



Grassroots

District 2 News

District Director Takes on AFBF Annual Convention in Salt Lake City



Arch Morton Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

As I write this report, I am reflecting on our trip to Salt Lake City for the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention. It was held from January 19-24, with about 35 Farm Bureau members from Wisconsin attending.

The first two rounds of the Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) Discussion Meets were held on

that Saturday. I served as a judge for one room of the first round. It was a very high-level competition, as each contestant had already qualified by winning their own state's contest.

Meanwhile, in another room, Dane County's own Nate Zimdars was competing representing Wisconsin. I didn't get to see Nate in the first round (because I couldn't be a judge of a contest with someone from my own state competing). I, along with many other supporters from Wisconsin, saw Nate

do a fantastic job in the second round. Congratulations Nate for representing Wisconsin very well!

Another highlight of the trip was the Wisconsin Delegation Dinner. We had a very nice dinner with all the attendees from Wisconsin Farm Bureau. It happened to be the same night as a Packer playoff game. The camaraderie was at a very high level as we cheered them on.

The most important part of the Annual Convention was the resolution session. This is where we voted on federal policies that AFBF staff, President Duvall and our lobbyists will support in Washington, D.C. I served as an alternate delegate (Wisconsin has three) and was on the resolution floor for a while when one of our delegates took a break. It is an honor to be one of the three votes for our organization which represents over 48,000 members.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank the delegates from District 2 for re-electing me at the WFBF Annual Meeting back in early December. It's an honor and a pleasure to serve as your District 2 Director! Thank you!



2024 Essay Contest

WISCONSIN AGRICULTURE IS FRUIT-FULL

WISCONSIN 4TH AND 5TH GRADERS CREATE AN ORIGINAL ESSAY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN!

Explore what makes Wisconsin's sweetest agriculture fruit-full for our state's history, economy, and future. Prizes awarded at county, district and state levels.



FULL CONTEST DETAILS, RULES, AND RESOURCES AT
BIT.LY/WIAGESSAYCONTEST

DUE APRIL 15, 2024

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District 2 Survey

We want to hear from you!



<https://bit.ly/d2survey2024>

This survey is for Farm Bureau members ages 18-55

Why are you a Farm Bureau member?
Are you interested in being more involved?
How can we better serve you?

Please consider completing our District 2 Farm Bureau survey by using the QR code so we can learn more about you and how to continuously improve Farm Bureau to better fit your needs.

Making a SPLASH with Promotion and Education



Kari Schoenike

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, District 2 Representative

WHOOSH! The Promotion and Education Committee took a jump off the high-diver and is ready to propel ahead into 2024! We plunged into new ideas as we met to plan out the year, refine committee priorities and develop activities. We will continue to focus on member education and training, consumer resource management and advocacy as our key priorities. To dive into these, we will host Leadership Bootcamp in the fall as well as a session and a networking reception at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December. Stay tuned for details on these exciting learning opportunities! In addition to committee-wide initiatives, each district representative is working on planning a Promotion and Education Committee activity for their district.

As you work on your county's events, don't forget these ways for you to make a SPLASH with your Promotion and Education programs this year:

S - Start early. Map out how much lead time you'll need for your event, including planning, promotion and recruitment.

P - Promote. Get the word out there! Flyers, Facebook events, and E-vites... Oh my! Consider the most effective ways to promote your events to the intended audience.

L - Leave the sour grapes attitude at home. Take advantage of new ideas and new opportunities. Just because an event has been done the same way for the past 50 years doesn't mean there's no room for improvement. Be open to implementing new ideas to engage others and improve existing programming.

A - Ask for help. It's no fun to do all aspects of event planning and hosting on your own. Work with your district coordinator, county board, general members and non-Farm Bureau friends to make your event happen.

S - Smile! As you plan, implement and reflect on your event, remember to smile and note successes of all sizes.

H - Have fun!

Let's make it another GREAT year for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Promotion and Education!

D2 YFA
HOCKEY NIGHT
SATURDAY, MARCH 23
@ 7 PM
CAPITOL ICE ARENA

2616 N PLEASANT VIEW RD, MIDDLETON



Details:

- 25 tickets in the White Claw Lounge
- All you can eat & drink!
- \$20/person
- Contact Kat Peper to RSVP and pay for your ticket: (209) 639-1715
Kat.Peper@yahoo.com
RSVP by March 8th



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

District 2 Competition Open to those Over 35!

Dustin Williams

Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited Chair

District 2- Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (FAU) Discussion Meet Contest

- Have you aged out of the Young Farmers and Agriculturist group?
- Do you have a hankering for some lively competition?
- Do you love discussing agricultural policy?

Come join us for the District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (FAU) Discussion Meet Contest. This event will take place at the same time and location as the D2 YFA Discussion Meet contest and Policy Development meeting. This year's event will be on August 3, 2024, location to be determined. The D2 FAU committee requests that each county in District 2 send a minimum of one candidate to represent their county at this event, however more participants are highly encouraged. Last year's discussion was a great success and the winner, Shawn Monien, Dodge County Farm Bureau representative, walked away with an impressive traveling trophy for his accomplishments.



Sign up now for your chance at bragging rights to bring that trophy back to your home county. If you are over 35 years old and you love the discussion meet contest, love to compete or just love to discuss ag policy, here is your chance. Talk to your county farm bureau board or D2 coordinator Amy Blakeney to sign up. Contest entries are due by July 20, 2024.

The District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited committee was developed in 2022 to foster and enable those who age out of YFA to continue participation in competitive events. The committee has been meeting for two years and is excited about the FAU discussion meet contest and is hopeful that other counties will be interested in starting their own district contests. There's a good possibility that there will be a state-level contest this year at the annual meeting, so encourage your neighboring districts to participate. This committee is also interested in the establishment of other contest areas too. The committee's goal is to provide district opportunities for those over 35 years of age to compete against others in the industry. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Dustin Williams at dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu

District 2 YFA Update



Brady and Kat Peper

WFBF YFA Committee District 2 Representatives

Hello and happy 2024! We hope your new year is off to a great start. For us, it has been a bit of a challenge with the weather. We saw two feet of snow (the most since I moved to Wisconsin 8 years ago!), negative temps and now just a

muddy mess with snow melting and mild temperatures. I hate to say it but this sun-loving, warm-weather girl is wishing for some cooler temps.

I want to begin by recapping the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December. Let me tell you, Brady and I are honored to be representing the best district in Wisconsin... District 2! We were well represented at the YFA Conference and Annual Meeting this year. You can find highlights in the newsletter of all our award winners. We are proud of the hard-working YFA members we have in our district and know they will continue to do great things within our organization. A personal highlight from that weekend was being appointed chair of the YFA committee for a 1-year term. I am excited to be able to work on behalf of our young farmers and agriculturists on both the state and national levels. It has been a busy year already. By the time you have received this, I would have attended several meetings and events:

- 2 WFBF Board Meetings
- Testified before the Assembly Committee on Insurance in support of Farm Bureau Health Plans
- Board Engagement Day at Blain's Farm and Fleet
- AFBF Annual Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah
- Council of Presidents



Kat Peper, state YFA chair, was twining with Savannah Brown, last year's state YFA chair, at the WFBF YFA Conference.



Brady and Kat Peper dressed up for 80's night at the YFA Conference.



WFBF board members pose with Spuddy Buddy at the AFBF Annual Convention Trade Show.



Arch Morton, Jr., Kat Peper and Sydney Flick testify before the Assembly Committee on Insurance in support of Farm Bureau Health Plans.



Arch Morton, Jr., Nate Zimdars and Kat Peper enjoyed the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention.

- Ag Day at the Capitol

- California World Ag Expo and Farm Tour Trip

The YFA Committee kicked off the new year with our first planning meeting in January in Madison. Snow impacted the schedule a bit, but we began the evening connecting with new committee members over bowling and a friendly game of laser tag. The next day was down to business as we worked to set both committee and district goals and started planning for the YFA Conference in December. We have a fun group, and I am looking forward to working with all of them this year. On a district level, we have planned a fun activity attending a Madison Capitols hockey night for this winter (see page 2 for details) and a more educational tour/activity for late summer/early fall. Be on the lookout for more details on the WFBF YFA Facebook page for events.

Also, a reminder that the Outstanding Ag Professional and Farming for the Future Award applications are due April 15. If you are interested and have questions, be sure to reach out. District 2 had two of the four finalists in both awards last year and a winner in the Farming for the Future area. Let's keep the trend going! 35 under 35 nominations will be open from March 1 through June 1. We had multiple finalists and winners from District 2 over the past two years. Lastly, our discussion meet is scheduled for Saturday, August 3. We will be combining the day with the FAU (Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited) discussion meet, policy development meeting and a social. Location and time to follow. If you are interested in participating in the discussion meet, let us know. We had a great turnout last year and District 2 went on to win the state discussion meet.

Brady and I are looking forward to getting out to each county's annual meeting again as well as other events around the state. Like always, don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year!

District 2 News

From State Collegiate to State YFA Discussion Meet Winner

Nate Zimdars

Dane County Farm Bureau Member

While most look forward to celebrating Christmas in December, one of my highlights of the month is the Young Farmers and Agriculturists conference. For ten years I have been participating as a YFA member. Many of those years were spent competing in the discussion meet. My first exposure to this event was my senior year of high school as an FFA member. I was able to advance to the Sectional Competition and developed a taste for the competitive nature of this event. When I found out that Farm Bureau offered the opportunity to continue competing in discussion meet, I knew this was for me.

Over my years of competing in the discussion meet, I was able to grow in my understanding of various agricultural topics through my research in preparation for the competition. Naturally, my ability to articulate my conversation points and interact with fellow contestants grew the more I competed. There is an art to the discussion meet - a way to make the conversation flow and take the role of the discussion "moderator". The best way to master the competition is to just do it.

After ten years of on-and-off competition, I found various successes. In 2014 I was the State Collegiate Discussion Meet winner, advancing to the National competition. The year after winning the State Collegiate Discussion Meet, I advanced to the Final Four for the first time. Eight years later I finally returned to the Final Four, this time winning the competition. So many years of hard work paid off with winning the coveted chainsaw and a trip to the national competition, this year held in Salt Lake City.

The national competition was a completely different animal than our state competition. While agriculture in Wisconsin is diverse, we all share similarities in that we are from the same state. Competitors differentiate

themselves by discussing how they want to take what was discussed and apply it to their local county Farm Bureau. At the national competition, the agricultural diversity is even stronger and the goal is to talk about what you would like to take back and implement in your state. In some ways, this can make the competition more challenging since a solution to the problem we are discussing may work well in Wisconsin, but not in another state. This is where research in advance becomes really helpful.

Since all the competitors at the American Farm Bureau Annual

Convention won their state competition, the competition is top-notch. I discovered this in my very first round as no one came across as poorly prepared. Everyone participated and brought good points to the table. I participated in two rounds where we discussed sustainability in agriculture and how Farm Bureau can better support agricultural diversity within the organization. While I felt like I competed well and brought everything to the table, I did not advance to the sweet sixteen round. Two of the competitors from my first round advanced to the final four which truly highlighted the level of competition I faced from the beginning. Regardless of the end

result, I was very thankful to have won the Wisconsin competition and advanced to nationals.

If you've ever considered giving the Discussion Meet a try, I'd absolutely recommend it. It is a great opportunity to meet other young farmers and agriculturists from across the state and even the country. Great ideas for how to make a difference in Farm Bureau can be learned and applied. While my days of competing are over, I'm thankful for all of the opportunities this competition has provided. It truly has made me a better speaker, listener, and more involved Farm Bureau member.



As the WFBF State YFA Conference winner, Nate Zimdars competed at the American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention in Salt Lake City.



Save the Date! Farm Bureau District 2 Golf Outing Fundraiser



Back by Popular Demand
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
The Oaks Golf Course, Cottage Grove

Enjoy 18 holes of golf (includes cart/GPS), lunch, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and awards banquet! Registration and sponsorship information available soon.

Brought to you by: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Rock and Sauk County Farm Bureaus



District 2 News

WFBF Annual Meeting Delegate Experience

Sarah Hetke

Sauk County Delegate

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference and Annual Meeting was held December 1-4 at Kalahari Resorts in Wisconsin Dells. While the weekend is filled with fun, learning and networking, it wraps up with one of the most important tasks members take on each year - policy development.

County Farm Bureaus elect voting delegates to guide the direction of our organization and our stance on key policy issues.

Being the dairy state, much of our time was dedicated to discussing current dairy issues. However, there was also extensive conversation around solar projects on farmland, roadways and infrastructure, and making

biofuels more accessible.

Delegates also have a chance to review and discuss policy proposals that will be sent to the American Farm Bureau for consideration at their Annual Convention.

Policy work is one of the most important ways Farm Bureau members can engage with their organization. WFBF fights on our behalf while we're busy working on our farms or at our jobs and the policy book guides the position they should take.

You can view the current state policy book by visiting WFBF's website wfbf.com/policy/policy-development.

I strongly encourage all members to consider running to be a voting delegate or submitting a policy proposal for delegates to review.



Delegates from all 61 County Farm Bureaus vote on policy to guide the direction of our organization during the Wisconsin Farm Bureau annual meeting.



Dane County Farm Bureau delegates include Dennis Jesberger, Jeremy Skemp, Kevin Connors, Sam Skemp, Alison Kepner, Mike Duerst, Jerry Derr, Keith Ripp and Roger Cohee.



Dane County Farm Bureau delegate Chuck Ripp speaks on a policy resolution during the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting delegate session.



Green County Farm Bureau delegates include Ben Huber, Amy Austin, Dustin Williams, Aleron Wasserstrass, Eric Wuthrich and Tess Zettle.



Rock County Farm Bureau delegates include Logan Frei, Jill Uhe, Brooke Trustem, Tim Wellnitz and Doug Rebout.



Sauk County Farm Bureau delegates include Galen Alwin, Ken Nolden, Mike Turner, Sarah Hetke, Tommy Brennan, Brady Peper and Kat Peper.

Council of Presidents



Presidents and Vice Presidents from each county Farm Bureau across the state are invited to participate in sessions during Council of Presidents. The following Farm Bureau District 2 members participated: Arch Morton, Jr., Amy Austin, Tim Wellnitz, Jill Uhe, Tommy Brennan, Dave Mickelson, Mike Turner, Roger Hildebrandt, Doug Schulz, Sam Skemp, Chad Brusveen, Tom Jelinek and Kat Peper.



Jill Uhe, past Rock County Farm Bureau president, presented the Rock County Farm Bureau spring planting tour during the successful county program sharing time.

YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting Highlights

Congratulations to our Farm Bureau District 2 member and county accomplishments and recognition received at this year's YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting!

- YFA Chair - Kat Peper is the new state YFA committee chairperson
- (1.) YFA Discussion Meet STATE WINNER - Nate Zimdars (Dane)
- (2.) YFA Discussion Meet Final Four - Brooke Trustem (Rock)
- (3.) YFA Discussion Meet Participant - Scott Timm (Green)
- Farming for the Future STATE WINNER - Sydney Flick (Columbia)
- Farming for the Future Final Four - Jacob and Eliza Bobolz (Rock)
- YFA Outstanding Ag Professional Final Four - Julie Sweeney (Dodge) and (2.) Brooke Trustem (Rock)
- (3.)YFA 35 Under 35 TOP INDIVIDUAL in the Sustainable Environment category - Scott Timm (Green)
- YFA 35 Under 35 TOP INDIVIDUAL in the Sustainable Storytelling category - Teyanna Marx (Dane)
- YFA 35 Under 35 Program finalists:
 - (2.) Sustainable Future - Brooke Trustem, Rock County
 - (4.) Sustainable Self - Tess Zettle, Green County
 - Sustainable Service - Julie Sweeney, Dodge County
 - (5.)Sustainable Service - Eric Wuthrich, Green County
 - (1.) Sustainable Service - Nate Zimdars, Dane County

- (6.) Sustainable Storytelling - Sarah Hetke, Sauk County
- (7.) Sustainable Storytelling - Stephanie Hoff, Dane County
- Top 10 Membership Worker in the State Recognition - Sally Schoenike (Dodge)
- Farm Bureau Proud Club Members - Sally Schoenike (Dodge), (8.) Mike Duerst (Dane), Dave Mickelson (Columbia), Nikki Manthey (Columbia), Robert Schwandt (Dodge), Shawn Monien (Dodge), Arch Morton Jr (Rock), Eunice Yanke (Sauk), Nancy Liegel (Sauk)
- Leadership Institute Graduates - Dave Mickelson (Columbia), (7.) Stephanie Hoff (Dane), (5.) Eric Wuthrich (Green) and (2.) Brooke Trustem (Rock).
- County All Stars Award Winners:
 - (9.) Consumer Outreach - Sauk CFB Wisco Wine and Cheese Event
 - Membership - Dodge CFB Member Picnic
 - (10.) Other - Rock CFB Spring Planting Tour
- Arch Morton, Jr was reelected to serve a 3-year term as the District 2 Director.
- (11.) Thank you to those who donated to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Silent Auction.

Thank you to all of you who served as delegates to the WFBF annual meeting this year!



D2 Youth Ag Summit

Kadi Senkowski

Co-Chair

December 6, 2023 was the 9th Annual District 2 Youth Ag Summit, promoting a wide variety of agriculture career opportunities to local high school FFA members. For those of you unfamiliar with the Youth Ag Summit (YAS), it is an event put on by the District 2 Youth Ag Summit Committee (any D2 Farm Bureau members can join!) that was designed as a small-scale FFA Farm Forum, featuring speakers and tours to highlight a diverse group of agricultural careers and also offer support, advice and encouragement to the students as they prepare to transition from high school to post-secondary education or the workforce.

This year's YAS was held at McFarlane's Retail & Service Center in Sauk City. We had over 50 students from 11 different FFA programs across the district attend. The day started with a presentation from our gracious host, John Bachhuber of McFarlane's Retail Center, giving a brief overview of the company, followed by two of McFarlane's youth apprenticeship students highlighting their experiences in the program. We then had an opportunity for each of our guest speakers to participate in a panel discussion where students could ask any questions relating to working in the agricultural industry, finding the right career, navigating challenges in the



FFA members tour McFarlane's Retail & Service Center during the District 2 Youth Ag Summit on December 6.

workforce and more. After the panel discussion, the students broke out into groups to choose from three breakout sessions, as well as go on a tour of McFarlane's Retail & Service Center. This year our breakout sessions featured Todd Kronberg from ABS Global, Megan Abeyta and Katelyn Goldsmith from Vita Plus, and Celine Coquard Lenerz from Wollersheim Winery and Distillery. We wrapped up the day with lunch and our keynote speaker, Christine Lindner of Alsum Produce, who highlighted the importance of working through challenges, rejections and successes in achieving goals, all while sharing your story along the way to encourage others to do the same.

We are very grateful for the FFA advisors throughout the district for bringing their students to this event, our speakers for sharing their experiences, knowledge and encouragement with the students, our host location for their willingness to team up in putting on this great event, and of course the committee members for their efforts in lining up speakers and coordinating other details.

If you are interested in being on the committee and helping plan the 2024 Youth Ag Summit, please contact your local county board of directors or Kadi Senkowski at kadencewalsh@gmail.com.



Keynote speaker Christine Lindner of Alsum Produce highlighted the importance of working through challenges, rejections and successes in achieving goals, all while sharing your story along the way to encourage others to do the same.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Farm Bureau members from across the state gathered on January 31 for Ag Day at the Capitol. They began their day at Monona Terrace Convention Center for lunch and legislative briefings. Following the

remarks of keynote speakers, members walked up to the Capitol to meet with legislators to have meaningful discussions about issues affecting their rural communities.



Jacob Bobolz was interviewed by the Midwest Farm Report about the benefits of a soybean crush plant in Evansville.



Dane County Farm Bureau members visit with legislators in the North Hearing room during their Ag Day at the Capitol visit.



Green County Farm Bureau members



Green and Rock County Farm Bureau members visit with their legislators in the Senate Parlor for a great discussion.



Rock County Farm Bureau members



Sauk County Farm Bureau members met with Senator Marklein, Representative Travis Tranel, Representative Tony Kurtz and Representative Todd Novak during their Capitol visit.

Ag in the Classroom

By Darlene Arneson, Co-Chair

Dane County Ag in the Classroom Food for America Grants for Dane County FFA Chapters

To qualify for the funding, the chapter needs to show how they are helping to promote the essay contest topic "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full" with schools in their district. More information about the contest can be found at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/> and our county contest information is at: <https://fb.me/e/2Xv9EKDuh>. Grant amount: \$200 per chapter during the 2023-2024 school year. \$100 for promoting the essay contest and \$100 for a focus on reducing food waste. School Districts/FFA Chapters eligible: Belleville, Cambridge, DeForest, Edgerton, Marshall, Mt. Horeb, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie East, Sun Prairie West, Verona, and Waunakee.

Dane County Ag in the Classroom Changes

The Dane County Ag in the Classroom committee consists of Darlene Arneson, Tom Jelinek, Caleb Karls, Brandon Larson, Mike Sanders and Sam Skemp. The Dane County Board has allocated funds to do more activities and compensation for that work. Committee member Mike Sanders has agreed to be co-chair with Darlene Arneson to help visit more schools and do more activities during the school year. If you are interested in being involved or if you are a teacher and want us to visit your classroom (any grade level), please contact Darlene at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or Mike at mlsfarmsllc@gmail.com.

Dane County Ag in the Classroom 4-5th Grade Essay Contest

2024 Essay Topic - "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full."

Lessons, Rubric, Standards, What to Write About, and Resources - <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/essay-contest/>

Tailor the essay contest to focus your students' essays and support your curriculum needs. Create your own or use these writing prompts as a guide for your young writers. 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 cherries, apples and strawberries production. Our state's history, communities and economy have been brought to fruit-ion through agriculture endeavors.

The contest is open to Wisconsin 4th and 5th grade students and limited to one essay entry per student. The maximum essay length is *400 words for grade 4, and *500 words for grade 5. Essays must be typed or handwritten in INK. Entries must include at least three documented references to support essay. All entries must be submitted by **April 15, 2024. All entries must include the Required Entry



Information. Awards will be presented to top essays in each grade level at the county, district and state level. *Maximum word lengths DO NOT include bibliography, captions or works cited. **Entries may be submitted online or mailed directly to county essay coordinator.

Dane County Prizes and Incentives

Dane County Ag in the Classroom will award both a 4th and 5th grade winner. For each grade level- 1st place- \$50, 2nd place- \$25 and 3rd place- \$10. The first-place winners will receive the \$50 cash prize along with a classroom presentation and two first-place student, parents and teacher will be invited to the Dane County Annual Meeting on September 12, 2024.

Entries are due POSTMARKED, DELIVERED or EMAILED by April 15, 2024! Send to Darlene Arneson, 2056 Skaalen Road, Stoughton, WI 53589. Email: arnesonfamily5@gmail.com. Call if questions - 608-873-7209.

What you can share with teachers in your school district!

- National Ag in the Classroom has resources for PreK-12th grade students and teachers in all subject areas! Check out the Teachers Center, Curriculum Matrix, Student Center and many other resources! www.agclassroom.org
- The American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture also offers many lessons, activities, free downloadable resources, Purple Plow Challenges, Recommended Reading Lists and more at www.agfoundation.org
- Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom program offers lesson plans, book programs, teacher training, grants and other experiences at www.wisagclassroom.org.
- Dane County Ag in the Classroom uses Facebook to share posts each week on commodity and Ag in the Classroom resources, curriculum and lessons, and other items shared from our commodity and agricultural partners. "Like" our page at Dane County Ag in the Classroom Program. Dane County also has people willing to make classroom presentations and assist teachers in incorporating agriculture into their classroom. If you are interested in being involved or if you are a teacher and want us to visit your classroom (any grade level), please contact Darlene Arneson at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com or Mike Sanders at mlsfarmsllc@gmail.com.

YFA Winter Fun

By Heidi Smith, YFA Chair

Following our Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, the YFA members first stop was to the newly-opened business, PinSeekers, located in DeForest. The heated bays make for a fun time even during the winter!

This year, Dane County Farm Bureau had four YFA members attend the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference, with two members being sponsored by

Rural Mutual Insurance Company as first-time attendees.

It is always great to celebrate the holiday season with the Dane County YFA as members were able to wear their ugly Christmas sweaters while indulging in cheese fondue, decorating sugar cookies and wreath making.

You can stay up to date with YFA by liking the "Dane County Farm Bureau & YFAs" Facebook page as well as reaching out to YFA Chair, Heidi Smith, at (618) 708-2402.



Pinseekers in DeForest provided a great winter activity for YFA members to get together and have some fun.



YFA members made Christmas wreaths to decorate their homes.



Megan Abeyta, Katelyn Goldsmith, Sarah Shimshak and Heidi Smith enjoy the YFA Conference.

Student Scholarship Deadline July 1

Are you a Dane County Farm Bureau member and looking for a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to help with your post secondary education?

Please review application criteria and deadline date below:

1. Applicants or their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a member of Dane County Farm Bureau.
2. Applicants must be a high school senior or currently enrolled in post-secondary education.
3. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in an agriculture program.
4. Applications must be completed in full and submitted by JULY 1. Incomplete or applications submitted after July 1, may be disqualified.
5. Scholarship recognition will take place at the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in September. Scholarship payment will be mailed to the recipient after submitting his/her fall semester transcript to Dane County Farm Bureau, as early as January the following year.
6. Previous scholarship recipients cannot apply again for the scholarship.
7. Judges will use the following criteria for evaluation: Academics 50 percent; activities and awards 30 percent; and need 20 percent.
8. \$1,000 scholarship.

Scholarship applications must be received by July 1.

Email your application and proof of fall registration to Kadence Senkowski at kadencewalsh@gmail.com

For the Dane County Farm Bureau scholarship application and more information, please visit wfbf.com/about/counties/dane/



Holiday Food Drive



Dane County Farm Bureau collected and donated 68 pounds of food to Badger Prairie Needs Network, gathered at their Dane County Farm Bureau holiday social.

Green County

BTC Monroe to Offer Youth Tractor Safety Training

By Dustin Williams, Farm Safety Chair

Blackhawk Technical College-Monroe Campus will be offering a youth tractor safety training program from April 1st- May 14th, 2024. The purpose of the course is to instruct youth between the ages of 12-16 on the safe use of farm equipment and to provide youth with a 24-hour course to comply with Wisconsin Act 455 and to comply with the Federal Child Labor Standards. Part of this course will be delivered virtually via Zoom with required daily online assignments. In addition, the class will also have face-to-face sessions for driver preparation, training and testing. 100% attendance is required for Wisconsin certification and students must pass both a written and driving exam to successfully complete this program.

Those interested can register in person at the BTC Monroe campus located at 210 4th Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566 and complete the necessary registration paperwork and safety waiver.

To register for the class, contact Tracey Wren at Monroe Campus 608-329-8206. For more information about the class, contact the instructor Dustin Williams at: dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu or 608-329-8210



Bring a Friend to YFA Socials

By Allison Gorr, Chair

Green County Farm Bureau YFA members met February 16 for trivia night at the Horseshoe Saloon in Monroe. We are planning these informal social nights once every other month, so watch our Facebook page for future events. Come on out and bring a friend! If you have ideas for future socials, please feel free to reach out to me or any board member.

Green County Farm Bureau Donates Books to Libraries



Tess Zettle, Green County Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom chair, delivers agriculture books to Green County libraries.



A Message from the President



By Tim Wellnitz, President

Hi, my name is Tim Wellnitz, newly-elected President of the Rock County Farm Bureau. I've been on the board for four years, and I've been a member of Farm Bureau since 2015. I've been involved in farming my entire life, from growing up on a small dairy farm to currently managing a large crop farm in Rock County. I joined Farm Bureau because my passion is agriculture. I believe the

work Farm Bureau does to advocate for agriculture is more important today than ever before. Taking part in Ag Day at the Capitol and educating with programs like Ag in the Classroom are a must in today's world where there is so much disconnect from agriculture. As we near another growing season when we'll put those seeds in the ground, hoping and praying all our hard work pays off, I wish you all a great spring planting season.

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seed you plant." - Robert Louis Stevenson

IF

"The Institute gave me a lot of tools that I need to be successful as a leader or a member of a team. Whether that would be finding my strengths or understanding emotional intelligence, it helped me understand myself. I would recommend this as a great opportunity for a Farm Bureau member to be a part of. Don't be afraid to take a look at yourself and be honest with yourself as a leader."

Brooke Trustem | Rock County

LOOKING FOR A PICTURE PERFECT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE?



2025 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute - Class 16 applications are now available. Get program dates, topics and application information at wfbf.com.

Ag in the Classroom Essay Kits Available



Rock County 4th and 5th grade teachers can request an essay bundle by contacting Stacy Skemp skemps@milton.k12.wi.us until all kits have been claimed. Classroom visits can also be scheduled by reaching out.

Fair Food Stand

By Ed Hookham, Co-Chair



Save the date!
Rock County 4-H Fair
July 23-28, 2024

Please keep in mind any organization that takes a shift can make some cash! It's not too early to get volunteers for the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair.

Sauk County

Sauk County Farm Bureau Scholarship Application Deadline April 1

The Sauk County Farm Bureau scholarship application is now available online as an editable PDF at wfbf.com/about/counties/sauk/ or by email request to Karen Reisinger at kjreisinger@yahoo.com

Scholarship Qualifications

1. Applicant must be a Sauk County resident or attend a school in Sauk County.
2. Applicant must be one of the following: 1) a high school senior pursuing a post-secondary institution in the fall, or 2) a post-secondary institution student. Past recipients not eligible.
3. Applicant must submit a letter of recommendation with this application.
4. Selected recipients must submit his/her fall semester transcript of grades, following selection, in order to receive scholarship money.

5. Preference will be given to those applicants pursuing an agriculture-related field.

6. Preference will be given to those families with a Sauk County Farm Bureau membership.

7. Application deadline is April 1. Recipients will be notified by June 15. Scholarship money will be mailed to recipient after submitting his/her fall semester transcript to Sauk County Farm Bureau, as early as January the following year.

8. Up to two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded.

Scholarship applications must be received by April 1. Email your application and letter of recommendation to Karen Reisinger at kjreisinger@yahoo.com.



Sauk CFB Hosts First Holiday Porch Pot Arrangement Class

By Sarah Hetke, Promotion and Education Chair

On November 28 the Sauk County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee hosted a new event where community members were invited to create holiday porch pot arrangements. The event was targeted toward a non-ag audience and focused on a unique side of agriculture - horticulture.

Tickets for the event were sold online through Eventbrite. With this being a first-time event, there were only 20 tickets released. Through sharing in community Facebook groups and committee members' social media channels, the tickets were sold out in less than three days. An additional five tickets were released and sold in under two hours. It was a fun evening had by all and we continue to hear community members request for the event to come back next year with even more tickets available.



Farm Neighbors Care Packages

By Nancy Liegel

During the harvest season, Sauk County Farm Bureau delivered 13 Farm Neighbors Care packages to farmers who were nominated by other caring and concerned citizens.

Throughout the year, we've had several people within our farm families who had a family member pass away, were in the hospital from accidents or sickness, dealing with cancer or something tragic to work through. Sauk County Farm Bureau members have created homemade gifts or gathered items to deliver to those in our community. Baskets included fruit, nuts, cheese, movie night essentials, a homemade quilt made by Karen Reisinger and more. Hopefully, these small gifts will help our Sauk County residents. We are farm neighbors who care.



Ag in the Classroom

By Nancy Liegel, Chair

I recently visited Sarah Schartner's second grade class at Bridges Elementary School in Prairie du Sac. The presentation was on recycling Christmas trees along with different types of pine trees. Students were able to make Christmas tree decorations and enjoyed a candy cane treat. What a fun activity! The kids love it all.



Sauk County Farm Bureau
Fair Food Stand

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

2024 Sauk County Fair
July 9th-14th
Open: 11:30am-10:00pm

More info:
Brady Peper
Fair Food Stand Chair
(608) 415-3752
peper371@gmail.com

- multiple shifts available
- proceeds go towards sponsorships, scholarships and programs like YFA and Ag in the Classroom



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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

**Dane County
Green County
Rock County
Sauk County**

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____ Eric

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