



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Seasons Greetings.

As we move on from fall, I hope you all had a bountiful harvest. As farmers harvest the fruits of their work, your Farm Bureau team is harvesting the efforts of the work throughout this past year.

We have talked about ARIP, total membership gains and an Award-winning

website from the PR team and great work from the operations team with a in-the-black budget for next year. The list continues with work on added member benefits, a Foundation Board of Trustees and work on a Farmland preservation update. Additionally, we continue the implementation of the new data base, being key players with AFBF on the farm bill and our

PR team continues to expand the reach of our Farm Bureau message. The District Coordinators and the rest of the MR staff continue to serve you, the members, well.

Your team is really busy, and I am looking forward to the great things to come in 2025. We look forward to more gatherings from the Agriculture in the Classroom program, the Promotion and Education Committee and the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. Shout out to all of you for your hard work in promoting agriculture where you are and your Farm Bureau membership work. We reached a membership milestone not reached in many years (51,000+ members). You are great role models for all to see on your farm, in your communities and in Farm Bureau.

It is an honor and a privilege to be serving as your District 3 Director. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell).

Stay safe and informed.

Farm Bureau Proud Club Recognizes Volunteers

Each year WFBF recognizes membership volunteers who have made an extra effort to promote Farm Bureau by signing up five or more new members. These members will be acknowledged at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December during the Farm Bureau Proud Club Banquet on Saturday evening.

Congratulations to the following District 3 members who signed up at

least five new members and continue to work hard to keep Farm Bureau strong and growing. Thank you to these volunteers for promoting Farm Bureau and its membership benefits.

For more information about Farm Bureau membership incentives, please contact District 3 Coordinator Katie Fitzsimmons at 608.574.9920 or kfitzsimmons@wfbf.com



Don Brown
Crawford County



Katie Roth
Grant County



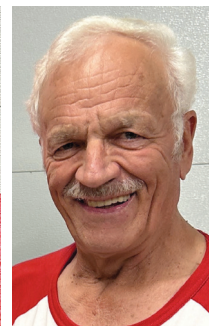
Christina Winch
Grant County



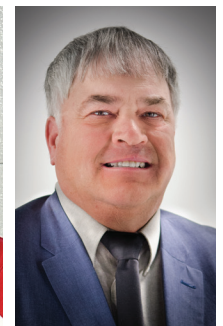
Don Ley
Iowa County



Tim Appell
Lafayette County



Curt Miller
Lafayette County



Robert Nigh
Vernon County



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KATIE FITZSIMMONS - 608.574.9920
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Carrying on the District 3 Picnic Tradition



The District 3 Family Picnic was held in late July in Cobb. Farm Bureau members and their families enjoyed a delicious potluck meal and the splash pad!

Students Selected as Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners

Eleanor Jones-Sato, a fourth-grade student from Janesville, and Bree Stalsberg, a fifth-grade student from Fennimore, have been selected as state winners in the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest.

Wisconsin fourth and fifth graders were asked to write a 500-word essay with the theme, "Wisconsin Agriculture is Fruit-full!"

Eleanor Jones-Sato is the winner of the fourth-grade contest. Her teacher is Jennifer Nowotony at Roosevelt Elementary School in Janesville in Rock County. Bree Stalsberg is the winner of the fifth-grade contest. Her teacher is Emily Kamps at Fennimore Elementary School in Grant County. The winners were honored by Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski at the DATCP Board Meeting at Port Milwaukee.

Wisconsin agriculture is an integral part of our state's history, economy and culture – all important learning standards in both fourth- and fifth-grade classrooms," said Beth Schaefer, Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator. "Teachers and Agriculture in the Classroom volunteers work to ensure the annual essay

contest supports and encourages students to learn about the critical role that agriculture plays in daily life so that students build an awareness and understanding of the food and fiber they use every day. This year's winners

did an outstanding job researching and writing about Wisconsin fruits. We are excited to honor these talented young writers."

Each year Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom program hosts an essay contest to engage students in writing, reading and research through the context of food and agriculture. Essays were judged on content, grade-appropriate writing benchmarks and creativity. This contest is open to all fourth- and fifth-grade students across the state.

Over 1,400 students wrote essays for the competition, which is sponsored by WE Energies, Fork Farms and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.

Essay entries were judged at the county, district and state levels – with stiff competition in each division. Nine district winners were named state finalists and received a prize package including a medal and gift certificate.

The state winner also received a plaque, and prizes valued at over \$250.



District 3 News

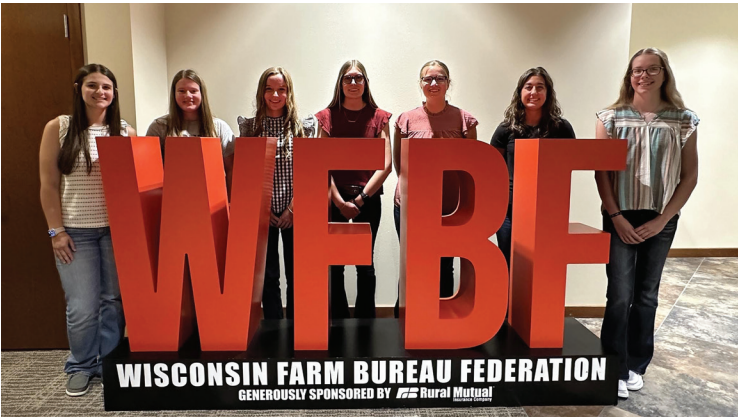
Collegiate Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has had a busy fall semester. The students took part in homecoming activities, hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet and planned the Brag About Ag event. The

officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau.



The Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet was held on October 17. Participants included (from left): Jack Sheckle, Carter Conderman, Isabelle McReath and Kinsley Wetzel. Carter and Isabelle were selected to move on to the state competition held during YFA Conference in December.



WISCONSIN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY Rural Mutual

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Casey and Morgan Lobdell
District 3 YFA Committee Chairs

Happy holidays, District 3! It's hard to believe 2025 is right around the corner. As 2024 draws to a close, we celebrate completing our second year on the YFA Committee. This year alone has been full of many new Farm Bureau experiences

and we're just getting started!

We have much to update you on since we last left off. Starting in July, we had a YFA Committee summer meeting in the Wisconsin Dells where we finalized plans for the 2024 YFA Conference. It was a great time checking off final tasks and bonding with fellow committee members. We hope District 3 YFA members enjoy what we have planned for this year's conference!

The next event on our calendar was the District 3 Discussion Meet, hosted at The Meat Schoppe in Lancaster. We enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Keri and Kelsi Retallick. The participants delivered a quality discussion meet. Congratulations to Ben Cooper, Andrew Dal Santo and Jason Heberlein for advancing to the state level contest. We know District 3 will be well-represented this December!

We closed out the summer by hosting a District 3 picnic in Cobb. We were happy to carry on the summer picnic tradition at Scheper Park. Attendees enjoyed a pot-luck meal and the splash pad!

The fall proved to be just as busy with it being county annual meeting season. We were honored to attend all the annual meetings in District 3. Thank you to all those who hosted us. We enjoyed giving updates about the happenings at the state level.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us during our second year on the committee. We cannot wait to see what 2025 brings!

District 3 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 24 at The Meat Schoppe. The event kicked off with a District 3 YFA social followed by a delicious catered meal.

The discussion meet gives YFA members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

This year's district topic was: 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?

Ben Cooper (Lafayette County), Andrew Dal Santo (Grant County) and Jason Heberlein (Grant County) will represent District 3 in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



District 3 Discussion Meet Participants

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

Bringing Together Consumers and Farmers

At this year's Stockmanship & Stewardship event at the Grant County Fairgrounds on August 28-29 in Lancaster, I had the opportunity to host a booth for Gather Wisconsin. This initiative is dedicated to connecting consumers with Wisconsin farmers, helping bridge the gap in understanding where our food comes from. Gather Wisconsin highlights the personal stories behind agricultural products, promotes transparency in farming practices, and promotes trust between farmers and consumers.

Stockmanship & Stewardship Event Highlights

Farmers attending the event had a chance to learn from industry experts and improve their operations with insights on cattle performance, welfare and profitability. Key presentations included Allison Demmer from Culver's, who discussed the company's "Thank You Farmer" initiative that educates consumers about agriculture and celebrates farmers' contributions. Dr. Dathan Smerchek and Dr. Grant Dewell from Iowa State University shared best practices in nutrition and acclimation, explaining how these strategies improve cattle health and efficiency. Stockmanship experts Dr. Ron Gill and Curt Pate offered hands-on

sessions, emphasizing calm and efficient handling to minimize stress and maximize performance.

Promotion and Education Leadership Boot Camp in Tomah

On October 26, I attended the Promotion and Education Leadership Boot Camp in Tomah with fellow Wisconsin Farm Bureau members, all united by a mission to promote agriculture more effectively. This training was filled with sessions and activities designed to help us share the story of Wisconsin agriculture with our communities. Kelsey Henderson, the Fairest of the Fair, shared tips on building meaningful connections with audiences while Lois Federman led an interactive session on reaching consumers through direct marketing and shared the Local Food Marketing Guide, which offered tools and insights for engaging consumers in meaningful ways.

A county panel featuring Heather Erdman (Eau Claire County), Amy VanderMark (Juneau County), Sarah Hetke (Sauk County) and Amanda Volp (Winnebago County) shared creative ways to promote consumer-focused events that bring communities closer to the farm. The hands-on "Field to Fork Face-Off" gave us digital resources to download, designed to engage the public in learning more about agriculture.

We have an exciting new event, Cultivate & Connect, coming up on February 15, 2025 in Deforest and we're looking forward to more opportunities to learn and grow as a community.



Finalists Selected in 35 Under 35 Program

Thirty-five individuals have been selected as Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 Award finalists. The award is presented by WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in partnership with Insight FS.

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

In the third year of the program, 44 innovative and deserving YFA members submitted applications. Applications were evaluated for their involvement in one of five categories – Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Future, Sustainable Self, Sustainable Service and Sustainable Storytelling.

"The YFA Committee was thrilled by the record number of nominations for 35 Under 35 and we are proud to recognize the best of the best up-and-coming agriculture leaders," said WFBF YFA Committee Chair Kat Peper. "Congratulations to the finalists! We can't wait to celebrate you at YFA Conference in December."

The 2024 35 Under 35 finalists from District 3 are:

- Andrew Dal Santo, Grant; Sustainable Self
- Cosette Henthorne, Vernon; Sustainable Future
- Kendra Jentz, Grant; Sustainable Storytelling
- Brady Nigh, Vernon; Sustainable Future



- William Walleser, Vernon; Sustainable Environment
- Tammy Wiedenbeck, Grant; Sustainable Future

The Sustainable Environment category recognizes individuals who are good stewards of the land and their resources. The Sustainable Future category recognizes individuals who are preserving generational success on the farm. The Sustainable Self category recognizes individuals serving their community through leadership, mentorship and mental health advocacy. The Sustainable Service category recognizes individuals who are serving agriculture through trade skills or advisory roles. The Sustainable Storytelling category recognizes individuals who use their platform to share agriculture's sustainability successes.

"The 35 Under 35 program continues to be a successful initiative that highlights the incredible talents within the future leaders of Wisconsin agriculture," said Insight FS General Manager Ben Huber. "It is refreshing to see the leadership qualities and sustainability initiatives on display, and Insight FS is proud to be a partner again in 2024. Congratulations to all the nominees and finalists; you are the best and brightest our industry has to offer!"

Each finalist will receive an apparel item and cash prize sponsored by Insight FS. The top individual in each category will be announced during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 19 at the Seneca Town Hall. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Crawford County members passed 4 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support amending the current WFBF policy that states: “We support mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum in driver’s education classes” to We support mandatory rural traffic safety curriculum of at least 30 minutes in state driver’s education. (Transportation - Page 28, Line 34).
- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: “We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety.” (Livestock - Page 18, Lines 1-2).

Internal

- We support WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance creating an online farm and tractor safety module for county farm bureaus to utilize with field days and testing opportunities offered throughout the state.
- We support resource development to satisfy the 30 minutes state

mandated education on hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways.

Don Brown, Pat Dearth and AV Roth will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: AV Roth (president), Don Brown (vice president), Lori Brown, Pat Dearth, Ron Ellefson, Wilja Happe, Craig Hromadka and Leroy Peterson.



Dishing Up Dairy Deliciousness



The Crawford County Fair took place August 24-27 in Gays Mills. Crawford County Farm Bureau members were busy at the Dairy Bar serving up delicious products to fairgoers. The menu included pie, all sorts of ice cream treats, grilled cheese and lemonade.

Summer Picnic



The Crawford County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic is an annual event that brings together Farm Bureau members to socialize. This year’s picnic was held on July 18 at Eastman Park. Some of the highlights of the event are the delicious food and hearing updates from legislators. This year, Sen. Howard Marklein joined to share an update from the Capitol. Thank you to all who continue to join us for this annual event.

President’s Message



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello District 3! I am happy to share Grant County Farm Bureau has been hard at work these past few months with a variety of activities. Back in August, we hosted our food stand at the Grant County Fair, which is our main fundraiser of the year. We’re lucky to have a great team of members and a board of directors to make this

event successful every year. Thanks to everyone’s efforts, 2024 was another successful year for the food stand. We look forward to reinvesting these profits back into our community and organization!

In September we had our county annual meeting at the Youth and Ag Building in Lancaster. Grant County Farm Bureau members gathered to

vote on policy which will be sent to the state level and voted on at the WFBF Annual Meeting. This truly demonstrates the grassroots process and why this organization is so important. After the annual meeting, I was honored to be re-elected as President for another year. I look forward to another year of serving Grant County Farm Bureau! I was first elected in I believe 2015 as president. This will start my tenth year as president if I do my math right. I have told the board that this year will conclude my term as president. I would like to see someone else step up and take over next fall.

Keep in mind this spring we will be attending the Ag Day at the Capitol and that Grant County Farm Bureau will sponsor up to ten members. The event is very informative and participants get to meet with our representatives. Contact me if you would like to attend or want more information. Until then, I wish everyone safe and happy holidays!

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 24 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

WFBF Foundation Director John Hromyak served as the guest speaker.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 12 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety." (Livestock - Page 18, Lines 1-2)
- We support the development of cost share programs designed to aid livestock producers in implementing or updating biosecurity measures.
- We support an increased transparency in milk pricing by urging all entities that purchase milk to provide detailed and accessible breakdowns of milk checks to their producers.
- We support increased investment in research and development aimed at identifying sustainable and environmentally beneficial solutions for agricultural plastics, ensuring responsible management and reduction of environmental impact.
- We oppose price increases to Make Allowances.
- We support the development of community digestors.
- We support state reimbursement to public schools and technical colleges for the cost of implementing Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Programs.
- We support the UW-Extension reviewing and updating the Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Program curriculum to include more information on current agricultural practices and equipment.
- We support the establishment of a statewide committee comprising members from the WI DATCP Division of Animal Health and representatives from each livestock sector. This committee would

provide recommendations on managing livestock disease outbreaks and addressing biosecurity concerns to ensure the health and safety of the state's agricultural industry.

Federal

- We oppose price increases to Make Allowances.
- WFBF supports a complementary beef checkoff program which could be based on the commodity promotion, research, and Information Act of 1997, which includes referendum approved by majority of cattle producers that will be used in conjunction with, but does not replace the beef promotion and Research Act of 1985.

Internal

- We support WFBF providing printed membership cards to all members.

Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Derek Orth, Jackie Seelow, Ben Tranel, Christina Winch and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Peter Winch (president), Allen Johnson (vice president), Katie Roth (secretary/treasurer), Josh Bailie, Andrew Dal Santo, Kristen Fischer, Paige Hampton, Jason Heberlein, Kent Jerrett, Charisse Orth, Derek Orth, Jackie Seelow, Ben Tranel and Abby Walker.



Agriculture in the Classroom Update

Abby Walker

Grant County Agriculture in the Classroom Chair

Hello, Grant County! I have some exciting Agriculture in the Classroom updates to share. This past summer I applied for the Ag in ALL Classrooms Grant and was awarded \$500 to support the Grant County Farm Bureau Ag Education Tent at the Grant County Fair. The grant money was used to purchase additional banners that highlighted production agriculture sectors. In addition to these banners, the tent also offers ag trivia and a petting zoo which had some cute new faces this year.

Grant County Farm Bureau member Emily Kamps has joined the 2024 Educator Ambassador Team for AITC. In this role, she will present workshops and advise on resources, training and experiences offered by AITC to improve the program. Her dedication to her students at Fennimore Elementary and all those of Grant County is greatly appreciated.

A few things to watch for from Grant County Agriculture in the Classroom:

- 2024 Book of the Year delivered to your school library!
- Information about the 2025 Essay Contest

If you ever have any questions or want to talk about opportunities, feel free to reach out at 920.373.3513!



Fun Fair Festivities

The Grant County Fair was held August 15-18 in Lancaster. Highlights of the fair include both the Farm Bureau Food Stand and the Agriculture Education Tent.

The food stand proved to be a great success this year. As always, the pork chop, cheeseburger and brat patty plates are a fairgoer favorite.

The Agriculture Education tent was a big hit, with many kids and adults stopping by to test their agriculture knowledge and learn more about Wisconsin's leading agricultural industry. Fairgoers had the opportunity to sample different types of cheese, visit farm animals, color the wall mural and win a variety of prizes.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to work at the stand and tent. Without the help of our dedicated members, we couldn't continue to offer the delicious food and learning opportunities that so many fairgoers look forward to each year.



Iowa County

Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on September 12 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety." (Livestock - Page 18, Lines 1-2)

Federal

- We support the elimination of a minimum interest rate when transferring agricultural assets.

Internal

- We support WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance creating an online farm and tractor safety module for county farm bureaus to utilize with field days and testing opportunities offered throughout the state.
- We support resource development to satisfy the 30 minutes state mandated education on hazards posed by farm machinery and animals

on highways.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Don Ley and Megan Yager will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Krista Dolan (president), Justin Doyle (vice president), Dan Adams (secretary/treasurer), Bob Daentl, Laura Daniels, Ryan Dolan, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow, Don Ley, Matt Limmex, John Meyers, Jason Steffes, Elizabeth Spink and Megan Yager.



Iowa County Safety Day

Submitted by Krista Dolan, Iowa County Farm Bureau President

As the needs and safety concerns for all residents of Iowa County continue to grow and evolve, so do the safety concerns for our local youth. The Iowa County Extension 4-H has partnered with the Iowa County Farm Bureau to form the Iowa County Safety Coalition and bring back the Safety Day for the second year, for all fifth-grade students at the public and private schools in Iowa County.

Dan Brandt, Krista Dolan, Kyle Thompson and Karlee Thompson are the driving force in getting this event off the ground. Students rotated through sessions to learn about the safety and dangers of UTV/ATVs and boats, tick safety, weather safety, animal safety, the importance of our Tech Rescue team, got to see Medflight land and up close, saw Fenix and Deputy Benisch put on a presentation of their job and heard from Kyle Thompson, a farm accident survivor! There was also a presentation from Alliant Energy on the dangers of downlines. This event would not have been possible without our sponsors and volunteers! We thank everyone for their donations to put this event on!



Promotion and Education Update



Megan Yager
Iowa County Promotion and Education Chair

Hey there! As always, summer and fall have flown by in the blink of an eye. During the past months, the Iowa County Farm Bureau has stayed busy with plenty of Promotion and Education activities, which means I have many updates to share!

Starting in July, the Iowa County Farm Bureau was thrilled to be a part of the 38th annual Farmer's Appreciation Day. The weather could not have been better and there were many folks in attendance. We had a float for the parade and the kids helped pass out string cheese and yogurt. It was a wonderful parade lasting for over an hour. The Iowa County Farm Bureau also had a food stand again this year. We grilled steaks for sandwiches and served them in a sack lunch with chips and string cheese. We ran out within an hour of serving them! It was a very successful event, and we would like to thank our food sponsors Compeer Financial and Wal-Mart. I would also like to extend a thank you to the many wonderful Farm Bureau member volunteers who helped out. These volunteers were the biggest reason for our success!

Next up was the Iowa County Fair, which took place on Labor Day



weekend in Mineral Point. Again, this year, Iowa County Farm Bureau was a top sponsor of the Master Showman Contest and donated money for signs to be hung in the Schimming Building. These signs recognize all Master Showman Contest Winners through the years. This year's Iowa County Master Showman Contest winner was Kendyll Theobald, who will be the 10th winner to join "The Wall of Champions."

In addition, a benefit pie auction was held after the competition, raising \$9,000 for scholarships and prize money. This year's pie auction was so successful that the committee will be able to offer more scholarships in the future. Anyone who has previously competed in the contest and is furthering their education is eligible for the scholarship award. Two past participants were awarded \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients included: Boone and Logan Schmitz, Mineral Point.

The Iowa County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 12 at Hi Point Steakhouse. The meal was wonderful and there was plenty of policy discussion. We also held a silent auction to raise money for scholarships that the Iowa County Farm Bureau gives out every year to high school seniors.

It has been a great year full of Promotion and Education activities in Iowa County and I look forward to many more events in the new year. I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season celebrating with family!

Lafayette County

President's Message



Christina Benson
Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

When you hear the word "membership," what comes to mind? Dues, money, a club?

What a Farm Bureau membership means is access to the largest general farm organization. Not just production farming but the agriculturalists that go with the farm.

The agronomy, seed, labor, the FarmHers, the first, second, third, and sometimes the legacy generations are a patchwork all over the state of Wisconsin.

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to celebrate another year around the sun. What I thought was going to be a dream trip walking in the steps of a favored author of mine turned to - what kind of agriculture do they have here in this part of Canada?

The island I visited grows potatoes, canola, corn and beans to name a few. While the islanders knew a neighbor farmer, not all were in

agriculture themselves. The ripple effect of what one farm can have on a community is amazing.

They have a support system like us to market the product and share why it's a great option to shop locally.

We have a membership organization in Farm Bureau that helps market, showcase and share stories across the county, the state and the country.

So, when you become a member, don't just think of it as a due. Think of it as a key to seeing and sharing your place in agriculture. Consumers and farmers connect to share healthy, happy Wisconsin's bountiful agriculture. Teach in classrooms or connect at conferences with others in this field.

If you ever have any questions or want to talk about opportunities with your membership, feel free to call, message or visit me. I am so grateful you chose to be a member of Farm Bureau 815.275.4400

P.S. Great big THANK YOU to all who were supporters of our summer fair food stand. Volunteers and customers alike. See you in 2025!

Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on August 22 at the Darlington Golf & Country Club. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Lafayette County members passed one resolution:

Internal

1. We support WFBF providing printed membership cards to all members.

Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Ben Cooper, Paul Johnson and Jordan Torstenson will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Christina Benson (president), Tim Appell (vice president), Casey Lobdell (secretary/treasurer), Ben Cooper, Paul Johnson, Curt Miller, Olivia Holland, Joe Riechers and Jordan Torstenson.



Lafayette County Fair Food Stand

Farm Bureau members served up delicious food at this year's Lafayette County Fair. The steak sandwiches continue to be a fairgoer favorite, helping to make it one of the most profitable years yet. Funds raised from the food stand are used towards educational programs and scholarship awards for qualified individuals pursuing careers in agriculture. Thank you to all the members who volunteered their time to help make the food stand a success.



Miller Meets Membership Milestone

Lafayette County Farm Bureau board director Curt Miller will be honored at the WFBF Annual Meeting for being the top membership worker in the state! Throughout the 2023-2024 membership year, Miller signed up a total of 32 new members! His dedication to growing Lafayette County Farm Bureau membership helped the county reach its early bird membership goal and end-of-year total and voting membership gains. This has helped the county receive over \$2,000 in membership bonuses.

Miller was rewarded for his success with a cake during a Lafayette County Farm Bureau annual meeting held in October. There he also received the news he won the membership incentive drawing for a trip to the 2025 American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. To be entered in the drawing, membership workers had to sign up 12 or more new farm bureau members. Congratulations, Curt and thanks for all you do for Lafayette County Farm Bureau!



President's Message



Josh Joseph
Richland County Farm Bureau President

Richland County Farm Bureau has had a busy fall on top everyone's normal farm work!

We held the county's annual meeting at the Phoenix Center where we had strong attendance and good conversations. The meeting was managed by president Josh Joseph who will remain president for the following year. John Schweiger was selected as vice president while Oliva Rodriguez-Golner was selected as secretary. Dick Hauser and Jim Hying will serve as directors.

Our meeting included a meet and greet with Sen. Joan Ballweg, a strong update from Rural Mutual Insurance and other various committee reports. Introductions of our District 3 Farm Bureau board candidates Laura Daniels (Iowa County) and Robert Nigh (Vernon County) also

were held with both in attendance. Policy and resolution discussion was led by Dick Hauser. Josh Joseph and John Schweiger were selected as the county's delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting held in the Wisconsin Dells this December.

We would like to thank longtime secretary and board member Germaine Hying for her decades of service to the organization! Germaine for many years was the face of Richland County Farm Bureau working with local schools, organizing suppers, providing treats at meetings, silent auction baskets, door prizes and much more. I have only known Germaine for six years and can tell you she was a huge supporter in keeping our organization moving forward. We wish Germaine enjoyment in her retirement from the board!

Lastly, if you haven't noticed, Richland County Farm Bureau now has a Facebook page that will help provide updates on upcoming events, go give it a "Like"! If you have questions or would like to talk, feel free to email me at josej5604@gmail.com or give me a call at 608.604.9819.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on October 9 at the Phoenix Center in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We support the sale of raw milk from farms that meet Grade A requirements and Raw Milk Institute standards." (Dairy - Page 2, Lines 14-15).
- 2. We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety." (Livestock - Page 18, Lines 1-2)

Internal

- We support WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance creating an online farm and tractor safety module for county farm bureaus to utilize with field days and testing opportunities offered throughout the state.

- We support resource development to satisfy the 30 minutes state mandated education on hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways.

Josh Joseph and John Schweiger will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Josh Joseph (president), John Schweiger (vice president), Olivia Rodriguez-Golner (secretary/treasurer), Bill Hying and Jim Hying.



Fair Time in Richland County

Richland County Farm Bureau hosted an educational booth at the Richland County Fair on September 7. There fairgoers had the opportunity to play a Promotion and Education Committee game, where they were asked a series of agriculture questions. Winners were rewarded

with cow-shaped stress relievers and candy. The booth gave an opportunity for Richland County Farm Bureau to reconnect with the community and share the importance of agriculture.



Photos by Olivia Rodriguez-Golner



Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on September 28 at the Eagles Club in Viroqua. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: “We support creating a task force to research tail-docking dairy animals as it relates to animal welfare, environmental cleanliness, milk quality, and employee safety.” (Livestock - Page 18, Lines 1-2).
- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: “We support the sale of raw milk from farms that meet Grade A requirements and Raw Milk Institute standards.” (Dairy - Page 2, Lines 14-15).

Internal

- We support WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance creating an online farm and tractor safety module for county farm bureaus to utilize with field days and testing opportunities offered throughout the state.
- We support resource development to satisfy the 30 minutes state mandated education on hazards posed by farm machinery and animals on highways.

Alex Bringe, Andy Diehl, Drew Hendrickson, Kevin Larson and William Walleser will serve as delegates to the 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the board of directors include: Alex Bringe (president), Kevin Larson (vice president), Andy Diehl (secretary/treasurer), Drew Hendrickson, Cosette Henthorne, Eldon Henthorne, Dave McClurg, Kent McClurg, Robert Nigh, Scott Sherry and William Walleser.



Promotion and Education Update



Drew Hendrickson

Vernon County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Hello District 3! I am happy to share that Vernon County Farm Bureau had a busy summer planning promotion and education activities in the county. Back in August, we put together a booth at the Vernon County Night Out, where we emphasized the importance of farm safety. Members and I handed out ‘Farm Safe’ stickers and farm safety literature for attendees. In addition, we also passed out yard signs which featured the slogan “Start Seeing Farmers.” We passed out close to a hundred of these signs to citizens in the county. Of course, the highlight for children was getting to climb up into the tractor cabs to get their picture taken! It was a great opportunity

to interact with community members to also teach them about roadway safety when passing farm equipment. The timing of the event couldn’t have been better to spread this message with the busy harvest months quickly approaching.

To close out the summer, Vernon County Farm Bureau distributed buckets to youth livestock exhibitors at the Vernon County Fair in September. Each bucket featured a Vernon County Farm Bureau logo and contained educational literature. It was a great activity to increase interaction with young agriculturists in the county and promote Farm Bureau!

It was a great summer for Vernon County Farm Bureau, and I look forward to helping put on these activities again next year! If you ever have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out at 608.606.1999 or hendricksonfarming@gmail.com. In the meantime, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holidays!



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