why they still wear masks in the operating room.**

**Why did the farmer cross the road?**

**To bring back all the chickens that had crossed it.**

**I don't mind going nowhere, as long as it's an interesting path.**

**Motivation is when your dreams put on work clothes.**

## District Director Report

**Brian Preder**

District 7 WFBF Board Representative



Summer is here, and we find ourselves over the finish line with the new state budget, so how did we do? Because of the work of our members at Ag Day at the Capitol and throughout the year, we have another agriculture-friendly budget that includes priorities ranging from: cover crop rebates, continuing to fund producer-led

watersheds, and farmer mental health funding, to meat and dairy processor grants.

The big highlight from the budget is funding for an Agriculture Road Improvement Project. ARIP will provide \$150 million for local roads that farmers use every day.



**Brian Preder, Rosie Lisowe and Kevin Krentz presented Rep. Mike Gallagher with the AFBF "Friend of Farm Bureau" award in May.**

In June the WFBF Farm Bill Working Group and Board traveled to Washington, D.C. The group met with their representatives and Senators Johnson and Baldwin to discuss Farm Bill priorities developed by the working group. It's an extensive list of priorities, so be sure to check them out. This farm bill will not

only be the largest, it will also be the first time almost half of Congress have ever been through the farm bill process. The trip wrapped up with a visit to the Ukrainian Embassy, discussing the challenges of their farmers before and after the conflict. One thing stood out to me: farmers are passionate, resilient and share similar challenges no matter where you live.

I continue to talk about relationship building and learning more about the needs of those not directly in agriculture. In June the WFBF Board had the opportunity to learn about Gen Z and their upcoming impacts as consumers. We met with Gabrielle Dow, Vice President of Packers Marketing & Engagement, The Center for Food Integrity (CFI), and WFBF's public relations team to discuss how they are engaging with Gen Z. They talked about how Gen Z's are driven by the idea of FOMO (Fear of Missing Out). Knowing this we can make WFBF an organization Gen Z trusts.

In July, I had the opportunity to attend the Nourish the Future event. Nourish the Future is a nationwide initiative created by

science teachers for science teachers to connect students to agriculture. Part of the program is training and the other portion is meeting with farmers. The teachers had the opportunity to tour Wilfert Farms and network with WFBF members to learn firsthand what they are doing on their farms and how it relates to the science classes they are teaching. It was a great event to show how we can connect students to agriculture.

During the busy summer season of dairy breakfasts, parades and fairs, I hope you've had the chance to step up to my challenge from the last newsletter and build relationships. Stepping up to the challenge is something that we do well. THANK YOU to all the counties in District 7 because they have met my challenge of raising a combined \$5,000 for the Online Giving Day event that supports the WFB Foundation.



**The Langer Family of Kewaunee hosted 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Rep. Mike Gallagher on a tour of their pork farm in May.**



## 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. During the second quarter, Rural Health partnered with multiple dairy operations to provide preventative health screening for their employees. Staff could also be found volunteering at Breakfast on the Farm events across multiple counties. Contact one of our Outreach Health Specialists to invest in your health today!

### NEW! Walk-In Influenza (Flu) Vaccines

Rural Health will be offering walk-in Influenza (Flu) vaccines at our Immunization Clinics this fall! We will continue to offer Pneumococcal, Shingles (Shingrix) and Tetanus (Tdap) vaccines by appointment at seven convenient locations listed below. Call Nancy at 715.526.8183 to schedule an appointment or for additional details on specific dates,

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



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



**Outagamie  
Winnebago**  
Michelle Paustian  
920.422.7295  
Michelle.Paustian@thedacare.org



**April Landwehr, LPN  
Outreach Health Specialist**  
Green Lake & Marquette  
920.422.7294  
Email: April.Landwehr@thedacare.org

times and locations. Stop in at your convenience for a Flu vaccine - **no appointment is necessary.**

- Belle Plaine
- Berlin
- Freedom
- Fremont
- Manawa
- Princeton
- Wautoma

### Welcome April Landwehr, LPN!

April is our newest Outreach Health Specialist to join the Rural Health Initiative team. She will serve our rural population in Green Lake and Marquette counties. April lives in Wild Rose with her family and is looking forward to partnering with rural residents in their health journey.

## Promotion and Education Committee Report

By Brittney Muenster, District 7 WFBF Promotion and Education Committee Representative

It's been a busy summer already for the Promotion and Education Committee. We've decided to concentrate on three priorities: member education and training, providing consumers with resources, and advocacy that promotes Farm Bureau as a trusted source of information about agriculture. We're making many plans for the second half of the year and look forward to more opportunities to connect with members.

The fall Promotion and Education Boot Camp is in the works with an emphasis on telling your agricultural story. You can register for either one or both days and any county in District 7 will cover the registration fee for their members to attend. What a great opportunity!

In the meantime, watch for more information on a District 7 event as well as insight from our committee on our Table Talk page in Rural Route.



### POLICY DEVELOPMENT TIME!

Attend Your County Farm Bureau's Policy Development Meeting



**LANGLADE COUNTY - WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16, 6:30 P.M.**  
TONY KOSS FARM, DEERBROOK

**MARINETTE COUNTY- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 6:30 P.M.**  
COLEMAN HIGH SCHOOL AG DEPARTMENT ROOM, COLEMAN

**OCONTO COUNTY - MONDAY AUGUST 21, 7:00 P.M.**  
S&S HOMETOWN RESTAURANT, OCONTO FALLS

**OUTAGAMIE COUNTY - THURSDAY AUGUST 10, 7:30 P.M.**  
BLACK CREEK TOWN HALL, BLACK CREEK

**SHAWANO COUNTY - THURSDAY AUGUST 17, 7:00 P.M.**  
SHAWANO COUNTY FAIR OFFICE, SHAWANO

**WAUPACA COUNTY - WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 8:00 P.M.**  
MANAWA CITY HALL, MANAWA

### LEADERSHIP BOOT CAMP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

RADISSON HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER  
625 W ROLLING MEADOWS DRIVE, FOND DU LAC



Training Series  
Brought to you by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee



### STORYTELLING STRATEGIES

- 9:00a.m. | Welcome
- 9:15a.m. | Storytelling that Sells  
-Lady Farmer, Darci Daniels
- 10:30a.m. | Sustainable Storytelling Panel  
-35 under 35 finalists
- 12:00p.m. | Lunch
- 1:15pm | Gather Wisconsin Masterminds  
-Cassie Sonnentag
- 2:30p.m. | Closing Comments



Ag in the Classroom training will be held jointly on Friday, Oct. 27. Learn more at: <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/>

### LACLARE FAMILY CREAMERY TOUR & DINNER FRIDAY NIGHT - OCTOBER 27

\*Additional Fee Applies

Learn about the cheeses and cheesemaking operations at LaClare Family Creamery and enjoy dinner featuring their artisan cheeses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:  
[WFBF.COM/LEADERSHIP-BOOT-CAMP/](http://WFBF.COM/LEADERSHIP-BOOT-CAMP/)

## From FFA to Farm Bureau: A Natural Transition



**Heidi Strey**

WFBF Communications Intern

Farm Bureau and FFA: Two agricultural organizations that focus on advocating for agriculture, creating leaders and providing a network. The groups focus on different age ranges but work together to ensure everyone can have opportunities in agriculture. Playing an active role in both organizations, I can attest that I have gained

unique experiences and valuable skills from each one.

FFA is a youth organization that is present in schools with agricultural education programs. It is open to middle school, high school and even has a few opportunities for college-aged students. FFA was founded in 1928 and was originally called the Future Farmers of America. In 1988, the name was changed to the National FFA Organization to represent the growing agricultural industry. Now students who are involved in many forms of agriculture can join FFA.

Farm Bureau is Wisconsin's largest general farm organization. 61 counties make up Wisconsin Farm Bureau with voting and associate members. Anyone 18 and older is welcome to join, which makes it the perfect transition to a new agricultural organization after FFA membership has ended. Farm Bureau also offers three collegiate chapters within the state. When I graduated high school and started my journey

at the University of Wisconsin River Falls (UWRF), I immediately knew I wanted to join the UWRF Collegiate Farm Bureau. I've been able to meet new friends in the organization, develop professional skills and teach students on campus all about Wisconsin agriculture.

Once a year, Farm Bureau hosts a one-day conference for FFA members called FFA Farm Forum. The conference has been around for over 50 years and is open to high school juniors. Farm Bureau finds workshop presenters and guest speakers to help develop leadership skills, agricultural knowledge, and Farm Bureau awareness. FFA members leave feeling fulfilled and excited about opportunities that await them after high school graduation.

Both Farm Bureau and FFA offer competitions that improve public speaking skills and agricultural knowledge. One they have in common is the discussion meet. In FFA, high school members can participate and in Farm Bureau, it is open to collegiate and young farmer members. One of Farm Bureau's tasks is to write the discussion meet for the FFA competition. This aligns the two competitions and keeps the FFA discussion questions relevant to what is happening in the agricultural industry. It also creates a smooth transition if FFA members compete in the discussion meet as future Farm Bureau members.

The connections between Farm Bureau and FFA make me excited for the future of agriculture. There is no shortage of opportunities for middle schoolers and beyond, and I can't wait to see how these two organizations collaborate for years to come.

### 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](http://gatherwisconsin.com).

## Hromyak Hired as Foundation Director



John Hromyak has been hired by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau as its Foundation Director.

Hromyak will be responsible for strategizing, overseeing and managing the operations of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

"I'm excited to join the Wisconsin Farm Bureau team and look forward to working with donors and partners across the state," Hromyak said. "It's an honor to support programs that benefit farmers and Wisconsin's agricultural industry."

Hromyak joins Wisconsin Farm Bureau with more than a decade of experience in nonprofit fund development and marketing programs. He earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison and a master's degree in business administration from Edgewood College.

Hromyak previously served as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin FFA Foundation and most recently as Director of the Agrace Hospice Care Foundation.

"John's experience with fundraising will be a huge asset for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation," said WFBF Chief Administrative Officer Bradley Uken. "John brings a wealth of knowledge for building a brand, which will be a valuable skillset as he starts this position."

Hromyak began his role on July 24.

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau**  
FOUNDATION



## President's Report



**Jake Bula**

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy all! As I write this, we are finally getting a small bit of much-needed rain. As I have been traveling recently to the countless events summer offers, it has been a great

opportunity to check the crops in other parts of our beautiful state.

The one common denominator I've seen is moisture or the lack thereof. Riding around seeing the stunted crops in areas reminded me of a great program we have as an organization. That is the Farm Neighbors Care program. This year seems to be panning out to be a rough year with inputs and costs at record highs to low commodity prices and things in the field not looking so good. We all need to be watching out for each other. I know some farms are struggling right now. As I've grown up around many different farms and farmers, I've noticed it takes a lot for a farmer to ask for help. With that being said, sometimes all it takes is for someone to stop by and check in and maybe chew the fat for a bit. A little bit of care and compassion goes a long way. So, if you are able check in with your neighbors occasionally, you may be doing more good than you'll ever know.

Until next time stay safe and keep your furrow straight.

## Promotion and Education Report

By Bev Brecklin, Langlade County Promotion and Education Chair

Hello everyone! I did a two-hour beef promotion at Pick N Save in Antigo on July 3. It was suggested that I get more travelers for both the Fourth of July and the Hodag Festival in Rhinelander. The event went quite well, and I had many people sample the in-store meatballs I made. I did get the Ground Chuck on sale at \$3.49/lb. in three-pound packages with the sale ending July 4.



July Pick N Save Beef Promotion

This year the Wisconsin Beef Council did not offer a \$250 grant, which would have helped. I used some of the promotional materials and recipes from years past. Langlade County Farm Bureau served beef BBQs at the June 5 Music in the Park, and that was a beef promotion as well. We had a pretty good turnout at that, too, and hats off for a job well done to anyone who helped with the food and serving.



Music at the Park Beef Promotion

## Farm Centennial Award Brings Back Special Memories

By Tony Koss, Langlade County Farm Bureau board member

In the summer of 1923, Anton and Agnes Koss and their two young children left Casco to join Anton's two brothers in Michigan. They both worked in the mines. The original plan was that Anton was going to start a farm in the Ewen area. They were traveling by train, and the train stopped overnight in Deerbrook. The locals told them of a farm for sale "around the corner" from the depot and hotel. They took a look at it and decided to go no further.

Anton and Agnes settled in, established a milking herd and raised potatoes and had seven more children. My dad Vern was the first to be born here. A new dairy barn was built in 1949.

Potatoes were discontinued in the mid-1960s. And two windmills were used to provide water in the pastures for the dairy herd, one of them stands in the yard today.

Grandpa farmed with my dad, Vernon, until 1959, retired, and then my dad took over ownership. My dad farmed until retirement in 1989 and that is when I took over. Cows were milked until October 2019 when bad knees, now replaced, and economics made me decide to discontinue the cattle part.

Today all the cropland is rented out to a neighboring farmer and the farm remains as a landmark in the Deerbrook area. My grandparents are long gone, my dad and sister died separately 12 years ago, and my mother passed away this past Easter. They will definitely be in my thoughts while receiving this award. I'm sure they will be watching from a much loftier perch.



KOSS HOMESTEAD



## Music in the Park Fundraiser

By Dick Bolen, Music in the Park committee chair

Summer is flying by! We had our Music in the Park fundraiser in early June this year.

We had good weather, a great band and a large crowd. The venue was moved to the pavilion and still worked out well. We had all hands on deck which made the work so much easier. Thank you to everyone who came and supported Farm Bureau.



All hands on deck for serving at Music in the Park.



A great crowd at Music in the Park made for a great fundraiser.

## Langlade County Ag in the Classroom goes to Menominee Tribal School in Neopit

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

After last year's fall training it was the plan of Langlade County Farm Bureau to get Ag in the Classroom into our local schools through summer school programs. We were able to create a wonderful relationship with the Menominee Tribal School and test our plan with their third and fourth graders.

Our first in-classroom experience was a success. But then, ice cream on an 85-degree day usually is! This experience has led to other conversations with our local Boys & Girls Club and with the new Mattoon Christian

Academy school to bring an extended program into the fall school semester.

Our goal will be to complete 15 activities of Field Badging in an 8-to-10-week program. Students should be able to complete the activities and receive their "Scout" badge at the end of the program.



## Marinette County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marinette  
MarinetteCountyFarmBureau

### Farm Neighbors Care Distribution

By Cindi Wautier, Marinette County Farm Bureau President

Marinette County Farm Bureau filled 20 goodie bags with non-perishable snacks and food items and distributed them to hard working farmers in the fields this spring. The intent is to support farmer's wellbeing and encourage them to take a short break and stay healthy and safe as they hurry to get the job done.



### Buy Local Poster

By Cindi Wautier, Marinette County Farm Bureau President

Marinette County Farm Bureau created a buy local poster with a list of farms that direct market products to consumers in the county. The poster was on display at the Marinette County Breakfast on the Farm in June.

The poster will be displayed at other events throughout the year.



## AgVenture Day 2023

By Cindi Wautier, Marinette County Farm Bureau President

On April 25, the Marinette County Farm Bureau collaborated with the Coleman FFA to put on AgVenture Day for about 300 elementary school students at Coleman. The FFA student leaders educated the kids about different agricultural topics at several stations in the Coleman High School parking lot.



Coleman elementary students learned about Marinette County agriculture during AgVenture Day.

## Oconto County

wfbf.com/about/counties/oconto  
OcontoCountyFarmBureau

### Oconto Breakfast on the Farm

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

Our local Farm Bureau supports consumer knowledge of agriculture through the youth education tent at the annual Breakfast on the Farm. Whether it be banners showcasing animal and crop information, to providing the consumer with the opportunity to thank the host family, we enjoy reaching more than 4,000 consumers.



A large education tent gave the Oconto Farm Bureau and many other area agricultural organizations an opportunity to communicate with consumers at the Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm.

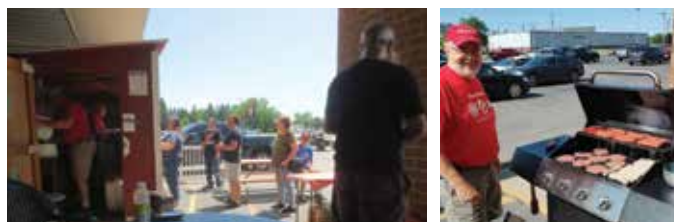
I also make a "Thank You" video, for the farm to remember the day. That video, which is posted to YouTube, shows first-hand the sponsored educational signage and scope of the event.

### Brat Fry Fundraisers 2023

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

The Oconto County Farm Bureau held two summer brat fries at Iverson's Piggly Wiggly. Funds support the education of consumers and agricultural education for students.

Our workers enjoyed meeting farmers and consumers, sharing stories of farm and agribusiness life.



Beautiful weather made for some busy days at the Oconto County Farm Bureau brat fry fundraisers. (Left) Ken Harter held down the grill at the July brat fry fundraiser in Oconto Falls.



## President's Report



**Dennis Jahnke**

Oconto County Farm Bureau President

July in Wisconsin. Be thankful for at least one thing: we don't live out West. I have a sister in Oregon and her condo does not have air conditioning (they usually don't need it). How do you cool down? Drive to the coast.

I sold my cattle in 1995 so I can sympathize. Most of the Wisconsin heat records were set that year. Between 700-800 people died in Chicago. At least in the country you can sleep under a tree if need be.

The economy is picking up due to the monies the government pumped into the economy. As opposed to 2007-2008 substantial amounts went to the little guy (or gal) so recovery is faster. Only problem is COVID-19 is lurking around like those big black thunder clouds on a Wisconsin summer day. Non-vaxers will be our downfall. My sister-in-law had polio as a child in Honduras. Have you ever heard of polio in 2021? Science!

Anyway, summer has been good. I have blackcaps, raspberries, peas and currants to harvest. My lawn is green again after our brief stint of drought. Prices for most commodities are up for our farmers so they are smiling for a change.

We're having our fair this year. Time to celebrate!! Get vaccinated!

## Policy Development Process to Begin

By Ken Harter, Oconto County Policy Development Chair

Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnaini is new to WFBF and leading the Governmental Relations team, but he knows his way around state government, having worked for Sen. Rob Cowles for several years. He is energetic and full of ideas to move agriculture's priorities forward in the political process.

In the short time he has been on the job, he has brought together and leads a coalition of most state commodity and agricultural interest groups to advocate for our industry. This spring the coalition lobbied the State Legislature with a priority issue affecting all commodities and other agricultural and rural interests—the need for additional funding for rural roads.

As a result, both houses of the Legislature unanimously passed a funding bill and a week later Gov. Evers signed into law Wisconsin Act 13, which provides \$150 million to fund rural road repair and reconstruction through grants to townships.

Jason plans a proactive government relations effort by forming Farm Bureau policy priorities into legislative proposals in cooperation with other members of the ag coalition to enhance consideration and adoption.

I am optimistic, with Jason's leadership that we can look forward to having the interests of agriculture and rural communities more regularly and effectively addressed by the Legislature and government agencies.

Oconto County Farm Bureau members are encouraged to get involved in the process of identifying local, state, or national issues of concern and development of ideas for policy to address them. Ideas generated will be on the agenda at the county annual meeting in September. Those approved at that time are forwarded to WFBF for consideration by delegates at the state convention for inclusion in WFBF policy.

County Farm Bureau members are invited to join the policy discussion Monday, Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. at the S&S Hometown Restaurant in Oconto Falls. We'll have pizza, review current policy priorities, and be ready to hear what is on your mind. Hope to see you there.

## Farm Bureau at the Oconto County Fair

By Bryan Maring, Oconto County Fair Booth Co-Chair



Come one, come all to the Oconto County Fair to visit the Farm Bureau booth! There will be a raffle with prizes, build your own bird feeders using a pinecone, and of course ice cream and delicious milk! The raffle prizes include various baskets containing goodies from local businesses and even a John Deere Pedal Tractor. In addition, the booth will have information regarding how to renew a past due membership, how you can use your Farm Bureau member benefits, and how to get more involved. We hope to see you at the booth from Aug. 24 to 27!



## Stay Up-to-Date on WFBF's Sustainability Initiatives!

WFBF's Stewards e-newsletter is your go-to source for information related to sustainability and conservation. Catch up on recent events, captivating blog posts and upcoming opportunities within the sustainability space.

Subscribe now as we celebrate and elevate Farm Bureau member stories!



## A Message From The President



**Bob Fox**

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

It's been another challenging summer with the lack of rain. The rain we have received has been very spotty leading to challenging drought conditions across the state. One farm receives one inch of rain, and then a farm a mile away won't get enough to settle the dust.

On June 27, U.S. Sen. Johnson's staff was available for mobile hours at the Carter Memorial Library in Omro to offer assistance with federal agencies or other federal matters. It was a little disappointing as I was the only person there beside his staff. The upside of this get together was that I had them all to myself to raise questions and concerns. We discussed allowing schools to serve whole milk to children, as well as delisting the Gray wolf. A hunting season for Sand-hill cranes was brought up also.

Two Guernsey Girls Creamery hosted a Friday on the Farm on June 23. We set up a "My American Farm" kiosk for the kids and had a good turnout. Special guest Emilie Berner, Miss United States Agriculture visited with us at the event.



**OCFB President Bob Fox visited with Miss U.S. Agriculture at the Two Guernsey Girl's Friday on the Farm.**



**Visitors at Friday on the Farm got a taste of the My American Farm video games available at the myamericanfarm.org website.**

## Octoberfest Creampuffs Fundraiser

By Bernie Vander Heiden, Creampuff Committee Chair

Outagamie County Farm Bureau will again have a booth on College Avenue on Sept. 30 where we will sell coffee and cream puffs. We will need help starting at 6 a.m. with setting up the booth and starting at 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. selling the cream puffs and coffee. Please volunteer some time to help make it a successful fundraiser as this is the only fundraiser we have for the year.

The money raised is used to support programs like Ag in the Classroom, Adventures in Dairyland, 4-H and FFA programs, just to name a few.

You can call Bernie Vander Heiden at 920.766.9377 to volunteer your time. If I don't answer leave your name and number and I will return your call. Thank you.



## Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm

By elly Oudenhoven, Breakfast on the Farm Chair

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm was held on Sunday, June 11 at Vande Hei Dairy Farm, owned by Allen and Nicole Vande Hei. While the day was cooler and windier than expected, there were more than 3,500 people that were fed a delicious breakfast which consisted of an egg omelet, pancakes, breakfast ham, assorted cheese varieties, yogurt, Manderfield's cinnamon rolls, milk, coffee and topped it off with Culver's fresh frozen custard.

Attendees were able to take guided farm tours, visit with the farm's nutritionist, agronomist and veterinarian and listen to live music from Starfire Family Band. The children's area was a well visited area where attendees could visit the My American Farm (hosted by Outagamie County Farm Bureau), plant their own marigold to take home, learn about agriculture, play in the corn box and hold adorable puppies from the Our Pack Animal Rescue. There were plenty of antique tractors for everyone to admire and overall it was a great day!

Mark your calendars for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm which will be held on Sunday, June 9, 2024. Location is TBD. Please follow us on Facebook or our website outagamiecountydairypromotion.com for more information.



**Outagamie County Farm Bureau President Bob Fox helped breakfast on the farm visitors navigate the fun and educational ag video games available at myamericanfarm.org.**

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## President's Report



**Neil Christianson**

Shawano County Farm Bureau President

The Brunch on the Farm was a huge success again. I would like to thank the Jauquet Family for hosting this year, and all the volunteers for helping make the brunch successful.

Our Shawano County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Shawano County Park Pavillion.

Invitations will be sent out soon.

Next, we will be gearing up for the Shawano County Fair and the Farm

Bureau Ice Cream stand. We are currently looking for volunteers to work the stand.

I recently attended the Farm Bureau's Family Feedback Session in Shiocton. It was a great chance for members to voice their concerns and we heard a lot of positive comments from government relations staff about the new budget the governor signed to help restore rural roads and bridges.

Hope you are having a great summer and looking forward to seeing you all at the county fair.

Now it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage....

*Lars: "Ole, stand in fronna my car and tell me if da turn signals are vorking".*

*Ole: "Ya, No, Ya, No, Ya, No, Ya, No..."*

## Fair Ice Cream Stand

By Kerry Breitrick, Shawano County Farm Bureau Fair Stand Chair

Here's the scoop, Shawano County Farm Bureau is seeking volunteers to scoop ice cream at the Shawano County Fair Aug. 30 – Sept. 4.

In order to promote dairy at the fair, we need your help! Please consider signing up for a shift and if you're unable to, please mention the need to your family and friends. Review the schedule and available slots at [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com). Use the search function on the Signup Genius home page and use my email to find the signup page: [breitricks\\_scott\\_kerry@yahoo.com](mailto:breitricks_scott_kerry@yahoo.com). If you have any questions or need assistance with signing up for a shift, feel free to contact Kerry Breitrick at 715.851.4713. Thank you!



## Summer Parades Promote Dairy Products

By Ken Matsche, Shawano County Ag Ambassadors Advisor

Shawano County Farm Bureau members got together with Shawano County Ag Ambassadors to promote dairy products in area parades this summer. A special thank you to Bob Krause for the use of his wagon in Bonduel.



Left: Shawano County Farm Bureau members and Shawano Ag Ambassadors handed out string cheese at the Gresham Parade on July 1.

Right: SCFB partnered with the Shawano Ag Ambassadors to hand out more than 2,100 Go-Gurts at the Bonduel Independence Day Parade.



## Looking for a way to promote your farm or business?



Shawano County Farm Bureau is putting together ads for the 2024 edition of the Shawano County Platbook (our main fundraiser) to be released in November 2023.

There are many different ad sizes to fit into your budget. Ad prices range from \$225 to \$700.

If interested, please contact:  
**Ken Matyas, 920.810.2245**  
[matyaskenneth13@gmail.com](mailto:matyaskenneth13@gmail.com)

Or contact any member of the SCFB Board of Directors whose contact information is available at [wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano).

## YFA Events Coming Up

By Anna Jones, Shawano County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

With summer in full swing and Brunch on the Farm wrapped up it's time for more YFA fun!

**Thursdays @ Franklin** is the perfect opportunity for socialization and enjoying some good music. Shawano County YFA will gather at Franklin Park in Shawano on **Aug. 24 at 6 p.m.** to enjoy the sounds of Star Six Nine.

At the end of August/early September **Bergsbaken Farms** will provide a tour and educational event about sunflowers.

Stay tuned on the Shawano County Farm Bureau Facebook page for details on both events.

## District Essay Contest Fourth Grade Winner Receives Award

By Amanda Williams, Shawano County Farm Bureau Board Member



Preston Braun, a fourth grader from St. James Lutheran School in Shawano, won the District 7 Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest. He was presented his award at the school's awards ceremony on May 26. Preston then moved on to compete in the state competition with his essay.

Great job Preston! Way to Represent Shawano County and all of District 7!

*Editor's Note: In the May newsletter it was mistakenly noted that Preston was from "St. John Lutheran School" instead of St. James Lutheran School. The newsletter editor apologizes for the error and any confusion it may have caused. A hearty congratulations to Preston for his district winning essay.*

## Shawano County Brunch on the Farm

By Christa Hoffman, Brunch on the Farm Chair

Another fun and exciting Shawano County Brunch on the Farm was held on June 25 at Synergy Family Dairy in Pulaski. Despite a much-needed rain coming in the middle of the event, approximately 3,800 people came out to learn more about dairy farming in our community.

Attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch meal, narrated farm tours, Dairy Dash 5K, opportunities to interact with agriculture professionals, a Discovery Tent full of activities and close-up interaction with the cows and calves.

Narrated wagon tours of the farm and facilities communicated the Jauquet family's agriculture story to consumers.

Thank you to Synergy Family Dairy and the Jay and

Heather Jauquet family for opening your doors to the community!

Thank you to our sponsors who made monetary and product donations to make the event possible!

Also thank you to all the volunteers who help to make Brunch on the Farm a success each year! We have more than 250 day-of volunteers, and a planning committee of more than 20 people who spend six months planning the event.

Save the date for June 23, 2024, for next year's Brunch on the Farm! If you know a farm interested in hosting Brunch, please send a nomination to shawanobrunch@gmail.com.



A large number of dedicated volunteers kept the food supplied to the serving lines.





## DONOR RECOGNITION

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## Hitting the Airwaves!



**Meredith Polar**

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

They say the best form of flattery is imitation so after hearing about a Promotion and Education program that was successful in Door County, we replicated it. During the Council of Presidents

meeting in January, county presidents heard Door County Farm Bureau members explain how they used a radio promotion to talk about agriculture and Farm Bureau. To hear the Waupaca County ads, tune in to 99.7 FM – The Lakes. We have monthly spotlight ads.

In July, we highlight National Ice Cream Month and will be on air with the radio personality to talk about Farm Bureau and give away some ice cream gift certificates. In August, the ad will focus on our local cheese manufacturers and celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Waupaca County Fair.

We received a generous matching advertising amount from our local Rural Mutual Insurance agent - C&D Professional Services - to help stretch our budget and increase the number of ads we were able to purchase.

Recording the ads was a bit nerve wracking but the station has great editing ability, and they were able to take out any portion of the recording that wasn't radio ready!

## FFA and Farm Bureau Support One Another

By Kari Riley, Waupaca County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator

I would like to thank The New London FFA public speaking team for presenting their agricultural issue titled, "Immigrant Workers in the Wisconsin Dairy Industry" at our June meeting at the Manawa City Hall.

This topic was very educational for us. Many of us can relate to this issue since we are farmers and agriculturists. We understand the struggles of working with high school students and the challenges relating to immigrant workers. We are also excited about the possible new legislation relating to immigrant workers. We really enjoyed the enthusiasm the team showed during their presentation.



We are thankful to have been able to partner with the New London FFA in this endeavor and would like to note that the New London FFA team won the state competition and will be competing at the national convention!

## Seeking Food Stand Volunteers

By Kaisha Nash, Fair Stand Chair

It's almost time for the Waupaca County Fair which runs from Aug. 23 through Aug. 27 this year.

Are you looking for a way to support farmers and agriculture? We have the perfect position for you! The Farm Bureau is reaching out for your support, and hopes you are able to volunteer a few hours of your valuable time in the food stand this year. We are expecting high traffic at the fair and would appreciate all the help we can get to keep the food stand running smoothly - thank you in advance!

Sign up using this link [bit.ly/WCFB-foodstand23](http://bit.ly/WCFB-foodstand23) or by calling or texting Kaisha Nash at 920.716.5623.



**Help out at the fair stand this year! Promote agriculture and help Waupaca County Farm Bureau earn extra funds to support all the great promotional and educational programs we do.**

Your skills are needed! There are volunteer positions for cooks/fryers, order takers and general kitchen help (washing dishes, opening new packages of food, wrapping sandwiches, etc...). Whatever your strengths are, we have a spot made for YOU. There are slots for each hour we are open during the day, so please feel free to sign up for as few or as many as you're able.

We ask that if there are minors under 12 wanting to volunteer, that an adult accompanies them for the entire shift.

We are looking forward to working with you this year, all volunteers (Farm Bureau members or not) are welcome! Once again, the link to sign up is [bit.ly/WCFB-foodstand23](http://bit.ly/WCFB-foodstand23).

## District Essay Contest Fifth Grade Winner

By Kari Riley, Waupaca County Ag in the Classroom Coordinator



Congratulations Clayton!

Clayton Roberts, a fifth grader at New London Intermediate School, was recently presented with an award for being selected as the District 7 winner

## 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 visit [wisagclassroom.org/exploring-wisconsin-agriculture](http://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.



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