



Grassroots

District 2 News

District Director Report



Arch Morton Jr.
WFBF District 2 Director

Hello again fellow District 2 Farm Bureau members!

As you have probably heard over the past several months, Wisconsin went through the process of redistricting the Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate. Many of us, including myself, will be in either a different district or have a change in our

current district representative. Many of us don't agree with the redistricting, but we will have to make the best of it. The reason that I am writing about this is to emphasize the importance of getting to know those people who will

be representing you, your family, your farm and your community. It's very important to build those relationships ahead of time. Don't wait to get to know them when you are concerned about a specific issue.

I hope that you all will do some research to find out which candidates are 'ag friendly.' Our Volunteers For Agriculture (VFA), along with help from our government relations staff at Wisconsin Farm Bureau, will be making endorsements for the 'ag friendly' candidates in many of the state races. The VFA is the political action committee of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. They will be meeting and having many important discussions this summer and early fall. Please watch for their endorsements.

I hope you are doing well, and that your crops and livestock are doing well too!

28TH ANNUAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU GOLF OUTING

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



TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2024
THE OAKS GOLF COURSE, COTTAGE GROVE

9:00 a.m. Registration

9:45 a.m. Ball Toss

10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Box lunch provided.

Awards, 50/50 Raffle and Auction to follow.

Cost: \$100/individual or \$400/foursome

Join us RAIN or SHINE!

**SEVERAL HOLE IN ONE PRIZES PLUS HOLE PRIZES. PUTTING
CONTEST AND BALL TOSS!**

Support WI Farm Bureau District 2 County Farm Bureau programs on one of the
finest public courses in the area!

Enjoy 18 holes of golf, contests, 50/50 raffle, auction and more!

For questions, please contact committee chair Sam Skemp at 608.444.9537 or
sskemp1@charter.net.

Complete details and online registration can be found at
www.eventregisterpro.com/d2countyfarmbureau



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.

District 2 News

District 2 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Highlights and Upcoming Events



Brady and Kat Peper

WFBF YFA Committee District 2 Representatives

Happy Summer!

Brady and I have been busy this past spring with cows calving and getting corn and beans in the ground. So far, we have been getting rain and hope it will continue through the summer this year.

It has also been a busy couple of months with Farm Bureau. In February, we hosted the county YFA representatives in Madison. We discussed the responsibilities of the YFA representative role and brainstormed county and district wide events. This year we also had some fun and a bit of friendly competition with axe throwing.

In March, I attended the AFBF YF&R Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference started early with a state chairs training session where we had the opportunity to meet chairs from other states. There were awesome speakers and several great workshop topics. One day was filled with tours, and I had an opportunity to tour both a poultry and a pork processing facility. I highly recommend attending a national conference to network with other young farmers from across the country and experience some neat tours.

We also hosted the District 2 YFA night at the Madison Capitols game. We had a great turnout with about 30 people in attendance. We had our own

reserved section in the White Claw lounge where we were able to socialize and see a great hockey game up close.

In April, the state YFA committee got together in Plover to continue planning for the YFA Conference. Unfortunately, Brady and I were sick, and we attended virtually. After the meeting, the committee visited the Food + Farm Exploration Center which looked like a blast.

In June, we hosted the YFA committee in our neck of the woods for our summer meeting. We toured a lavender farm and worked on YFA conference planning and videos. Stay tuned for those this fall. I also traveled to Washington, D.C. with the WFBF Board of Directors and Leadership Institute class in June to advocate for Wisconsin agriculture.

On August 3 we will have our District 2 YFA Discussion Meet, Over 35 Discussion Meet and policy development meeting. This year is a bit different as we are hosting the event on a Saturday. We are looking forward to a great competition and policy discussion. Then we roll into county annual meeting season, and we look forward to seeing everyone at your county meetings.

Lastly, this is our last year serving as your District 2 YFA Chairs. We have really enjoyed the opportunity to serve on the state committee. We are looking for the next District 2 YFA Chair. It is an awesome opportunity to grow, network and travel. If you are interested or have any questions about the role, give us a jingle.

Hope you all had a fantastic planting season!



YFA members visit with Madison Capitols Hockey mascot D.C. Eagle.



District 2 County YFA chairpersons gathered to discuss responsibilities, brainstorm event ideas and enjoy a friendly competition of axe throwing.



Thirty YFA members socialized in the White Claw lounge at a Madison Capitols hockey game in March.

DISTRICT 2 DISCUSSION MEETS & POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

**3:30PM - FARMER & AGRICULTURIST
UNLIMITED (FAU) DISCUSSION MEET**

4:30PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET

**5:30PM - POLICY DEVELOPMENT
& DINNER**

SOCIAL TO FOLLOW

**DANE COUNTY
EXTENSION
5201 FEN OAK DRIVE
MADISON, WI**

Young farmers and ranchers are finding they need to diversify their farm portfolio. What are some ways that young farmers and ranchers can utilize diversification to explore new revenue sources? How can Farm Bureau support YF&R members as they strengthen their farm and ranch businesses?

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

**PLEASE RSVP & DIRECT
QUESTIONS TO:**

**DISTRICT 2 YFA REPRESENTATIVES
KAT & BRADY PEPER
209.639.1715
kat.peper@yahoo.com**

District 2 News

District 2 Competition Open to Those Over 35!

Dustin Williams

Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited Chair

District 2 Farmers and Agriculturists Unlimited (FAU) Discussion Meet

- 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. This event will take place at the same time and location as the District 2 YFA Discussion Meet and policy development meeting. The District 2 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, love to compete or just love to discuss ag policy, here is your chance.



Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024

Time: 3:30 p.m.

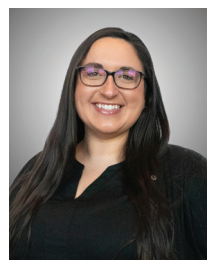
Location: Dane County Extension Office, 5201 Fen Oak Drive, Madison

Discussion Topic: *How can the Farm Bureau ensure that members transitioning out of the Young Farmer and Agriculturist program remain active and engaged in the organization?*

RSVP: Talk to your county farm bureau board or District 2 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 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 WFBF Annual Meeting, so encourage your neighboring districts to participate. This committee is also interested in the establishment of other contest areas. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Dustin Williams at dwilliams61@blackhawk.edu.

District 2 Promotion and Education Update



Kari Schoenike

WFBF Promotion and Education Committee, District 2 Chair

The state Promotion and Education committee met for our spring meeting in April. We continued to refine our committee goals and priorities as well as worked on state-wide event planning. We will host our annual Promotion and Education Leadership Bootcamp again this fall (date and location TBD). We will also be hosting an educational session at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. New this year, we will also be hosting a networking session for P&E county chairs. We are very excited about the events underway!

In District 2, we have two exciting P&E programs in the works. We are collaborating with District 1 to host a charcuterie board workshop in the Watertown area. Stay tuned for additional details. We will also be doing a postcard campaign to reach new associate members with information about Gather Wisconsin.



IGNITE Conference

Ashley Letcher

Green County Participant

On March 2, I had the pleasure of participating in a fantastic Wisconsin Farm Bureau event! It was the IGNITE Conference held in Neenah. The highlight was the inspiring keynote speaker, Almond Girl Jenny, who shared her journey and insights about her almond farm in California. I learned that they also call almonds 'ammonds' in different parts of California.

I also had the chance to attend three informative sessions. In the session "Communicating Your County Activities" I learned how to prepare for each step going into events and how to plan around different types of events. In the session "Innovation Exchange: County Idea Sharing" I learned all of the interesting events that other counties host each year and the hard work and dedication that goes into them. During my last session "Farm Bureau Membership – What Does it Mean and Why Should I Care?" I learned how to recruit new Farm Bureau members. It was difficult to choose from the diverse sessions, but I gained valuable knowledge from the ones I selected.

There are so many great training and informative conferences held by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau. I am excited to review the slides from the remaining sessions!



Arch Morton, Jr., Ashley Letcher, John McCarthy and Kat Peper represent District 2 at the IGNITE Conference held in Neenah on March 2.



District 2 News

Inaugural WisGO Team Takes Flight

Ben Huber

Green County Participant

The purpose of the WisGO team is to be a group of Wisconsin Farm Bureau members on the first line of defense when speaking on agricultural issues. The members of the team will work to develop relationships with media members as well as influential policymakers to educate them on prominent issues facing agriculture.

The 2024 WisGO team is made up of several members from across the state. Today the team includes Andrew Dal Santo, Grant County; Sydney Flick, Columbia County; Mitch Giebel, Juneau County; Libby Haften, Jefferson County; Rachel Harmann, Door County; Ben Huber, Green County; Kaitlyn Kesler, Calumet County; Lynn Leahy, Waushara County; Kyle Nilsestuen, Trempealeau County; Derek Orth, Grant County; Brooke Trustem, Rock County; Sally Turpin, Juneau County; Kelly Wilfert, Manitowoc County; Dustin Williams,

Green County and Eric Wuthrich, Green County.

Throughout the late winter and early spring, the inaugural WisGO team came together to work collectively on goal setting and professional development. We participated in media training that helped us better find our voice and provided some strategies to help navigate the “camera in your face” moments.



The WisGO Team participated in media training that helped members better find their voice and provided some strategies to help navigate the “camera in your face” moments.

The WisGO team is designed to receive a regular cadence of communication about agriculture policy and legislative initiatives and to help the team take an integrated and proactive approach to the advocacy process. Being the in-the-moment response team will for sure put this group on the front lines of agriculture advocacy for WFBF members, and we all welcome that challenge! I know that collectively, we all look forward to representing WFBF members as agricultural and rural vitality issues arise throughout our state!

Farm Bureau Members Travel to World Ag Expo in California

Loren and Jan Bobolz, Robert and Brenda Risseuw

Rock County Participants

We had the pleasure of attending the 2024 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation World Ag Expo trip. We discovered the trip while looking at a Facebook post on the WFBF page. We love to travel and thought we would like to try a guided tour vacation. Farm Bureau did not disappoint! It was very well organized and well run, nothing was left to chance. Our hotel accommodations were comfortable and clean, our bus transportation and bus driver were excellent as well. Each day, one or two meals were provided for us all while having plenty of time on our own to discover new things. Brad Uken, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Chief Administrative Officer, made sure we knew exactly what was happening each day and helped us make decisions on what or where we wanted to tour. Excellent tour guides were hired to show us both the city of San Francisco and Los Angeles. We were taken to Alcatraz, the Golden Gate Bridge, the Palaces of the Fine Arts and other scenic stops. We drove by the Bay Bridge that collapsed from the 1989 earthquake and was rebuilt. In Los Angeles, we enjoyed eating at an In and Out Burger restaurant, drove downtown Beverly Hills, walked Rodeo Drive and toured Paramount Studios. We learned a lot about filmmaking and the magic of making movie scenes seem real, like turning a parking lot into a body of water with a beach.

We also toured several farms. Each farm that they took us to was guided by very informative owners or operators. We learned so much about their product and the process it took to make their product. We toured the Kautz Family grape farm and the Bear Creek Winery. We toured Travaille and

Phippen, Inc. almond farm where we learned about tree growth, harvesting and the use of hulls and shells. We toured the Hilarides 10,000-cow dairy with their 80-cow milking carousel. Then we toured an orange grove where

we learned about the variety of oranges grown, harvested and the sale of oranges. The thing that impressed us about each farm was their lack of water supply. In Wisconsin farming, we do not have to worry about our water supply or have it monitored or restricted.

Along with the tours of the cities and the farms, we attended the World Ag Expo and were able to meet several California Farm Bureau members who shared their knowledge of both Farm Bureau and their individual farming practices as well. We spent two days at the farm show and still couldn't see the whole show. The new technology and farm equipment displayed was unique and amazing with lots of new autonomous equipment and lots of specialty equipment we have not seen here

in Wisconsin. This show is worth going to and we are thankful to Wisconsin Farm Bureau for giving us this opportunity.

We cannot express enough what a stress-free vacation this was. It was wonderful to meet and travel with other Farm Bureau members who share our interest in farming. It was also great to meet the California farmers and learn about their struggles and the regulations that need to be followed. Each farm that we toured was very friendly and eager to share their farming practices with us and were interested in hearing about our way of farming in Wisconsin. It was well planned from the air travel to get there and the bus travel to and from each destination. The lodging was perfect, and we will travel with Wisconsin Farm Bureau again.



On the trip, members enjoyed scenic stops including the Golden Gate Bridge.

District 2 News

District Essay Contest Winners Showcased

This year's fourth and fifth grade essay contest topic was "Wisconsin agriculture is fruit-full." It focused 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. 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 the contest recognized the top fourth and fifth grade essays in each district to compete at the state level.

Eleanor Jones-Sato, a 4th grade student at Roosevelt Elementary School in Rock County, was selected as the 4th grade essay winner for District 2 and the state in the 2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest!



The Sweetness of a Strawberry
By Eleanor Jones-Sato

Have you ever bitten into a sweet, ripe, juicy strawberry? I know I have. You can find strawberry farms and stores that sell strawberries all over Wisconsin, so I eat them all the time. There are over 600 different strawberries to choose from! Different places grow different strawberries, so you will always get different varieties to eat and enjoy.

This delicious fruit is planted much differently than you might think. The seeds of strawberries are very small. The seeds are actually in the inside of the ovaries (the "shell" of the seed). You would need a microscope to see the actual seed of a strawberry. Farmers get already sprouted strawberry plants shipped to them because it is so hard to plant the seed itself individually.

Strawberries are a very important part of our lives. They are very rich with vitamin C. Vitamin C helps with illnesses such as high blood pressure, common colds, cancer, asthma, and osteoarthritis. A lot of people sell and work with strawberries. There are 435,700 people who work in the strawberry industry today in Wisconsin! So if there weren't any strawberries, 435,700 people wouldn't have jobs.

Strawberries are harvested by people, not machines. They are softer than other Wisconsin fruit such as apples or cherries. They are hand-picked. Lots of strawberry farms let people come and pick strawberries themselves. But if they were harvested by machines, they would get very soft and mushy. Strawberries that get shipped to stores are picked before they are fully ripe. This helps when they are being shipped so that they don't get too soft. In the truck that they get shipped in, there are coolers to keep the strawberries as

ripe as possible.

I love strawberries. The sweetness, the deliciousness, the amazing taste of a strawberry is more than my words can say. If you want to know what I'm trying to say, than go bite into a ripe strawberry!



Eleanor Jones-Sato, a 4th grade student at Roosevelt Elementary School in Rock County, was selected as the 4th grade essay winner for District 2 in the 2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest! Here she is pictured with Stacy Skemp, Rock County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom chairperson.



Stacy Skemp (Rock County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom chairperson), teacher Carmen Dekok, Evelyn Allan (essay contest runner up), Eleanor Jones-Sato (essay contest winner) and teacher Jennifer Nowotny from Roosevelt Elementary School are recognized for their winning essays.

Mason Peterson, a 5th grade student at Rio Elementary in Columbia County, was selected as the 5th grade essay winner for District 2 in the 2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest!

Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full With Cranberries
By Mason Peterson

Did you know Wisconsin is the leading producer of cranberries in the United States? During WWII American troops consumed over one million pounds of cranberries a year. Cranberries are also a native plant to the United States.

Cranberries have been the state fruit of Wisconsin since 2004. Native Americans were the first to use cranberries as food. They used them in a dish called pemmican. Native Americans also used cranberry juice as medicine and to dye their clothes and other things. Cranberries also used to be called crane berries because the blossom of the cranberry looks like the head of a crane. Cranberries are native to the marshlands of Central Wisconsin. Cranberries were a popular trading item in the 1800's for the Ho-Chunk tribe because they could be used for so many things.

Wisconsin produces the largest amount of cranberries of any other state. We produce over 60% of the nation's crop. Wisconsin produced 4.97 million barrels of cranberries in 2023, (one barrel is one hundred pounds). That is 2.6 million more barrels than the number two producer produced; Massachusetts. In 2021 agriculture brought in \$12,853,127,000 to Wisconsin. Cranberries brought in \$164,331,000 million to Wisconsin. That makes cranberries the number one selling fruit in Wisconsin agriculture. That means it brings in more money than the most liked fruit in the nation, strawberries. The top three countries Wisconsin sends their cranberries to are Canada, China, and Mexico.

Cranberries grow in marshes and bogs. These are both types of wetlands. It takes cranberries three to five years of growing to produce a large enough crop to harvest. Cranberries do not grow in water. When it's time to harvest, farmers flood the bog so the cranberries float to the top. Then a scraper comes and combs over the top picking them off the vine. Then they are shipped out to factories to be processed into products or packaged and sent to stores. Ninety-five percent of cranberries are made into juice, sauce, and my personal favorite, dried cranberries. Only about 5% of cranberries are sold fresh. That statistic shows that out of 49,700,000 pounds of cranberries only 2,485,000 pounds are sold as what they are and not processed or made into other things. Cranberries are in more than 1,000 food and beverage products.

Wisconsin has been the leading producer of cranberries for the past 20 years since they took the title from Massachusetts. Americans consume nearly 400 million cranberries per year. Eighty million of those are consumed during my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Cranberries will always be an important and memorable superfood I will always look forward to at the holidays. Writing this essay helped me understand and appreciate how Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full.

District 2 News

WANTED: Board Directors and Delgates

Calling all those interested in becoming a board member or being selected as a voting delegate!

Board member expectations include attendance at your county Farm Bureau's monthly meeting and assistance in leading committee work. Monthly board meetings are as follows:

- Dane County Farm Bureau meets on the second Thursday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Madison.
- Green County Farm Bureau meets on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Monroe.
- Rock County Farm Bureau meets on the fourth Monday of the month beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Footville.
- Sauk County Farm Bureau meets on the first Thursday of the month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Baraboo.



Voting delegate expectations include attendance at the county's annual policy development meeting and voting as a county Farm Bureau delegate at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting held December 7-9, 2024 at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center, Wisconsin Dells.

If you are considering one of these opportunities, please contact the following board member by county:

- Dane – Jeremy Skemp | jeremy@renkseed.com | 608.212.6125
- Green – Amy Austin | amysilver@gmail.com | 608.214.9994
- Rock – Mary Hookham | mmhookham@gmail.com | 608.751.4720
- Sauk – Craig Sandmire | craigsandmire@gmail.com | 608.963.6645

Dane County

wfbf.com/about/counties/dane
DaneCountyFarmBureau

President's Message



Tom Jelinek
Dane County Farm Bureau President

Welcome to the Dane County Farm Bureau part of the District 2 Newsletter.

We will be sponsoring the Learning Lanes and the scavenger hunt at the Dane County Fair. These are great ways to educate the non-farming public on agriculture and showcase the great employment

opportunities in the ag field.

We do hope to see many golfers out to help support the youth of the district. This event will be held at the Oaks Golf Course and is a great, fun way to make a difference in our community.

If you would like to participate on the Board of Directors of Dane County Farm Bureau, contact one of our board members. We need board members and delegates for the state annual meeting.

These are both great ways to give back and help maintain a strong ag community.

Agriculture in the Classroom

By Darlene Arneson, Co-Chair

Dane County Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners

"Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full" was the topic of the 2023-2024 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest. Dane County had six entries from two schools and home schools in our county.

Dane County awarded cash prizes for both grade levels: 1st- \$50, 2nd - \$25, and 3rd - \$10. Winning teachers received agriculture-related educational resources along with a classroom presentation for 1st place winner's classrooms. Our 1st place winners, their parents and teachers are invited to attend the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 12, at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. The teachers were also offered free registrations at two of the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom summer trainings.

4th Grade contest

1st place, Irelynn Sannes

Kegonsa Elementary School, Stoughton

Parents: Scott and Katie Sannes

Teacher: Anna Slowiak

5th Grade contest

1st place, Eila Murphy

Waunakee Intermediate School, Waunakee

Parents: William and Kathleen Murphy

Teacher: Gretchen Kestler

2nd place, Priyanshi Nagpal

Waunakee Intermediate School, Waunakee

Parents: Prashant Nagpal and Aditi Vedhola

Teacher: Gretchen Kestler

3rd place, Nora Desmet

Kegonsa Elementary School, Stoughton

Parent: Katherine Nigl

Teacher: Angel Schroeder and Tim Strandlie

Reimbursement for two Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Trainings!

Dane County Agriculture in the Classroom will reimburse any Dane County teacher (who will be teaching the 2024-2025 school year in Dane County) their registration fee for attending the **Seeds of Knowledge and/or the Land Ethic and Agricultural Literacy in the Driftless Region**. Upon completion of the workshop and verification from Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom that you attended, contact Darlene Arneson for the reimbursement form. Please email Darlene at arnesonfamily5@gmail.com when you register so we know how many teachers to expect funding from! Register at <https://www.wisagclassroom.org/events-activities/trainings/teacher-experiences/>

Watch for Dane County Agriculture in the Classroom this summer at:

Dane County Fair's Youth Day – Friday, July 19. The hands-on activities run from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Exhibit Hall A at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Learn more at <https://www.danecountyfair.com/events?date=07192024>



1. Kegonsa Elementary School 4th grade essay participants Irelynn Sannes (1st place), Nora Desmet (3rd place), Isabelle Helley (4th place) and Molly Frisch (5th place).

2. Waunakee Intermediate School 5th grade essay contest winners include Eila Murphy (1st place), and Priyanshi Nagpal (2nd place) pictured with Principal Tim Mommaerts.

Members Attend Winter Meeting

Scott Eastwood, Co-Chair

The Dane County Farm Bureau hosted their annual winter meeting on February 13 at Rex's Innkeeper. Thirty members were able to take advantage of the tremendous benefit of Farm Bureau membership.

Jason Mugnaini, Executive Director of Government Relations with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation spoke on a wide variety of topics including



WFBF's Jason Mugnaini spoke on a wide variety of topics.

potential changes to our legislative maps, the Agriculture Road Improvement Program, the upcoming farm bill and Farm Bureau Health Plans. Additionally, Special Agent Scott Mahloch, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator with the FBI, gave an engaging presentation on Food and Agriculture Threats.

Thank you to those who attended and helped with the winter meeting. We look forward to seeing you next year.



Special Agent Scott Mahloch, Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator with the FBI, gave an engaging presentation.

Dane County Farm Bureau Supports FFA



Belleville FFA members gave a presentation on their FFA Farm Forum experience to the Dane County Farm Bureau Board of Directors.



Dane County Farm Bureau Board Director Mike Sanders accepted a VIB Citation Award from the Wisconsin Heights FFA Chapter at their awards banquet for supporting the Wisconsin Heights FFA chapter over the years.



Dane County Farm Bureau sponsored Belleville FFA members' participation at the FFA Farm Forum held in February.

YFA Hockey Night at Madison Capitols!

Heidi Smith, Chair



While it was a nail-biter of a game; the Madison Capitols and Youngstown Phantoms went into a "sudden death" overtime period for five minutes, where the Madison Capitols came out with the overall 5-4 win! This win snapped a six-game losing streak for Madison after the win. It was a full house, and a great night.

BUILDING A NEW FRONTIER

DANE COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your calendar for the Dane County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 12. The meeting will take place at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee. Kirby Wagner, Associate Manager of Government Relations at GROWMARK, Inc., will be our keynote speaker.

Postcard invitation with complete details to follow in August.

Policy Development Meeting Scheduled

Sam Skemp, Chair

Date: Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: The Oaks Golf Course

Address: 4740 Pierceville Road Cottage Grove WI 53527

You are invited to participate in the Dane County Farm Bureau Policy Development Meeting on Wednesday, July 10 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau policy is established by farmer and agriculturist members to guide the organization's position on specific legislation and rules.

Each year Dane County Farm Bureau members develop, discuss and vote on resolutions addressing local, state and national issues facing agriculture. State and national resolutions are discussed and voted on by delegates at the

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meetings, respectively.

With more than 48,000 members representing all aspects of agriculture, WFBF is a respected voice for agriculture with legislators, the governor, state agencies, the media and other agriculture organizations.

This is an opportunity for you to express your ideas about policies that would be beneficial to agriculture not only in Dane County but around the state

If you would like to review the current 2023 Farm Bureau Policy Book you can go online at <https://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development/>

Dinner will be provided. We appreciate your participation in this important event. **Please RSVP by Sunday, July 7 to Sam Skemp by calling 608.444.9537 or email sskemp1@charter.net**

Green County

wfbf.com/about/counties/green
GreenCountyFarmBureau

Breaking the Stigma for Farmers this Mental Health Month



Eric Wuthrich

Green County Farm Bureau Vice President

There is no doubt that May is a very busy time of year. We see trees and flowers blooming, people doing yard work and farmers doing field work.

While these conditions are relaxing for many, farmers are hard at work and relying on Mother Nature to cooperate with them so they can get the crop in the ground to feed their communities.

While I did not grow up on a farm, I knew at a young age that farming would be in my future. As an agribusiness leader and beginning farmer, I have firsthand experience with the toll busy seasons like spring planting and fall harvest can have on mental health.

According to a study conducted by American Farm Bureau, mental health is something that many farmers, farmworkers and rural adults struggle with. However, the stigma and cost associated with treatment are hindering them from seeking necessary treatment.

Farmers and farmworkers who were surveyed said financial issues, farm or business problems, and fear of losing the farm have the greatest impact on their mental health. Other factors included stress, weather, the economy, isolation and social stigma.

Three in four rural adults (75%) said it's important to reduce stigma about mental health in the agriculture community, while two in three farmers/farm workers (66%) said the same.

A healthy farm is nothing without a healthy farmer. Early mornings lead to late nights in the barn or tractor cab, which can take a toll both physically and mentally on our farmers. Mental health is just as important as physical health; eating right, making time to get a proper night's rest and finding ways to relax are just a few things that can help improve both.

Farming can be an isolating career and it is time to end the stigma surrounding mental health. Some farmers will go days and even weeks without leaving the farm or talking to people other than their family when the work needs to be done. Relationships are a preventative tool for coping with stress and a lifeline for those who are struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts or substance misuse.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Farm Neighbors Care campaign asks rural residents to have conversations with their farm neighbors and check in on them not only during busy times but all times throughout the year. Whether you are a neighbor, friend or stranger, a simple phone call or stopping by the farm could make a farmer's day.

There is a wealth of additional mental health resources available here in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Farm Center's Farmer Wellness Program provides a variety of counseling services, including the 24/7 Farmer Wellness Helpline, (888) 901-2558.

Similarly, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week simply by dialing 988.

It is okay to not be okay, but it is not okay to go at it alone. Small gestures can have a big impact, and I encourage you to take the opportunity to check in on your rural neighbors to show them exactly why farm neighbors care.

To learn more about WFBF's Farm Neighbors Care campaign, visit wfbf.com/programs/rural-resilience.



#FarmNeighborsCare

Date: August 21

Time: 6:30 p.m. – Social, 7 p.m. –

Meal, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. – Meeting

**Location: Albany Lions Club
402 N Cincinnati St, Albany**



**GREEN COUNTY
ANNUAL MEETING**

Join fellow Green County Farm Bureau members at this year's annual meeting for an evening of food, friends and fun. Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Executive Director of Government Relations Jason Mugnaini is scheduled to be our keynote speaker. Postcard invitation with complete details to follow in late July. See you there!

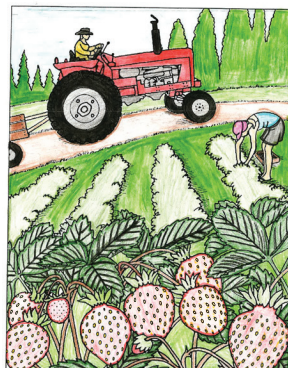
Essay and Coloring Contests are "Fruit-Full"

Tess Zettle, Chair

The Green County Farm Bureau essay and coloring contest entries had a great learning experience about fruit grown in the state this year. This year's theme was "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-Full". We had 15 essays enter the contest.

This year's Green County Farm Bureau essay contest winner is Skye Baker from Monticello School. Our 2nd place winner is Leah McLoud, and our 3rd place winner is Eestyn Homb, both are also from Monticello School.

In our coloring contest, we had 16 entries from two different schools. 1st place went to McKenlee Olsen from Northside Elementary in Monroe. Our 2nd place entry was Lucy Kent from Northside Elementary School in Monroe, and our 3rd place entry was Jase Luchinger from Monticello School.



1st place coloring contest winner is McKenlee Olsen from Northside Elementary in Monroe

Family Farm Adventure at Breakfast on the Farm



The family farm adventure face cutouts made an appearance at the Green County Breakfast on the Farm.

Rock County

President's Message



Tim Wellnitz
Rock County Farm Bureau President

Greetings everyone, I hope everyone's planting season went smoothly with minimal breakdowns and efficient days. As we head into this growing season and look forward to watching our crops grow, I'd like to take the opportunity to inform you about some events the Rock County Farm Bureau has scheduled.

Our Focus on Ag event is held in June during election years with some of our local legislators to talk about concerns we have with productive farmland being lost to development whether it be commercial, residential, solar, etc.

From July 23 to 28 we have our Rock County 4-H Fair where we have our fair food stand serving the best burgers, steak sandwiches, shakes and malts

around! Come on down, check it out and support all the young exhibitors and their hard work they put in all year to prepare for the fair.

On August 13, Rock County Farm Bureau along with Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green and Sauk counties in District 2 will have our annual golf outing fundraiser at the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. This event helps support many of the important programs for each individual county Farm Bureau. Please join us for a day of fun and support this event.

The Rock County Farm Bureau believes it is important to stay involved with the community and keep them informed the best we can about agriculture. Listening to concerns and answering questions helps us reach common ground so we can be stronger together in our agriculture endeavors while being good stewards of the land and the communities.

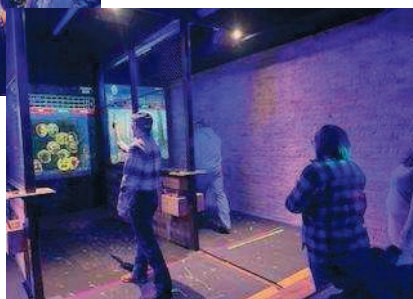
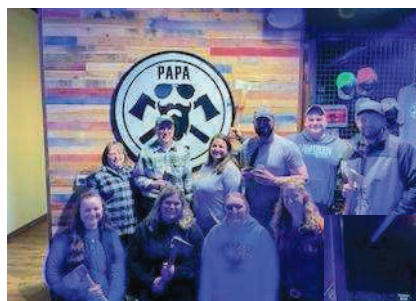
I wish you all a great and successful growing season with all the heat and rain you need to be profitable and continue to do what you love.

YFA Hosts Axe Throwing

Brook Trustem, Chair

In February, the Rock County Farm Bureau had a fun night of axe throwing at Papa Docs in Janesville, Wisconsin. The event was attended by flannel-clad members who enjoyed throwing axes and ninja stars while bonding with each other. The night was also an excellent opportunity for team building for county Farm Bureau groups. The event attracted guests from neighboring Green County and members had a chance to share their excitement for future

Farm Bureau events. Overall, it was a memorable and exciting night for Rock County Farm Bureau.



Fair Food Stand Plea for Help

Ed Hookham, Chair



Hooray, the Fair is coming! Preparations are being made for the Rock County Farm Bureau food stand at the Rock County 4-H Fair and we need your help. The fair will be Tuesday, July 23 through Sunday, July 28. We need volunteers for multiple shifts. Shifts will run from

10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. with a few people needed earlier and later to open and close. We need 8 to 10 people per shift. Members can sign up to volunteer in the fair food stand on Sign-Up Genius at <https://bit.ly/2024RCFBfoodstand> or by using the QR code.

If you have a group that would like to take a full shift, talk to me about compensation of \$500 per shift. We would be happy to help your group make money by helping our group!

Contact Ed Hookham at 608-751-3005 or jndsfeed@gmail.com
Thanks, and see you at the fair!



Welcome New Board Directors



Jan Bobolz and her family

Jan Bobolz

Hi, my name is Jan Bobolz and I farm with my husband Loren in rural Janesville. We have been married for 35 years and we have 3 adult children. Jacob is married to Eliza and they have a daughter, Sadie. Kalyn is married to Dane and they have a daughter, Saige and our daughter Neleah is going to be a Sophomore at Lake Land College in the fall where she is studying animal science.

My husband is the fourth generation to farm his family's farm. We finish out beef steer/heifers and cash crop corn and soybeans. We also grow alfalfa. We are blessed to have Jacob farming with us, too.

I'm excited to be on the board to help preserve agriculture and the future of farming for generations to come.

Andy McWilliams

I graduated from Craig High School in 2002 where I met my wife of now 17 years. After high school, I went to Farm and Industry Short Course for two years and then got into an electrical apprenticeship. I worked in the field as an electrician until 2014 when I took a job at Blain Supply Farm and Fleet as the Assistant Facilities Manager. I am now the Senior Facilities Manager for Blain Supply, 3 DC's, and 45 Farm and Fleet Stores.

My wife Devon and I have 3 children, Elena 12, Abel 10, and Callen 7, and live on a small family farm just outside of Orfordville where we raise pigs, cattle, poultry, two pet goats and our dog Rodney.

I have been active in the Orfordville/Footville Community cooking for many different events, former member of Rock County Pork Producers, Rock County 4-H fair and have cooked for many different weddings, grad parties and gatherings. For fun, I enjoy fishing, farming and spending time with my kids. My favorite time of year is the Rock County Fair.



Andy McWilliams

Policy Development Discussion to be Held August 14

Kirk Leach, Chair

The Rock County Farm Bureau Policy Development Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 14 at 7 p.m. at the LaPrairie Grange Hall. The Grange Hall is located at 3610 S. LaPrairie Town Hall Road, Janesville.

The purpose of the meeting will be to propose and discuss additions and changes to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau policy books. Please come with thoughts and concerns on such topics as solar projects, watershed management and any issues affecting your operation or agriculture in general.

The current WFBF policy books are available in hard copy through me or online at <https://wfbf.com/policy/policy-development/>. There will be a limited number of copies available at the meeting.



ROCK COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING

Date: Monday, September 23, 2024
 Time: 6:30 p.m. – Mixer and Registration, 7 p.m. – Dinner, 7:45 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Business Meeting
 Location: The Barn on Prairie
 5828 S. County Road G, Janesville, WI

Join us for another engaging and informative annual meeting at The Barn on Prairie. We will serve a delicious meal and enjoy each other's company as we hold our business meeting! The board will hold its annual board of director election, WFBF delegate selection, affiliate reports, policy development discussion and other items of business. Formal postcard invitation to come in August. Rock County Farm Bureau Board of Directors hopes to see you there!

– Mary Hookham, Executive Director

Sauk County

President's Message

Mike Turner

Sauk County Farm Bureau President

Hello Sauk County Farm Bureau, I hope everyone had a safe spring planting season. This summer a lot of changes will be happening with the new Senate and Assembly districts taking effect after the fall election. The Senate district now covers all of Sauk County; if the incumbent wins, it will be Sen. Joan Ballweg. The Assembly county seat is still split. Rep. Considine is retiring this year so we will have to wait for candidates to be announced. This election year could be pivotal for agriculture so please look into who is running and what district you fall into.

I hope you all have a safe summer. We will see you at the fair.

Flapjacks for Farmers and Friends



Sauk County Board members Ken Nolden, Tommy Brennan and Galen Alwin enjoyed a great morning at Baraboo FFA's Flapjacks for Farmers event talking with attendees about Farm Bureau.

Farm Neighbors Care



Sauk County Farm Bureau continues to give to those in the community through the Farm Neighbors Care program.

A Wonderful Day with Alice in Dairyland Celebrating Ag Day

Nancy Liegel, Chair

On March 18, Alice in Dairyland met Nancy Liegel at the Merrimac Community School. It was a great experience with her reading a book to the second grade class of Mrs. McCann's. Nancy provided cupcakes that were strawberry and had fruit picks on them. What a hit.

Then we made travels to Bridges Elementary School to meet up with Mrs. Schartner's second grade class. The book I Love Strawberries was read, along with strawberry cupcakes. The kids really enjoyed her!

Then Alice in Dairyland and Nancy made a surprise stop to Pulsfus Rural Insurance Co. in Prairie du Sac. It was great to see the crew there and had a few pictures taken. We can't thank Daryl and his crew enough for always supporting Agriculture in the Classroom and other Sauk County Farm Bureau

events.

Wow, where did the morning go! Then it was time to have lunch at the Vintage Restaurant in Sauk City along with several Sauk County Farm Bureau directors and members. It was a great time visiting with Alice! What a special person!

With travels to Spring Green, we stopped at Cedar Grove Cheese Factory in Plain to see Bob Wills! Pictures were taken of Alice and Bob meeting up before a panel that they are going to be on together in June!

Our last stop was St. John's Evangelist School in Spring Green at Mrs. Olson's second grade class to read the book I Love Strawberries. They enjoyed strawberry suckers and a strawberry word search puzzle.

What a great day to have the experience of being with Alice in Dairyland!



1. Alice in Dairyland reads a book to students.
2. Gordon Wilson School celebrated Earth Day with Nancy Liegel by making cranberry soil profile edible cups.
3. Alice in Dairyland visited Sauk County schools with Agriculture in the Classroom Chair Nancy Liegel.
4. The coloring contest was about strawberries. We judged by the class and the overall winner is pictured. We had 150 entries from my classes.
5. Making cheese?! No whey! It was a gouda day to make fresh mozzarella using math, science and literacy. Cheese tasting with Agriculture in the Classroom and the Sauk County Farm Bureau made the day even cheddar!
6. In early spring, Nancy Liegel gave each class a strawberry kit.



**Sauk County Farm Bureau
Fair Food Stand**

VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

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

- multiple shifts available

Sign up using the link or QR code below:
<https://bit.ly/2024SaukCFBfoodstand>



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



SAUK COUNTY
ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us in conducting our Sauk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.
 Date: Thursday, August 22, 2024
 Time: 6:30 p.m. – Registration, 7 p.m. – Dinner and Meeting
 Location: Narrows Creek Winery
 Address: E5286 Narrows Creek Rd, Loganville
 Keynote Speaker: Bradley Uken, Chief Administrative Officer, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

There will be a free catered meal. Remember to get your reservation in promptly when you receive your postcard invitation in late July.

**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

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

A New Way To Pay Your Bill

Recurring Electronic Fund Transfer

Recurring electronic payments make paying
your bill easy and convenient.

- ✓ Flexible withdrawal dates; 1st - 28th of the month
- ✓ Monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual payment options available
- ✓ Select your payment option and date per policy to fit your budget
- ✓ Electronic delivery of your insurance documents
- ✓ No installment service fees
- ✓ Pay by bank account or credit card*

Reach out to your agent to get started
www.RuralMutual.com

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company

