



Grassroots

District 5 News

District Coordinator Report



Becky Hibicki

District 5 Coordinator

As a district coordinator, a major part of my job is to assist the county in reaching their membership goals for the year. Our membership year runs October 1 – September 30. From October 1 until April 30 this year, counties were focusing on reaching their new voting goal. Their voting goal is determined by the voting members in the county. This year

District 5 had five counties reach their voting goal. Congratulations to Adams, Marquette, Waushara, Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties. From May 1 until September 30 counties switched their focus to picking up past due and renewal memberships.

WFBF had a phenomenal membership year. The state ended with 51,179 total members, which is an increase of 2,783 members. Also, this year, all 61 counties made a total gain in membership. In our district, all seven counties have made both a voting and total gain in membership. What an amazing accomplishment. We have some amazing membership volunteers that worked hard to make it happen. Thank you to all the volunteers that took the time to sign new members this year. We had 25 volunteers in the district sign members this year. A special thank you to those that signed a minimum of five members and qualified to be part of the Farm Bureau Proud Club. They are:

- Steve Sabel – Fond du Lac County – 11 members
- Trayton Greenfield – Fond du Lac County – 10 members
- Reuben Hopp – Fond du Lac County – 7 members
- Steve Kutz – Green Lake County – 5 members
- The late Dave Wilke – Green Lake County – 5 members

Chris Retzlaff – Green Lake County – 8 members

Also, a huge shout-out to long-time membership worker Trayton Greenfield who was recognized for his longstanding service to Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau membership. Trayton had the opportunity to meet AFBF President Zippy Duvall. Trayton is believed to be the longest-serving membership volunteer in the American Farm Bureau with over 2,400 Farm Bureau members signed in his 50-year term. It truly has been an honor for me to have had the privilege to work with Trayton over the last several years. He is not only an outstanding membership worker, but also a dear friend. Congratulations Trayton.



American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall with Trayton Greenfield.

NEW LOGIN PROCESS

Member Information and Benefits

We are excited to share that we now have a member interactive database. At the top of wfbf.com, you'll see three buttons: Login, Join, Renew. To create your account and access your member information, you will want to click the login button.



SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW



User Login



Member Benefits

District 5 News

District Director Report



Kevin Krentz

District 5 Director

As some of you may have already heard, I plan not to run for reelection as District 5 Director in December. It has been my honor to serve you over the past twelve years. We have come so far in advocating for agriculture. From regulatory reform to building out a consumer outreach platform. But by no means are we

done. The challenges ahead for agriculture are numerous. Like other co-ops, Wisconsin Farm Bureau is led by a board. Get involved, make your voice heard, and this organization can be successful for many years to come. I share this simple message to encourage all to speak up for our organization, for your livelihood and to simply say THANK YOU.

God Bless,
Kevin Krentz
District 5 Director

District 5 Promotion and Education Report



Jenny Leahy

District 5 Promotion and Education Chair

This past year, the Promotion and Education Committee chose to focus on two of our committee priorities. Those areas of focus include member education and training and consumer resource management. To accomplish these two goals the committee worked with the PR department at the state office to connect counties with Gather Wisconsin resources. In

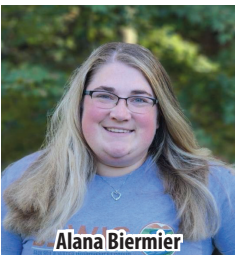
District 5, I did this by hosting a drone demo and Gather Wisconsin workshop at my family's farm in June. At the workshop, each county was given a Gather Wisconsin toolkit and discussed how they would use the toolkit at their county promotional events.

The P&E Committee has two more events this year. The first is Leadership Bootcamp which was held October 26 at the Cranberry Lodge in Tomah. The focus of Bootcamp was to inform members on how to engage their consumer audiences and increase registration. The committee will also host two workshops at the WFBF Annual Meeting. One that will provide members with an opportunity to network and discuss promotional activities in their county. The other will connect members with more resources from Gather Wisconsin to use at their promotional events. I hope to see some of you at each of those events!



District 5 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist Discussion Meet gives young members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agricultural-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving skills as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues. The District 5 Discussion Meet was held on August 29 at the American Legion in Princeton. Alana Biermeier from Juneau County, Chad Bruss from Green Lake County and Sam Pinchart from Winnebago County will represent the district at the WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturists Discussion Meet that will be held during the WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturists Conference on December 6-8.



Alana Biermeier



Chad Bruss



Sam Pinchart



District 5 News

District 5 Members Selected to Serve on 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.

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.

Congratulations to District 5 members who have been selected to serve on the WisGO Team.



Mitch Giebel



Lynn Leahy



Sally Turpin



WisGO Team

Participants Selected for 2025 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute

Fifteen agricultural leaders have been selected to participate in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute. This year-long leadership training program's mission is to develop strong and effective agricultural leaders.

"It is important that farmers and agriculturists step up as advocates for their farms and agribusinesses," said WFBF Senior Director of Member Relations Wendy Volkert. "The Leadership Institute equips participants with the skills and confidence to shape the future of farming and agriculture, both within their county Farm Bureau and in their broader communities."

The WFBF Leadership Institute consists of five, multi-day sessions that provide hands-on learning on agricultural issues, leadership development and speaking skills, interaction with Farm Bureau staff and government leaders at the state and national levels and networking with other participants. The class capstone event will be a trip, with the WFBF Board of Directors, to Washington, D.C. in March 2026. The Institute is sponsored in part by the Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board.

Members of the 2025 WFBF Leadership Institute class are: **Jason Behrend**, Wisconsin Rapids; **Alana Biermeier**, Mauston; **Ann Brost**, Walworth; **Grant Buwalda**, Waupun; **Casey Denk**, Mondovi; **David Foerster**, Oostburg; **Mary Fronck**, Antigo; **Allison Gorr**, Albany; **Eric Harmann**, Algoma; **Katie Koepfel**, Mishicot; **Austin Sandmire**, North Freedom; **Joe Schlies**, Denmark; **Jeremy Skemp**, Columbus; **Amy VanderMark**, Elroy; and **Collin Weltzien**, Arcadia.

Congratulations to the District 5 members selected for the class: Grant Buwalda; Fond du Lac County, Alana Biermeier; Juneau County and Amy VanderMark; Juneau County.



SAVE THE DATE

WWASH

Wisconsin Water and Soil Health CONFERENCE

Join us at the 2024 WWASH Conference, where on-farm research meets the implementation of water and soil health practices. Experience engaging keynotes, interactive breakout sessions, and insightful roundtables designed to deepen your understanding of agronomy, water quality, and soil health. Gain valuable insights and practical knowledge to apply on your farm or the farms you work with.

NICK GUILLETTE

DR. SHALAMAR ARMSTRONG

DR. LISA SCHULTE MOORE

go.wisc.edu/WWASH

DECEMBER 17-18, 2024

KALAHARI RESORT & CONVENTION CENTER
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI

District 5 News

District 5 County Annual Meetings a Success!

All seven counties in the district recently held their county annual meetings. During the business meeting, members elected their county Farm Bureau board of directors, WFBF annual meeting delegates and approved county resolutions.



Adams and Marquette



Adams and Marquette



Adams and Marquette



Fond du Lac



Fond du Lac



Green Lake



Green Lake



Juneau



Juneau



Juneau



Waushara



Waushara



Winnebago



Winnebago



Farm Bureau®

District 5 Members Counties Pass Resolutions at County Annual Meetings



Here are the resolutions passed by District 5 Counties:

Adams and Marquette

1. We support on farm agricultural biodigesters that accept manure from multiple farms or agricultural commercial food waste to be zoned as agricultural use.
2. We support the creation of an office of Agritourism.
3. We support the Wisconsin DNR using testing requirements for a Class A fire suppressant other than the US Forest Service

testing requirements

which would allow SoyFoam TF1122 and other biobased firefighting foam to be included in the Quality Product Listing.

4. We support requiring alternative energy developers to provide financials security for decommissioning and reclamation of alternative energy projects prior to construction.
5. We support a sandhill crane hunt from May 1 to June 21 on land in agricultural production with a daily bag limit of 2 birds.

Fond du Lac

1. We support the development of a baseline for stray voltage to surrounding properties of proposed solar farm installations. Too often investors of solar installations forget about the detrimental effects that can occur with new technologies.
2. We support the development of a task force to determine the effects of stray voltage on surrounding properties and if stray voltage is determined to be detrimental to those properties who pays for the mitigation and possible damages to the affected parties.
3. We support the use of methane digestors to produce ROG. However, if a project includes a non CAFO dairy that is accepting food waste which puts their accumulated waste above their livestock unit's threshold, they would be required to obtain a WPDES permit and comply with the rules associated with the permit. (example 200 cow dairy producing 10 million gallons of liquid waste).
4. We support the use of Federal funding when available for cost sharing of manure pipeline development in heavy intensive livestock areas. Thus, reducing the road traffic associated within those areas.
5. We support the continued investigation for a solution to the Guest worker programs for agriculture workers. We also support the formation of Federal agriculture committee that will bring about legislative language that supports all of agriculture.

Green Lake

1. We support the Wisconsin Agricultural Tourism and Rural Innovation Project Board.
2. We support a sandhill crane hunt from May 1 to June 21 on land in agricultural production with a daily bag limit of 2 birds.

3. We oppose the commercial distribution of raw milk.
4. We support the Wisconsin DNR using testing requirements for a Class A fire suppressant other than the US Forest Service testing requirements which would allow SoyFoam TF1122 and other biobased firefighting foam to be included in the Quality Product Listing.
5. We support on farm agricultural biodigesters that accept manure from multiple farms or agricultural commercial food waste to be zoned as agricultural use.
6. We support increasing the number of poultry allowed to be processed on-farm to 20,000, as well as allowing for further on-farm processing of those products, and for those products to be allowed to be sold at off-farm outlets.
7. Federal: We support decreasing administrative and financial hurdles to obtaining crane crop damage permits.
8. Local: We support the county fair and for the fair to have its own dedicated facility.

Juneau

1. We support on farm agricultural biodigesters that accept manure from multiple farms or agricultural commercial food waste to be zoned as agricultural use.
2. We support the creation of an office of Agritourism.
3. We support the Wisconsin DNR using testing requirements for a Class A fire suppressant other than the US Forest Service testing requirements which would allow SoyFoam TF1122 and other biobased firefighting foam to be included in the Quality Product Listing.
4. We support requiring alternative energy developers to provide financials security for decommissioning and reclamation of alternative energy projects prior to construction.

Waushara

1. We support on farm agricultural biodigesters that accept manure from multiple farms or agricultural commercial food waste to be zoned as agricultural use.
2. We support the creation of an Office of Agritourism.
3. We support the Wisconsin DNR using testing requirements for a Class A fire suppressant other than the US Forest Service testing requirements which would allow SoyFoam TF1122 and other biobased firefighting foam to be included in the Quality Product Listing.

Winnebago

1. Sandhill Cranes - We support a hunting season from September 14 – November 1.
2. Raw Milk Sales - We oppose the sale of any unpasteurized milk to the public for public consumption.
3. Tractor Safety - We support the continued youth tractor safety in Wisconsin for 12–13-year-olds.

Extension Updates



Natasha Paris

UW Extension Regional Crop Educator

Badger Crops and Soils Update Meetings

The annual Badger Crops and Soils Update meetings will be offered in three one-day, in-person sessions along with one virtual session Dec. 3-6, 2024. The meetings will present the latest information on agronomic, pest and nutrient management research coming out of the University of Wisconsin with a lens to on-farm application.

In-person sessions are in Eau Claire (Dec. 3), Arlington (Dec. 4), and

Appleton (Dec. 5). The online session will be held via Zoom on Dec. 6. The in-person registration fee includes lunch. The virtual session has a reduced registration fee. Registration is now open. Registration, student pricing, sponsorship information and more at go.wisc.edu/BadgerCropUpdate.

NOPP (Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Project)

Educators and researchers to conduct on-farm nitrogen rate research! DATCP invites Wisconsin farmers and cooperating entities to apply for commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP) research grants. The application period is open now through Jan. 17, 2025. These grants aim to enhance the understanding of and refine new methods that optimize commercial nitrogen applied to agricultural fields. Access the application materials and learn more at nop.wi.gov.

President's Message



Kay Olson

Adams County Farm Bureau President

Let me begin my message with the first paragraph from my April Newsletter:
"Greetings to all our members. I don't know if it is my age or what, but my question is where has the time gone. Seems like we just started the year 2024 and here we are in April already. As the saying goes, April showers bring May flowers, let us hope that is true and we get those "May Showers" that many of us so desperately need."

Now let me add and where have spring and summer gone? Here we are well into the fall, and the "new" Farm Bureau year has begun.

I am hoping that everyone had a safe spring, summer and fall. We were excited once again to have our annual meeting with our neighboring Marquette County for the second time.

Once again, my pet peeve is when I see and hear people who are so upset because of farm machinery slowing down traffic on our roads. I see

them passing in a NO PASSING ZONE and almost running not only the farm machinery but oncoming traffic off the road. And for what? Just to get somewhere a few minutes early. At the same time, the people who are upset over that never complain about the ATV/UTVs on the road only going 35 miles an hour and slowing down traffic. In my opinion, that is because they are the ones impeding traffic when going on the roads with their ATV/UTVs. With the Amish moving into our county, we need to be mindful of them on the road. We need to learn that we all have to share the road.

As you can see from our committee reports we have had quite the year. Sometimes it does not seem like we do a lot, but when you see it in print we do. This is why your support with your membership is important to us. We could not do the programs that we do without the dollars we get back from WFBF for each of our memberships and renewals.

I want to thank our board of directors as we have ended yet another successful year.

In closing, I want to thank each of you who helped with our programs, helped at our fair ice cream booth and who have continued your support with your membership. THANK YOU.

County Committee Reports

Membership Committee

We made both our voting goals and gains this year. This means we received a bonus of \$1,800. WFBF sets a goal of 20 new members each year for our county to sign. We all need to work just a little harder this coming year. As our county loses more farms, farmers and ranchers, it gets more difficult. We depend on friends and family signing up as voting members. Remember, if someone has a vested interest in agriculture, they can be a voting member in Adams County. Simply put, if they like to eat, sign them up. If you know of someone who wants to be a member contact a board member and we will help you sign that person up. You do get rewards for signing up at least five new voting members.

This past year everyone who signed up a new member received \$20 per member signed. That is quite the reward for signing up members. We look forward to seeing what the state will offer this coming year for membership. Our membership year begins on October 1. Let's work on our membership starting now.

I would like to congratulate all who have helped sign new members and or shown the benefits a Farm Bureau membership has to offer. **I also want to thank everyone who paid his or her dues on time. This is the biggest plus for us. Your Farm Bureau dues are \$65. We appreciate it when you get your dues notice if you pay it immediately even though you have a month or so to pay it. It is easy to set that notice aside and forget about it since it comes so early. Your notice might say you owe more, but your dues are only \$65. When it says total amount due that includes an optional donation to the Foundation and Volunteers for Agriculture (the political action committee for WFBF). I personally would like to thank Jim Wehinger, our Rural Mutual Insurance agent in Adams, for all of his support in helping us achieve our goals. Thank you, Jim. I encourage all members to become more involved and challenge each of you to sign up a new member this coming year.**

We have supported the Agriculture in the Classroom program, 4-H,

FFA, FFA Alumni, Adams County Livestock Show & Sale, the Sand Country Showdown Show, Powerlifter's, Collegiate Farm Bureaus, Gunderson Memorial Hospital Foundation, Land & Water Conservation Poster Contest and many other organizations this past year. We have donated to many students as they apply for trips and paid their registration fees for programs to help produce great leaders in the future. We also provide registration and hotel fees for those attending the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference along with our delegates. We do offer scholarships each year to graduating seniors or those already in college or trade school. These scholarships are due by June 30 each year. We share that news on Facebook and in our quarterly newsletter. We sponsor the yearly tractor safety program in our county by giving each student who takes the course an SMV sign. Farm Bureau also helped sponsor the 4H Spudtastic and Souperbowl fundraising events.

This year we also sponsored the "Farm Neighbors Care" program. We wrote a grant application and received \$250 toward our project. Your board then matched that grant. That gave us \$500 to use for this program. With that money, we put together 50 goodie bags for our first round in the spring and gave them to not only farmers and their employees but to businesses in the ag industry throughout Adams County. This was our way of saying "thank you" for putting in long hours, during the stressful season, dealing with moving their equipment on the roads, helping repair our equipment and getting supplies to the farms and ranches. We will also put together approximately 50 more this fall and gave them out.

We had a successful event with our ice cream booth at the fair. I would like to thank those who volunteered. We certainly could have used more help and hope all members will consider helping with this fundraiser in future years. Our booth at the fair and our membership drive are our only fundraisers each year to provide the monies to do our programs and support our community.



President's Message



Reuben Hopp

Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau President

I am excited to report that the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau had another great year, and we continue to be the leading agricultural organization in the county. Here are just a few highlights.

At last year's WFBF Annual Meeting in December, we had a great group of members that attended. Our county once again had nine delegates to represent our county at the resolutions portion of the Annual Meeting and help approve policy for the state. We also had a great group of YFA members attend the YFA conference.

Ag Day at the Capitol was held at the end of March. Over 250 members from across the state attended the event, and we had the opportunity to be a lobbyist for the day. We were briefed on current ag issues and state budget priorities. Then we had the opportunity to meet with our state representative and state senator to discuss ag issues. This coming year it will be held at the end of March. I encourage anyone who is interested to attend. We usually have a group that carools to the event, so if you are interested in attending, please let me know.

Our Agriculture in the Classroom program continues to grow under the direction of Kelly Pollack. The program purchased over 50 copies of the AITC Book of the Year and mailed a free copy to every elementary school in the county. The county also participated in the AITC essay contest.

We are excited that our own Jenny Leahy continues to also serve as the district Promotion and Education Committee Chair. In June she organized an event at her family's farm near Brandon. Several members from the county attended. Grant Buwalda gave a presentation on drones, and we also learned how to promote Gather Wisconsin in our county.

Grant Buwalda continues to serve YFA chair and has already begun working on organizing activities for our members ages 18-35. Once again, he did the scavenger hunt game at the county fair. If you are interested in getting involved, I encourage you to reach out to Grant.

This year we awarded four scholarships. Grace Clark received the college scholarship for \$1,000. Rylan Bruins received \$1,000 for as graduating high school senior. Ashlan Bruins and Alissa Barthuly, both graduating high school seniors, received \$500 scholarships. The board continues to budget \$6,000 for scholarships. Scholarships are available for both graduating high school seniors and those already enrolled in post-secondary education. Scholarships are due March 15. Please watch

for scholarship information on our county Facebook page and the next district newsletter, and please encourage anyone you know who might be interested to apply. My goal is to continue to increase the budget for scholarships in the future.

In August the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation held its annual online Giving Day. Fond du lac County Farm Bureau donated \$1,500. Our Foundation supports our YFA, P&E, the Leadership Institute, 4-H and FFA sponsorships and much more.

Our largest fundraiser of the year is our fair food stand. I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who serves on the Food Stand Committee. I especially want to thank Sarah Breuer for all her help in ordering the food and making sure everything runs smoothly during the fair. We continue to invest a lot in the building and have made quite a few updates this year including finishing updating the service line countertops. A huge thank you to Roger Grade, Steve Sabel and Steve's sons Michael and Johnathan for the countless hours they spent providing all the labor to make those improvements. The board approved the installation a commercial-grade stove vent above the fryers, which will be required in 2025. We now have a commercial-grade kitchen in our food stand. The committee will be looking at ways we can use our building more throughout the year.

In addition to our food stand, we also do the Brandon Brat sale every year in August. Again, it was a great fundraiser for our organization. Thank you to everyone who helped.

We had a successful fair and those profits will continue to fund our Agriculture in the Classroom program, Promotion and Education committee, YFA programs, as well as contributions we make to 4H and FFA and our scholarship program.

We also continue to work hard on membership. If we don't continue to maintain and grow our membership numbers, we will not be able to continue all of our programs and activities. We pushed really hard at the end, and I am pleased to announce that Fond du Lac County made both a voting and total gain in membership this year. A big thank you to Steve Sabel who took over this past year for Trayton as our membership chair. He has done a great job filling those shoes! Again, a big thank you to Trayton for his years of service.

I want to thank the entire board. We have a great group of directors, that make my job as president easy and enjoyable, so thank you! I also want to thank each of you for your membership and for taking the time to attend our annual meeting. It's truly appreciated. I also want to make sure to thank Becky, our District Coordinator for everything, Thank you again and God Bless.

Elmer and Etta Held Receive County Service to Farm Bureau Award

Elmer and Etta Held received the County Service to Farm Bureau Award at the recent Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

Elmer and Etta have been married for 64 years. They have four children: Jeff, Jackie, Jay and Jeff, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

They have been involved in the sheep industry for over 70 years, where they have shown and sold Registered Suffolk and Hampshire sheep all over the United States.

In addition, Elmer worked as a Wisconsin state meat inspector for 40 years.

Both Elmer and Etta are very involved in the Fond du Lac County Farm Bureau. Elmer has served many years on the board of directors. Also, both Elmer and Etta have been very involved in the Farm Bureau fair food stand as part of the Fair Stand Committee and helping in the fair stand. If

you have ever been to the fair food stand, there is a good chance Etta has been the one at the cash register checking you out.



Fond du Lac County

wfbf.com/about/counties/fonddulac
FondduLacCountyFarmBureau

Alice in Dairyland Visits Rosendale-Brandon School District

Beth Shaefer

Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator

On September 9, Hali Heinzel, the 77th Alice in Dairyland, visited seven classrooms in the Rosendale-Brandon School District, bringing Wisconsin agriculture to life for third, fourth and fifth graders. In partnership with Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the lesson, called "Expedition Agriculture," focused on Wisconsin's vast array of specialty crops. This innovative initiative, funded through a Specialty Crop Block Grant, was designed to engage young learners in understanding the importance and diversity of the state's agricultural industry.

The 45-minute lesson was packed with engaging videos, fast facts and interactive activities that highlighted specialty crops like cranberries,

ginger, dairy and snap beans. Students explored how these crops are grown and raised, harvested and produced as well as their impact on Wisconsin's economy. "Expedition Agriculture" aims to increase agricultural literacy and help students understand where their food comes from and the vital role of agriculture in our state.

Through her engaging presentation, Alice in Dairyland inspired students to appreciate local agriculture and consider future careers in the industry. The success of this program is leading to more widespread implementation across Wisconsin schools, including the Envision Greater Fond du Lac Agricultural Ambassador Program, encouraging agricultural education at an early age.



Green Lake County

wfbf.com/about/counties/greenlake
GreenLakeCountyFarmBureau

President's Message

Pete Badtke

Green Lake County Farm Bureau President

Hello members, I hope everyone is doing well and either completed or close to being done with harvest. As harvest wraps up so does our membership year. As of September 30, our county met our membership goal and will receive \$800 from WFBF. Thanks for your membership, whether you are a new member or

renewing, your membership is so important.

Another highlight, Chad Bruss will represent Green Lake County Farm Bureau in the Discussion Meet at the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Conference in December. Good luck Chad!

At our county annual meeting in September, members approved a bylaw change to move from a Women's Committee to a Promotion and Education Committee. A big thanks to Irene Kutz who chaired the Women's Committee for a number of years. We welcome Sam Swanke to our board as the new P&E chair. Sam has a nice connection to agriculture and will do a nice job in this role. The P&E Committee is a minor change

but should give us more flexibility with Agriculture in the Classroom, scholarships, consumer education and many other programs. If you are interested in learning more about the P&E Committee and would like to get involved, please reach out to Sam Swanke at 608.617.9208.

Newly elected board members, James Kutz and Bill Herbst are a great addition to our county. They replace Jordan Paris and the late Dave Wilke. Dave will be greatly missed. He was a past board member and county president, as well as a great membership worker and volunteer at Farm Bureau events and an avid ag supporter. Dave was a good friend to so many!

Thanks to Jordan Paris for serving on the board. Also elected to represent Green Lake County Farm Bureau as delegates at the WFBF Annual meeting in December are Chad Bruss, Jim Hebbe, Steve Kutz and myself. As delegates we will vote on ag policy that supports all facets of agriculture, locally, state and nationally.

A big thank you to anyone who helped at our fair food stand. We couldn't do it without all the great volunteers at our biggest fundraiser each year.

Thanks again for your continued membership!



Gneiser Receives Woman of the Year Award



Bonnie Gneiser was recognized as the Green Lake County Farm Bureau's Woman of the Year at the county's annual meeting held on September 10. Bonnie has volunteered countless hours each year at the fair food stand. Thank you, Bonnie, for your service to the Green Lake County Farm Bureau.

SEE YOU SOON!

BUILDING A NEW FRONTIER

WFBF ANNUAL MEETING AND YFA CONFERENCE
DECEMBER 6-9, 2024

President's Message



Kip Weber

Juneau County Farm Bureau President

Greetings Juneau County Farm Bureau members:

First, I want to thank each one of you for being a Farm Bureau member. Your support of the Juneau County Farm Bureau is greatly appreciated. This year the county made both a voting and total gain in membership.

The county received a Farm Neighbor Cares grant this year and was able to provide "goodie bags" for attendees at the Elroy and Juneau County fairs.

The county also had another successful pie and ice cream stand at the Juneau County Fair. Thank you to everyone that stopped by for pie and ice cream. This is the county's main fundraiser and primarily supports our Agriculture in the Classroom program. Special thanks to Tonra Degner who has chaired this event for several years.

We have several members that have taken advantage of leadership opportunities on the state and national level. Sally Turpin recently completed the AFBF 21st Women's Communications Boot Camp. Sally was one of 14 rural leaders who completed an intensive four-day course focusing on public speaking and working with media and messaging.

Also, Sally Turpin and Mitch Giebel are part of the WFBF's first

WisGo Team and both Alana Biermeier and Amy VanderMark were both selected to be part of the 2025 WFBF Leadership Institute program. We have some great volunteers in Juneau County!

Be safe for the remainder of the harvest season and have a great holiday.



Congratulations, Sally!



Farm Neighbors Care Goodie Bag



Delicious pie and ice cream from the fair stand!



President's Message



Aaron Wachholz
Marquette County Farm Bureau President

Hello everyone and happy harvest! I hope and pray this finds all of you and yours doing well. This fall has been unique with beautiful blue skies and warmer than normal temperatures, but little to no rain. Harvests are well underway, if not finished due to earlier planting dates this spring and favorable conditions. Yields are all over the

board from bin busters to total losses due to wet conditions early and spotty showers in late growing season. Nonetheless, let us all be thankful for the harvests that God has given us this year.

Amongst the harvest, I hope you will take time to exercise your patriotic duty. I am talking about the right to vote. This year's election seems to have more hype surrounding it than seen in prior elections. I have heard from some members and acquaintances in the community that they have decided not to vote in this election. Why? They don't like either of the major candidates, so they think not voting is a better solution. Why is apathy a better solution for agriculture and our great country? The right to vote is an honor that our founding fathers of our country fought desperately for. It meant everything to them, even death itself, to

possess the right to have a voice in the governmental affairs of our country. How is it that now after 248 years of history, citizens of this country would rather forfeit this privilege?



I am proud to be a Wisconsin farmer and even more so, an American Farmer. We the people of Wisconsin agriculture are so few yet make a huge impact on our country and world. How can we sit idly by and say nothing? We must make our voice heard or others will make decisions for us. So many in our government have no business making decisions on our behalf regarding agriculture when they are so far removed from the life and challenges of a farmer. We must do our part to stand by and support those in government who boldly proclaim the truth of agriculture and uphold the industry that touches everyone in America.

I hope you cast your vote with me to help strengthen American agriculture and our nation.

Your vote matters and can make a difference. Your vote may seem insignificant but when added together with votes from other people of agriculture our voice will be heard.

God bless and keep you all my friends!

Waushara County



President's Message



Mike Leahy
Waushara County Farm Bureau President

During this busy harvest season, we often find ourselves working long hours in the fields to ensure a successful year. We frequently sacrifice personal time and sleep to tend to our crops. Please take a few moments to learn about the ways the Waushara County Farm Bureau has been supporting you and our agricultural community.

We had another successful fair! To our incredible volunteers, your efforts at the fair food stand were invaluable. Thank you for your time, energy and friendly smiles. We appreciate all you've done. To the Fair Food Stand Committee. We are truly grateful for your leadership and guidance; it made the food stand a true success!

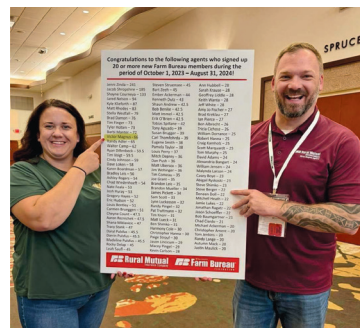
Operating the food stand at the fair is the primary source of fundraising for this organization. Money raised supports our Agriculture in the Classroom program, Young Farmer and Agriculturist and Promotion and Education Committee. In addition, the county Farm Bureau provides scholarships, supports youth in local 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters and is committed to conducting programs and activities that promote agriculture in Waushara County.

The Agriculture in the Classroom book this year is My Grandpa, My Tree and Me, by Roxanne Troup. Wisconsin is a top producer of food, fiber and fuel that are grown, raised and produced from trees. Christmas trees, paper, maple syrup, fruits, nuts, timber and more are all grown and produced from Wisconsin trees. Each of the 4th grade classrooms in Waushara County will receive a copy. In addition to receiving the book, each classroom will receive information on the 2025 essay contest.

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to Victor Magnus and Molly Dahlke from Rural Mutual Insurance. Their invaluable support enabled our county to achieve a membership increase for the first time in years. In fact, Victor and Molly successfully enrolled 66 new members in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation over the past 11 months, ranking 12th statewide. Please watch for Victor and Molly this fall as they distribute harvest snack bags to thank all the dedicated farmers who work tirelessly during this demanding harvest season.

The Waushara County Farm Bureau was recognized as the 2024 Nonprofit Organization of the Year at the Waushara County Chamber of Commerce's recent annual meeting. The county was recognized for their involvement in the county Agriculture in the Classroom program, supporting the local tractor safety program, providing funding to local FFA chapters and the county scholarship program. The county received \$250 at the Chamber's recent annual meeting.

As the sun sets on another successful harvest season, I would like to thank all of you who have worked tirelessly to feed our communities. From the fields of vegetables and grain to the barn yards filled with cattle, your dedication is truly inspiring.



President's Message

Amanda Volp

Winnebago County Farm Bureau President



Wishing a happy fall to all my fellow Winnebago County Farm Bureau members! It is one of my favorite times of the year with the leaves turning, cooler sweatshirt weather and, of course, harvest. We have had good harvesting weather so far and everywhere I look someone is out in the field combining, trucks are hauling grain and farming equipment is taking up the roads. I love it! It has been a busy summer. Here are the updates

from the county:

On May 11, we hosted our 5th Annual Drive by Steak Fry for May Beef Month on a beef farm! Poppy Family Farms kindly hosted the event where we sold beef, had a couple of raffle baskets and a "Know Your Beef Passport" for guests to visit and learn about the farm. We sold 150 steak plates and cheeseburger bags. Guests loved to interact with experts and learn from the youth around the farm on different beef-related topics. As always, the feedback we received was spectacular and people still appreciate the reason for the event.

June Dairy Month was a success with the promotional events both at our drive-thru grilled cheese event held at Egan Farms in Omro on June 1 and June Dairy Days held at the Leach Amphitheatre in Oshkosh on June 15. We have since been supporting our "Refuel with Chocolate Milk" campaign and donating milk to local schools for players during sports events.

The Winnebago County Fair was the last week in July/first week in August in Oshkosh. Our Farm Bureau food stand had another great year and the committee did an outstanding job raising funds used for activities throughout the year. We brought back the daily menu special item that corresponded with what animals were being exhibited during the day. For Dairy Day, we had the cheese curd cheeseburger, for swine day we had a slow-roasted pulled pork sandwich or bacon cheddar brat, and for Beef Day we had a beef filet steak sandwich. For a kid-friendly menu item, we again had popcorn chicken on the main daily menu and they were a hit! We made a couple of changes this year including switching out the homemade french fries with crispy tater tots along with an option of getting them loaded with



hot beef or the pulled pork. Hot menu items that will always make their comeback were hot ham and cheese sandwiches, roast beef sandwiches and deep-fried cheese curds. Another Friday Fish Fry was a hot menu item, where we were able to showcase Winneconne FFA's Tilapia project. People LOVED getting a Friday Fish Fry meal at the fair! A huge thank you to Beck's Meats and Festival Foods for their support! And to the many FFA students, members and non-members who volunteered their time to help make it run smoothly, we couldn't do it without you!

Our county annual meeting was held on September 17 at Brighton Acres. With around 45 people in attendance, we updated members on events happening on the county level and state levels, along with listening to local legislators. We had one new board member join us, Lee Bartelt,



along with celebrating and acknowledging Brian Poppy for his eight years of service to our board. We are so excited for some fresh energy and all the ideas and leadership our new board will bring to our county. Food was catered in from Parker Johns in Oshkosh and as always Adam and Gena at Brighton Acres take such good care of us and support of our events!

National Pork Month is in October, so of course we have to celebrate! We completely switched it up this year and tried something new. On October 12 we had a "Porktober Shoot Out" hosted at Fox Valley Trap Club in Omro. The day consisted of multiple meat shoots for all things pork, including two rounds of Annie Oakley. We roasted a pig for the event and



served pulled pork sandwiches, tater tots and loaded tater tots with pulled pork and cheese. The event was a hit with over 20 different shoots. We had people from all over, local members, FFA students, kids and people from counties away competing. A few raffle baskets were up for play as well. We received some support from the Wisconsin Pork Association and truly everyone enjoyed the creative ideas the Promotion and Education Committee has had this year!

Looking ahead, the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference will be held in Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center on Dec 6-9. I pray that the harvest season has been safe and bountiful for all and continues to be as we finish out the year. God bless.

County Farm Bureaus
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124

This Issue Contains
Highlights for:

Adams County

Fond du Lac County

Green Lake County

Juneau County

Marquette County

Waushara County

Winnebago County



Protect what you value most

Your family. Your future. Your legacy & livelihood. They matter to us, too.

For nearly a century, it's been our mission to protect and rebuild families,
farms and businesses across Wisconsin. We're here for you.



Connect
with your
local agent

