



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Hello District 3!

Well, it appears with spring comes a snowstorm. What a strange winter/spring/winter it has been! Many have been asking when to plant or if it is too early. To answer that question, I will rely on advice received from a past college professor, which is “ask me in the fall.”

Your governmental relations team has been staying very busy these days. Needless to say, the new legislative maps have been a huge topic of discussion lately. This means Farm Bureau is hard at work building new relationships with potential new legislators. Please stay informed about any changes in representation in your counties and reach out to your representatives with your agriculture story.

Membership is looking amazing this year across the state and is ahead of last year. Reminder, the early bird deadline is April 30 this year. Keep

up the good work!

The public relations team continues to promote agriculture to the public by sharing the amazing story of agriculture and WFBF happenings. Their press releases and communication projects are helpful with keeping members informed and updated.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees is working to spread awareness for the Foundation. Their mission is to promote the Foundation’s mission which focuses on programming such as Agriculture in the Classroom, Leadership Institute, Farm Neighbors Care Grants, Collegiate Farm Bureau and Gather Wisconsin. With that being said, please consider participating in the 2024 Giving Day, which will be held on August 14. If you know of someone who would make a great partner, please share with John Hromyak or myself.

As always, thank you for allowing me to serve District 3 as your District Director and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events this spring. Stay safe and informed!

Robert Nigh
608.606.4319

WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU 35 UNDER 35

NOMINATIONS OPEN MARCH 1-JUNE 1



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35 Under 35 recognizes and celebrates young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in sustainability. 35 Under 35 is open to WFBF YFA members ages 18-35. 35 finalists will be selected to receive special prizes and \$100 cash. Top individuals in each category will receive \$500 cash.



LEARN MORE AND NOMINATE A YFA MEMBER AT
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District 3 News

WFBF Delegates Set Policy for 2024

More than 230 delegates at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's 104th Annual Meeting established new policy directives for the organization.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau delegates adopted the policies that will be included in the organization's policy book in 2024. Resolutions were submitted by delegates as part of the organization's annual grassroots policy development process. Topics discussed on the delegate floor included dairy, energy and transportation.

During the dairy discussion, delegates supported the transfer of grade A permits from seller to buyer with a grace period to update current codes if necessary. Delegates also supported the implementation of a dairy revitalization plan on both the state and federal level.

During energy discussions, members were diligent in their support of preserving Wisconsin agriculture land for agricultural production. Delegates supported:

Wisconsin law requiring an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) to construct solar and wind projects.

- Requiring new solar projects have to utilize brown fields, rooftops and degraded lands or low-yield, underutilized or marginalized farmland.
 - Safety training for first responders around renewable energy sources.
 - Making biofuels (both diesel and gas) more accessible for use across the state.
 - Preserving Wisconsin agriculture land for agricultural production.
- Delegates opposed farmland preservation tax credits to be claimed for

land in solar energy projects unless it is an accessory use of the farm.

Delegates from the Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 61 county Farm Bureaus also supported:

- Initiatives to expand access to affordable rural childcare.
- Increased financial support for crop damage due to wildlife.
- Creation and state funding for a Wisconsin Office of Agricultural Tourism.
- Reaffirmed support for a voluntary carbon credit market.

On the federal level, delegates:

- Supported easing Farm Service Agency Beginning Farmer Loan requirements for young farmers pursuing the purchase of a farm.
- Supported increasing the weight limit of drones.

The federal resolutions were forwarded to the American Farm Bureau Federation for consideration at the 2024 Annual Convention held in January.

The following individuals represented District 3 as 2023 delegates:

Crawford: Don Brown, Lori Brown, AV Roth

Grant: Andrew Dal Santo, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Katie Roth, Abby Walker, Christina Winch, and Peter Winch

Iowa: Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Kyle Levetzow, and John Meyers

Lafayette: Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Curt Miller, Benjamin Cooper, Joe Riechers

Richland: Josh Joseph and Dick Hauser

Vernon: Drew Hendrickson, Eldon Henthorne, Alex Bringe, Andy Diehl and Travis Klinkner



District 3 was well represented at this year's WFBF Annual Meeting.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Establishes Board of Trustees

A newly formed group of Wisconsin Farm Bureau leaders convened for the first time on March 6 as the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees was established by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors and will be responsible for expanding fundraising and program efforts.

"I'm excited to join the talented and experienced individuals who have so generously volunteered for this important role," said Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Bob Nash. "Our Farm Bureau leadership and education programs will benefit greatly from the engagement of individuals, businesses and other organizations from the agricultural community and beyond."

The creation of the Board of Trustees was a recommended outcome from a year-long task force, which outlined long-

term goals and created a full-time foundation director position.

"This is a significant step for the long-term success of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and the programs it supports," said Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Director John Hromyak. "I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees to identify and pursue new opportunities to develop our base of donors and sponsors."

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees includes: Jim Renn, Ben Huber, Robert Nigh, Loren Wolfe, Roger Grade, Kaitlyn Kesler, Ken Harter, Sara Menard Huber, Isaac Christenson; at-large representatives Kristi Fiedler, Bob Nash (Chair), Andrew Dal Santo (Vice Chair); and ex-officio members Brad Olson, WFBF President, and Joe Bragger, WFBF Vice President.



District 3 News

Members Connect with Legislators at Ag Day at the Capitol

On January 31, more than 275 farmers and agriculturists gathered at the Monona Terrace in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol. Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees started the day with a welcome from Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Brad Olson, a video message from Gov. Tony Evers and comments from Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski. Secretary Romanski encouraged farmers in attendance to stay connected with their legislators on both the state and federal level. "It is really important for you to continue to do things like this," said Romanski. "Whether it is your first time or one hundredth time speaking to your legislators, your voice matters."

Following the Secretary's speech, Wisconsin Realtors Association's Director of Political and Governmental Affairs Joe Murray served as the event's featured speaker. Murray shared what constituents can expect for a political outlook in the coming year. The afternoon session was a legislative panel on several current issues impacting agriculture in the state legislature. The panel was moderated by WFBF Executive Director of Governmental Relations Jason Mugnaini and was comprised of Senators

Patrick Testin, Brad Pfaff and Joan Ballweg, and Representatives Tony Kurtz, Dave Considine and Travis Tranel.

The panel discussed:

- Recent investments in rural infrastructure.
- Improving access services, including affordable healthcare, for farm families.
- Government's role in new and emerging agricultural technologies.
- Ensuring a stable workforce for sustainable growth in agriculture.

The program concluded with issue briefings with a strong focus on encouraging the passage of AB 860 and SB 811, legislation which would allow Wisconsin Farm Bureau to provide members with a unique and affordable health coverage plan option that is currently operated by state Farm Bureaus in seven other states.

Additional topics included:

- Protecting animal agriculture from overreaching local regulation.
- Upcoming ARIP application process.
- Supporting agricultural economic development projects in Evansville and Stevens Point.

The afternoon's program concluded with attendees walking to the Capitol where they met with their legislators from their respective areas



County Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

In January, District 3 county presidents and vice presidents were invited to the 2024 Council of Presidents meeting at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. Those in attendance met with other county leaders from around the state to network, generate new ideas and discuss official WFBF business.



Pictured (from left): Allen Johnson, Grant County Vice – President; Peter Winch, Grant County President; Alex Bringe, Vernon County President; Krista Dolan, Iowa County President; Robert Nigh, District 3 Director; and Christina Benson, Lafayette County President.

NOMINATIONS OPEN

Do you know someone who is inspiring or helping others? We want to hear about them and recognize the great things people are doing for their community.

NOMINATE BY MAY 20

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District 3 News

Collegiate Corner

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter has stayed busy attending many WFBF events. Over the past few months, collegiate members have attended the 2023 YFA Conference, 2024 Ag Day at the

Capitol and the 2024 IGNITE Conference. Collegiate members have enjoyed networking with WFBF members and learning about Farm Bureau opportunities available after college.



Emily Kamps Earns Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher Award

This past December, Emily Kamps was named the 2023 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher. Kamps is a third-grade educator at Fennimore Elementary in Fennimore.

The Outstanding Teacher Award honors K-12 educators working to enhance student learning and achievement in core subjects while increasing student awareness and understanding of the important role agriculture plays in students' daily lives.

"I believe it is important for all students to be agriculturally literate because they will eventually become consumers," stated Emily in her application. "Being agriculturally literate will allow these future consumers to make more informed decisions on food, goods, jobs, the environment, the economy and their health."

For the three years, Kamps has integrated agricultural literacy into her classroom by integrating agriculture topics into weekly themes – including "Wisconsin Wednesdays." Kamps has integrated agriculture into almost every core subject allowing her students to improve their reading, writing and problem-solving skills through partnerships with Wisconsin

Agriculture in the Classroom, Adopt-A-Cow classroom program, and local farms and agri-businesses.

Her classroom success has spilled into summer school, as Kamps developed two new courses for K-8 students to explore agriculture through careers, STEM and literature.

Kamps hopes these extra enrichment courses will build student awareness of the diverse opportunities for careers in agriculture as well as increase the numbers of students who go on to enroll in agriculture education courses.

"Seeing what my students learn through my agriculture incorporation is very rewarding. It encourages me to do more and find new ways to make that learning fun and educational," said Kamps. "I hope that some of my students will decide on the agriculture field because of what they learned while in my classroom."

Kamps received a plaque and prize packaged valued at over \$1,700 and will represent Wisconsin as the state's nominee for the Excellence in Teaching About

Agriculture Award Program presented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Ag in the Classroom program.



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Farm Bureau Selects Members for Inaugural WisGO Team

Fifteen Wisconsin Farm Bureau members have been selected to serve on the organization's inaugural WisGO Team.

The WisGO Team is WFBF's first line of contact when speaking on agricultural issues. Members of this year's 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.

"As the trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward, Farm Bureau is excited to offer this new opportunity for members to grow their advocacy skills," said WFBF President Brad Olson. "This year's WisGO



team exemplifies our state's agricultural diversity, and we look forward to helping these members grow and flourish as agriculture advocates in the coming year."

Members of the 2024 WisGO Team from District 3 include: Andrew Dal Santo and Derek Orth from Grant County.

WisGO Team members serve as official spokespersons for Farm Bureau and agriculture issues. These members will serve as influential and authoritative individuals to 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.

Promotion and Education Update – Cultivating Success: Insights from the AFBF YF&R Conference



Tammy Wiedenbeck
District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Representative

As the world's population continues to grow, projected to reach 1.8 billion more people by 2050, the challenges facing agriculture get increasingly complex. Yet in the face of such obstacles, speaker Dr. Rick Rigsby's words resonated well with the audience: "You don't walk away from a calling." Agriculture is more than an

occupation – it's a purpose filled with faith, family and a commitment to feeding the world.

At the recent American Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) conference, Rigsby's wisdom served as an inspiration. "Leadership is influence," he stated, encouraging attendees to grow their impact on future generations. His three-step approach? Do better, embrace discomfort and continually disrupt stagnant thinking. Everybody can be successful, but not everybody will be.

The insights didn't stop there. Speaker Lisa Quist, in her farm transition workshop, emphasized the need for comprehensive succession planning – a necessity too often overlooked, with only one-third of farms having a transition strategy in place today. Building a team encompassing lenders, attorneys, accountants and advisors is critical for navigating the complexities of ownership transfers, contracts and beneficiary designations

(which usually trump anything in a will).

Prioritizing mental health also took center stage, with resources like Farm State of Mind offering critical support. As Gary Matteson of the Farm Credit Council reminded attendees, "The hardest thing to do in a family business is stop, but you have to recognize what isn't working." Define what success means to you and your business. Embracing change and continually refining plans is the hallmark of successful "rural entrepreneurs."

From the fundamentals of financial management, production and marketing, the conference provided a roadmap for sustainable profitability. Matteson's advice: "Know what people want to buy," and leverage tools like cost-benefit analysis and logistics to maximize return on investment.

Occurring throughout the conference was this call to action: never stop learning, never stop growing. As Rigsby reminded attendees, "Live today like you'll die tomorrow. Learn today like you'll live forever." It's a mindset that drives resilience, sparks innovation and pushes agriculture into the future.

In the evolving landscape of agriculture, one truth remains the same: success is born from hard work, strategic planning and a commitment to one's calling. The AFBF YF&R conference provided fertile ground for cultivating these seeds of excellence, empowering attendees, like myself, to embrace discomfort, disrupt daily thinking and shape a better future for all.



District 3 News

YFA Update



Morgan and Casey Lobdell

District 3 YFA Committee Representatives

2024 has certainly kicked off with a flurry of Farm Bureau activities and events. Casey and I started our year by attending a YFA Committee

check-in meeting which was held back in January. We certainly got the timing right, seeing as it was scheduled during one of the few snowstorms we had this winter. However, we persevered and made it to Madison safely. During this check-in, we had a chance to recap the 2023 YFA Conference with our fellow committee members and started making plans for this year's conference. It was a wonderful time getting to catch up with everyone after the busy holiday season.

In February, I had the opportunity to attend the Iowa Young Farmer Conference and represent the Wisconsin YFA Committee with my sister, Katie Fitzsimons. Attending was a very special opportunity since I interned with Iowa Farm Bureau in 2019-2020. In addition, Katie and I attended the Iowa Young Farmer Conference together while we were students at Iowa State University in 2019. Go Cyclones! Little did we know that five years later we'd be back representing Wisconsin Farm Bureau in our respective roles. Aside from reminiscing on my interning



days with old coworkers, the conference gave me the chance to sit in on great workshops and make new Farm Bureau connections in Iowa.

Casey and I were able to squeeze in the District 3 YFA Bowling Night before farrowing and pig sale season got too chaotic. We hosted the event on February 24 in Richland County at The Phoenix Center. The event had a great turnout and even helped to find a few new YFA members in Richland County. Thank you to everyone who attended or helped promote the event!

If you need either Casey or I anytime soon, you will for sure find us in the pig barn. As we're easing out of farrowing, sale season is quickly taking off full steam ahead. Over the years, we've learned part of what makes Farm Bureau so great, is the Farm Bureau family you gain along the way. With that being said, we're immensely grateful to our Farm Bureau family for their support of Lobdell Show Pigs this year. While Farm Bureau is a big part of our life, we also have a passion for raising show pigs and mentoring youth livestock projects. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to our Farm Bureau family members who have invited us into their barns for the 2024 show season.

Once the show pig barn clears out, we'll be back with upcoming event information. We have many fun summer activities in the works that we'll start sharing soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions for us please reach out at 608.574.0403 (Morgan) 608.482.4525 (Casey).

District 3 YFA Bowling Night



District 3 YFA Committee chairs, Morgan and Casey Lobdell, hosted a fun-filled bowling event in Richland County on February 24. The bowling night brought together Farm Bureau members for an evening of friendly competition and camaraderie. The event took place at The Phoenix Center, where participants of all ages and skill levels had the opportunity to showcase their bowling talents.

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District 3 News

Local FFA Members Attend Farm Forum

More than 315 high school juniors and FFA advisors from across Wisconsin attended Wisconsin Farm Bureau's FFA Farm Forum in Rothschild on Feb. 15.

"FFA Farm Forum is an opportunity for the next generation in agriculture to gain new experiences and leadership skills," said WFBF President Brad Olson. "We appreciate FFA members participating in FFA Farm Forum, investing in both themselves and the future of agriculture."

The keynote speaker was UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau member Katrina Hoesley. Hoesley encouraged students to live out their best values with intention and to connect their passions with a driving purpose to ensure success.

During the one-day event, FFA members attended career-based workshops including: 'Explore the World of Marketing and Communications' with Kendall Riskedal of broadhead. and Country

Lights Soy Candles; 'Navigating Ag Horizons: My Journey from FFA to Farm Bureau' with Ben Sand of 715 Risk Advisors LLC; 'Redefining and Celebrating Sustainability' with Rachel LaCount of Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation; 'Ag Lending: More Than Just Loaning Money' with Josh Schmidt of AgCountry Farm Credit Services; 'FFA, YFA and Your Ag Experience' with Katrina Hoesley of UW-River Falls Collegiate Farm Bureau; and 'Your Passion + The Right Training = Career Success' with Adam Wehling of Chippewa Valley Technical College.

"FFA Farm Forum is a great partnership between Wisconsin Farm Bureau and Wisconsin FFA to encourage leadership development and exploration of careers in agriculture," said WFBF Director of Young Leader Programs Melissa Jacobson. "We were excited to provide this opportunity for future agricultural leaders."



WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference Snapshots



Farm Bureau Flavor

From the kitchen of Mary Jo Johnsrude

Brown Sugar Rhubarb Cake

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup softened butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup finely cut rhubarb

Directions:

- Combine cream butter and brown sugar
- Add in egg and vanilla
- Mix in dry ingredients
- Fold in rhubarb
- Pour in 8x8 inch greased and floured pan
- Cover with mixture of 3 tablespoons of white sugar and ½ teaspoon of cinnamon
- Bake 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees



President's Message



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello all from northern Grant County. The winter has been very good to us, not too cold or too much snow. Back in December, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting was held at the Kalahari in the Wisconsin Dells. We got to see old friends and neighbors from across the state. Our county was well represented at the Annual Meeting and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference. The policy resolution session was the reason we were there. It was time to set policies for the organization prioritizing what is important to members. This is a true grassroots process, meaning policies are submitted from counties all over the state to be reviewed by the Policy Development Committee. After they are reviewed, they are brought before the delegates of all the counties in the state. The delegates vote on policies that are put in our state policy book for our staff and lobbyists to use to promote our view as one organization.

Now it is even more important with the ever-changing government to be sure that farmers have a seat at the table. Farm Bureau is our voice and

we need to be sure that everyone hears what farmers have to say and how legislation affects farmers. Very few people in government are farmers or even one generation or more removed from farming. As we gain members, it makes our voice even louder. Farm Bureau is a well-respected grassroots organization that starts at the local and county level. I am proud to be a member and do what I can to help.

At end of January, WFBF hosted the Council of Presidents. This event is held in Madison for county presidents and vice presidents. We get to meet presidents from counties around the state and listen in on informational sessions. We get to have one-on-one conversations with WFBF leadership and get to meet the state staff. After the event, we headed straight to Ag Day at the Capitol where we heard from members of the government relations teams and from legislators on a panel. After the speakers, we walked up to the Capitol to meet with our representatives to discuss our legislative concerns. As always, it was a great opportunity to represent the Farm Bureau at the Capitol and hear from legislators.

Please feel free to contact me at 608.778.1150 if you are interested in getting more involved with Grant County Farm Bureau. Have a safe and productive spring!



Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo

Grant County Farm Bureau YFA Committee Chair

Welcome to 2024! It was great seeing everyone at the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. It seems like it was just a few weeks ago but looking at the calendar, it's almost time to get equipment and machinery ready for spring. The YFA Conference, as always,

was a great couple of days of spending time with the Wisconsin Farm Bureau family. Between the contests, breakout sessions and evening entertainment, it felt like our time together flew by. Congratulations to all the Grant County YFA members who competed in the YFA contests and those nominated for the 35 Under 35 awards. It's so great to see such involvement and activity coming from our Young Farmers and

Agriculturists. I know I am not the only one looking forward to our 2024 Conference. As always if you are interested in participating in any competitions, especially the discussion meet, feel free to contact me and I can give you more information about them!

It was also great to see everyone that was able to attend the District 3 bowling event at the Phoenix Center in Richland Center. This event seemed to draw a crowd and I was extremely happy to see some new faces that were interested in becoming a member. This event was a HUGE success.

Looking to the future, I hope we all have a safe and efficient planting session. Just as we maintain our machinery, please remember to take the time to practice good maintenance on yourself and those close to you this planting season. I hope to see you all throughout the spring. If you have any thoughts on some events you would like to see, feel free to contact me at any time. Again, have a safe planting season and I hope to see you all soon!

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Megan Yager

Iowa County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Hello! I hope everyone has had an enjoyable winter/spring thus far. The daylight is lasting longer, and spring is just around the corner.

The excitement of another calving season and crops to plant are something I really look forward to. I wish I could say that I was just as excited about the mud season that comes along with spring.

This year's Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest prompt is "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-full." The contest is open to fourth and fifth-grade students. I enjoyed reading all the great entries that were submitted this year. Thank you to the teachers who helped promote the essay contest in their classrooms this year!

The Farmers Appreciation Day Committee is already hard at work planning this year's celebration. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 38th Annual Farmers Appreciation Day on July 14 in Dodgeville. We had gorgeous weather and a tremendous turnout last year. I look forward to another wonderful event this summer.

Last year, Iowa County President Krista Dolan played an instrumental role in reinstating the Iowa County Safety Day for all fifth graders in the county. Thanks to her efforts, the event will once again be hosted annually. I am excited to share the 2nd Annual Iowa County Safety Day will be held on September 19!

In honor of May Beef Month, I plan on visiting with students in Livia Doyle's fourth grade classroom to discuss beef farming. We will have a question-and-answer session and enjoy some tasty beef sticks.

Best of luck to everyone during the busy spring season. Stay safe and take time to stop and enjoy the moments.

YFA Monte Carlo Bowling

Iowa County YFA members gathered for an evening of Monte Carlo Bowling at Midway Lanes on March 2. Attendees enjoyed a fun evening of bowling, pizza and good company.



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President's Message – Finding Value in Your Farm Bureau Membership



Christina Benson
Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

By trait, I consider myself to be a natural photographer, versus a natural writer. I prefer to be in the background looking at the surrounding views, which is probably why photography is one of my hobbies. I don't need words to show the power of things around me, especially when it comes to capturing life on the farm.

Recently in Lafayette County, there have been a few discussions at the county board meetings regarding the value of a Farm Bureau membership. We may do a good job recruiting members to join, but where we fall short is helping members find the value in their memberships after signing up. For members that may feel that way, I want you to know Farm Bureau offers many wonderful programs such as Young Farmer and Agriculturist, Agriculture in the Classroom,



Leadership Institute, 35 Under 35, the list goes on. Not to mention, your membership can help you save money through the partnerships our member benefits program has with companies. Additionally, Farm Bureau also makes sure the voices of farmers and agriculturists are represented and heard at the state Capitol.

What may be most important to you is your membership supports agriculture in your local community. With your contribution of joining, the Lafayette County Farm Bureau can invest back into your community by providing scholarships to high school seniors, local Agriculture in the Classroom activities, member activities, Promotion and Education events and the fair food stand.

There is much more the Lafayette County Farm Bureau does and can be doing. We are always looking for more members to become involved. Feel free to call or message me at 815.275.4400 with questions or ideas about how the Lafayette County Farm Bureau can grow!

Miller Recognized for Membership Efforts

Curt Miller was recognized for his membership efforts during the awards banquet at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting. Curt signed up 19 new members and was a 'Top 10' membership volunteer. The value of a Farm Bureau membership is endless. Not only do members qualify for special benefits and services, but members also have the opportunity to get involved in several different leadership and educational programs. To learn more about the value of your Farm Bureau membership, visit www.wfbf.com/membership.

Farm Bureau Proud Club
Top Workers

IT TAKES A TEAM

Curt Miller
Lafayette County
19 Members

President's Message



Josh Joseph
Richland County Farm Bureau President

Happy spring everyone! A YFA gathering was recently held at the Phoenix Center in Richland Center where we went bowling and ate way too much pizza! It was a great turnout and a lot of fun for all who attended. It was great getting to network with different county Farm Bureau members as well from the district. Kids of YFA members also got to interact with each other and participate in the fun. Farm kids like bowling just as much as other kids do; a big heavy round object rolling

fast to explode pins always brings a good thrill. I appreciate how at YFA Farm Bureau events, kids often attend and are normal to see, not every organization is that way.

Spring is a time of new life and the beginning to the growing season. Spring is also a great time to consider getting involved with our Farm Bureau organization. Advocating for agricultural policy never ends; there is always something brewing that needs to be looked at to see how it impacts us as farmers. Richland County is looking for more people to get involved and serve on our board of directors.

If you would like to get more involved with the Richland County Farm Bureau or learn more, give me a call or text at 608.604.9819. Remember, agricultural policy impacts us all at some point.



Meet William Wallester

Name: William Wallester

Occupation: Dairy Producer

Agricultural background: I am a 3rd generation dairy farmer and grew up on our family dairy farm alongside my twin brother. I returned to the farm after college. Since returning, I've become involved in DFA Young Cooperators programs, Hill Country Watershed Alliance and Farm Bureau.

Brief description of your family and farm: Parents – Kevin and Anne Marie; Twin Brother - Emil

Brief description of your farm: Wall-Stone Holsteins: Our family Dairy partnership is located in southern Vernon County. We milk primarily Holstein cows using a Delaval E500 Rotary Parlor. We, alongside a team of 20+ members, are responsible for the day-to-day operation from milking to raising all replacement youngstock. We also do all the seasonal field/cropping operations except for custom-applied manure.



What is your favorite job to do on the farm? My favorite job to do on the farm is chopping corn. I enjoy seeing a year's worth of planning and work come together to feed our herd!

Why did you join Farm Bureau? I joined Farm Bureau because I believe their advocacy and outreach in both our state and national capital give us farmers a unified and powerful voice.

Why should members get more involved with Farm Bureau? It's a great way to interact and spend quality time with friends and neighbors while working to improve agriculture for all.

Favorite farm animal: Green.... but the right shade of green.... Fendt Green

Favorite ice cream flavor: Classic Vanilla

Hobby: I never miss a chance to travel and see somewhere new in the world.

YFA Members Enjoy Bowling Night

In February, Vernon County Farm Bureau joined Adams, Juneau and Monroe counties for a bowling party. YFA members met at Hart's Hooterhaus for pizza and a fun night of bowling. The event proved to be great for membership recruitment and provided an opportunity for new members to socialize and learn more about Farm Bureau.



Join Wisconsin Farm Bureau on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm via Zoom to lunch and learn! Upcoming topics include mental health, WFBF policy development and how to get the most out of your member benefits. Register at <http://bit.ly/learnwithfb>



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**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

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Grant County

Iowa County

Lafayette County

Richland County

Vernon County



Great Wisconsin company. Members of Rural Mutual proudly know farmers make Wisconsin strong. I'm glad to be part of Rural and have referred many friends and families. The importance of a local agent cannot be overstated. When tragedy hits, the relationship with my agent is important.

— Eric
Current Client

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