



# Grassroots

District 1 News

## Congratulations and Farewell



**Dave Daniels**  
District 1 Director

Greetings District 1 Farm Bureau members,  
I hope you had a great Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends and are gearing up for a wonderful Christmas. I now have two grandchildren and seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child is magical.

Can you believe that after an unusually wet spring, many farmers were able to complete their harvest with perfect fall weather? For the most part, soybeans were all harvested before the middle of October, and we don't see many corn fields still standing.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is stronger than ever and hit a membership milestone this year! The membership year is from October 1-September 30, and WFBF achieved a milestone of being over 51,000 members strong! All 61 county Farm Bureaus also achieved a total gain in membership, thanks to the volunteer membership workers and Rural Mutual Insurance agents who are having an outstanding year. In addition, all of the county Farm Bureaus in District 1 achieved a total and voting membership gain. That is a huge

accomplishment!

This year marks a personal milestone; in September and October I attended my last set of county annual meetings as District 1 Director as I will be

stepping aside at the WFBF Annual Meeting. District 1 will hold an election on December 7 at the WFBF Annual Meeting to elect its new director to serve on the WFBF Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity for someone wanting to grow their Farm Bureau leadership.

As District 1 Director, I have had the privilege and honor to represent the eight counties in southeast Wisconsin on the WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Board of Directors. I am grateful to have had this opportunity for the past 21 years.

Throughout my years, I have put on many miles traveling to county, state and national meetings and events. Kim and I have created many friendships not only in District 1, but also with families throughout the state and nation. Thank you for the honor of serving you, our members.

I would like to thank Patti Wilhelme, District 1 Coordinator, for all the help she has provided me and District 1 these past years. I know that the next District

Director will appreciate her help as the transition evolves.

Blessings to all and Christmas wishes,  
Dave and Kim Daniels



## Ag Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars—Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025! This is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state representing a variety of farm groups to learn more about issues impacting Wisconsin agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Like in years past, the event will be held at the Monona Terrace in

Madison. However, there will be some changes this year to make the day more interactive and enjoyable for legislators and attendees alike. The government relations team, in cooperation with other partner organizations, is looking forward to sharing what those additions to the program are once they are set. You won't want to miss this year's Ag Day at the Capitol!





# District 1 News

## You Reap What You Sow



**Patti Wilhelme**  
District 1 Coordinator

As farmers and agriculturists, you plant your fields in spring and pray that you get to reap the rewards of a bountiful harvest in the fall. Some years are easier than others; in other years, like this year, it takes a lot of prayer when we see chances

of rain in the forecast almost every day. There were many concerns of getting fields planted or getting a few dry days to get hay baled. In the end, crops got planted, we got a few dry stretches to bale hay and harvest is near completion.

In Farm Bureau, we also plant seeds – membership seeds. Your county Farm Bureau is working hard to maintain and grow its membership each year. Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation offers a variety of incentives for counties that achieve membership goals and volunteers who sign up new members. As of the end of September, 27 District 1 volunteers have signed up 87 new members. Volunteers receive \$20 per new member they sign up, as well as Farm Bureau gloves, a bucket or water jug based on how many new members they signed up. I greatly appreciate all the membership volunteers who work hard to help your county Farm Bureau grow.



**Have you created your WFBF member portal yet?  
Scan the QR code above to get started!**

By paying your annual membership dues of \$65, you get exclusive access to member benefits. Recently, we have added new member benefits that may be appealing to you. Two worth mentioning are Active & Fit Direct which allows you to join a participating gym for just \$28/month. If you're looking for new apparel for your farm or Farm Bureau, KEY Apparel can save you up to 20% on online purchases with free shipping on orders over \$75. Of course, we still have more familiar benefits like car rentals, hotel discounts, Case IH, Caterpillar, Ford and John Deere. Find the member benefits on the WFBF website when you create your account!

This past year, WFBF transitioned to a new membership database. With the new database, we are now asking members to go online to create their account. Once you create your account, you will also be able to see your account information, print a membership card, renew your membership, sign up for auto renewal and much more. Scan the QR code to begin creating your account! You will need your membership number to create your account – it can be found above your mailing address on your Rural Route and district newsletters or contact me!

As we celebrate another successful year, I also want to celebrate retiring board member, Dave Daniels. Dave has represented District 1 for 21 years, and I appreciate his leadership and representation of our district on the WFBF Board of Directors. Thank you, Dave, for all you have done, and we wish you all the best as you move on to new opportunities.

Thank you for being an active member of Farm Bureau. God's blessings this holiday season!

## Jefferson County

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

## Float Seen in the Community

Our Jefferson County Farm Bureau float puts on the miles and makes it through as many parades as possible throughout the summer. This year we had a new stop and displayed our float at the Jefferson County Fair.



We displayed our float outside the Kid Zone at the Jefferson County Fair.



The Lake Mills Town and Country Days parade on June 29.



The Gemütlichkeit parade in Jefferson.



A good crew of people for the Ixonia Town and Country Days parade.



## WFBF CAO Bradley Uken Energizes Crowd

The 2024 Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held at Fariview Inn on September 22. There was a total of 38 attendees, including 23 voting members.

President Randy Mitchell led a great meeting following dinner catered by Hoggin' Cake. Vice president Tony Schadt presented the resolutions and Steve Jones presented the nominations for board of directors and delegates. Two Service to Agriculture awards were given to retiring board members John Morris and Roger Zimmerman.

Guest speaker WFBF CAO Bradley Uken energized the crowd, beginning with some trivia questions. He talked about current and future programs of Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

District 1 Director Dave Daniels thanked Rural Mutual for their

membership efforts and thanked Jefferson County members who are on statewide committees. Dave Daniels introduced Ashley Schlender to give an update on the Promotion and Education committee and also introduced Darren Riskedal to provide an update on the state YFA committee.

Rural Mutual District Agency Manager Jason Bender provided the company report, mentioning that they are celebrating their 90th anniversary this year. Rural Mutual Insurance Company is also a Ward's Top 50 company and pays dividends to farm policyholders.

Rep. William Penterman was the political guest who spoke about his endorsement by the Volunteers for Agriculture®.

Overall, the meeting was wonderful and we look forward to seeing you at events throughout the next year.



Jefferson County Farm Bureau President Randy Mitchell



Steve Jones awards one of the Service to Agriculture awards to Roger Zimmerman.



Ashley Schlender announced the scholarship recipients and the Something Special from Jefferson County event.



Darren Riskedal provided a report on behalf of the YFA committee and Insight FS.



Guest speaker WFBF CAO Bradley Uken.

## Service to Agriculture Awards Presented

Each year, the Jefferson County Farm Bureau presents Service to Agriculture awards at the County Annual Meeting. The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding individuals who demonstrate a commitment to agriculture in Jefferson County.

This year, two retiring board members received the Service to Agriculture Award. Please join us in congratulating John Morris and Roger Zimmerman for being the recipients of this award. Both John and Roger have been active on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors for many years, have helped in the fair stand and are strong promoters of all that Farm Bureau has to offer. Congratulations John Morris and Roger Zimmerman.



Roger Zimmerman received the Service to Agriculture award at the county annual meeting in September.

## Jefferson County Board of Directors

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Insight FS office in Jefferson. Currently, the board is selling gun raffle tickets, planning events and discussing ways to be involved with the fair. If you are interested in being more involved with Jefferson County Farm Bureau, contact president Randy Mitchell at 414.899.4822.



Front row (from left): Dawn Jones, vice president Ryan Hafften, president Randy Mitchell, secretary/treasurer Melissa Gross. Back row (from left): Lindsay Baneck, Steve Knoebel, Eugene Mess, Tony Schadt, Mark Groose, Dan Schmocker, Steve Jones, Ashley Schlender. Not pictured: Tim Medenwaldt, Tyler Troiola.



# Jefferson County

wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson  
JeffersonCountyFarmBureau

## Focus on Agriculture Event

On August 22, Jefferson County Farm Bureau held a Focus on Agriculture event to bring elected officials together to discuss agriculture at Jelli's Market. In attendance were three state assembly members, one state senator, four local officials and 11 Farm Bureau members. WFBF Executive Director of Government Relations Jason Mugnaini was the speaker.



# Kenosha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha  
KenoshaCountyFarmBureau

## Success Celebrated at Annual Meeting

Twenty-five people attended the Kenosha County Farm Bureau annual meeting at the Birchwood Grill on September 24.

President Kevin Muhlenbeck led the meeting. Vice president Tim Edquist read through the resolutions. Promotion and Education chair Kim Muhlenbeck announced Ian Kerkman as this year's scholarship recipient.

The guest speaker was WFBF CAO Bradley Uken, who thanked Dave Daniels for his years of service to the WFBF Board of Directors.

Additional reports were received by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation and Rural Mutual Insurance Company.



Sen. Steve Nass, District 1 Director Dave Daniels and County Executive Samantha Kerkman gather for a photo.



WFBF CAO Bradley Uken was the guest speaker.



After 21 years of service to the WFBF Board of Directors, Dave Daniels is retiring and was recognized at the annual meeting.



Door prizes were donated by Kenosha County Farm Bureau, Conserv FS, Jason Bender from Rural Mutual Insurance, Carl Daniels and Dave and Kim Daniels.

## Kerkman Receives Scholarship

Kim Muhlenbeck

Our 2024 scholarship recipient is Ian Kerkman, son of Samantha and Chad Kerkman. Ian is a 2024 graduate of Wilmot High School and ranked sixth out of 226 students, with a 4.37 GPA. Ian is currently attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying psychology.

Ian has been actively involved in 4-H at all levels. He was awarded AP Scholar with Distinction, National, Rural and Small Town Recognition. In some of his spare time, he has been a lifeguard at Silver Lake and The Grand Geneva.

Please join us in congratulating Ian Kerkman for receiving this year's \$500 scholarship.



## Kenosha County Board of Directors

The Kenosha County Farm Bureau board of directors meets the fourth Tuesday of the month. The board has hosted CPR training, donates money to the Kenosha County Fair and is actively trying to get into schools to educate about agriculture. If you are interested in being more involved with Kenosha County Farm Bureau, contact president Kevin Muhlenbeck at 262.206.4140.



From left: Secretary/treasurer Dan Kevek, Wes Hawkins, Andrea Edquist, Kim Muhlenbeck, president Kevin Muhlenbeck, vice president Tim Edquist. Not pictured: Ben Harback.



## Annual Meeting

Seventeen people attended the Milwaukee County Farm Bureau annual meeting on September 16 at Benny's Café. The meeting was a great way for Farm Bureau to build a relationship with the educators in the county.

President Scott Ninnemann did a great job leading the meeting. WFBF District 1 Director Dave Daniels talked about the candidate endorsements, farm bill and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. WFBF District 1 Coordinator Patti Wilhelme talked about membership, upcoming events and the Agriculture in the Classroom book of the year. Ken Bosman, District Agency Manager, reported on behalf of Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

We had three educators in attendance, all who are very passionate about educating young people about agriculture.

Monica Gahan, educator at Vincent High School of Agricultural Sciences, talked about the grants that the school has received. Students showed at the Wisconsin State Fair and there is one student who is on the DATCP Ag

Council. The new barn and classroom is almost complete at Vincent High School.

Agriculture in the Classroom Educator Ambassador Josh Gonzalez is a teacher at River Trail School of Agricultural Science, a feeder school to Vincent High School. He has attended the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference and is looking forward to being an Educator Ambassador.

Lalitha Murali is a White-Reinhart Scholarship Recipient and attended the National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference. Lalitha started her own gifted and talented program and has done many NASA missions. She mentioned the importance of teaching students about

growing their own food.

Overall, this year's annual meeting was one to remember with the educators who are passionate about spreading the good word about agriculture. We hope that you will join us next year for the 97th Milwaukee County Farm Bureau annual meeting!



## Milwaukee County Board of Directors

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau board of directors meets quarterly. The board has donated money to helping schools educate about agriculture, has had essay contest participants in recent years and has formed a unique relationship with numerous Milwaukee County schools. If you are interested in being involved with Milwaukee County Farm Bureau, contact president Scott Ninnemann at 414.617.2960.

**From left: Secretary/treasurer John Napientek, president Scott Ninnemann, Steve Gyuro, vice president Henry Kiesow. Not pictured: Elroy Honadel.**



## Racine County

## YFA Members Sell Pumpkins

Joe Mealy, YFA chair



YFA members and their families enjoyed a night picking pumpkins for the fall sale that is held at County Line Hall in Union Grove.



We thank Funks Farm for donating the pumpkins that we sold.



## Racine County Board of Directors

The Racine County Farm Bureau board of directors meets the second Tuesday of the month at River City Lanes in Waterford. The Young Farmers and Agriculturists are very active in Racine County and host numerous events including a bags tournament that is coming up in January. In addition, we have a cream puff stand at the Racine County Fair each year and give out scholarships. If you are interested in being more involved with Racine County Farm Bureau, contact president Jim Waldron at 262.206.4025.



Front row (from left): Secretary/treasurer Jim Hanson, president Jim Waldron, Keith Jacobson. Back row (from left): Judy Uhlenhake, Kayla Lois, vice president Traci Himebauch, Tasha Hegemann, Joe Mealy. Not pictured: Brian Schaal.

**Young Farmer and Agriculturist**

# 4TH ANNUAL BAGS TOURNAMENT

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN!  
 GUN RAFFLE, 50/50 RAFFLE, GAMES & MORE

COUNTY LINE HALL  
**JANUARY 11**  
 1 PM

BAGS TEAM REGISTRATION -  
 > BEFORE DEC 31: \$45  
 > AFTER DEC 31: \$55

**\$450**  
 in prizes



## Meet the New Agricultural Ambassador

Shannon Roberts, 2024-2025 Agricultural Ambassador

I'm Shannon Roberts and I am so excited to be the 2024-2025 Racine County Agricultural Ambassador!

Throughout my first few months as the Agriculture Ambassador, I have attended a variety of events within Racine County. In September, I attended Tucker 4-H's pancake breakfast at Swan's Pumpkin Farm. I had a great time meeting with members, volunteers and guests. The Pancake Breakfast was a perfect way to show community members the opportunities within 4-H and how to get involved with agriculture.

In the beginning of October, I spent my day with Burlington FFA at their Food for America event at Schaal's Dairy Farm. I loved having the opportunity to meet with youth and teach them the importance of agriculture while exploring the farm.

I worked with Union Grove FFA for their Harvest Helping Hands event at DeLong Co. We passed out free lunch to those who were hauling grain to thank them for all of their hard work.

I had the opportunity to learn about natural resources and hunting at the Union Grove FFA's Buck Fever Night. It was an event that was open to the community. There were two game wardens from the DNR who came and spoke about their jobs and how to preserve the resources around us.

Most recently, I attended the Burlington Kiwanis Soccer League Tournament where I handed out free milk to soccer players and their families. The milk was sponsored by the Racine County Dairy Promotion, Racine County Farm Bureau and the Burlington Kiwanis.

I have loved being an advocate for agriculture in Racine County. I am looking forward to what the rest of the year has in store for me. If you are interested in following along with all of my agriculture adventures, please follow @racinecountyga on Facebook.





## Passion for Agriculture Grew

Samantha Hammiller, 2023-2024 Agricultural Ambassador

This past year's journey as your 2023-2024 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador has been the most rewarding experience in my life. It was an eye-opening adventure that grew my passion and devotion to the agriculture industry more than I already had before. Throughout my year I participated in many events that helped bring the importance of agriculture to the local community. I was a part of Breakfast on the Farm, June Dairy Days and Racine County Fair. I also spoke at a local Lions Club meeting as well as the Burlington Kiwanis' annual Farm City Night. Each of these events brought a different crowd that I had the opportunity to speak in front of.

As I went through the year, I found a common theme associated with each speech, each appearance and each crowd. The importance of an emotional connection with what you are talking about. Each

time a person pets a calf, drinks a glass of milk at a local dairy event or sees a tractor is one way that person has connected closer with agriculture. It comes down to the hands-on experience and drawing that emotional connection from a person to be able to change how agriculture is viewed throughout the world. Working in agriculture, I get to experience it and live it every day, so it was eye-opening to have the ability to step back and understand that not everyone gets that experience and each person takes it in differently.

I learned a very important lesson during this year and I will continue to learn and understand how to connect with the public when it comes to talking about agriculture. Thank you to the Racine County Farm Bureau, Racine County Breakfast on the Farm and Racine County Dairy Promotion for this amazing opportunity to share my passion for agriculture.



## Members Gather at Annual Meeting



The guest speaker was WFBF Director of Government Relations Jason Mugnaini. He talked about a wide range of topics including legislative endorsements, ARIP (road improvement) and Federal Milk Marketing Orders.



Shannon Roberts (left) is the new Agriculture Ambassador and officially started her role at the annual meeting. Samantha Hammiller (right) spoke at the annual meeting, gave her farewell report and introduced Shannon Roberts.



President Jim Waldron ran a great meeting for the 36 attendees on September 10 at River City Lanes.



Secretary Jim Hanson gave the notice of call.



Vice president Traci Himebauch presented the resolutions and the 18 voting members voted on them.



Promotion and Education chair Judy Uhlenhake reported on behalf of the committee and gave the cream puff stand report.



District 1 Director Dave Daniels gave his final report to Racine County Farm Bureau.



Dan Merk, Rural Mutual Insurance Company Executive VP and CEO, talked about the accomplishments of Rural Mutual and their relationship with Farm Bureau.



## Mercantile Building Display

Traci Himebach

Racine County Farm Bureau had a display set up in the Mercantile Building at the Racine County Fair this year. This was our third year doing this display with old and new aerials of farms throughout Racine County. We were happy to add more aerial photos of farms this year and hope to continue to expand the display. We interviewed three featured farms which included the Vyvyan Farms, Union Grove; Willow Creek Ranch, Waterford; and Wayne's Daughter's Farm & Greenhouses, Raymond. We enjoyed interviewing all the farms as they all have a history to tell. Our focus this year was on other aspects of agriculture that some people might not always think of when they think of "farming". To interview a greenhouse and a therapeutic riding center was just the uniqueness we were looking for.

Wayne's Daughter's Farm and Greenhouses was a great choice as the history was incredible on how the farm has evolved from when it was started to where it is now. This farm and greenhouse are what you would call a "family-run" business. They have everything from annual flowers, pre-made containers/baskets, vegetables, herbs and much more. They were also very generous to beautify our display in the Mercantile Building with their flowers! The women are always updating their Facebook page with new content on what you can find at the farm, so please follow them at Wayne's Daughters Farm and Greenhouses. If you are ever in the Raymond area, you need to go check out their flower and vegetable selection as you will not be disappointed.

Willow Creek Ranch is a non-profit therapeutic riding center for children and adults who have special needs. This story is incredible to hear from the

amount of time it takes to train the horses, the physical improvements the riders obtain from these activities and the number of volunteers it takes to make everything happen. Clients do not just connect with the horses on a physical level but they also connect with these animals on an emotional and spiritual level. The ranch is always looking for volunteers and donations, if you are interested, please check out their website at willowcreekranch.org.

Vyvyan Farms was once a dairy farm and they have now transitioned to a cash crop and beef cattle farm. John and Naomi have been running the farm for years and they are excited to see their children take it over. They are a very united family while spending many hours on the farm together. Even though the kids are trying to maintain their day-to-day jobs, they still make time to come to the farm and help with the daily chores. The grandchildren are also a big part of the farm as they house their fair animals there. John and Naomi hope to keep the farm in the family for the foreseeable future and enjoy getting to see the grandchildren interact with their cousins on a regular basis.

We are always looking for additional aerial photos of farms in Racine County that we do not currently have, so please contact us to get your aerial displayed.

Also, if you have a farm history and would like to be considered as a featured farm in the Mercantile Building during the Racine County Fair, please contact Traci Himebach at 262-716-6797 or t\_himebach@hotmail.com.



# Walworth County

## 74th Annual Meeting Celebrates Success

The annual meeting was held at Wilson's Whistle Stop on September 18. There was a total of 59 people in attendance which included 32 voting members.

President Greg Sawtelle led the meeting and thanked the members and volunteers for their help with events throughout the year.

Additional board members led a portion of the meeting, including secretary

Ann Brost doing the notice of call, vice president Scott Simons leading the resolutions portion and Leslie Reinke conducting the election of directors and delegates.

We appreciate all the volunteers and members who were able to attend the meeting and help us celebrate a successful year. See you next year!



The Davis family, hosts of the Dairy Breakfast, accepted a plaque from committee chair Ann Brost.



WFBF Executive Director of Member Relations Bob Leege gave the membership report and also thanked Derrick Papcke for signing up five new members, earning him a spot in the Farm Bureau Proud Club.



President Greg Sawtelle honors Dave and Kim Daniels for Dave's 21 years on the WFBF Board of Directors.



# Walworth County

wfbf.com/about/counties/walworth  
Walworth County Farm Bureau

## Dairy Breakfast Serves 2,500

Ann Brost

People came from near and far to enjoy a morning on the farm! In a few short hours on June 15, with perfect weather, we served 2,500 attendees a delicious breakfast of deluxe scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, milk, juice, coffee and, of course, ice cream.

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped, our sponsors for their donations and the Davis Family for opening their farm to the public. It's because of the collaboration that this event was a huge success!

Plans are already underway for 2025. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 14, 2025 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Watch our Facebook page for more information.



Thank you to the Davis Family for hosting the Dairy Breakfast.



Kids enjoyed playing in the corn.

## Walworth County Board of Directors

The Walworth County Farm Bureau board of directors meets the first Wednesday of the month. The three main fundraisers for Walworth County Farm Bureau include the dairy breakfast, rib fest and ice cream tent at the Walworth County Fair. The money raised at the events is used for scholarships. If you are interested in being more involved with Walworth County Farm Bureau, contact president Greg Sawtelle at 262.903.6260.



From left: Rick Getka, Leslie Reinke, secretary Ann Brost, vice president Scott Simons, Kathy Duhigg, treasurer Rick Thelen, president Greg Sawtelle, Bill Holtz, Rick Adams, Rick Bottlemy, Dan Nettesheim. Not pictured: Laura Brost, Sydney Bender, Breck Ward.

## On the Jumbotron!



On July 11, we boarded the bus for a fun afternoon watching the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Pittsburgh Pirates! Unfortunately, the Milwaukee Brewers lost, but fun was had by all. On the way home, we stopped at Pizza Ranch for supper.

# Washington County

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

## WTKM Receives Friend of Agriculture Award

Leah Wenginger

This year's Friend of Agriculture is being awarded to individuals who have a voice for farmers here in Washington County and the surrounding counties.

They help spread the word about agriculture, keep farmers up to date with the market day reports, help promote our Washington County Farm Bureau food stand on air, live broadcasts at Breakfast on the Farm and are always playing good tunes for those long days in the tractor. We believe their music helps our cows produce more milk!

We greatly appreciate their continuous support and promotion of the agriculture industry. Your voice is a blessing to all and doesn't go unnoticed.

This year's Friend of Agriculture award was presented to your community station, WTKM's Dave and Connie Stout.

Please join us in congratulating Dave and Connie Stout for receiving this award and make sure to tune in to WTKM.



Leah Wenginger presented this year's Friend of Agriculture Award to Dave and Connie Stout from WTKM.



## 4,850 Burgers Served

Tyler Hetebrueg, Food Stand co-chair

We had a record year in the Farm Bureau food stand at the Washington County Fair thanks to the many volunteers who put in countless hours! It is with your help that we can operate such a successful and profitable stand.

This year we added cheesy fries to the menu which were a huge hit! We would like to thank Gehl Cheese for their donation of the cheese sauce. Also new this year we had purchased our own deep fryer for the french fries and also started accepting credit cards with our new cash registers.

At the Washington County Fair we sold 4,850 hamburgers, 2,200 regular fries and 1,150 cheesy fries, 1,200 grilled cheese, 1,670 cream puffs and 2,400 ice cream sundaes over the course of 6 days.



A hamburger, milk and smiles at the fair!



Jason Roecker serving ice cream.



Coming up in 2025, the Washington County Farm Bureau food stand will be open for the "Classic Green Reunion" that will be taking place at the fairgrounds from June 12-14. The food stand will be open beginning on June 11 when vendors are setting up, and then during the duration of the show from June 12-14. We are going to be looking for volunteers for the "Classic Green Reunion", watch the next newsletter on how you can sign up to help!

Last, but certainly not least, we want to personally thank Mike Strupp for his time and dedication to the food stand as he steps down from co-chairing the food stand. Mike Strupp has been a co-chair for numerous years and put in many hours before, during and after the fair each year.

Thank you all for your help! We look forward to seeing everyone again in 2025!

## Celebration of Success with Largest Annual Meeting

The Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting is the largest annual meeting in the state. This year we had 143 total people including 62 voting members at The Columbian on October 1.

President Mike Kannenberg led a great meeting and recognized the efforts of all the board members. Treasurer Peter Muth and Matt Immel provided the financial report and vice president Ken Falk presented the resolutions and did the election of directors and delegates.

Essay contest winners were present and read their winning essays. The 34th Friend of Agriculture Award was presented to Dave and Connie Stout from WTKM. John Falk, membership committee chair, announced membership awards and Mike Strupp gave his final fair report.

Special guest John Hromyak, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Director, thanked the board for their donation to Giving Day and talked about the Foundation programs. Dave Daniels, District 1 Director, gave the WFBF report and Ken Bosman, District Agency Manager, gave the Rural Mutual Insurance Company report.

Paul Truess from Sen. Ron Johnson's office was present and provided a brief report. County Executive Josh Schoemann was also in attendance and encouraged all attendees to vote.

Overall, the annual meeting was greatly attended. We ate delicious food, heard from many guest speakers and enjoyed getting cash door prizes.



Kathy Muth and Barbara Schul Kluever checked in attendees, handed out ballots and door prize tickets.



John Hromyak, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Director, spoke at the meeting



Mike Strupp gave the fair report.



President Mike Kannenberg led the meeting and also received a plaque for his year as president.



Vice president Ken Falk presented the resolutions, board of director ballot and delegates to be voted on.



Treasurer Peter Muth reported on the financials.



John Falk thanked membership volunteers.



Dave Daniels' last District 1 annual meeting was Washington County.



## Washington County Board of Directors

The Washington County Farm Bureau board of directors meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. The board puts a lot of focus on achieving the membership goals and has very active committees. Two committees who put in long hours of work include Agriculture in the Classroom, which includes classroom visits and farm tours, and the fair food stand. If you are interested in being more involved with Washington County Farm Bureau, contact president John Falk at 262.483.6114.

**Front row (from left): Secretary/treasurer Carl Wolf, Samantha Krueger, Leah Weninger, vice president Ken Falk. Back row (from left): President John Falk, Allen Dornacker, Mark Schaefer Jr., Tyler Hetebrueg, Matt Beck, Chad Gillian. Not pictured: Paul Ziemer.**



# Waukesha County

## Foundation Director Speaks at Annual Meeting

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 5 at the Delafield Brewhaus. Thirty-five people, including 19 voting members, attended the meeting.

In addition to the regular items of business, the voting members approved bylaw changes that included adding a section about allowing teleconference meetings, shall board members be unable to attend a meeting in person or if there is bad weather. Nominating Committee chair Ron Williams ran the election of directors and delegates.

John Hromyak, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Director, was the guest speaker and talked about the programs that the Foundation sponsors. He also thanked the board of directors for their donation to Giving Day, an annual fundraiser for the Foundation. Board member Jim Renn is also a Foundation Board of Trustee and was thanked for his time.

President Tom Oberhaus talked about the farm safety ads that they sponsored on WTKM, doing a day on the farm in 2025 and participation at WFBF events. Ken Rosenow, Scholarship Committee chair, announced the recipients of this year's scholarship.

District 1 Director, Dave Daniels, reported on behalf of Wisconsin Farm Bureau and thanked the county for their support over the years. He also introduced Ashley Schlender, District 1 Promotion and Education Committee member, who provided an update on the committee.

Jason Bender, Rural Mutual Insurance Company District Agency Manager, provided a report on behalf of the company.

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau annual meeting was a huge success and we hope that you will attend next year's meeting.



Dave Daniels and Tom Oberhaus



Tom Winker



John Hromyak



Jim Renn



Ryan Brueggemann

## Classroom on the Farm

Ryan Brueggemann and Brittany Renn Gerrits

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau is working to get into 4th grade classrooms and also get students to the farm! Do you know any 4th grade students? Encourage their teacher to participate in these free opportunities!

Local farmers throughout the county are interested in going into classrooms to present about the agriculture industry. The presentations are about 45 minutes with time for questions and further discussion. Teachers must reply to Ryan Brueggemann by January 15 with their interest in having a farmer come into the classroom. Farmers will come present to classes in February, March or early April to accommodate the farmer's spring schedule.

4th grade classes are invited to the "Classroom on the Farm" on Friday, May 9, 2025. The event will allow students and teachers to take a free tour of Cozy Nook Farm in Waukesha to learn all about dairy farms. Students will be escorted around the farm for a one-hour tour covering milking, dairy cow housing, calf raising and crop growing. Tour times start every half hour from 10:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Fifty students can be accommodated per time slot. The event will be held rain or shine, students should dress appropriately. Teachers must reply by April 1 to secure their ideal tour time. Questions? Contact us today! Ryan Brueggemann | 414.429.5499 | ryan.brueggemann@gmail.com and Brittany Renn Gerrits | 414.801.4536 | brittrenn11@gmail.com

## Waukesha County Board of Directors

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau board of directors meets on the first Thursday of the month. We are proud to be able to offer numerous scholarships to college students and are working to have a successful event on the farm in spring. If you are interested in being more involved with Waukesha County Farm Bureau, contact president Tom Oberhaus at 262.337.1386.



**From left: Rob Schuett, Tom Kipp, Chris Mommaerts, Brad Audley, Dan Downing, vice president Jim Renn, Ken Rosenow, president Tom Oberhaus, secretary/treasurer Ryan Brueggemann, Don Bartholomew, Dave Morris, Dave Swan, Ron Williams. Not pictured: Brittany Gerrits, Jay Moore, Charlie Oberhaus, Tony Weber.**



**County Farm Bureaus**  
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

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