



SPRING 2025

Grassroots

District 1 News

District Director's Report



Jim Renn

District 1 Director

As spring turns to summer, I am reflecting on the past six months that I have been the District 1 Director. I have attended numerous county board meetings, events and have met a lot of the great Farm Bureau volunteers along the way. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who help make Farm Bureau the trusted voice in

agriculture.

One of the biggest successes so far this year is that we had 400 farmers and agriculturists gather in Madison for our annual Ag Day at the Capitol. If you attended, you got a chance to see the showcase exhibit

that featured Farm Bureau booths, a hydraulic sprayer simulator and farm equipment displayed. I like to remind everyone who attended that this was a great way to build a relationship with your legislators so that when you need their help, they already know who you are.

This spring, there were over 20 different opportunities for you to have your opinions heard as we worked to finalize the strategic plan. We approved the strategic plan at our board meeting in April and will be using this document as a guide for our programs in the future.

Coming up, the WFBF Board and Farm Bureau leaders will be going to Washington, D.C. in September. We are also working on finalizing the plans for the YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Wishing you all a safe summer with perfectly timed rains for your crops to flourish. If you have any questions or are looking for some extra hands in your fair food stand, don't forget to contact me.

Counties Earn \$1,000

Patti Wilhelme

District 1 Coordinator

Shine Bright. Lead Boldly. Membership volunteers and counties are stepping up and being leaders in membership! Four of the eight District 1 counties earned \$1,000 by achieving their early-bird membership goal by the end of March. Congratulations to Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha Counties for making membership a priority.

In addition, we have numerous volunteers in District 1 who deserve to be recognized. Between October 1 and March 31, seventeen membership volunteers have signed a total of 71 new members for District 1. Thank you to those who have signed up new members:

- Kenosha County: Dave Daniels
- Ozaukee County: Kurt Schoessow, Rick Roden, Zach Dieringer*
- Racine County: Brian Schaal*, Jim Waldron, Joe Mealy, Kayla Lois
- Walworth County: Rick Getka*
- Washington County: Carl Wolf, Chad Gillian, Greg Goeller*, Scott Schreffler*, Tyler Hetebrueg
- Waukesha County: Chris Mommaerts, Jay Moore*, Jim Renn*

*Members who have signed up five or more new members and will be recognized in the Farm Bureau Proud Club at the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

The membership year end is September 30. The goal is for each county to have a gain in membership at the end of September. When you receive your renewal notice in the mail, I encourage you to renew your membership right away to help each county maintain their membership numbers. In addition, create a member portal on our website and then you have access to the member benefits and to sign up for auto renewal!

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau!

DISTRICT 1
DISCUSSION MEET & POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 14

5:30PM - REGISTRATION

6:00PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET

6:45PM - DINNER BUFFET

7:15PM - POLICY DEVELOPMENT

COST: \$25/PERSON | YFA ATTENDEES - FREE

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

DELAFIELD BREWHAUS BANQUET HALL

3832 HILLSIDE DRIVE - DELAFIELD, WI

PLEASE RSVP & DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

DISTRICT 1 COORDINATOR
PATTI WILHELME
262.689.1838 | pwilhelme@wfbf.com

"Farmers and ranchers are at the forefront of environmental stewardship. From soil health to local ecosystems, producers are concerned about how to be both environmentally and financially sustainable. How can farmers and ranchers effectively advance environmental stewardship while balancing the needs of their farms?"

Resources for the discussion meet can be found online at wfbf.com. Click on Programs > YFA > YFA Contests. The current WFBF Policy Book can be found online at wfbf.com/policy/policy-development. There you will also find the issue backgrounders that will be discussed at the meeting. They will be ready at the end of June.

District 1 News

Cultivate & Connect Conference

Ashley Schlender

District 1 Promotion and Education Committee Member

Attendees of the first Cultivate & Connect Conference were able to participate in a variety of activities, such as a tour of Sassy Cow Dairy, networking, hearing speakers who offered inspiring tips and thoughts about sharing your farm story, as well as brainstorming ideas to take back to your local community. The conference was held on February 15 in DeForest. Four District 1 members attended, including Kendall Riskedal and Ashley Schlender from Jefferson County, Lisa Gantner from Ozaukee County and Sam Krueger from Washington County.

This conference is organized by the WFBF Promotion and Education Committee and focuses on the priorities of this committee: member education and training, consumer resource management and advocacy. In short, the Promotion and Education Committee strives to offer training and opportunities geared to connecting with consumers. Watch the newsletters and emails for upcoming Promotion and Education events!



YFA Members Attend PBR Event



On March 1, young farmers throughout District 1 attended the Professional Bull Riding event at the Fiserv Forum. Everyone who attended had a great time!

YFA Whirlyball and Bowling



District 1 YFA members played whirlyball and a game of bowling on Saturday, March 29 at Whirlyball in Brookfield.

Leaders Attend Council of Presidents

Presidents and vice presidents gathered in Madison on March 25-26 for the 25th Annual Council of Presidents meeting. At the meeting, leaders heard from guest speakers, had discussions with other leaders throughout the state and participated in Ag Olympics.



Council of Presidents attendees (from left): Kendall Riskedal (State YFA Committee Chair), Randy Mitchell (Jefferson County president), Brian Vorpapel (Ozaukee County president), Jim Waldron (Racine County president), Mark Mayer (Ozaukee County vice president), Tom Oberhaus (Waukesha County president), Joan Oberhaus, and Jim Renn (District 1 Director and Waukesha County vice president).

Foundation Fundraiser: August 13

Join us for the 4th Annual WFB Foundation Giving Day on August 13! Throughout the day, we will celebrate our Foundation-supported programs and YOU, our valued donors and sponsors.

All proceeds from Giving Day provide critical funding for education and leadership programs supported by the WFB Foundation, including:

- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program
- Promotion and Education Program
- Leadership Institute
- Gather Wisconsin
- Collegiate Farm Bureaus
- Sustainability and Education Programming
- Farm Neighbors Care

Scan the QR code to donate!



Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Course Offered

Ashley Schlender

Jefferson and Dodge County Farm Bureaus worked together to offer a Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Certification Course this spring. Local farmers and industry professionals volunteered to teach different portions of the course to give the participants a variety of perspectives and speakers to learn about the safe handling and care of tractors and other farm machinery. The course was well attended and much appreciated by families in the area after a few years without a training being offered. Both counties look forward to working together to offer the course in the future. Watch the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Facebook page next winter if you have a youth interested in being certified.



Jefferson County Breakfast on the Farm

Melissa Gross

Celebrate June Dairy Month in Jefferson County by attending the inaugural Jefferson County Breakfast on the Farm at Kutz Dairy in Jefferson. This exciting event will take place on Saturday, June 28 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Attendees will enjoy eggs, pancakes, Jones sausage and ham, dairy cakes and ice cream, assorted cheese, milk and juice.

Guests will have the opportunity to participate in trolley farm tours, allowing them to view the farm and its animals while maintaining a safe and comfortable distance. There will also be a petting zoo, kids' activities and a special visit from Alice in Dairyland.

"We are incredibly passionate about agriculture and sharing our way of life with the community," said Katie Kutz of Kutz Dairy. "Hosting the Breakfast on the Farm is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue the long-standing dairy breakfast tradition of welcoming our community, showcasing the hard work that goes into producing food at our family farm and inspiring a deeper appreciation for dairy farming in America's Dairyland."

Tickets for the event will be sold online and in advance only. For those interested in purchasing tickets in person, they can be purchased at the Jefferson County Fair Park during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). There will be no on-site ticket sales on the day of the event. All guests are required to park at the Jefferson County Fair Park, where a free shuttle bus service will be provided to transport attendees to and from Kutz Dairy. There will be no on-site parking available.

For more information about the breakfast or to purchase a ticket, visit our Facebook page at [Fb.com/JCBreakfastOnTheFARM](https://www.facebook.com/JCBreakfastOnTheFARM).



Food Stand at Jefferson County Fair

Lindsay Baneck

Attention Farm Bureau members! The Jefferson County Farm Bureau and Jefferson County 4-H Leaders Association have teamed up to bring a family-friendly food stand back to the Jefferson County Fair. We will be located in the Activity Center Kitchen daily during the Fair, July 8-13 from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are looking for volunteers from both organizations to help staff the kitchen. Shifts will be 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Menu items will be simple breakfast foods, our popular milk station and family-friendly lunch items. Please contact Lindsay Baneck at 920.988.1428 or Ashley Schlender at 920.253.6329 if you are interested in volunteering. A sign-up link can be found on our Facebook page or website [wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson](https://www.wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson). Funds raised from the food stand will be divided equally and used for educational scholarships. Thank you for supporting our cause!

Nominations Open for Service to Agriculture Award

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors is now accepting nominations for the Service to Agriculture Award. The award was created to recognize those who are leaders while demonstrating a commitment to agriculture. The award is sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the winner will be announced at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting held in September.

Any person(s) who has exhibited leadership in the promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County is eligible. Selection will be made by these standards: (1) focus on agriculture or rural issues, (2) importance of an accurate message about agriculture, (3) promotion of Jefferson County agriculture production and (4) educate the public about the importance of agriculture.

Nomination forms are due by August 15 and can be found on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website [wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson](https://www.wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson). If you have any questions or need help accessing the nomination form, contact Melissa Gross at mgross43@yahoo.com.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Jefferson County Farm Bureau was well represented at Ag Day at the Capitol on March 26 in Madison. The day began at Monona Terrace and concluded with a legislative visit to the Capitol. Farm Bureau members who attended from Jefferson County included Steve and Dawn Jones, Steve Knoebel, Eugene Mess, Randy Mitchell, Cyndi Pitzner, Kendall Riskedal and Ashley Schlender.



Scholarship Recipients Announced

Ashley Schlender

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is pleased to award eight \$500 scholarships to local incoming or current college students. We congratulate the following winners:

- Ashley Brandel, daughter of Matt and Tracy Brandel, is currently attending UW-Platteville with a major in dairy science and a minor in agriculture business.
- Rylee Brattlie, daughter of Dan and Joy Brattlie, is a 2025 graduate of Cambridge High School. Rylee plans to attend UW-Platteville, where she will be studying agriculture and technology education.
- Megan Doherty, daughter of Kevin and Jean Doherty, is a 2025 graduate of Watertown High School. Megan plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she will be studying business analytics and Spanish with a minor in agriculture business.
- Connor Gerstner, son of Randy Gerstner, is a student at UW-Stout, where he is studying computer networking and infrastructure engineering.
- Maryann Gudenkauf, daughter of Mike and Anna Gudenkauf, is currently attending the UW-Madison. Her studies focus on dairy science.
- Amelia Kamenick, daughter of John and Jennifer, is a 2025 graduate of Jefferson High School. Amelia plans to attend Carroll University to study diagnostic medical sonography.
- Vivian Stahl, daughter of Kevin and Sarah Pontel, is a 2025 graduate of Lakeside Lutheran High School. Vivian plans to attend UW-Platteville, where she will be studying Agricultural Education.
- Emily Wollin, daughter of Erich and Mia Wollin, attends UW-Platteville, where she is studying Elementary Education.

Please join us in congratulating our scholarship award recipients.

Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Wednesday, August 27

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 21

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and see who this years' Service to Agriculture award recipient will be. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Successful Something Special from Jefferson County Event

Ashley Schlender

We held our second Something Special from Jefferson County Meat Raffle and Product Showcase on March 15, and it was a huge success! The event



featured locally grown and processed beef, pork, chicken and turkey, as well as other locally processed products, such as maple syrup, popcorn, soy candles and more. The grand prize raffle item was a half-hog that the winner could have processed with their preference of cuts. By offering raffle items that are sourced locally, Jefferson County Farm Bureau is connecting farmers and business owners with consumers.



One Essay Received

One essay was received for this year's essay contest, and it was from fifth grade student Cadence Filer from West Elementary School in Jefferson. Check out Cadence's essay below.

Fifth-Grade Winner

The Mighty Oak, Memories and Me by Cadence Filer West Elementary School

Have you ever jumped up onto a tire swing and flown high into the sky, soaring like an eagle, in the same space that your mom and grandma swung before you? The mighty oak tree in my Great-Grandma and Great-Grandpa's yard was just the place for me to make memories like this for many years.

Since I was little, I have been visiting my great-grandparents' farm to work in the garden planting fruits and vegetables, trimming the landscape with tiger lilies, hostas and tulips, and swinging on the tire swing on the mighty oak tree.

The mighty oak on their property was a white oak. It was over 80 years old with countless memories of children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren swinging from its strong branches. It provided so many years of fun and memories to our family that the chain on the swing dug into the strong branch over an inch!

Did you know that there are two distinct groups of oaks in Wisconsin - the red and white? Within these groups, there are actually nine native species of oak in Wisconsin! They are the northern red, northern pin, pin, black, scarlet, white, swamp white, bur, and chinkapin. The different oak species are

distributed differently across the state, with different species growing better in different areas. Oak trees have a thick bark and they grow with below ground storage root builders. Mature oaks actually have thicker bark than most other hardwood species of trees, and they can even tolerate moderately intense ground fires. They sure are strong and mighty trees!

The oak tree is important to Wisconsin because thousands of animals rely upon these oak trees. This includes turkeys, bears, deer, squirrels, rabbits, birds and even butterflies and moths. Lots of bacteria and other microorganisms even create a symbiotic, or beneficial relationship, with these trees.

Did you know that oak trees are monoecious? This means they have both male and female reproductive systems and they typically start producing their offspring, acorns, at about 20 years old, with peak production of acorns at 50-80 years of age. Wow! These trees sure have a lot of life and memories in them before they produce! Acorns provide a very important food source for all the wildlife mentioned above. Since they are available during the fall and winter, they provide an excellent source of needed energy for these animals.

Over the years, the acorns off the mighty oak that I have swung from have provided me with countless memories of fun and enjoyment, as I collected them and tossed them around the soft grass, and as I swung from the tree.

Although my family has moved on from this place, for me, the mighty oak tree will always mean creating lasting memories of playing and being pushed by the people who love me the most - my family - and soaring high!

Kenosha County

Ag Day at the Capitol

Ben Harbach and Dave Daniels represented Kenosha County Farm Bureau at Ag Day at the Capitol. They listened to speakers about the importance of sharing your story with legislators, were briefed on different agriculture issues and then went to the Capitol to meet with legislators.



Lunches Delivered for Spring Planting

Andrea Edquist, YFA Chair

On April 12, Kenosha and Racine County young farmers got together to cook and deliver lunches to local farmers to say thank you and wish them luck in the upcoming season! Farmers received a brat, chips, string cheese, cookies and a drink. We delivered about 30 meals to our hardworking farmers. We again want to thank the farmers for feeding our world and wish you the best of luck in your 2025 season!



Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Tuesday, August 26

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Tuesday, September 23

Elect the new county board members and vote on resolutions. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Dairy Presentation

Over 90 fourth-grade students at Milwaukee Parkside were educated about the importance of the dairy industry on February 7. Presenter Brittany Gerrits from Waukesha County Farm Bureau shared with the students some fun facts about calves, cows and the dairy industry.

Mark Your Calendar!

County Annual Meeting: Monday, September 15

Plan to attend the County annual meeting scheduled for Monday, September 15. The dinner and business meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Benny's Café. RSVPs are required. At the meeting, we will elect the county board members and discuss any potential resolutions. Voting members will receive a postcard invite in the mail with the final details.

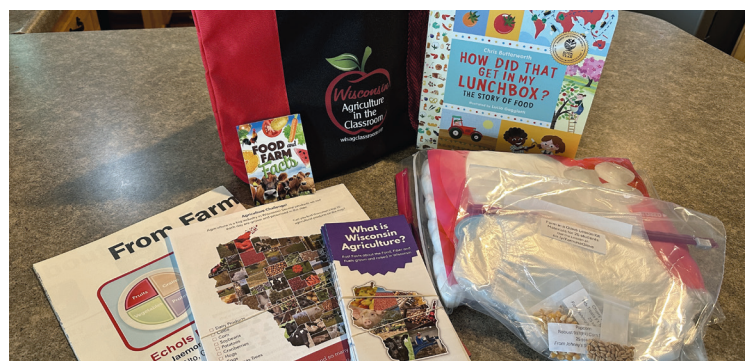
Ag Discovery Day

Ag Discovery Day took place on April 29 at the Wisconsin State Fair Park. Here are the statistics from the day:

- 1,077 elementary students educated
- 147 chaperones attended
- 18 schools across three districts (Milwaukee Public Schools, West Allis/West Milwaukee, Wauwatosa)
- Roughly 200 volunteers, including community volunteers, students and State Fair staff

Those who attended had time to visit numerous teaching stations, all of which align with National Ag Literacy Outcomes. Stations were about a variety of topics including sheep, maple syrup, cows, pigs, honeybees, soil health and more. FFA Students from the following high schools facilitated the teaching stations: Slinger, Random Lake, Milwaukee Vincent and Oconomowoc. In addition, the Wisconsin FFA Officer Team also helped facilitate stations. Alice in Dairyland and the Wisconsin Fairest of the Fair both presented. Other stations were facilitated by Discovery World, UW-Madison Research Animal Resources and Compliance and UW-Madison Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, MATC Urban Agriculture Department and WCTC.

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau donated the bags and classroom materials that each teacher received.



Fifty-five lesson kits were distributed to over 1,300 students in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Ozaukee Counties. The lesson kits were provided for Ag Discovery Day from Milwaukee County Farm Bureau and Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom.



Racine County

Essay Contest Winner Announced

Two schools submitted essays into the annual essay contest, with a total of 22 fifth-grade essays received.

Fifth-Grade Winner Crabapple Tree by Layla Windrl North Cape School

I always look out my bedroom window and find myself looking at a crabapple tree, it has been there for a long time, and ever since I could walk I loved that tree and how elegant it is in the spring. I never knew what they did for the economy except that they are pretty in the spring.

Crabapples can have so many colors when the flowers bloom, there are different varieties of colors, white, pink, and deep red. The flower blooming appears in mid-April to early June, depending on location and where the tree is planted, and this tip of tree is used in gardens and beaches, because of how pretty the tree is, but the one question I have always wondered ever since I was little was, if we could make anything out of the berries and can we even eat the berries?

Well, you can eat the berries off the crabapple tree, but the berries taste really sour, so people found a way to make jellies, cider, sauces, and spiced apples with the berries of the crabapple tree. These are just some things people make with the berries, but if you want to cook with the berries then you have to wash them and get all the yuck and dirt off of the berries. The berries ripen

from August to November, that is the time to harvest them after the tree or trees are done ripening, so now I am wondering if people say that the jellies and the spiced apples are good, but are they really good? What if people pick the wrong berries, then the jellies and spiced apples would be bad and all the others think would be bad right?

It is hard to find if your tree is healthy or not. A full-grown tree can reach up to 25 to 35 feet tall, you also need a weed-free location or take out the weeds. I think you're wondering why, well you need to get rid of those weeds because the weed sucks up all the nutrients in the soil and then the crabapple tree can't get any of the nutrients, so we need to get rid of the weed. There are two options to get rid of the weed. The first one is that you can pull out all the weeds by hand or you can use weed kill to get rid of the weed. If your crabapple tree is rotting and bugs like Japanese beetles are destroying it then get bug spray to kill those pesky bugs. Now think, is your tree healthy and if not, then how would you fix it?

As you can see, the crabapple tree helps the economy by making jellies and much more for food, what a healthy tree looks like, and crabapple trees are in our landscape for decoration. So go and look out your window, and see what trees are there and does it mean anything to you like the crabapple tree means to me?

Agricultural Ambassador Update

Shannon Roberts, 2024-2025 Agricultural Ambassador

I am so honored to be the 2024-2025 Racine County Agricultural Ambassador!

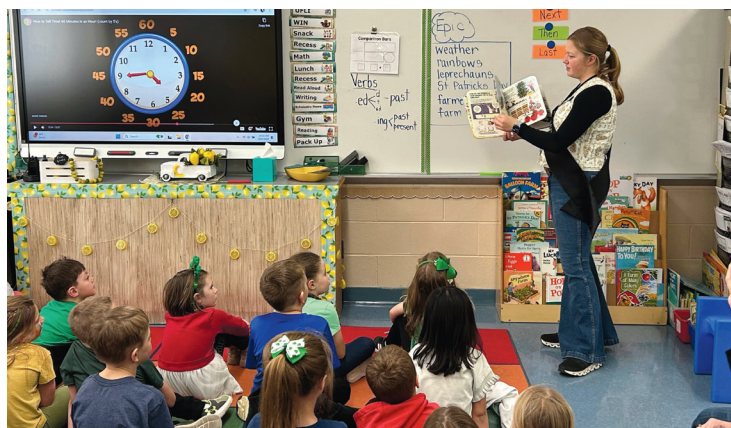
I hope your spring season is off to a great start! I had a wonderful time celebrating National Agriculture Week at Raymond School. I was able to meet with every single class, and we discussed how agriculture is related to us in our everyday lives. We wrapped up the week of celebration with a school-wide assembly. I was able to announce, cheer on and participate in the different activities throughout the day.

I led a session at Racine County 4-H Art for All Day about book binding. To start each lesson, I began talking about the forestry industry and how that plays a role in the agricultural industry. It was great to see all the creativity and get a head start on projects for the Racine County Fair!

Recently, I attended Racine County 4-H's Cloverbud Funday. This has always been one of my favorite events in 4-H that I look forward to it every year. This year's theme was Candy Land and we did a craft, science experiment, recreation and snack station. It was such a fun day, and I hope the Cloverbuds continue to love 4-H and agriculture.

I love being an advocate for agriculture in Racine County. I am looking forward to the rest of the year. I will be at the Racine County Breakfast on the Farm on June 28 at Frost Farms. I am also looking forward to the Racine County Fair, which is July 23-27! I hope to see you all there!

If you are interested in following along with all of my agriculture adventures, please follow @racinecountyag on Facebook.



Ag Day at the Capitol

Racine County Farm Bureau members raised their voices for agriculture at Ag Day at the Capitol at the end of March. Great discussions happened with the legislators. Those who attended from Racine County Farm Bureau include Brian Bayley, Tasha Hegemann, John Scott and Jim Waldron. It's important for you to raise your voice for agriculture and get to know your legislators



Cream Puff Stand Needs You

Judy Uhlenhake

Volunteers are needed for the Racine County Fair Cream Puff stand on July 23-July 27. The fair is a great time to connect with friends and neighbors and have a good time supporting the Racine County Farm Bureau. Come show off your talents making cream puffs, shakes and Moocachinos. The stand is our major fundraiser and promotes agriculture. Money raised goes for scholarships, library grants, agriculture promotions, 4-H and FFA programs and other community support.

We are also looking for day managers to oversee volunteers and assist in running the stand. Day managers help keep the stand running. We can split the day up if we get a couple of managers per day. If you are interested in being a day manager, contact Judy Uhlenhake at 262.949.1168.

Keep an eye on the Racine County Farm Bureau Facebook page or visit wfbf.com/about/counties/racine for information on how you can sign up.

Four Scholarships Awarded

Tasha Hegemann

The Racine County Farm Bureau has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships. Please join us in congratulating these students.

- Erin Bartelson, Burlington High School
- Clara Henderson, Catholic Central High School
- Libby Kalbas, Union Grove High School
- Michael Schaal, Iowa State University

Fun at the Bowling Social

Judy Uhlenhake

The Racine County Farm Bureau families got together for a night of bowling and socializing on March 2. We enjoy spending time with our Farm Bureau Families. This was a great event to get together and "bowl off" some steam. Many families showed off their bowling skills. We look forward to having a Farm Bureau Family social again next year, watch the Facebook page for details.



Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Tuesday, August 12

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. The policy development meeting will be on Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30 p.m. at River City Lanes in Waterford. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 7

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and hear from guest speaker Foundation Director John Hromyak. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Walworth County

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

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Rick Getka

We are organizing a trip to see the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Chicago Cubs on Wednesday, July 30, 2025. The first pitch is at 1:00 p.m. and the cost is \$60 per person.

Tickets are going fast, reserve yours now. Call Rick Getka at 262.749.4913 to reserve your place on the bus.

Go Brew Crew!



Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Wednesday, August 6

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Wednesday, September 24

Elect the new county board members and vote on resolutions. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details, we will be at a new location this year!

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

WALWORTH COUNTY 48th FARM BUREAU Dairy Breakfast

JC-Kow Farm
W7522 Bluff Rd
Whitewater
WI 53190

JUNE 14,
2025
7AM - 11AM

Join us for the 48th Annual Walworth County Farm Bureau on June 14th at the JC Kow Farm. Breakfast will be served from 7am to 11am. Tour the JC Kow Dairy farm and enjoy kids activities. Handicap parking available.

Ticket Prices: Adult \$10 Kids \$5 Kids under 5 free

Menu: Scrambled eggs, Pancakes, Sausage, Milk, Juice, Coffee and Ice Cream.

Volunteer Opportunities

Greg Sawtelle, President

We have numerous opportunities for Farm Bureau members to be involved. We hope that you will join the fun and volunteer for some of our events coming up this summer.

Dairy Breakfast on

Saturday, June 14
Location: JC-Kow
Farm, Whitewater
Contact Ann Brost
at 414.828.7223 if
you're interested in
volunteering.



Elkhorn Ribfest from
Wednesday, July 9 to
Sunday, July 13
Location: Walworth
County Fairgrounds
Contact Greg or
Brenda Sawtelle at

262.903.1656 if you are
available to help sell soda and water.

Ice Cream Tent at
the Walworth County
Fair from Wednesday,
August 27 to
Monday, September
1. Contact Greg or
Brenda Sawtelle at
262.903.1656 if you are
interested in helping scoop ice cream.



Money raised goes to support agriculture youth activities and scholarships. We thank you for your support of Walworth County Farm Bureau and our programs.

Essay Contest Winners Announced

Samantha Krueger

This year's theme was *A Wisconsin Tree and Me: How Trees Grow Food and Fiber*.

Three schools participated, including four fourth-grade classrooms with 69 entries and one fifth-grade classroom with 21 entries. The two winners and their class will be receiving an ice cream social. Congratulations to both of our winners. Enjoy their essays below.

Fifth-Grade Winner

Wisconsin Trees by Viola Nalepinski
Saint Frances Cabrini School

Did you know that for every 10,000 acorns squirrels put in the ground, only one grows into an oak tree?

Oak trees

Do you ever remember waking up on a sunny Monday and looking out the window to see a pretty oak tree? Oak trees can grow up to a towering height of 65-100 feet! Oak trees can live to be 1,000 years old, but most only live about 600 years. Oak trees spend 300 years growing. Oak leaves are long, curvy shaped leaves that are dark green. Acorns are a valuable source of food for birds, squirrels and other mammals. Oak trees remind me of my family because when we go on walks, I see acorns.

Maple trees

Do you remember the smell of sweet, delicious maple syrup on a Sunday morning? Maple trees can live up to 300 years and tolerate minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit! Most maple trees live to be 30-100 years old, and approximately 48 feet high. Maple trees. Grow around 24 inches per year. That deliciousness on top of your pancakes comes from sugar maple trees. Do you remember what you were doing the past 30 years of your life? Well, maple trees start making syrup when they are 30 years old. The most common maple trees are Sugar Maples and Red Maples. Maple trees remind me of my mom because whenever she makes pancakes, I put maple syrup on top.

Apple Trees

Do you remember the taste of steaming hot apple cider on a fall evening day? Apple trees take 4-5 years to produce their first delicious fruit. A standard sized apple tree starts bearing fruit 8-10 years after it is planted. A dwarf tree starts bearing fruit in 3-5 years. Apples will ripen six to ten times faster at room temperature than if they are refrigerated. Apple trees have fragrant blossoms that range from white to pink. They can live for over 100 years and some varieties reach over 40 feet tall. Apple trees remind me of my Grandparents because at their house there is an apple tree where I pick apples each fall.

Spruce trees

Do you remember the feeling of touching a pine leaf on a snowy day? Spruce trees are large trees, ranging from about 60 to 200 feet tall when mature, and have whorled branches and cone-shaped form. Spruce trees do not have leaves, instead they have needles. The needles on the spruce tree fall off in the fall and during the winter. As needles age, they typically turn yellow or brown before falling off the spruce tree. Spruce trees grow pretty fast. They grow up to six to ten inches per season. Spruce trees remind me of when I hiked with my family in the Kettle Moraine.

If we did not have trees in Wisconsin, life would be different with less clear air to breathe, less local paper available for art, and less delicious maple syrup on our pancakes! Who would want that? Not me!



Fourth-Grade Winner

Sugar Maple Trees Make Breakfast Better by Eric Schnellbaecher
Bethlehem Lutheran School

Nothing is more delicious than pure Wisconsin maple syrup on pancakes, waffles, French toast, and crepes. That's why I'm happy the sugar maple tree is our state tree. Today you will learn why the sugar maple is Wisconsin's state tree, how and where it grows, and how we get maple syrup.

Of all the trees in Wisconsin, just over ten percent of them are sugar maple trees.

About 80 percent of Wisconsin's sugar maple trees are located in the northern part of the state. Wisconsin school children voted the sugar maple their favorite tree in the state in 1893 and again in 1948. It officially became the state tree in 1949.

The sugar maple is a slow-growing, shade-tolerant, deciduous tree. It takes about 200 to 300 years to grow to full size, which is 65 to 80 feet or taller. Sugar maple trees grow best in cool, moist climates. Sugar maple trees thrive in well-drained soils and are commonly found in dense hardwood forests. They grow best where the winters are cold and the summers are warm. Their leaves can turn gold, orange, and even violet in the fall. In late winter and early spring the tree's sweet-water sap starts to flow.

It is the sugar maple's sweet-water sap that is turned into maple syrup. Native Americans discovered that, when the time is right, mature sugar maple trees can be tapped for sap. This happens when temperatures are above freezing during the day but below freezing at night. A hole is drilled into the tree and a metal spout is inserted. The sap that drips from the spout into a bucket is about 98 percent water and 2 percent sugar. All the collected sap is boiled in an evaporator until it is 67 percent sugar. That's syrup! It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup.

Pure maple syrup is so much tastier and better for you than maple-flavored syrup. It even has calcium, iron, zinc, and thiamine. It's the perfect topping for breakfast foods and other treats. Today you learned why and how the sugar maple is the state tree, how and where they grow, and how we get maple syrup. That's why I'm thankful the sugar maple is Wisconsin's state tree.

Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Thursday, August 28

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with the meeting details. If you want to be on the ballot to be a delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting, you must attend either the county or district Policy Development meeting.

County Annual Meeting: Tuesday, October 7

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions, thank the food stand volunteers and see who is awarded this year's Friend of Agriculture. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Board members Sam Krueger and Carl Wolf attended Ag Day at the Capitol on March 26. Following legislative briefings, they had a great discussion with the legislators at the Capitol.



Fair Food Stand Volunteers Needed

Tyler Hetebrueg, Fair Food Stand Co-Chair

Want a free pass to get into the fair? Everyone who volunteers in the fair food stand receives a free fair pass to get into the fair, along with a complimentary food voucher. You do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to work in the food stand, all are welcome and all will be invited to our fair appreciation dinner in October.

It takes over 200 volunteers to successfully run the food stand at the Washington County Fair that takes place Tuesday, July 22 to Sunday, July 27. The food stand is the biggest fundraiser for the Washington County Farm Bureau. Money raised is used for our programs, including scholarships.

Confirmation letters and volunteer passes will be mailed in June to those who volunteered in the past. If you know anyone interested in helping, please contact Mariann Gundrum at 262.483.5114.

Thank you in advance for helping at the Farm Bureau food stand at the Washington County Fair.

Volunteer Times

Tuesday, July 22

2:30pm-6:30pm, 6:30pm-close

Wednesday, July 23 - Saturday, July 26

9:30am-1:30pm, 1:30pm-5pm, 5pm-8:30pm,

8:30pm-close

Sunday, July 27

9:30am-1:30pm, 1:30pm-5pm,

5pm-8:30pm, cleanup crew starting at 6:30pm

Scholarships Awarded

Ken Falk, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Washington County Farm Bureau has awarded one \$1,000 scholarship to Jeffrey Ast, son of Jeffrey and Kerri Ast. He is graduating from Slinger High School and plans to attend UW-River Falls in the fall. He plans to pursue a career in business analytics.

Jeffrey states on his application that his "long-term goal is to work with farmers and small business owners as a business analyst. Understanding the cost of doing business is essential if you want to have a successful business." He hopes to stay involved in production agriculture through raising livestock or crops. Please join us in congratulating Jeffrey on receiving this year's scholarship.

Members Educate Students in the Classroom

Samantha Krueger

We had five different classrooms participate in the Farmer in the Classroom this year. There were 262 students in these classrooms. Carl Wolf, Mike Strupp, Mark Schaefer Jr, the Falk Family and I presented for these five schools. They touched on topics such as the life cycle of cows, how cows are cared for, different types of barns and milking set-ups, equipment and crops used for the cows as well as manure handling and why it's so important. The questions from the fourth-graders were very good and intriguing, and we really enjoyed the opportunity to educate fourth-grade students.

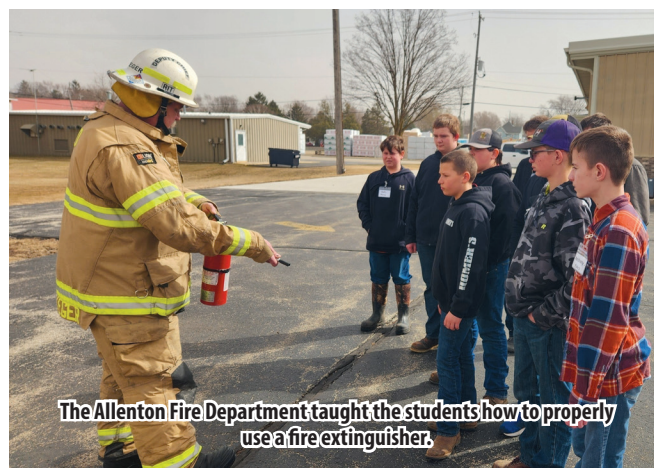
Farm Safety Program

Thirty-two students participated in this year's Farm Safety Program. In three Saturdays, the students heard from farmers and agriculture professionals about being smart and safe on the farm. They learned a variety of topics including working with animals, confined spaces, operating on public roads, grain storage, skid loaders, self-propelled equipment, farm chemicals, chainsaw safety, fire extinguishers and more.

The class toured Krueger Dairy Farm to be able to learn more about animal care, manure storage and machinery safety.

Thank you to the Farm Bureau members who helped teach the course: Matt Beck, Allen Dornacker, Chad Gillian, Justin Krueger, Ron Naab, Carl Wolf. Also, thank you to the Allenton Fire Department for their help in facilitating the course for our students.

The Farm Safety Program wouldn't be possible without our numerous sponsors. Please help us thank our sponsors.



The Allenton Fire Department taught the students how to properly use a fire extinguisher.

Thank You Sponsors

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County Wide Fire Extinguisher

Washington County

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

Farm Tours Educate About Dairy

Samantha Krueger

We had seven schools participate in the farm tours on April 24-25 at Riverback Farms LLC, owned by the Falk family. In total, 437 students attended with their chaperones and teachers. We had numerous stations, including seeing the milking parlor, cows, heifers and calves, feed and nutritionist, vet, tractors, the fire department, corn, a beekeeper, a snack station and an interactive facts station. We had help from the Falk family and we thank them for opening up their farm for hosting. Mariann Gundrum and Leah Weninger helped so much with planning, along with numerous other Farm Bureau volunteers. The Kewaskum FFA volunteered to be group volunteers for the Friday morning tours.



Waukesha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha
WaukeshaCountyFarmBureau

Ag Day at the Capitol

Waukesha County Farm Bureau was well represented at this year's Ag Day at the Capitol. Members had the chance to meet with legislators, see the new Insight FS sprayer on the way to the Capitol and were briefed on agriculture topics. Members who attended included Brittany Gerrits, Mary Kettlewell, Chris Mommaerts, Dave Morris, Tom Oberhaus, Jim Renn and Joe Renn.



Apply Today: Scholarship Application Due May 30

Ken Rosenow, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Waukesha County Scholarship Committee would again like to recognize the 2024 Scholarship winners who are, in no particular order, Emily Udulutch, Amara Bugenhagen, Brooklyn Jones and Peter Ottel. We will again be providing an opportunity for students from our county to receive a Waukesha County Farm Bureau Scholarship in 2025. It is available now for those students who might wish to apply. The committee would like to thank all who have applied in the past and would encourage all those continuing with their education to keep moving forward and apply this year in 2025. You may receive the scholarship more than once. We have had so many great applicants in the past and are looking forward to seeing more this year! We like to see Farm Bureau members' families who are going into agriculture apply, but all students are very welcome to apply. Agriculture is a very big and diverse business and there are many professions and vocations with a strong connection that can have an important impact on it! Find the application and listing of qualifications on our website wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha. The scholarship application is due May 30, so apply TODAY!

Students Learn About Agriculture

Brittany Gerrits

Over the winter, we distributed 30 books to local schools to encourage them to have discussions about agriculture. Additionally, we included a letter offering our farmers to go into classrooms to talk about agriculture and invited students to our Classroom on the Farm event.

In the spring, local farmers went into classrooms to promote the agriculture industry. The presentations are about 45 minutes long. Brittany Gerrits met with 30 fourth-graders in Hartland. They all had great questions about agriculture and were very receptive to talking about where their food comes from.

On May 9, three schools with a total of 55 students, 5 teachers and 15 parents took buses from their schools to Cozy Nook Farm for our first Classroom on the Farm. The tour was free for all students, and they got to learn about a dairy farm. In the one-hour tour, they visited four stations where they learned about the milking parlor, dairy cattle housing, calf raising and crops/machinery. Students got to see a live milking demonstration, visit the cows in the free stall barn, pet the calves and got to touch corn, soybeans, hay and straw. Each student received a goodie bag with a dairy treat and coloring book to remember their day on the farm.

If you are interested in having a farmer come to a classroom near you or are interested in more information about the Classroom on the Farm event, please contact Ryan Brueggemann at 414.429.5499. We are passionate about educating about agriculture and hope to see you soon!

Mark Your Calendar!

County Policy Development Meeting: Thursday, August 6

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Thursday, September 4

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and hear from Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator Beth Schaefer. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

 **County Farm Bureaus**
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