



SUMMER 2025

Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Greetings!

The dry spring has transitioned into summer, bringing temperatures in the 80s. As I write this in May, many of us are wondering what the coming months will bring. Will we see a new farm bill? (Hopefully, by the time you read this, meaningful progress has been made.) What about milk prices,

corn and soybean markets or cattle prices? And of course—what will the weather do next? Unfortunately, my crystal ball is broken.

Rest assured, your Farm Bureau staff are hard at work this spring. They're actively engaged in legislative efforts surrounding the farm bill and advocating for new initiatives to be included in the next state budget. One example is expanding ARIP. By collaborating with state agencies and other

partners, we continue to make a meaningful difference. Our leadership within the Ag Coalition has helped foster stronger cooperation and a more unified voice for agriculture.

Membership efforts remain vital, thank you and congratulations to everyone who has signed up new members! We also encourage your continued support of the Volunteers for Agriculture® PAC and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation. Many members have personally benefited from the Foundation's work, and all of agriculture gains from its leadership development and ag literacy efforts.

Please continue sharing your questions and concerns—I truly value the feedback and ideas that help make WFBF stronger. One recent success: the WFBF caucus will now be held on Sunday instead of Saturday. And thank you for your involvement in shaping the 2025-27 Strategic Plan—the Board has officially approved it.

Robert Nigh
608.606.4319

DISTRICT 3 ANNUAL MEETINGS

CRAWFORD COUNTY | SEPTEMBER 18, SENECA TOWN HALL

GRANT COUNTY | SEPTEMBER 23, LANCASTER YOUTH & AG BUILDING

IOWA COUNTY | SEPTEMBER 25, HI POINT STEAK HOUSE

LAFAYETTE COUNTY | AUGUST 12, LOCATION TBD

RICHLAND COUNTY | OCTOBER 8, THE PHOENIX CENTER

VERNON COUNTY | AUGUST 21, LOCATION TBD

District 3 News

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Giving Day August 13, 2025

Join us for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's 4th Annual Giving Day! Throughout the day, we'll celebrate our Foundation-supported programs and YOU, our valued donors and sponsors.

Giving Day is an important fundraiser for the Foundation, raising over \$130,000 since 2022.

Follow along and join in on Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation's website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Save the Date and Join Us!

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

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



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation was established in 1988 to provide support for agricultural education and leadership programs. Through donations and other contributions, the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation invests time and resources to support the next generation of agriculturists. As a 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.

Members Connect with Legislators at Ag Day at the Capitol

On March 26, approximately 400 farmers and agriculturists gathered at the Monona Terrace in Madison for Ag Day at the Capitol.

Ag Day at the Capitol is the largest advocacy day for Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists, bringing together a variety of farm groups to learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Attendees were welcomed by Wisconsin Farm Bureau President Brad Olson and listened to remarks from Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary Randy Romanski. Sec. Romanski shared why it's important to head to the Capitol with ideas on what can be done to positively impact the future of agriculture.

"There is a whole lot more that we agree on than we disagree on, here in this room and at the Capitol," said Sec. Romanski. "Identify what your priorities are and tell them what you need and then it's up to the folks in that building to get to 'yes'."

Following the Sec. Romanski's remarks, Brian Reisinger, author of *Land Rich, Cash Poor: My Family's Hope and Untold History of the Disappearing American Farmer*, delivered his keynote speech. Complimentary copies of Reisinger's book were distributed to 200 attendees. Reisinger shared his family's personal farm stories and his thoughts on the persistence and dedication of rural communities, themes that are central to his book.

"That resilience of farm families is what gives me hope. There are a lot of challenges out there but there are also a lot of opportunities," said Reisinger. "Imagine what we can do if we can make farming work for farm families again."

The afternoon program featured a state budget overview by Sen. Howard Marklein and an in-depth discussion of legislative priorities led by WFBF's Executive Director of Government Relations Jason Mugnaini.

Green County Farm Bureau president and farmer Eric Wuthrich gave

tips to first time attendees and shared why taking time for advocacy matters.

"No matter your role in agriculture, whether you farm, work in agribusiness or simply care about the future of our industry, your voice matters," shared Wuthrich. "Today is your opportunity to make an impact. Be confident, be passionate and share your story with those who shape the policies that affect us all. Because when we speak up together, we ensure a strong future for agriculture."

The program concluded with closing remarks from Sen. Pat Testin and Rep. Clint Moses and a citation awarded from the state agriculture committees for WFBF's recent Pinnacle Award and New Horizon Award from American Farm Bureau.

Following the remarks, attendees walked to the Capitol to meet with their legislators and explore the new Agriculture Showcase on the Capitol Square. The showcase was a public educational exhibit with farm equipment, dairy calves, free cheese samples and more. Inside the Capitol Rotunda, attendees explored Farm Bureau spotlight booths, connected with

Wisconsin Ag Coalition partners and tested their skills with a hydraulic sprayer simulator, an interactive video game-like experience.

Rural Mutual Insurance Company and GROWMARK Inc. are major sponsors of the event. Co-sponsors of the event, with Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, include the AgCountry Farm Credit Services, Compeer Financial, Dairy Business Association, GreenStone Farm Credit Services, Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Syngenta, Wisconsin Biofuels Association, Wisconsin Cattlemen's Association, Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association, Wisconsin Corn Growers, Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin Pork Association, Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers, Wisconsin Soybean Association,



District 3 News

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Casey and Morgan Lobdell

District 3 YFA Committee Chairs

Summer is well underway, and for many of us in the agricultural community, the first crop of hay is already complete or well on its way. After a busy spring filled with planting, calving, lambing and endless to-do lists, it's hard to believe how quickly the season has flown by. As we move into the heart of summer, we find ourselves enjoying the simple pleasures of farm life—watching cow/calf pairs and fall-bred ewes contentedly grazing on green pastures and seeing the fruits of our labor begin to take shape across the countryside.

Looking ahead, we're excited to invite you to the upcoming District 3 YFA Discussion Meet, scheduled for July 23 at The Meat Schoppe in Lancaster. This evening promises to be both engaging and enjoyable. We'll kick things off with a hearty dinner, giving everyone the chance to catch up and connect. Afterward, we'll move into the discussion meet portion

of the evening—an excellent opportunity to build confidence in speaking, exchange ideas on agricultural topics and grow as young leaders. Whether you're a seasoned participant or just curious about what it's all about, we encourage you to attend. It's a welcoming environment, perfect for learning and networking—and the food is bound to be delicious!

The Young Farmer and Agriculturist program is all about fostering leadership, community and professional development among Farm Bureau members aged 18 to 35. Events like this discussion meet are designed to provide both fun and value—offering a platform for young members to learn more about policy issues, gain confidence in public speaking and expand their Farm Bureau experience.

Thank you for all that you do to support agriculture and strengthen your local community. Whether you're baling hay, working livestock or managing crops, your hard work is appreciated and does not go unnoticed. We hope your summer is filled with meaningful memories, successful days in the field and some well-earned relaxation along the way.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to let us know if you plan to attend. We hope to see you in Lancaster on July 23!

DISTRICT 3 YFA DISCUSSION MEET

WEDNESDAY, JULY 23

6:00PM - DINNER

7:00PM - DISCUSSION MEET

THE MEAT SCHOPPE

109 N. MADISON STREET - LANCASTER, WI

PLEASE RSVP & DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

DISTRICT 3 YFA REPRESENTATIVES

CASEY & MORGAN LOBDELL

608.574.0403 | lobdellshowpigs@gmail.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?"

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

Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

The 2025 Fusion Conference and spring Promotion and Education meeting weren't just full of breakout sessions and business cards—they were filled with purpose. From AI tools to protein-powered well-being, one thing was clear: agriculture is evolving, and it's up to us to lead the way with intention, integrity and innovation.

Spring Promotion and Education Meeting: Energizing Our Mission

At the April meeting in Appleton, we dove deep into community outreach, volunteer strategy and engagement. We explored everything from Cultivate & Connect promotion planning to impactful "Ask a Farmer" training. The biggest takeaway? People still care about where their food comes from—but we have to be the ones to tell that story. We closed out the event with farm tours to Rustic Ridge Livestock and Roskom Meats, showing firsthand the pride and sustainability behind our products.

Leadership, Storytelling and Social Media That Works

Gone are the days of hoping someone else tells our story. If you're a traveling farmer, ag educator or just someone passionate about the land—hit record. A "day in the life" video with timestamps, a trending sound and real captions (98% of people watch with them on) can do more than a billboard.

Keep it short and real:

- 30–90 seconds long
- Front-load your best 3 seconds
- 3 hashtags max (#FarmTalk, #TravelTalk, #CowTalk)
- Post again the next day if something takes off—ride the wave.
- And yes—LinkedIn matters. Use your actual name.

Leadership opportunities are showing up where you show up.

What's on Your Plate Impacts Your Mind

Sarah Zastrow dropped real talk on protein and mental health:

- Americans should consume 10–35% of calories from protein, but many get just 11%.
- Tryptophan and tyrosine (found in beef, dairy, fish, nuts) boost serotonin and dopamine, the hormones behind happiness and feeling connected.
- Stress = cortisol → more belly fat, chatty moods and cravings.
- Fiber (25g/day) helps regulate glucose, stabilize mood and slow digestion.
- Fermented foods like yogurt, cheese, kimchi and sourdough support gut health and immunity.

In short? Fuel your body with the right foods, and your mind will thank you.

A Closer Look at Beef Emissions

Let's set the record straight:

- U.S. beef production accounts for only 2% of total greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Transportation? 30%. Food waste? 14%.
 - Since 1961, beef producers have reduced emissions by 43% while producing 75% more beef per animal.
 - American beef has the lowest emissions intensity in the world—a stat we should be shouting from the rooftops.
 - Cattle contribute to carbon cycling and soil regeneration.
- As one farmer put it, "We're almost as fine-tuned as we can get." So why is beef always the target?

From Fields to Futures: A Visit with Aldi

At Ardnt Land & Cattle, we toured a sustainability success story. With precise soil sampling, AI-synched breeding schedules, moisture probes tied to solar-powered pivots and cattle sorting based on body condition scores, they're leading the charge. They grow 90% of their own feed, practice rotational grazing and move cattle every 4–5 days to preserve field health. Their calves are vaccinated, fly-tagged and tracked for performance—not just production.

Beef, land, water—it takes all three to be truly sustainable.

Policy and Progress: Ag Day at the Capitol

As Brian Reisinger reminded us, we've lost 45,000 farms a year since 1920—70% of total farms. And that's directly impacting our food system.

We need:

- New markets and entrepreneurial opportunities
- Technology that scales for farms of all sizes
- Policy that puts family farms first

With only two million farms left, 96% of them still



family-owned, we can't afford to lose more.

Farmers, Don't Forget Yourself

Mental health was front and center, too. As Travis Tranel pointed out—it's not a lack of counselors, it's a lack of opportunity and space to ask for help. Whether it's prayer, community, physical activity or professional support, you matter too.

Final Thoughts: Keep Swinging

Josh Sundquist left us with a message that sticks: "Sometimes life feels like strike after strike—but what happens if you quit? Keep swinging."

We're not all meant to wear the same uniform, follow the same path or share our stories the same way. But we do have a responsibility to show up for agriculture—with grit, grace and gratitude.

So, what will you do this week to tell your story? To support your health? To make ag better for the next generation?

Because the world may not fully understand ag, but they should never doubt our heart.

District 3 News

Collegiate Farm Bureau Corner

The UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter had a busy end to the semester, as they had many activities planned to close out the school year.

To kick off the graduation celebrations, a senior dinner was held to recognize the graduating members. The seniors dined with active Farm Bureau members to learn more about opportunities on the county and state level. Sending best wishes to this great group of seniors as they start their next adventure.

Ag Day on Campus was hosted by UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau on April 30. The event focused on highlighting the importance of agriculture within Wisconsin. Students, faculty and community members had the opportunity to sample tasty snacks, visit farm animals and learn more about the agriculture industry.

The chapter also recently elected the following new officers for the 2025-2026 school year:

President: Jenna Brogley

Vice President: Izzy McReath

Secretary: Kinsley Wetzel

Treasure: Owen Trone

Agriculture in the Classroom Chair: Lily Mitchell & Ellie Hildebrandt

Ag Day on Campus Co-Chairs: Verena Bartel & Megan Schulenberg

Brag About Ag Co-Chair: Raina Brown & Brook Grossheim

Historian: Layten Sobieski

To learn more about the great things these student leaders are doing throughout the year, visit the UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau Facebook page at www.facebook.com/uwplattevillefb.



Counties Award Scholarships

The agriculture industry depends more than ever on young people to continue promoting, educating, advocating and of course, growing the food we eat. Grant, Iowa, Lafayette and Vernon counties are proud to support the next generation of agriculturalists and community leaders through scholarships.

This year, District 3 counties awarded a total of \$11,000 to deserving high school seniors. These counties work hard throughout the year to raise money for their scholarship funds. Many organize food stands, golf outings, promotional events and other fundraisers so they are able to invest back into their local communities.

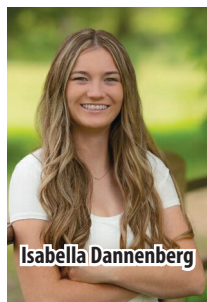
Iowa County: Isabella Dannenberg, Mineral Point | Aiden Gruenenfelder, Pecatonica, Annie Robinson, Mineral Point | Ellie Robinson, Mineral Point | Baylee Leix, Iowa-Grant, Morgan Oxnem | Dodgeville.

Lafayette County: Layne Burgess, Shullsburg | Abby Davis, Darlington | Zach Knebel, Belmont | Kaylee Neff, Shullsburg | Jessie Ray, Shullsburg | Reese Schilling, Darlington | Luke Schubert, Mineral Point

Vernon County: Emily Berra, Viroqua

The 2025 scholarship recipients have been involved in all facets of agriculture and will certainly be valuable assets to the industry.

Supplied Photos



Isabella Dannenberg



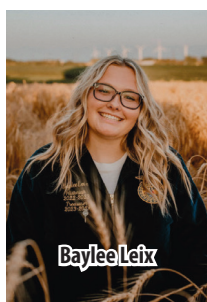
Aiden Gruenenfelder



Annie Robinson



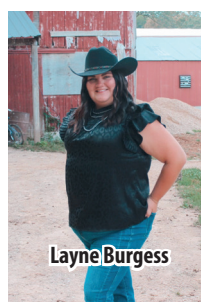
Ellie Robinson



Baylee Leix



Morgan Oxnem



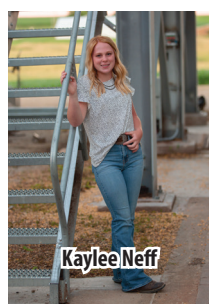
Layne Burgess



Abby Davis



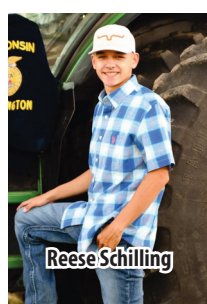
Zach Knebel



Kaylee Neff



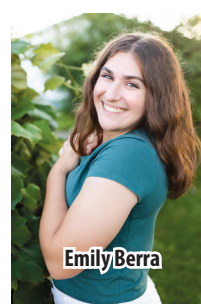
Jessie Ray



Reese Schilling



Luke Schubert



Emily Berra

District 3 Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest Winners

Each year, the 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 are judged on content, grade-appropriate writing benchmarks and creativity. This contest is open to all fourth and fifth grade students across the state.

Students were asked to write a 500-word essay with the theme, *Wisconsin Agriculture is Trre-mendous!* Wisconsin is a top producer of food, fiber and fuel that are grown, raised and produced from trees. Fruits, paper, maple syrup, Christmas Trees, nuts, timber, landscaping use, nuts, timber and more are all grown and produced from Wisconsin trees. The over 130 varieties of coniferous and deciduous trees have shaped Wisconsin's history, communities and economy varieties of trees grown for agricultural uses.

Annabelle Winkers, a fourth grade student from Fennimore, was selected as the District 3 winner in the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom fourth-grade contest.

Lillian Diedrich, a fifth grade student from Shullsburg, was selected as the District 3 winner of the fifth-grade contest.

Maple Trees – By Annabelle Winkers

When you take a bite of a pancake, do you think, "I wonder where this maple syrup comes from?" If so, then the answer is, maple trees! The most important maple tree in Wisconsin is the Sugar Maple. They produce syrup and furniture. Money from maple tree products, like the syrup and furniture, bring \$34.9 billion dollars to Wisconsin's economy each year.

The Wisconsin State Tree is the Sugar Maple. Authentic Wisconsin said that it became the state tree in 1949. It's known for the vibrant orange, yellow, and red leaves in the fall. The Sugar Maple can be found all over Wisconsin. A Sugar Maple can have a lifespan of two hundred to three hundred years in the wild. In the summer I like to sit under my maple trees for shade. In the fall, I like to go for a drive and see their beautiful colors.

A Sugar Maple produces maple syrup! According to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom, Wisconsin ranks 4th in maple syrup production. The Wisconsin Historical Society said Wisconsin is ranked 3rd in the United States for maple syrup. The maple syrup process starts in the fall when the tree starts to store starch in its trunk. During the winter when the tree is still asleep, the starch turns to sugar. In the springtime when the nights are cold and the days are mild, moisture from the ground is pulled into the tree's trunk and the sugary sap rises through the tree. Then a tap is placed in the tree. Sap is collected and then boiled to evaporate the water and the sugar turns to syrup.

Besides syrup, maple trees can be used for furniture. The furniture that maple trees are most commonly used for are chairs, tables, and cabinets because of how durable the material is. Maple trees are hardwood.

Maple trees are important to Wisconsin because of what they produce and how much money it brings to the economy of Wisconsin. The next time you sit down to eat pancakes, you will know where your syrup comes from and how it got there. The next time I have pancakes, I am going to sit in my chair and add extra maple syrup to my pancakes because I know I can help Wisconsin.

The Beauty of Red Maple Trees – Lillian Diedrich

Red maples are one of many types of maple trees that are native to Wisconsin. Red maple trees are a soft maple. They can grow 40 to 65 feet tall, with a diameter ranging from 10 inches to 2 feet wide. Red maple trees can live to be 75 to 100 years old. Now that is old! They can live that long if they are planted in the right environment. Most red maple trees grow in the northern two-thirds of the state. Red maples should be planted in moist soil, along swamps or depressions because those places hold water. They are one of the most drought-tolerant species of maple trees in Wisconsin. They grow best in full or partial sunlight. Red maple trees can produce a food source, be used in woodworking and be a sight of beauty in the fall.

Maple trees are known for producing maple syrup. Do you like maple syrup on your breakfast? Well, I do. I like it on scrambled eggs, egg bake and French toast bake. Red maple syrup would not be your go to syrup, not because it tastes different, but because of its low sugar content. The sap from red maple trees can still be used to make syrup, but you need more sap to make one gallon of maple syrup. Even though red maple sap is not widely used, red maple wood is.

Red maples are a soft maple tree; however, they are considered a hardwood in the wood industry. For centuries, carpenters have used the lumber of red maple to build furniture, flooring, and cabinets. The cabinets in our house are red maple. Did you know that red maple wood is also used in making instruments, such as violins, cellos and drums? The color of the wood is often creamy white with red-brown variation and can be dotted with flecks. I think it is a very beautiful wood to look at.

I chose red maple, because of the charming red leaves in the fall. I have learned that the true beauty of red maple trees is that the trees produce something red in each season. In the spring they grow red flowers, in the summer red leaf stems, in the fall their green leaves turn red, and in the winter after all their leaves have fallen, they grow little red buds and twig ends. The allure of this tree is all year round, and not just in the fall.

Red maple trees serve multiple purposes from providing us with food, creating beautiful and durable products, to being visually stunning all year round, especially in the fall. The beauty of red maple trees starts at their roots and continues throughout their life journey. When you are driving through Wisconsin in the fall, keep an eye out for the changing colors, and bright red foliage of the red maple tree.



CRAWFORD COUNTY SUMMER PICNIC

THURSDAY JULY 17 | 7:30 P.M.

 EASTMAN PARK

PLEASE BRING A DISH TO PASS



CRAWFORD COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING LUAU

Thursday,
September 18th
at 7pm

LOCATION:
SENECA
TOWN HALL



AUG. 21-24
CRAWFORD
COUNTY DAIRY
BAR

CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR

ICE CREAM
TREATS AND
PIE FOR
SALE!



President's Message



Peter Winch

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello from northern Grant County.

Earlier this spring, we had another successful Ag Day at the Capitol, where we had the opportunity to meet with our legislators. I was fortunate to attend this year, along with representatives from many counties across the state. Legislators truly value hearing directly from farmers—it makes a difference when we share our stories and concerns.

As we dive into long hours in the fields, please remember to take the time to work safely—whether it's operating machinery, handling livestock, or driving equipment on the roads. It's also important to teach the next generation safe practices and explain why we do things a certain way. No one wants to hear about accidents in agriculture, and prevention starts with awareness.

Looking ahead, we'll once again host our food stand at the county fair in August—I can already taste those pork chops and potato salad! The food stand is one of our county's largest fundraisers, and we're always looking for volunteers to help cook and serve during the fair. A lot of planning and effort goes into the menu and logistics, with the goal of offering a hearty meal at a fair price while promoting agricultural products. If you're interested in helping or have any questions about the

fair, please contact me at pwinch@tds.net or 608.822.7806. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Farm Bureau supports Grant County in many ways—from Farm Safety Day and scholarships for high school seniors whose parents are members, to numerous local activities. We also offer the Grant County Farm Bureau grant, which provides funding for schools, students and organizations to promote agriculture. In addition, we recognize beef, dairy and pork months with gift card giveaways on the radio to raise awareness and appreciation.

Our board is currently undergoing training in succession planning. As this will be my final year serving as president, I hope the transition process will be smooth. Like any organization, it's important to welcome new leadership and fresh ideas. After nearly ten years as president, it's time for change—but I plan to remain on the board and stay active, especially with the fair.

Shortly after the fair, we'll hold our policy development meeting to begin the grassroots process of gathering input from our members. These ideas will be discussed at the county annual meeting and may even move forward to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Remember, policy in our organization starts at the county level and grows upward.

Speaking of the annual meeting, we'll be holding ours on September 23. You'll receive a postcard with the details as the event approaches. We hope to see you there!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Andrew Dal Santo

Grant County YFA Chair

Summer is here!

I hope that you all had a great start to the planting season and still have the excitement of getting that first windrow of forage down! With the dust finally settling, look for some fun YFA activities and outings to come this summer!

The District 3 Discussion Meet is quickly approaching. The topic for the discussion will be *"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?"*

We are looking for six participants in our district to compete, so if you would like some amazing food from The Meat Schoppe in Lancaster and to discuss this hot topic on July 23, feel free to let me know.

It's also time to start thinking about the county fair season! The Grant County YFA is looking for volunteers to help at our Ag Tent at the Grant County Fair, August 13-17. If there are any young adults that might be interested in a career in ag education or just love to teach people about agriculture and would like to help, please contact Jackie Seelow at jackie.seelow@gmail.com. We will be having time slots available for scheduling as the fair gets closer.

As always, thank you for all you do for Wisconsin agriculture and WFBF. Have a safe and wonderful summer!



Grant County

wfbf.com/about/counties/grant
GrantCountyFarmBureau

Grant County Agriculture in the Classroom Update

Abby Walker

Grant County Agriculture in the Classroom Chair



The Grant County Farm Bureau is proud to recognize the winners of this year's Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest! Congratulations to Ella Jackson, a fifth grader from Fennimore, and Annabelle Winkers, a fourth grader from Fennimore, for their outstanding submissions.

To celebrate their achievements, Abby and Andrew visited each winner's classroom to present certificates and treat the students to a well-deserved ice cream celebration. The smiles and excitement from the students made the day extra special!

As we continue our commitment to agricultural education, we're also looking ahead to the Grant County Fair, taking place August 13–17. Farm Bureau will once again be hosting the Ag Education Tent, and we're seeking student volunteers to help support our members in sharing the story of agriculture with fairgoers.

This is a great opportunity for students interested in ag education, public speaking or community service to get involved in a meaningful and fun way. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please reach out—we'd love to have your help!

Together, we're cultivating the next generation of ag advocates while celebrating the creativity and passion of our youth.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL FFA GROUPS!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!



JOIN NOW

Contact us today if you are
interested:
abbywalker3513@gmail.com

Grant County Farm Bureau is looking for
students to join us at the Ag Education
Tent during the Grant County Fair!

Show your passion for agriculture and
share knowledge with your community
through interactive learning and games.



Iowa County

wfbf.com/about/counties/iowa
IowaCountyFarmBureau

Promotion and Education Update

Megan Yager

Iowa County Promotion and Education Chair



Greetings!

Hopefully, everyone had a successful spring planting season and calving season. It's a beautiful thing to see cattle out on green grass and newly planted crops emerging from the ground. Iowa County

Farm Bureau has been busy this spring with many different activities. We were pleased to award six scholarships this year to local high school seniors. Those students were Isabella Dannenberg, Ellie Robinson and Annie Robinson from Mineral Point, Aiden Grunenfelder from Pecatonica, Morgan Oxnem from Dodgeville and Baylee Leix from Iowa-Grant. Congratulations to those seniors and best of luck!

The 2025 Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest theme was *A Wisconsin Tree and Me: How Trees Grow Food and Fiber*. I enjoyed reading the many submissions and would like to thank all the teachers and students for participating. This year's essay winner for Iowa County was Dieter Johnson, a fourth grader from Livia Doyle's classroom in Mineral Point. The winning student received a Kwik Trip gift card and an ice cream party for their classroom.

While visiting the students for the ice cream party, we also talked about May Beef Month and the beef industry in Wisconsin. We let the students sample beef sticks and while they snacked, they created their own cattle

brand. Students came up with great cattle brands that were unique to their name or farm name. There were many great questions about the beef industry and agriculture in general. It was a lot of fun spending time with the students in their classroom.

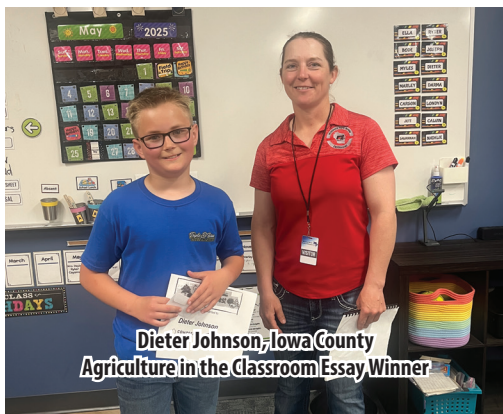
Iowa County Farm Bureau was able to attend the 4-H Farm Gard event at the Schilling Brothers Dairy in Montfort. Fourth grade students from Iowa Grant and Highland School Districts came to the farm and learned many different topics in farming. Farm Bureau had a booth called *Snacking Around Wisconsin* where students learned about foods they find in the grocery store that have ingredients grown in Wisconsin. Students were able to take home a bag of snack mix, including Wisconsin grown ingredients that was prepared by Katie Fitzsimmons. Thanks to Katie Fitzsimmons and Melissa Jacobson for their promotional efforts.

July will be here before we know it and that means **Farmer's Appreciation Day** in Dodgeville. This year's event will be held on **July 13** and Iowa County Farm Bureau will again be grilling steaks for their food stand. We encourage everyone to attend the huge parade on Main Street. After the parade, we follow the smell of

the grill and walk back to the courthouse parking lot. We will be serving up a hot-off-the-grill steak sandwich. There will be other entertainment, and food stands in the parking lot as well.

We hope you will join us for this event to show your appreciation for our hard-working farmers and agriculture community. For more information and a detailed schedule of events, visit www.farmersappreciationday.com.

Wishing you all a great summer!



Dieter Johnson, Iowa County
Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Winner



President's Message



Christina Benson
Lafayette County Farm Bureau President

Finding Connection in the Forecast

I hope this newsletter issue finds you well. As I sit down to write, I can't help but think, "We sure have some odd weather these days." It's funny how weather has become such a common thread in our daily conversations. I'm reminded of my days working at the gas station, where a morning coffee group would

gather, chat about the forecast and solve the world's problems—one cup at a time.

On the farm, weather sets the tone for the entire day. It influences when we wake up, how many layers we put on and how we go about our work. It sneaks into small talk at the bank, the grocery store and just about anywhere in town. "It's nice out...but it sure could be less windy," someone might say with a chuckle.

It's a bit silly, really—this one thing we have absolutely no control over has an incredible power to bring us together.

I know that during winter and early spring, gloomy weather can weigh on my mood. And if I don't take time to enjoy the nice days, I feel like I've missed out. But sure enough, a new day comes, followed by a new week and a new month, bringing with it another chance to step outside and soak it all in.

I encourage you to take time each day to truly connect with others. Let the weather be a conversation starter or simply ask someone what they're looking forward to that day. Sometimes the smallest questions can plant the seed for a meaningful connection.

I was grateful for the opportunity to connect in a bigger way this March during Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison. It was a privilege to join others in speaking with our state representatives—reminding them that no matter what weather comes our way, Wisconsin agriculture needs their support. From labor and inputs to harvest and beyond, our industry faces many challenges, but we face them together.

Towards the end of summer, we will also be hosting the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on **August 12**. I invite you to join us as we celebrate all we are doing through Farm Bureau and gather together for a great meal. As always, if you have ideas or questions, feel free to reach out at 815.275.4400.

Agriculture in the Classroom Update

Lillian Diedrich has been selected as this year's Lafayette County Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest winner. Lillian is a fifth grade student at Shullsburg Elementary School.

Lillian was the recipient of a Culver's gift card!

Thank you to everyone who wrote and submitted an essay. We look forward to next year's contest!



Lafayette County

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Meet Your New Lafayette County YFA Co-Chairs



Ben Cooper:

Hi, my name is Ben Cooper, and I live in Wiota on my family farm with my girlfriend, Ashley. Together with my family, we raise dairy beef, grow crops and maintain a herd of beef cattle.

This August marks the end of my second year serving on the Lafayette County Farm Bureau Board. Over the past two years, I've had the opportunity to be involved in impactful events like the discussion meet and Ag Day at the Capitol—both of which have strengthened my passion for agricultural advocacy

and connecting with others in the industry.

I'm excited to continue planning engaging YFA events, collaborate with neighboring counties and help get more young farmers involved in Farm Bureau. There's a lot of potential in our rural communities, and I'm looking forward to building on it together.

Olivia Cernek:

Hello! My name is Olivia, but everyone calls me Livi. I joined Farm Bureau in 2022 and have been a board member for a few years and recently became one of Lafayette County's YFA leaders.

Agriculture and art have always been a huge part of my life. I live and farm in Gratiot with my Dad and husband, where we milk Jerseys and rotational graze. My husband, Marcus, also raises beef cattle and crop farms with his brother and Dad, so we've got a little bit of everything to keep us busy! We are blessed with both our families being so close to us and love our small town life. If it's in God's plan for us, we hope to farm my family farm one day.

My love for agriculture and art has been with me since I was a kid. I continue to make drawings and paintings and love to photograph the beautiful area we call home. I use my photography in a lot of home decor, specialized gifts, selling calendars and have a blog on my website, rustyrooster.art

I share a lot of my farm life on Instagram and love educating others on what I do and seeing people appreciate and better understand the rare, sometimes complicated, but amazing farm life. Farm Bureau has given me a lot of amazing opportunities and blessed me with a great community of resources and friendships. It's a blessing, but also important, to be around people that support your lifestyle and understanding of farming.



Richland County

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President's Message



Josh Joseph

Richland County Farm Bureau President

Richland County Board Members Josh Joseph and Dick Hauser attended Ag Day at the Capitol in Madison at the end of March. This annual event gives Farm Bureau members the opportunity to meet with state legislators and share feedback on agricultural policies that matter most to our grassroots organization. As advocates for farmers,

it's always refreshing to bring a winter's worth of thoughts and ideas to the Capitol just before the busy spring planting season begins. We encourage you

to consider attending Ag Day at the Capitol in 2026 as we aim to continue to increase participation and strengthen our voice in state policy.

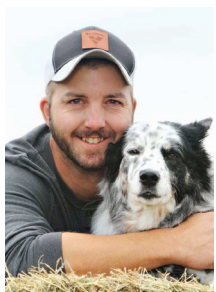
Looking ahead, Richland County Farm Bureau board members are planning for a more active and engaged 2025 and 2026. We're excited to become even more involved in the local community. If you're interested in participating, please reach out to our president, Josh Joseph, at 608.604.9819. Whether you're a large-scale farmer, small producer or landowner, your involvement is valuable to our advocacy efforts.

Also, we're excited to announce that Richland County Farm Bureau now has a Facebook page! Be sure to give it a "Like" to stay up to date on upcoming events and news.

Vernon County

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Promotion and Education Update



Drew Hendrickson

Vernon County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Representative

Hello Vernon County! I hope everyone had a safe planting season.

I'm excited to share that the Vernon County Farm Bureau will once again host a Farm Safety Booth at the Vernon County Night Out on August 5 at the Vernon County Fairgrounds. I'm looking forward to

bringing machinery out to the fairgrounds and sharing farm safety materials with our community again this year.

Over the past few years, this event has seen a tremendous turnout and has given us a valuable opportunity to promote the importance of farm safety to people of all ages. Be sure to mark your calendars and stop by our booth—we'll have farm safety tips, equipment on display and some fun swag to take home!

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to reach out at

608.606.1999 or hendricksonfarming@gmail.com. In the meantime, enjoy your summer and stay safe!



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Your future grows here

As a farmer-founded company, we know you are the backbone of Wisconsin. That's why we're giving **\$3.9 million** back to our farm policyholders this year through our Farm Dividend Program. Thank you for trusting us, season after season.

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