

# Grassroots

## District 1 News

### Unfinished Business



**Dave Daniels**  
WFBF District 1 Director

As we turn the page to 2024, WFBF has some unfinished business that started in 2023.

- The Farm Bill was supposed to be passed by October 1, 2023 and it was extended into 2024.

Your organization is continuing to press Congress to update and renew the Title 1 part of this

document to upgrade yields and reference prices for the major grains.

- On the milk side, we are working to raise the cap on the DMC program to better reflect the average dairy herd in the U.S. and to restore the pricing system back to the higher price of Class III or Class IV which was changed in the 2018 Farm Bill to the average of the 2 prices.

- We are also pressing the use of monies earmarked for conservation practices to be used to fund the conservation title in the Farm Bill.

- The Federal Milk Marketing Order (FMMO) hearing process was started late in 2023 and will continue to be focused on by both WFBF and AFBF to update that system for the betterment of dairy farmers. It is a tedious process that we need to monitor into 2024.

- Within our state legislature, we continue to ask that WFBF can offer a

healthcare plan option to our members by partnering with another state Farm Bureau. This will take a legislative change at the Capitol to offer this plan.

As you can see your Governmental Relations department, as well as your WFBF Board of Directors, will be busy advocating on your behalf, and I hope you were a part of advocating at Ag Day at the Capitol at the end of January.

Another New Year commitment is to appoint members from District 1 to Statewide Committees.

- Members serving on the dairy committee are Carl Wolf from Washington County and Jeremy Bratz from Racine County. I would like to thank Rick Roden for serving 3 years on that committee and chairing it last year.

- The two members on the Volunteers for Agriculture® Committee include Ben Harbach from Kenosha County and Gene Mess from Jefferson County.

- John Scott from Racine County is beginning his second year on the policy development committee.

- A new appointment this year was for someone to serve on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Council. Jim Renn from Waukesha County will represent District 1 and Bob Nash from Ozaukee County will be one of the 3 at-large representatives.

Thank You for being a Farm Bureau Member and have a great New Year!

### Join Us at the Rodeo!

**Darren and Kendall Riskedal**

District 1 YFA Committee Members

Make sure to get your tickets today for the District 1 Professional Bull Riding event on Saturday, March 9 at the Fiserv Forum.

Go to [www.bit.ly/D1YFARODEO](http://www.bit.ly/D1YFARODEO) for your tickets.

**DISTRICT 1 YFA**

# RODEO

*Outing*

**SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024**

**FISERV FORUM | 6:45PM**

TICKETS ARE \$58/PERSON & AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.BIT.LY/D1YFARODEO](http://WWW.BIT.LY/D1YFARODEO)

**EVENT CONTACT: DARREN & KENDALL RISKEDAL**  
630.391.0190 | [KENDALLRISKEDAL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KENDALLRISKEDAL@GMAIL.COM)

**Wisconsin Farm Bureau**  
**Young Farmer**  
and **Agriculturist**  
Program

# District 1 News

## Membership



**Patti Wilhelme**  
WFBF District 1 Coordinator

Each year we as a Farm Bureau staff come up with different incentives to encourage membership volunteers to sign up new members. This year, our membership theme is “Building a New Frontier”. Volunteers who reach different benchmarks will be rewarded with western-themed Farm Bureau apparel items.



## New District Promotion and Education Committee Member Appointed



Ashley Schlender of Jefferson County was appointed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee. Her three-year term began at the WFBF Annual Meeting, which took place December 2-4, 2023.

Ashley and her husband, Troy, and sons, Trent and Duke, own and operate a robotic dairy farm and custom chopping business in Watertown. From a young age, agriculture has been an important aspect of Ashley's life as she grew up on a dairy farm and showed cows and horses at local and state fairs. This prior experience has led her to share her love of agriculture by teaching others through

various roles, such as 4-H general leader and summer intern, teacher, Jefferson County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education chair, school volunteer, dairy project leader and more. Ashley enjoys watching her boys play sports, helping them show their registered Jerseys and Holsteins and traveling.

The Promotion and Education Committee is a group of nine leaders who represent the nine Wisconsin Farm Bureau districts. Committee members develop, implement and promote projects and programs that build awareness and understanding of agriculture and provide leadership development for the agricultural community.

Please congratulate Ashley Schlender on being appointed to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee.

## Two Days of Learning in Fond du Lac

Ag in the Classroom and the Promotion and Education Committee joined forces to host two exciting days of training. The event was held at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Fond du Lac.

About fifty members from around the state attended the Ag in the Classroom training on Friday, October 27, 2023. Those from District 1 who attended the training include Ashley Schlender from Jefferson County as well as Randy Thull and Leah Weninger from Washington County.

On Friday evening, attendees had the option to visit LaClare Family Creamery for a tour and dinner. Ashley Schlender participated and learned about the cheeses and cheesemaking operations at LaClare Family Creamery.

Over 50 members attended the Promotion and Education Committee Bootcamp held on Saturday, October 28, 2023. District 1 members who attended include Randy Thull and Leah Weninger from Washington County as well as Leslie Reinke from Walworth County.

This year's Bootcamp featured “storytelling strategies”.



Leah Weninger, pictured left, attended a breakout session at Bootcamp.

## National Ag Day: March 19, 2024

Did you know there is a National Ag Day? What will you do to promote the agriculture industry?

National Ag Day is coming up on March 19, 2024. It is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture.

National Ag Day falls during National Ag Week, which is a great opportunity for you to promote agriculture and maybe even visit some classrooms to talk about your farm. National Ag Week is March 17-23.

How will you celebrate agriculture and share your story?



## Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full

Each year fourth and fifth grade students have an opportunity to explore Wisconsin history, geography and economics through the lens of Wisconsin agriculture. An annual essay contest prompt challenges students to research and write an informative essay. The contest supports Wisconsin academic standards including English language arts and social studies. Top essays are recognized at the county, district and state levels. The generous support of sponsors and volunteers make this learning opportunity possible each year.

The essay contest gleans the annual theme from the 2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Book of the Year, *I Love Strawberries!*, by Shannon Anderson.

This year's essay contest focuses on our state's sweetest agriculture industry – fruit! Wisconsin is the number one

producer of cranberries and is a leader in the production of cherries, apples and strawberries. Our state's history, communities and economy have been brought to fruit-ion through agriculture endeavors.

Learn more about the contest, resources, and additional lesson ideas on the website [www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest](http://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest).

On the website, you can also find full contest details, support materials including lessons, videos and resources for the 2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest as well as the link to submit entries online!

Each county looks forward to receiving many essays this year showing why "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full".



### Earth Week Carbon Webinar Series



**Dr. Frank Mitloehner**  
U.C. Davis  
4/22/2024



**Ben Huber**  
Insight FS  
4/24/2024



**Dan Christenson**  
PepsiCo, Inc.  
4/26/2024

Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau during Earth Week for perspectives on carbon from researchers, farmers and industry professionals. Webinars will take place at 11 AM.

Visit [www.wfbf.com/programs/sustainabilityinitiatives](http://www.wfbf.com/programs/sustainabilityinitiatives) for more information.

### Want to take the next step in building your leadership skills?



### Apply for the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute!

Applications now available at [wfbf.com](http://wfbf.com)

## Dave Daniels Elected VP of Rural Mutual



**Dave Daniels, District 1 Director and Vice President of Rural Mutual Insurance Company Board.**

After the WFBF Annual Meeting, the 11 WFBF Board of Directors met to elect the Farm Bureau President and Vice President. Additionally, the 9 Board of Directors elected the Rural Mutual President and Vice President.

Dave Daniels, District 1 Director, was elected the first Vice President of Rural Mutual Insurance Company Board.

The President of the Rural Mutual Insurance Company Board is Kevin Krentz, who was re-elected.

The WFBF Board of Directors elected Brad Olson as President and re-elected Joe Bragger as WFBF Vice President.

## Save the Date: Discussion Meet and Policy Meeting

The date has been set and location booked, now all we need is **YOU!**

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the District 1 YFA Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting.

**Date:** Tuesday, July 16

**Time:** 5:30pm registration | 6pm discussion meet  
6:45pm buffet | 7:15pm policy meeting

**Location:** Delafield Brewhaus Banquet Hall

Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

## YFA Members Gather at Kalahari for YFA Conference

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference was held at Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells from December 1-3. District 1 was well represented among the 500 attendees.

During the December 1 banquet, Rural Mutual Insurance Company picked three winners to be awarded \$500 each for nominating a first-time attendee to the conference. Libby Hafften from Jefferson County was one of the winners!

Following the banquet, District 1 held their district meeting. Following introductions, three different activities were prepared. The first was a boot game, followed by "Who Am I" and then a paperclip challenge. After the meeting, members enjoyed 80's music by Union Road and social time with other YFA members from throughout the state.

December 2 began with discussion meet competitions. Both Andrea Edquist from Kenosha County and Whitney Rathke from Ozaukee County represented District 1 and did a great job! Whitney made it to the semi-final round.

During the December 2 brunch, the 35 Under 35 winners were announced. Leah Weninger from Washington County was the winner of the Sustainable Self category. Other finalists from District 1 include Lindsay Baneck from Jefferson County and Jacki Moegenburg from Ozaukee County in the Sustainable Future category, and Libby Hafften from Jefferson County in the Sustainable Storytelling category. Congratulations to all the finalists from District 1.

The keynote speaker for the YFA brunch was Kiah Twisselman Burchett (aka Coach Kiah) who spoke about finding joy in the journey. She began by asking

what the five most important things are in your life. At the end, she talked about your list and that YOU must be on your own list. You must strengthen the relationship with yourself from the inside out, self-care isn't selfish. How you think and feel about yourself influences the way you show up in every aspect of your life. If you're interested in hearing more from Coach Kiah, listen to her podcast "Climbing with Coach Kiah".

On Saturday afternoon, the WFBF Annual Meeting began. Having the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting overlap allows farmers and agriculture enthusiasts of all ages to get to know each other and share ideas.

We had workshops to attend on Saturday afternoon, some led by District 1 members. We thank Jefferson County members for being a part of the workshops. The Rise to Management panel was moderated by Ann Horack while Christine Bender and Lindsay Baneck were a part of the panel discussion. Libby Hafften was a part of the consumer marketing panel. Kenosha County member Dean Holloway also did a workshop on farm safety.

Sunday morning began with the Collegiate Discussion Meet final. The winner was Ethan Jackowski from UW-Madison and Walworth County. Winners for the discussion meet and other YFA contests were announced on stage following the brunch keynote speaker on Sunday.

Another successful YFA Conference was had, we can't wait to see you all again next year!



Members had the opportunity to participate in two different 50/50 raffles at the YFA Conference. Kendall Riskedal, District 1 YFA committee member measures out a wingspan.



Darren and Kendall Riskedal ran a very successful district YFA meeting.



Each member threw their shoe in the middle. Everyone then grabbed a shoe and found its owner, learning some fun facts about their new partner.



The "Who Am I" game during the district meeting was fun for members to guess what was written on their forehead by asking yes or no questions.



Leslie Reinke from Walworth County and Emily Schaefer from Washington County traded in their paperclip for higher valued items.



Keynote Speaker Kiah Twisselman Burchett talked about finding joy.



Lindsay Baneck (pictured center) participated in a panel discussion during one of the Saturday afternoon workshops.



Kenosha County member Andrea Edquist (pictured left, standing) did a great job competing in the first two rounds of the discussion meet.



YFA members from District 1 attended the YFA meeting on December 1.



Whitney Rathke from Ozaukee County competed in the discussion meet and made it to the semi-final round.

# District 1 News

## WFBF Annual Meeting Draws Big Crowd

The WFBF Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the YFA Conference December 2-4. Members had a lot of opportunities to network with others from throughout the state, participate in workshops and hear from keynote speakers.

On Saturday afternoon each district held their district caucus to discuss the resolutions and amendments that would be coming forth at the delegate session on Monday.

In the trade show, there was a membership booth. If attendees brought a new member to the meeting, they were awarded prizes. From District 1, three members brought memberships: Dawn Jones from Jefferson County, Leslie Reinke from Walworth County and Greg Goeller from Washington County.

The Saturday evening banquet is properly called the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet. Any member who signs up five or more new members throughout the membership year is invited to attend and sit in reserved seating to enjoy a steak dinner. This year, numerous District 1 members were recognized.

- Jay Moore, Waukesha County, signed 21 new members
- Terry Papcke, Walworth County, signed 6 new members
- Dave Daniels, Kenosha County, signed 5 new members
- Derrick Papcke, Walworth County, signed 5 new members
- Mike Strupp, Washington County, signed 5 new members
- John Falk, Washington County, signed 5 new members

During the Saturday banquet, WFBF President Kevin Krentz gave his annual address. He talked about the WFB Foundation programs and online giving day.

He highlighted Farm Bureau's reach, including District 1 counties. He talked about Milwaukee County sponsoring ag bags for their first discovery day in May, Jefferson County is involved with local ordinances and Kenosha County held a farm safety event. The banquet concluded with Comedian Ross Bennett, who had everyone laughing.

Saturday evening concluded with a fun game of BINGO and true/false questions.

On Sunday morning attendees could watch the Collegiate Discussion Meet and YFA Discussion Meet Final before the brunch and general session. The keynote speaker, Brooke Didier Starks, is an estate planning attorney in Illinois. She talked about "Farming Across Generations" and how important estate planning is for your farm's legacy.

The afternoon was filled with workshops, exploring the trade show and the silent auction.

Sunday evening was the awards banquet, where numerous awards were given out including recognition for top membership volunteers and counties who donated to the online giving day. Following the banquet, members packed the reception to watch the Green Bay Packers win!

The resolution session was held on Monday. More than 230 delegates spoke up and helped determine the policy directives of WFBF. The policies that were adopted will be included in the 2024 policy book.



Members of Kenosha and Racine County attended the District 1 caucus meeting. Those pictured include Kenosha County member Ryan Edquist and Racine County members Kayla Wilson and Traci Himebauch.



The BINGO prizes were donated by Rural Mutual district agency managers, one of which is Jason Bender who covers a portion of District 1. Jason, thank you for your donation and support of Farm Bureau.



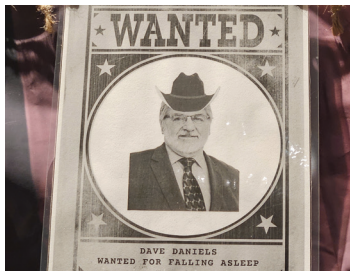
Ashley Schlender was appointed to the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee; her term began at the WFBF Annual Meeting. She is seen pulling the Twenty Wars wagon, a WFB Foundation Fundraiser held on Sunday.



Insight FS had a booth at the trade show. District 1 YFA committee member and Insight FS employee Darren Riskedal stopped by to visit the Insight FS marketing team Angie Greving and Katie Oehm.



District 1 Director Dave Daniels led the caucus meeting.



The membership booth featured photos of each WFBF Board member and their wanted ad.



Jefferson County members Dawn and Steve Jones stop and talk to Doug Rebout and Brenda Damrow Gudex in the trade show.



Anyone who brought a new members to the Annual Meeting signed the board and received a prize.



One of the best parts of Annual Meeting is meeting up with friends from other counties. Walworth County member Terry Papcke catches up with Washington County member Ken Falk.



More than 230 delegates attended the Monday resolutions session to set policy for 2024.



The Kenosha and Racine County delegates sat together at the delegate session on Monday morning. Pictured (from left): Jim Waldron and Traci Himebauch, Racine County; Ryan Edquist and Wes Hawkins, Kenosha County; and Kayla Wilson, Racine County.

# District 1 News

## Bid High. Bid Often.

The WFB Foundation held their annual silent auction at the WFBF Annual Meeting. We thank the members and counties who donated items. There were nearly 200 items on the silent auction that raised over \$14,000 for WFB Foundation programs.



A Taste of District 1 Basket was donated by District 1 Promotion and Education. The basket raised \$45



Washington County donated two Gehring's Meat Market baskets which raised \$120 collectively.



Kenosha County member Kim Daniels donated a basket of a dozen canned goods and homemade cards. Her basket raised \$207.50.



Dave and Kim Daniels donated a Carhartt Farm Bureau Proud jacket that raised \$100.



A Jelli's Market basket was donated by Jefferson County. The basket raised \$35.



Waukesha County donated a home décor basket that raised \$100.



It's candy, popcorn and movie night, compliments of Kenosha County's basket that raised \$52 at the silent auction.



Jefferson County donated a John Deere tractor that raised \$60.



Racine County donated a Green Bay Packers golf bag and signed ball that raised \$150.



Walworth County's silent auction donation included a cooler, wine, coffee, bacon, gift certificates and more. The item raised \$410 for the WFB Foundation.



Walworth County member Kathy Papcke donated a stool to the silent auction. It raised \$180.

## Jefferson County

[wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson)  
JeffersonCountyFarmBureau

## Something Special from Jefferson County Products Showcase and Fundraiser

Ashley Schlender

Join the members of Jefferson County Farm Bureau on Saturday, April 13 from 11 am to 4 pm at Aztalan Inn Bar & Grill for an event to showcase Jefferson County farm products and producers! The day's events include

displays and samples from local farms and businesses, a buffet lunch, drink specials and a meat raffle featuring local meats to raise funds for scholarships and agriculture education programs.

## Ag in the Classroom Thriving

Lindsay Baneck

Ag in the Classroom is a part of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Jefferson County Farm Bureau has its own Ag in the Classroom committee. After a few off years during COVID, we are looking to get our membership involved and to have more involvement in local schools. There are a few main things that Ag in the Classroom focuses on throughout the school year. We are looking for volunteers to help with any or all of the following events.

The Jefferson County Ag in the Classroom committee met at Jelli's Market on November 28 and met again at the end of January.

**Our main goal** is to have volunteers go into elementary classrooms in local schools for 2nd grade students. A lot of teachers are interested in teaching about agriculture but are not knowledgeable about the methods. We need volunteers to go to local 2nd grade classrooms and teach a lesson to students about the importance of agriculture. This is usually done in the spring, but most teachers are flexible about timing. We really want to strengthen this program. It helps to have enough people in different parts of the county visit their local school so that we make a bigger impact. Time is important these days, so if we can get enough volunteers to visit one or two classrooms, it will make a big difference. As far as a timeline, normally we make connections in January with teachers and plan to get into classrooms in March or April. Emails work best if you can get ahold of teachers. The great thing about Ag in the Classroom is that there are lesson plans all made up for you, so all you have to do is get the materials, study it for yourself and then present it. You can put your own spin on the lesson and if you purchase anything to give to students, such as string cheese, you will be reimbursed by Jefferson County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom. Lessons shouldn't take more than an hour; we normally work with teachers to determine the best length of time they have during the day.

**Essay Contest for 4th and 5th grade students:** Another main goal is to have local classrooms of 4th or 5th grade students participate in the Ag in the Classroom essay contest. There is a book of the year determined by the state Ag in the Classroom committee and after reading the book, students can

write a short essay about agriculture and submit it for competition. The local county Ag in the Classroom committee will pick a winner from the county, and then we submit it to the district level for competition. In the past, winners and participating classrooms received a prize such as Walmart gift cards for use in the classroom. We need help spreading the word about the essay contest, which is due to us by April 15. Then we, as a committee, read the essays and pick a winner. It is fun and entertaining to read the essays that students submit. We will meet in late April to determine the winner.

**4th grade Farm Tours at Kutz Dairy Farm in Jefferson:** The first Wednesday in May, every 4th grade classroom is invited to go to Kutz Dairy Farm and learn about agriculture in a hands-on environment. The Kutz Family spearheads this operation, so their main needs are adult volunteers to help serve lunches, as well as being at different educational stations on the farm.

**Career Day for High School Students:** Our county Ag in the Classroom committee would like to try something new this year and create a local Career Fair directed at high school students who are interested in agriculture or ag-related business. We hope to partner with local businesses to create a one-day job fair to benefit both local businesses and high school students.

There are TONS of materials available to help us spread the word about the importance of agriculture. We need YOU to help us make a difference. If you are interested in any or all of these things, please contact Lindsay Baneck, Melissa Gross or Ashley Schlender for more information. There also is a great website that details these programs: [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org).

We also hope to sponsor a teacher from our county to go to the Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom training. If you know a local teacher who would love to learn more about this program, please let us know. We hope to nominate a teacher from a different district every year.

Again, thank you for expressing interest in the Ag in the Classroom program. If you would like more information, please contact us directly and we can assist you!



## Scholarships Due April 1

Ashley Schlender

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is offering scholarships to both graduating high school seniors and current post-secondary students.

**Qualifications:** Applicants or their parents must be a current, paid member of Jefferson County Farm Bureau. Upon being selected for a scholarship, the recipient must volunteer with the Farm Bureau at the Jefferson County Fair and provide proof of 2.5 GPA or higher upon completion of the first semester. Over the course of the recipient's post-secondary education, the recipient may be awarded two scholarships from the Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

The completed application form along with a 250-word essay, two letters of recommendation and a copy of your current grade transcript is due by April 1.

The scholarship application can be found on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website [wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson/](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson/).

## Libby Hafften Selected for WisGO Team

Jefferson County member, Libby Hafften, is one of fifteen members who were selected to serve on WFBF's inaugural WisGO Team. The WisGO Team is WFBF's first line of contact when speaking on agricultural issues. Members of the team will develop a skillset to effectively interact with media representatives as well as educate and influence others on prominent issues impacting agriculture. Members will learn effective strategies to share their stories to a broad audience through multiple media platforms. WisGO Team members serve as the official spokespersons for Farm Bureau and agriculture issues. They will be called upon for media interviews, legislative testimony and social media advocacy. Throughout the program, participants will gain a deeper understanding of agricultural issues, expand their network with fellow farmers and agriculturists across the state and be a voice for Wisconsin agriculture.

Congratulations to Libby Hafften for being selected to be a part of the WisGo Team.

## Fifteen Jefferson YFA Members Attend YFA Conference

Jefferson County was well represented at the YFA Conference. Those who attended include Eric, Lindsay and Tatum Baneck, Kaity Bringe, Carl Ehrke, Ryan and Libby Hafften, Ryan Isaacsen, Katherine Larson, Darren

and Kendall Riskedal, Alexis Schultz and Meghan Splinter. Attending from the Collegiate chapters were Maryann Gudenkauf from UW-Madison, Sara Skalitzyk from UW-Platteville and Emma Statz from UW-River Falls.



The county was well represented at the YFA Conference. Those who attended the district meeting on December 1 at the YFA conference include (Front row, from left): Alexis Schultz, Libby Hafften, Meghan Splinter, Emma Statz, Sara Skalitzyk and Kaity Bringe. (Back row, from left): Ryan Isaacsen, Ryan Hafften, Darren Riskedal, Katherine Larson, Carl Ehrke and Kendall Riskedal.



Libby Hafften (pictured second from left) won \$500 from Rural Mutual Insurance Company for nominating a first-time attendee.



Libby and Ryan Hafften participate in the "Who Am I" game by asking yes or no questions about the word on their forehead.



Lindsay Baneck enjoyed the "Who Am I" game during the district meeting.

## Donation Made to Christmas Neighbors Program

Melissa Gross

In December the Board of Directors adopted a family of three from the Fort Atkinson area through the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors program. Gifts were purchased for the kids as well as the adults. All the fixings for a holiday meal were also provided.

In 1952, a gentleman by the name of Clarence "Pop" Wendt worked as a Probation Officer in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Sadly, his job took him into a great deal of homes where far too many children would go without Christmas gifts and other necessities because of their families' hardships.

Pop made it his mission to change that for as many children as he possibly could! He orchestrated his first toy drive by contacting the Jefferson County Social Service workers. They helped him collect and distribute toys for as many children as their funds would allow.

Initially, this program was known as "The Pop Wendt Program". While the goal is the same, more than 60 years later, Pop Wendt's mission is now carried on as the Jefferson County Christmas Neighbors. Each holiday season, they serve hundreds of families and nearly 2,000 children throughout communities in the Jefferson County area!



## Delegates Attend WFBF Annual Meeting



Mary Mess walks through the silent auction.



Dawn Jones checks out the silent auction.



A true/false game was played during BINGO. Dawn Jones holds up the answer true for the table.



Steve Jones marks his BINGO card.



Jefferson County members enjoyed a night of BINGO.



Members enjoy networking and relaxing in the trade show.



Jefferson County delegates attended the district caucus meeting. (Front row, from left): Steve Jones, Karen Schadt, Tony Schadt, Randy Mitchell. (Back row, from left): Ashley Schlender, Dawn Jones, Eugene Mess, Mary Mess.



The Jefferson County delegates included (from left and clockwise around the table): Steve and Dawn Jones, Mary and Eugene Mess, Tony and Karen Schadt, Ashley Schlender and Randy Mitchell.



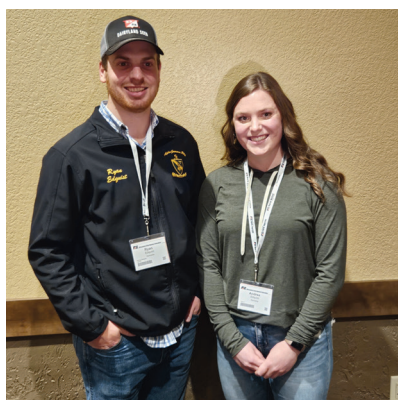
Jefferson County Farm Bureau donated to Online Giving Day in August, giving them recognition on the state level. Tony Schadt received the certificate from WFBF President Kevin Krentz.

# Kenosha County

## YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting Unites Members

Kenosha County members who attended the YFA Conference or WFBF Annual Meeting included Dave and Kim Daniels, Andrea Edquist, Ryan Edquist, Wes Hawkins, and Kevin and Kim Muhlenbeck.

We are proud of our county with Andrea Edquist representing District 1 in the discussion meet and Dave Daniels as our District 1 Director.



Ryan Edquist and Andrea Edquist attended the YFA Conference December 1-3 at the Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells.



Members Kim and Kevin Muhlenbeck stop for a photo by the WFBF sign with Dave and Kim Daniels.



Ryan Edquist hopes to be the highest bidder on items at the silent auction.

## Two Scholarships Available

### Kim Muhlenbeck

Kenosha County Farm Bureau offers two scholarships to members families, associate or voting, of Kenosha County Farm Bureau. We offer \$200 for Technical College students, \$300 for Farm and Industry Short Course, or

\$500 for an individual attending a 4-year College.

The application, along with your goals, two letters of recommendation and a current photo are due by May 3, 2024.

Find the application on our website [wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha/](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha/)

# Milwaukee County

wfbf.com/about/counties/milwaukee

## Delegate Attends WFBF Annual Meeting

John and Marsha Napientek enjoyed bidding on the silent auction and meeting new people at the WFBF Annual Meeting. John represented

Milwaukee County on the delegate floor on Monday during the resolution session.



John and Marsha Napientek walk through the silent auction.



John and Marsha Napientek pose by the WFBF sign with District 1 Director Dave Daniels.



Milwaukee County delegate John Napientek deep in thought reviewing the resolutions.



John Napientek accepted the certificate from WFBF President Kevin Krentz for the county donating to the Online Giving Day.

# Racine County

wfbf.com/about/counties/racine  
RacineCountyFarmBureau

## Former Ag Ambassador is Ag in the Classroom Intern



Madisyn Henderson has been selected as the organization's Agriculture in the Classroom intern. Henderson grew up on her family's farm in Racine County where she was heavily involved in 4-H and FFA. Most recently, she served as the 2022-23 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador. Henderson is a freshman at Iowa State University studying agricultural business where she is involved in Block and Bridle, Agricultural Business Club and Sigma

Alpha Professional Agriculture sorority. She looks forward to bringing new and bright ideas to her role with Ag in the Classroom in the coming year.

During her internship, Henderson will collaborate on social media content creation and analysis for Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom. She will assist with communicating Ag in the Classroom programming efforts and provide program event coverage throughout the spring. Henderson began her duties on January 15.

## Free Pizza and Bowling!

We hope you and your family will join us for a bowling social on Sunday, March 3 at 3:00 pm at River City Lanes, Waterford. Pizza and soda will be provided.

Bring some friends and learn more about what Farm Bureau has to offer. There will be incentives for anyone who brings a friend who signs up for Farm Bureau that day. Contact Judy Uhlenhake with any questions 262.949.1168.

**Date:** Sunday, March 3

**Time:** 3:00 pm

**Location:** River City Lanes, Waterford

## Racine County Board Christmas Party



Racine County board members and their spouses gathered at Michael's on the Lake on December 7 for a Christmas party.

## Members Attends YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting

Racine County had members attend both the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting. Those who attended from Racine County include Devin, Kallie Jo and Kane Coates, Traci Himebauch, Luke Kastenson, Kevin and

Kelly Malchine, Joe Mealy, John Scott, Jim Waldron and Kayla Wilson. Collegiate member Rabeka Liberto attended from UW-Platteville.



Rabeka Liberto, Joe Mealy and Luke Kastenson attended the district meeting on December 1 at the YFA Conference. Rabeka is currently a student at UW-Platteville and a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau.



Kallie Jo Coates and Kayla Wilson enjoyed listening to keynote speaker Coach Kiah during the Saturday brunch.



Jim Waldron checks out the items at the silent auction.



Traci Himebauch and Kayla Wilson decide what items to bid on at the silent auction.



John Scott accepted the certificate from WFBF President Kevin Krentz for the county donating to the Online Giving Day.



Jim Waldron persuaded delegates to vote in favor of carbon credits.

## \$1,000 Scholarships Available

Tasha Hegemann

Racine County Farm Bureau's mission is to empower the Wisconsin agricultural community through our grassroots membership and to preserve and promote the advancement of agriculture. We are doing that by offering up to four \$1,000 scholarships to students with a preference given to agriculture-related majors.

### Rules and Regulations

- Parents, grandparents or individuals must be a member of the Racine County Farm Bureau for at least one year before applying.
- Applicants must be high school seniors or continuing education students in a four-year college, technical school, short course program or trade school. Applicants are eligible to win once as a high school senior and once in continuing education.

Two letters of reference, a recent picture, essay and application must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by April 1, 2024.

The application can be found on the Racine County Farm Bureau website [wfbf.com/about/counties/racine](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/racine).

Please spread the word and encourage any high school senior or college student to apply. We look forward to receiving numerous applications.

## Think Summer, Think Cream Puffs

Judy Uhlenhake

Racine County Farm Bureau Cream Puff Stand Chair

Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer, for quite possibly the best week of the year the Racine County Fair July 24-28! Come show off your talents making cream puffs, shakes and Moccachino. We also serve eclairs, milk and coffee.

The stand is a major fundraiser and a good way to promote agriculture. Money raised is used for scholarships, library grants, agriculture promotions and community support. If you are interested in getting involved with the cream puff stand contact Judy Uhlenhake at 262.949.1168.



## Three \$500 Scholarships Available

**Rick Thelen**

Walworth County Farm Bureau offers three different scholarships valued at \$500 each. All scholarship applications can be found on the Walworth County Farm Bureau website [wfbf.com/about/counties/walworth/](http://wfbf.com/about/counties/walworth/) and require the application, transcript, letters of recommendation and up to four-pages typed answering questions that are outlined on the application.

- Farm Bureau Scholarship: available to graduating seniors continuing their education in an ag-related field
- Duane Leseberg Farm Bureau Scholarship: available to graduating seniors

active in FFA and/or 4-H, continuing their education in an ag-related field

- Byron G. Palmer Post-Grad Farm Bureau Scholarship: available to a student enrolled in secondary school as a student of a two-year or four-year program. Student must be enrolled in an agricultural-related program. Applicants may only receive this scholarship once.

Applicants' parents do not need to belong to Walworth County Farm Bureau; however, priority is given to applicants whose parents or grandparents are Walworth County Farm Bureau members.

All applications are due postmarked by April 30.

## YFA Conference Attended by Five YFA Members



Sydney Bender answers a yes or no question from Amanda Bender about the sticker on her forehead.



Walworth County YFA Chair Sydney Bender, UW-Madison students Amanda Bender and Ethan Jackowski, Leslie Reinke and Bobbie Neal attended the YFA Conference. Amanda and Ethan both competed in the Collegiate Discussion Meet. Leslie was sponsored to attend by Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



Leslie Reinke brought a new member to the annual meeting, was given a prize and signed the Membership Round-Up board.

## Members Enjoy Networking at Annual Meeting

Walworth County members enjoy attending the WFBF Annual Meeting to network with other members from throughout the state. Those who attended

from Walworth County include Rick and Marleen Adams, Ann Brost, Derrick Papcke, Terry and Kathy Papcke, and Greg Sawtelle.



Marleen Adams and Derrick Papcke network at the trade show.



Terry and Kathy Papcke attended the Farm Bureau Proud dinner. Terry signed up 6 new members in the last year and was recognized with a steak dinner.



Marleen Adams and Ann Brost decide what to bid on at the silent auction.



The Walworth County delegates voted on resolutions. Delegates included (from left): Ann Brost, Rick Adams, Terry Papcke, Greg Sawtelle and Derrick Papcke.



In August, the county donated to Online Giving Day. Terry Papcke received the certificate on behalf of the county from WFBF President Kevin Krentz.

## Dairy Breakfast Date and Location Set

**Ann Brost**

Dairy Breakfast Committee Chair

Mark your calendars for the Dairy Breakfast Saturday, June 15 at Davis Farm in Sharon, WI. Set-up will be on Friday, June 14. We appreciate everyone's help with the set-up and the day of the event. More details to come.

Questions? Contact Ann Brost at 414.828.7223.

Watch the Walworth County Farm Bureau Facebook page for additional details and for information on how you can volunteer.

## Thank You, Terry and Kathy Papcke



At the Christmas Party for the Walworth County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, they thanked Terry and Kathy Papcke for their many years of service to the Walworth County Farm Bureau. Their dedication to growing the Farm Bureau and being advocates for agriculture does not go unnoticed and we thank them for their leadership!

# Washington County

wfbf.com/about/counties/washington  
WashingtonCounty.WI.FarmBureau

## Members Enjoy YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeteing

Washington County was well represented at the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting in December. Those who attended include Allen and Nancy Dornacker, Matt Elbe and MacKenna Schueller, John, Tiffany and

Pieper Falk, Ken and Ryan Falk, Greg and Ellen Goeller, Tyler, Heidi, Phebe and Jimmi Hetebrueg, Mike Kannenberg and Barbara Leider, Mark and Emily Schaefer, Leah Weninger and Carl and Krista Wolf.



Members enjoyed BINGO. Pictured (left): Ellen and Greg Goeller. Pictured (right): Carl Wolf.



Mark and Emily Schaefer participate in the "Who Am I" game at the district meeting.



Washington County members attended the district caucus. Attendees included Greg Goeller, Ken Falk, Allen Dornacker and Carl Wolf.



John Falk was part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club for signing up five new members. He was joined at the dinner by his wife Tiffany and daughter Pieper.



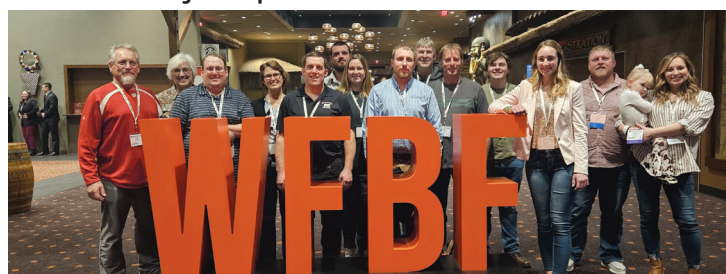
Greg and Ellen Goeller decide which items to bid on at the silent auction.



Ozaukee and Washington County delegates sat together at the delegate session. Those pictured include (from left): Ozaukee County members Kurt Schoessow and Brian Vorpapel, Washington County members Greg Goeller, Allen Dornacker, Mike Kannenberg, Ken Falk and Carl Wolf.



Washington County YFA members attended the District 1 meeting. Pictured (front row, from left): Leah Weninger, Emily Schaefer and MacKenna Schueller. (Back row, from left): Ben McMeeken, John Falk, Mark Schefer Jr and Matt Elbe. Ben McMeeken is a UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau member.



Washington County members gathered around the WFBF sign. Those who smiled include (from left): Greg and Ellen Goeller, Carl Wolf, Nancy and Allen Dornacker, Mark and Emily Schaefer, Tyler Hetebrueg, Mike Kannenberg, Ken and Ryan Falk, Leah Weninger and John, Pieper and Tiffany Falk.



Mike Kannenberg went on stage to receive the certificate from WFBF President Kevin Krentz for the county donating to Online Giving Day.

## Weninger Wins 35 Under 35 Award



The 35 Under 35 program recognizes creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environment, social and economic activities. This was the second year of the program.

Applications were evaluated for their involvement in five categories – Sustainable Future, Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Service, Sustainable Storytelling and Sustainable Self.

Thirty-five finalists were recognized at the YFA Conference in Wisconsin Dells on December 2. Each finalist received an embroidered vest and the top individual in each category received a \$500 cash prize. The award is presented by the WFBF YFA program in partnership with Insight FS.

Leah Weninger was the winner in the Sustainable Self category, which recognizes individuals who are serving their community through leadership, mentorship and mental health advocacy. Leah works on her family farm and hosts educational opportunities at Roden Barnyard Adventures.

Please congratulate Leah Weninger on a job well done!



## Scholarship Applications Due in April

**Ken Falk**

Scholarship Committee Chair

Up to five \$750 scholarships will be available to students who will be pursuing higher or continued education and who meet the qualifications listed below. Recipients must also work a 4-hour shift in the food stand during the Washington County Fair.

The application is available on the Washington County Farm Bureau website <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/washington/>.

Completed application, essay and two reference letters are due to the Scholarship Committee by Friday, April 19.

### Qualifications

- Scholarships will only be awarded to students of families who have Washington County Farm Bureau membership. Applicants 22 years of age or older must have their own membership.
- The scholarship may be used at any accredited technical school or university for continuing education in agriculture or an agricultural-related field. Considerations will be given to non-agricultural field-related applications; however, preference will be given to those that are agriculturally related.
- The Scholarship Committee will base their selection on extracurricular activities, two letters of recommendation, transcript of high school grades (seniors) or higher or continued education grades (if applicable).
- Payment of scholarships will be made to the recipient(s) after fall semester grades are received showing a 2.5 (C+) grade point average or better.

**Reminder, applications due to the Scholarship Committee by Friday, April 19.**

## Mark Your Calendars for the Fair

**Tyler Hetebrueg**

Fair Food Stand Committee Chair

It's never too early to start thinking about fun at the fair! Get a jump start and mark your calendars for the upcoming Washington County Fair that will be held Tuesday, July 23 through Sunday, July 28.

As always, a big thank you to all our volunteers for your time and dedication that you put into our fair food stand, we wouldn't have the success we do without you!

We look forward to seeing all of our long time volunteers, and hope to see some new faces, at this year's Farm Bureau Food Stand.

More information about volunteering will be in the next newsletter.

## 2024 Membership Incentives

**John Falk**

Washington County Farm Bureau Membership Chair

The membership year is October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

Any Washington County Farm Bureau volunteer membership worker signing a new voting member will receive \$20 for each new voting member signed. Also, if a Farm Bureau volunteer signs five new voting members, they will receive a one-night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting along with the registration cost. Those who sign 10 or more new voting members receive a two-night stay at the WFBF Annual Meeting including the registration cost. If you are unable to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting, you will receive a \$100 VISA gift card.

The Rural Mutual Insurance Agents who have office space in our building will also receive \$20 for every new voting member signed for Washington County Farm Bureau.

The membership dues are \$65 per year and membership applications and the listing of member benefits can be found on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation website ([wfbf.com](https://wfbf.com)).

Thank you to the volunteers and Rural Mutual Insurance agents for their continued help in achieving our membership goals.

## Ozaukee and Washington County YFA Spring Fling Dance

**Date: Saturday, April 6, 2024**

**Time: doors open at 7pm, band at 8pm**

**Band: Whiskey Throttle**

**Location: The Columbian, West Bend**

**Cost: \$10/person at the door**



**Questions? Contact**

**Mark Schaefer 262.674.4552 or Zach Dieringer 262.365.8387**

## Two Members Represent Waukesha County

Two members from Waukesha County were able to attend the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. Thank you to Jay Moore and Jim Renn for representing the county and voting on policies.



Ozaukee County member Brian Vorpapel sat with Waukesha County members Jim Renn and Jay Moore during the District 1 caucus meeting.



WFBF President Kevin Krentz and Jay Moore pose for a photo before the Farm Bureau Proud Dinner. The dinner recognized volunteers for their membership efforts.



Jim Renn and Jay Moore represented Waukesha County on the delegate floor.

## Scholarship Update

**Ken Rosenow**

Scholarship Committee Chair

The Waukesha County Scholarship Committee would like to recognize the 2023 Scholarship winners who are, in no particular order, Aidin Kilpatrick, Amara Bugenhagen, Avanti Kekane, Emily Udulutch and Om Rapal. The Committee would like to thank all who have applied in the past and would encourage all those continuing with their education to keep the ball rolling and apply this year in 2024. We have had so many great applicants in the past and are looking forward to seeing more this year! Agriculture is a very big and diverse business and there are many professions and vocations with a strong connection that can have an important impact on it!

The scholarship application for 2024 is now available! The scholarship is in the amounts of \$500 and \$1,000 to students who will be beginning or continuing in higher education.

### Qualifications

- Preference given to students for continuing education in an agriculture

or agriculture-related field. Preference is also given to students or students of families who have a Waukesha County Farm Bureau membership.

- Scholarship may be received more than once.
- Scholarships will be awarded at the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee with the approval of the Waukesha County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. If no worthy candidate is found, the Scholarship Committee reserves the right to withhold the scholarship.
- Recipient will be asked to attend the Waukesha County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting or a Board Meeting to receive the scholarship.
- Payment will be made after the recipient submits a copy of their first-semester grade transcript.

To view the full list of qualifications and find the application, visit the Waukesha County Farm Bureau website <https://wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha/>.

The application form, along with the essay, current photo and two letters of recommendation are due to the Scholarship Committee by Friday, May 31, 2024.

## Former Waukesha Board Member Wins Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award

Rob Klussendorf was presented with the WFBF Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award during the WFBF Annual Meeting on December 3.

Klussendorf's involvement with Farm Bureau began in 1968 when he attended a Waukesha Farm Bureau meeting where former WFBF Director of Special Programs Don Armitage said, "If you do not like what is going on and don't do anything about it, don't complain."

"That statement set the stage for the rest of his life, if there is something that needs to be done or changed to better Wisconsin farmers, Rob gets involved," said Taylor County Farm Bureau Vice President Gary Kohn.

Rob's dedicated service to Farm Bureau started with the Waukesha County Young Farmer Committee where he served as chairman from 1975-1978. Rob was then nominated and chosen to serve his district on the WFBF State Young Farmer Committee in 1977-1980 and was elected as chair from 1979-1980.

Rob continued his Farm Bureau service as a Waukesha County Farm Bureau

board member from 1978-2012 where he served on several WFBF committees including a special committee on Young Farmer Finance, Policy Development Committee, Legislative Committee, VFA Committee, Ag in the Classroom Committee, Communication Committee and was the chair of the Tax and Education Committee.

Rob also helped create the Farmer in the Classroom program which went on to be adopted by WFBF to become the statewide Ag in the Classroom program.

"Rob is the member that makes things happen instead of waiting for them to happen," Kohn said. "Rob's grandfather, Fred, was the first person to sign the Waukesha Farm Bureau charter, making the Klussendorf family the first members in the state. To Rob, Farm Bureau isn't just a group of farmers, it's family."

Rob and his wife, Chris, now live in Medford and enjoy spending time with their daughter, son and grandkids, but their roots run deep in Waukesha County.



WFBF President Kevin Krentz (pictured left) and WFBF Vice President Joe Bragger (pictured right) presented Rob Klussendorf and his wife Chris with the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau



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