



Grassroots

District 7 News

District 7 Built a New Frontier



Danielle Baum

WFBF District 7 Coordinator

I would like to start with wishing everyone a Happy New Year! I have been happily working with the wonderful members of District 7 for one year now. Over the past year, I have watched each county continue to develop ways to grow and push towards their new frontier. From Shawano County's new agriculture career fair to Waupaca County's impressive Farm Neighbor Cares Program to Langlade County's exciting event lineup, there sure is a lot to be proud of. I am excited to watch each county continue to grow and create new opportunities in their communities.

County's impressive Farm Neighbor Cares Program to Langlade County's exciting event lineup, there sure is a lot to be proud of. I am excited to watch each county continue to grow and create new opportunities in their communities.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on this past year's WFBF YFA Conference and Annual Meeting. Members had the opportunity to listen to engaging keynote speakers, participate in meaningful workshops and socialize with old and new friends. I would also like to recognize this year's award winners and honors earned by our D7 members:

- Jake and Jennifer Hoewisch (Waupaca) completed their term on the state YFA Board and Amanda Williams (Shawano) began her tenure on the board.
- Brian Preder, District 7 Director from Waupaca County was elected as the President of the Board of Directors for Rural Mutual Insurance.
- Amanda Williams (Shawano) was a finalist in the 35 Under 35 Sustainable Service category.
- Hallie Rehn (Oconto) and Mason Jauquet (Shawano) competed in the YFA Discussion Meet.
- Shawano and Waupaca Counties were recognized on stage for their \$1,000+ donation to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation.
- Monica Schwittay (Marinette), Scott Brietrick (Shawano) and Ken Matsche (Shawano) were recognized for their efforts in membership and recruitment. Each of these individuals were in the top 10 for membership workers.

This next year's slogan is, "Shine Bright, Lead Boldly". I am excited to see how each of you shine brightly this year and how each of you will take the next step in your Farm Bureau journey to lead boldly. As always, please reach out if you need anything or have any questions!



Waupaca County members enjoy each other's company before dinner.



Ken Matsche is recognized on stage as a Top 10 membership worker.



D7 YFA members at the 2024 YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting.

Member Benefits App

Now Available

Access Farm Bureau member benefits anytime, anywhere with the FB Benefits app. Available for both Apple and Android. Search FB Benefits in your app store or scan the QR code below to download.

Apple



Android



District 7 News

District 7 Welcomes a New YFA Representative



Amanda Williams
District 7 YFA Representative

Hi there everyone! I am Amanda Williams from Shawano and I will be representing District 7 on the YFA Committee for the next three years. I am excited to get started and meet all the young farmers and agriculturalists from our district! I would also like to thank Jake and Jen Hoewisch for their dedication and work on the YFA

Committee as their term comes to an end. I have some large shoes to fill!

December brings the YFA Conference prior to the WFBF Annual Meeting. Attendees had a boot scootin' good time with a western roundup. There was a lot of fun had in our District 7 YFA meeting with guessing games, Pictionary and, of course, the very competitive musical chairs! I also would like to recognize Hallie Rehn, Katie Kaczor and Mason Jauquet for stepping outside their comfort zones and representing District 7 so well in the discussion meet.

I look forward to putting some fun and educational outings together for the upcoming year. For now, please mark your calendars for our annual Green Bay Gambler's Hockey Game on March 29. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon!

Get Your Tax Information Ready!

Darlene Eckerman, Tax Professional

By now you should have heard the CTA or BOI reports from FinCEN do not need to be filed. A Texas court reversed the ruling that all LLC's, S Corps and businesses with an EIN need to file by 12/31/2024 or face huge fines, penalties and even jail time. If you have already filed, that is not an issue. If not, you are safe unless it is challenged. Thought to be an avenue to track cash businesses, underreporting, illegal activities and foreign ownership, the filing is actually an invasion of business privacy. Could you imagine what a goldmine of information this would be to a hacker?

Trying to reduce your taxes? There is still time to contribute to your HSAs and IRAs - up to April 15, 2025 for the 2024 tax year. Talk to your tax professional. These are both great tools for the current year's taxes and the future.

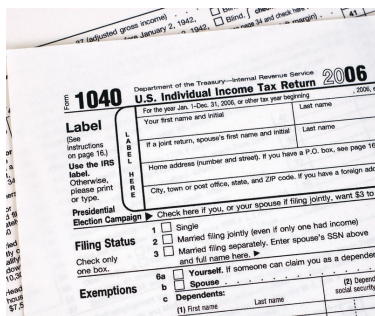
Now is also the time to review the last year and the upcoming year to see if you have the right business entity. Are you an LLC? Your business

probably needs that protection. Are you the sole proprietor and your success in business has created the opportunity to become a S Corp and take advantage of the tax savings that the pass-through entity allows?

Adding payroll to your business as a S Corp for yourself and your family is an advantage and should be seen as such.

As always, be very careful of scams. The IRS will not call you directly to demand money over the phone. If you receive a call claiming to be from the IRS asking for immediate payment, it is almost certainly a scam and you should hang up immediately. Report the caller ID and callback number to the IRS by sending it to phishing@irs.gov. The subject line should include "IRS Phone Scam." This is true for the Social Security Administration. They will not suspend your social security number. Watch websites for the <https://-s> means secure.

Darlene G Eckerman E.A. (Enrolled Agent), considered by the IRS to be one of "America's Tax Experts" She has been in practice for 30 years in North Central Wisconsin.



Ag Day at the Capitol

Ken Harter

Ocoonto County Farm Bureau Vice President



Ag Day at the Capitol is an annual event at which Wisconsin farmers and agriculturists can learn more about state issues affecting agriculture and to share their stories with their legislators.

The date is Wednesday, March 26, 2025. WFBF is joined by virtually every major agricultural commodity group in sponsoring this day to educate members of the legislature on issues of importance to the state's

agriculture industry and urge action on policy initiatives before the legislature to address priority ag concerns.

The agenda has not yet been finalized but usually includes presentations and discussion on issues of importance to Wisconsin's agriculture industry by DATCP officials, legislators and commodity group leaders as well as briefings on priority issues, followed by visits with your legislators and their staff. Every Farm Bureau member with interest or concerns is invited to participate. If interested contact a board member to explore possible carpooling arrangements.



Wednesday, March 26, 2025.

**Monona Terrace Convention Center
Madison, WI**

Early Registration Deadline: March 24

**Visit wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol
for the latest information**



Presented By:



Thank You Sponsors:



President's Message



Jake Bula

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy everyone. As I write this, the 2024 YFA Conference and WFBF Annual Meeting has just wrapped up. It was a very good conference this year with some very interesting keynote speakers and excellent breakout sessions covering several interesting topics from cranberry farming to succession planning and many others in between.

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation held its annual silent auction and also held a live auction. I would like to take this time to thank JP Remington of Remington Oil/VP Racing Fuels for his generous donation to the silent auction.

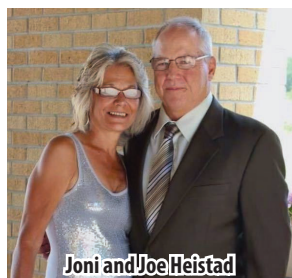
In September we held our county annual meeting at Timber Haven in Polar and had an excellent turnout with a couple of excellent speakers.

We celebrated retirements from the board including Bev Brecklin, Christy Sveda Schriber and Mary Fronck. I would like to thank them for their many years of service to Langlade County Farm Bureau. On the same token, we welcomed two new members to the board Joe Heistad and Bob Nash. I would like to once again welcome them both to the board. I look forward to doing great things in the future with them and the rest of our board directors. This upcoming year will hopefully be a great year not only for Langlade County but also the Wisconsin Farm Bureau as a whole. There are many exciting things currently in the planning stages, so look forward to them in the future.

As we look forward to the new year, I would like to leave you with a quote from my great-grandpa Billie, "Keep thinking about next year and think next year is going to be better."

With that being said, until next time. Keep your furrow straight and be safe.

Get to Know: Joe Heistad



Joni and Joe Heistad

I am Alan (Joe) Heistad, I am a lifelong resident of the White Lake area in eastern Langlade County. I am a third-generation farmer, farming land that has been in our family for over 100 years. I began farming with my dad Phil in 1978 and bought the farm from him in January

1980. I have been a member of the Farm Bureau for most of my 46 years on the farm. My son joined the operation in 2009 and he is a member also. Together we farm around 1500 acres in eastern Langlade and western Oconto County, where we grow corn, soybeans, oats and hay. When I am not working on the farm, I enjoy spending time with my wife Joni on my motorcycle or going out to eat and exploring the desert southwest near Yuma, Arizona where we own a winter home. I am looking forward to serving on the Langlade County Farm Bureau board for the next three years.

Get to Know: Bob Nash



Bob Nash

Hello Langlade County Farm Bureau! I am new to the beautiful Northwoods and am very happily settled in Forest. I'm excited to be back on a county Farm Bureau board. My love for all things agriculture started at a young age showing dairy cattle at the Ozaukee County Fair. My passion for dairy farming started from there which led me to work for Melichar Broad Acres feeding calves and other chores after school and on the weekends. I worked there all through high school and came back after I attended the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course. Shortly after my 4-H days ended,

I found the YFA program. I became the YFA chair in Ozaukee County for several years. I served on Ozaukee County Farm Bureau board of directors for two terms and served one year as president. I spent five years on the state YFA Committee which include some of my favorite Farm Bureau memories. I was the state YFA Chair in my last year and got to serve on the WFBF Board of Directors. I currently serve as chair of the newly formed Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees. For my day job, I operate an off-road racing management company and a youth racing driver development program. I still enjoy getting back to the farm as much as time allows. I am looking forward to getting to know and working with you.

Music in the Park

Tom Houdek

Langlade County Farm Bureau Vice President

Have you attended one of the concerts held every Monday and Thursday at Antigo City Park? It's always a fun evening with music, lots of great food and people to chat with. Local businesses sponsor the bands and local nonprofit groups sell the food, which always includes pie and ice cream as a fundraiser. It seemed to rain almost every day in June and July last summer so most of the events were held at the Heinzen Pavilion.

In August the rain let up and people were ready to get out to the park. Langlade County Farm Bureau sponsored the food on August 22. It was a beautiful evening with a good band and a large crowd. We served about 160 BBQ sandwiches plus pie and three gallons of ice cream, as well as seven cases of soda and water. It was a good time, and we were able to donate \$200 back to the Music in the Park Committee along with making some money to support our projects like Agriculture in the Classroom.

The food providers are selected by a random drawing each year, so I don't know yet if we'll be there next summer. Either way, I hope to see you there having a good time and supporting local nonprofits.



Langlade County Farm Bureau served another delicious meal at the Antigo Music in the Park.

Get to Know: Lennon Sadorf

Hello! I am Lennon Sadorf and I am from Crivitz. I don't come from a true agriculture background, but I have always had an interest in agriculture. When I was a teenager my first job was working on a dairy farm, and I had grown to enjoy working in the industry. From there I have held various jobs within the agricultural industry and I currently work as a Custom Applicator at United Cooperative. I am looking forward to serving as our county YFA chair.

Get to Know: Alexandria Broderick

Hello! My name is Alexandria Broderick, I am from Pound and I come from a small hobby farm that raises Hereford beef cattle and a mixed poultry flock of chickens and ducks. I recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin-River-Falls with a degree in crop and soil science with minors in animal science and agricultural business. I currently work as a Technical Agronomist with Country Visions Cooperative. As I navigate my new position, I hope to continue to learn and grow in the agronomy industry. I am currently serving as our county president, and I am excited to see what the program has to offer.



Lennon (left) will serve as the YFA chair of the Marinette County Farm Bureau. Alexandria (right) will serve as the president of the Marinette County Farm Bureau.

Marinette County Farm Bureau Members Attend the WFBF Annual Meeting

Corey Kuchta

Marinette County Farm Bureau Vice President

On December 9, Corey Kuchta & Monica Schwittay participated as voting delegates from Marinette County at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation 105th Annual meeting in Wisconsin Dells. 230 Farm Bureau Delegates from across the state of Wisconsin, discussed and voted on policy for the 2025 policy book which provides new policy direction for the organization.



Corey Kuchta and Monica Schwittay served as delegates at 2024 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Ice Cream Stand Recap

Cindi Troche

Marinette County Farm Bureau Board Member

The ice cream stand was a great success again this year! We sold almost the same quantity as pre-COVID! Lots of fun and ice cream was served. We had some issues with freezers and maintenance, but we are in the works for a smoother future. I would also like to thank the Coleman FFA members and their assistance with the stand. As always, if anyone wants to volunteer, reach out to Cindi Troche at ctroche@coleman.k12.wi.us.



Marinette County Farm Bureau members and Coleman FFA members work together in the Marinette County Fair Ice Cream Stand.

President's Message



Dennis Jahnke

Oconto County Farm Bureau President

Hallelujah! Another day without a political ad. Just lots of complaints about NFL referees.

I was a greeter for our town election on election day. Four months of drought and I had to stand in the rain for three straight hours monitoring traffic into the building. I volunteered, in part, to see the process from behind the scenes. With the checks and balances these dedicated people have, it would be very hard to

have any significant fraud. I understand the frustration they have at being scrutinized. One of the things Americans can be most proud of is our election process. Historically, it has been the envy of the world.

Now that the election is over, we will see the process that has become the modern political process. Our lawmakers can't seem to make the process work. Gridlock won't only be associated with the world's rugby teams.

Guess I will get to studying my seed catalogues and make a visit to the jacuzzi at our local health club. I've had an ongoing headache from political ads and an aching back from making firewood. Christmas cookies didn't seem to help!

WFBF Annual Meeting

Ken Harter

Oconto County Farm Bureau Vice President

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation met at the Kalahari Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells December 6-9 to conduct its 105th annual meeting. The weekend included two annual business meetings, that of WFBF and Rural Mutual Insurance Company.

WFBF's YFA program, involving Farm Bureau members ages 18 through 35, also met with their own agenda for part of the weekend. In addition to conducting the business of the organizations, individual recognition and accomplishments were celebrated, keynote speakers, workshops and a trade show provided opportunities for updates, learning and motivation. There was also time for attendees to renew acquaintances and make new connections.

Hallie Rehn and Ken Harter attended as Oconto County Farm Bureau's delegates and participated in the grassroots policy development session which provides the WFBF government relations staff with policy priorities when working with legislators and government agencies. Hallie also competed in the finals of the YFA Discussion Meet. Ken competed in the first Farmers and Agriculturalists Unlimited Discussion Meet – a discussion meet for Farm Bureau members over 35, and promoted Farm Bureau Foundation fundraising activities as a member of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Board of Trustees.

YFA Conference - Discussion Meet

Hallie Rehn

Oconto County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

The 2024 YFA Discussion Meet was an incredible success, providing competitors with a platform to showcase their agricultural knowledge, engage with others who share their passion and gain valuable experiences to help them grow as leaders in the industry. This year's discussions delved into important topics, including diversification as a strategy for exploring new revenue sources and how to better involve young members in the agricultural community.

A heartfelt congratulations goes out to Kallie Jo Coates of Racine County, the winner of the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet! Kallie's performance stood out among a talented group of competitors, and she will now go on to represent Wisconsin at the American Farm Bureau Annual Convention in January. We wish her the best of luck as she takes on this exciting opportunity to showcase Wisconsin's young farm leaders on a national stage.



Delegates Ken Harter and Hallie Rehn pose for a photo after the delegate resolution session.



Hallie competes in the 2024 YFA Discussion Meet.

Oconto Falls FFA Hosts Successful Literacy Night

Hallie Rehn

Oconto County Farm Bureau YFA Chair

The Oconto Falls FFA hosted a well-attended Literacy Night on November 19 at Oconto Falls High School. The event, designed for elementary school students, took place from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and provided a fun, educational evening for local families.

Attendees entered through the commons doors by the PAC and followed a walk-through format that started in the 100 hallway, continued through the 200 hallway and ended in the agriculture room, where the featured author, Lewis Shallow, signed copies of his book.

This year's featured book was *Zee Visits the Farm: Making A New Friend* by Lewis Shallow. Activities inspired by the book were spread throughout the event, including friendship bracelet making, toy tractor identification, creating animal feed rations and learning about dog breeds.

FFA members from Oconto Falls High School were stationed throughout the school to guide participants, ensuring a smooth experience

for all attendees.

Copies of *Zee Visits the Farm: Making A New Friend* were available for purchase during the event. Many families took the opportunity to buy the book and have it signed by the author, who was delighted to meet the young readers.

The evening also showcased the *Agriculture in the Classroom* book "My Grandpa, My Tree and Me", which featured additional activities such as learning about the parts of a walnut tree, identifying states that grow nuts and exploring food labels.

Information about this year's essay contest, based on the featured book, was also shared during the event, encouraging students to further engage with the themes of agriculture and literacy.

The Oconto Falls FFA expressed their gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the event, noting the importance of connecting young learners with agriculture and the joy of reading. The night was a testament to the community's enthusiasm for education and farming.



Lewis Shallow and his wife and two kids along with Hallie Rehn and Troy Rehn.



FFA Student Jadyn Weslow and Kylee Peterson presenting the Agriculture in the Classroom activities to young readers.

Outagamie County

President's Message



Bob Fox

Outagamie County Farm Bureau President

Hello fellow members,

I hope everyone had a joyful and safe holiday. As I write this in the beginning of December, I look back at this year's growing season and what looked like an early spring, turned into a wet spring and summer. Late summer and fall turned out to be good for the fall harvest and manure hauling.

Outagamie County held the annual meeting September 12, 2024 at Buzz's Pub & Grill in Freedom. A presentation was given by guest speaker Bradley Uken, WFBF's CAO. Thirty-two members and guests attended. Leo Volkman was recognized for 25 years of continuous membership. There was an election for the board of directors. Those elected were District 2: Harvey Albert III, District 4: Bernie Vander Heiden and Bob Fox, Director At Large: Dan Knutzen and P&E Committee Chair: Kelly Oudenhoven. WFBF Reports were given by: District 7 WFBF Board Director – Brian Preder, District 7 WFBF Young Farmers and Agriculturists – Jake Hoewisch, District 7 Coordinator – Danielle Baum and Rural Mutual Insurance Company agents Jason Munson and Jamie Lukes.

I am one of 20 Farm Bureau members from around the state who are a part of Volunteers for Agriculture (VFA), which is Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Political Action Committee. Farm Bureau's political advocacy and engagement achieved a significant impact on this election cycle with a 94.6% endorsement success rate at the state level. Of the 74 candidates endorsed by the VFA PAC, 70 secured victories, reflecting the PAC's strong alignment with agricultural and rural priorities.

This year Ag Day at the Capitol is March 26, 2025 at the Monona Terrace Center in Madison. A panel will discuss bills in the Assembly and the Senate concerning agriculture. From there we walk over to the Capitol and meet with our elected representatives where we talk with them about why these bills are important to our county. Ag Day at the Capitol is open to anyone interested in attending. Please contact a county Farm Bureau board member for more information.

Outagamie County Farm Bureau is again sponsoring four students from the county to the FFA Farm Forum. The FFA Farm Forum is a learning and leadership conference open to high school juniors in Wisconsin. The event is being held Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center - Rothschild. The registration deadline is January 15 or when all spots are full.

Outagamie Attends WFBF Annual Meeting

Mike Salter

Outagamie County Farm Bureau Board Member

This year the WFBF Annual Meeting was held December 7-9. On Saturday afternoon we went through the recommended changes to the bylaws for the state and proposed policy changes. Next on the agenda was the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet where they recognized all who have signed up 5 or more new members. There were 1,139 people in attendance at this banquet and all went smoothly!

Sunday started out with a devotional followed by the YFA Discussion Meet and then brunch. Afterwards, we had a business meeting where we learned the financial position of Farm Bureau and Rural Insurance.

Monday started out with a buffet breakfast and then we went into the resolution session. This is where the final say on the resolutions takes place and we had a very lively discussion on some of the changes.

The entire WFBF Annual Meeting was great. It gives you the chance to meet up with old friends, people you may only see once a year. Though we may not agree on everything, we can agree to disagree and still be friends.



Delegates Bob Fox, Mike Salter and Bernie VanderHeiden and their guests enjoy dinner at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Octoberfest Creampuffs

Bernie VanderHeiden

Outagamie County Farm Bureau Vice President

Linda and I would again like to extend a THANK YOU to everyone that helped in the booth on September 28. It was a successful day, but we did not sell out this year. The money raised will help fund the Adventure in Dairyland program, 4H program, FFA programs and Breakfast on the Farm to name a few that we support throughout the year. Outagamie County Farm Bureau would like to thank all the people that support the booth this year by buying cream puffs or helping in the booth. I hope to see everyone next year at Octoberfest on September 27 so mark your calendar and again thank you all!



Members of the Outagamie County Farm Bureau hard at work preparing the delicious creampuffs.

2025 Breakfast on the Farm

Kelly Oudenhoven

Promotion and Education Committee Chair

The 37th Annual Outagamie County Breakfast on the Farm will be held on June 8, 2025, at J-Springs Dairy located west of Freedom near the intersection of County Rd EE/County Rd S. We will be having a hearty breakfast that consists of scrambled eggs with ham and cheese, pancakes, breakfast ham, yogurt, a variety of cheeses, Manderfields cinnamon rolls, milk and coffee. There will be guided farm tours, an opportunity to watch a cow get milked by the robot, a children's area, equipment displays, antique tractors and much more! If you would like to be a sponsor or volunteer at this year's event, please contact Kelly Oudenhoven at kelly.oudenhoven@gmail.com or 920.378.4744.

OUTAGAMIE COUNTY BREAKFAST ON THE FARM

Volunteers
needed

President's Message



Neil Christianson

Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Greetings and Happy New Year!

We had a successful county annual meeting in September at Chet & Emil's in Birnamwood. There were 50 people in attendance. One of the highlights was recognizing our members who have been a part of this organization for 40 and 50 years.

We recognized Glenn Fischer and Paul Schmidt for their 40-year membership and James Radtke, John Koeller and Eugene Asenbrenner for their 50-year membership. I'd like to thank everyone for their years of dedicated membership.

Some of 2024's accomplishments were:

- Sponsored six \$500 scholarships for students continuing their education post high school.
- Brunch 2024 hosted by Shawland Dairy Farm and the Ainsworth Farm was a huge success.
- Handed out string cheese and other dairy products at local parades.
- Sold ice cream at the Farm Bureau fair stand.
- Sponsored awards for the Shawano County Fair youth.
- Donated cheese curds for the Gresham chem-free graduation party.
- Donated \$1,000 towards the FRESH Project.

- Sponsored Meals in the Fields.

- Donated ten of the 2025 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom book of the year. The book is titled "My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me." These were donated to the Shawano County Libraries.

Your county delegates participated in the WFBF Annual meeting in December at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells. County delegates voted on new policies for WFBF to advocate for on behalf of members, including lots of topics impacting our farms, businesses and rural communities. Scott Breitrick and Ken Matsche were both recognized as part of the 'Top Ten' membership workers for 2024. Scott signed up 12 new members and Ken signed up 11 new members. I want to thank each of you for your participation and looking forward to next year!

Now time to pick on my Norwegian heritage...

One winter, Ole and Sven were shoveling their driveways after a big snowstorm. Ole turns to Sven and says, "Sven, I bet you a lutefisk dinner that I can finish shoveling my driveway before you."

Sven looks at Ole's much larger driveway and laughs, "You're on, Ole!"

Halfway through, Ole stops and yells over, "Sven, I don't think this is a fair race!"

"Why not?" asks Sven.

Ole replies, "Every time I throw my snow onto your driveway, you're just throwing it back onto mine!"

Meet Your New Board Member!

Hi, my name is Matthew Ainsworth, your newest Shawano County Farm Bureau board member. I am a 31-year-old father of two and a 6th generation dairy farmer just south of Shawano. I farm with my father and uncle. We milk around 135 cows with two Lely A5 robots. I have been a member of Farm Bureau since I was 19 and was curious what the board gets up to, so I guess I'm going to find out. One of the main reasons I agreed to take this role is to try and have a voice on government policies. My goal is to try and help push policies that can help the farmer, not just more programs and paperwork from the state and federal offices. I do have a little background in state government. Growing up I followed my grandfather around Madison when he was in the state Assembly. While that world has changed a lot from back then the basic need for local farmers to have a voice in government hasn't.



Matt Ainsworth (center.left)

Donation to the Bonduel Technical Education Department

Robert Krause

Shawano County Farm Bureau Vice President

The Shawano County Farm Bureau was excited to make a large donation to the Bonduel School District. Ben Warning, from the Technical Education Department, requested a donation of a sawmill. Village Tractor at the Bonduel location along with Shawano County Farm Bureau was able to make this dream a reality.

Ben Warning along with Travis Schindel have created a program to teach students where their lumber comes from. They have partnered with the Navarino Wildlife Center. The school will be milling lumber for use at the center in exchange for logs. Along with Shawano County Farm Bureau scholarship program, we will continue to promote agricultural education opportunities in Shawano County.



Bonduel students pose with their new portable sawmill.

Olson Dairy Farms Inc. to Host Shawano Brunch

Christa Hoffman

Shawano County Farm Bureau Brunch Committee Chair

Shawano County Farm Bureau is excited to announce that Olson Dairy Farms Inc. will host the 2025 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm! Join us on Sunday June 22 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The event will give guests and community members the opportunity to see a modern dairy farm and have a morning of family fun.

Olson Dairy Farms Inc. is owned and operated by Kurt Jr. and Kyrsta Olson and their children Carter, Luke, Evan and Reid. His parents, Kurt and Cindy Olson, are the retired 2nd generation of Olson Dairy Farms. They milk 600 cows and crop 1,500 acres in Birnamwood. In March 2020, the Olsons transitioned from a pallor to a 10-robotic milking facility to support their family-



Olson Dairy Farms Inc. is a multi-generational family-owned dairy farm including (back row, from left) Luke, Kurt Jr., Krysta, Kurt, Cindy (front row, from left) Reid, Carter and Evan.

centric farm. Kurt Jr. is the 3rd generation and is proud to raise all their animals from birth to milking on the same farm site, having two heifer barns and a calf barn with three robotic calf feeders.

They utilize several technological advancements. In addition to the robots, they use automatic feed pushers and scrapers in the milking barn. The animals receive three different neck bands to help manage each stage of life. For cropping, they utilize John Deere's operational center. Their manure management system is set up to remove the sand from bedding. They also have a unique partnership with the DNR to fence in their feed pad, keeping deer out. Learn more about the family and farm on the day of the event!

Join the Shawano County Farm Bureau to make the event possible as a volunteer on the day of the event or join

the planning committee, email shawanobrunch@gmail.com.

Shawano County Farm Bureau Accepting Scholarship Applications and Announces New Scholarship Opportunities



Ken Matsche

Shawano County Farm Bureau Board Member

The Shawano County Farm Bureau's mission is "to lead the farm and rural community through legislative representation, education, public relations and leader development." As part of this goal, the Shawano County Farm Bureau strives to promote agriculture education for the students of

Shawano County by awarding annual scholarships.

We are excited to announce that we will once again be sponsoring six \$500 scholarships for students planning to further their education at a university or technical college. All students who live in Shawano County and/or graduate from a Shawano County high school are eligible to apply.

New this year, the Shawano County Farm Bureau is excited to announce the addition of two \$500 scholarship stipends for individuals who are going into a trade program or directly into production agriculture. Individuals selected to receive this award stipend will create a purchase plan for items that will help them get going with their venture, whether it is tools, cattle supplies or other similar items. To be eligible, applicants must be graduating from a Shawano County high school and/or be a resident of Shawano County.

The application procedure for each scholarship includes a paper application that will be evaluated by the scholarship committee. Preference is given to applicants who are going into the field of agriculture, have volunteered at the Shawano County Brunch on the Farm and demonstrate academic and extra-curricular achievement.

Applications can be found on the Shawano County Farm Bureau website at wfbf.com/about/counties/shawano. Application questions can be directed to Ken Matsche at kenmatsche@gmail.com. The deadline for applications and supporting materials is Friday, March 7, 2025.



Building a New Frontier



Jake Hoewisch

Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

Jennifer and I completed our 3 year term on the YFA Committee at the WFBF Annual Meeting, December 6-9 in Wisconsin Dells at the Kalahari Resort. The conference was a hit. We are proud to be a part of such a dedicated committee full of wonderful peers, friends and ultimately Farm Bureau family. It was a bittersweet moment for us

driving home from the conference, knowing our seats have been filled with the next great leader. Amanda Williams from Shawano County will be filling our spot on the YFA Committee. We are very excited to watch her grow in her Farm Bureau journey. What will I do with all my extra time now? I merely thought this, but never said it out loud.

At our county's annual meeting in September, I was elected president. I am stepping out of my comfort zone and "Building a New Frontier" in my Farm Bureau journey. I am blessed to be part of such a supportive board of directors in Waupaca County. I would like to thank all of them for this opportunity and promise to do my best to serve as your county president. I have a few meetings under my belt and appreciate your patience with me as I figure out this new role.

Looking forward, I am excited to support Lora Korth, our YFA chair to continue to grow our young membership in the county. I would also like to congratulate Caleb Hamm as a new board member. I am looking forward to working together. I challenged all our board members to attend one state Farm Bureau event. I plan to attend Ag Day at the Capitol and many more events this coming year. I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and wish you a Happy New Year!

Milk and Cookies with Waupaca County Farm Bureau

Meredith Polar

Promotion and Education Committee Chair

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee prepared over 500 cookies for the Manawa community event "Miracle on Bridge Street" held on December 14. Members of the P&E

committee baked, frosted and decorated the cookies at member Gloria Zemple's home. This is the third year Waupaca County Farm Bureau has been involved with Miracle on Bridge Street. Mini milk jugs from Kwik Trip were also available for the young attendees to enjoy and refuel with while they traveled through downtown Manawa generating excitement for the season.



Pictured: Helen Heise, Lori Steingraber, Gloria and Meredith Polar. Also helping behind the scenes was Arnie Heise.



Dean and Meredith Polar help hand out the cookies and milk at the "Miracle on Bridge Street" event.

String Cheese for Athletic Fans

Meredith Polar

Promotion and Education Committee Chair

The Waupaca County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee has partnered with Little Wolf High School athletic concession stand for the winter athletic season. Attendees at basketball games and wrestling matches now have string cheese as a snack option while enjoying the youth activities this winter. The P&E Committee has provided string cheese for the concession stand and the school vending machines to sell as a healthy option.



Thank you for the donation of

String Cheese

to our concessions stand

from the

Waupaca County Farm Bureau

YFA Conference



Lora Korth

Waupaca County Farm Bureau YFA Committee Chair

As the YFA Conference has come to a close I would like to share some of the activities and fun had at the conference. This year's theme was Building a New Frontier, and our members got to do just that.

On Friday, YFA members were able to participate in the Cowpoke Corral which was a social hour sponsored by Mid-West Farm Report. During the social, new attendees to the conference attended the first-timer orientation where members could interact with other first-timers over a game of get-to-know-you bingo. Then we attended the YFA Western Round Up Welcome Dinner which was western themed. Once dinner was concluded, members attended district meetings where members played games and learned more about their district. To round out the night, members had the opportunity to join in on line dancing and socialize with other members.

Saturday morning started with YFA members watching the discussion

meet quarterfinals. After watching the discussion and gaining new ideas we had the chance to attend brunch where we listened to Jolene Brown talk about valuable lessons from the farm and a little bit about harvest humor. The discussion meet continued after brunch with semifinal rounds. During the afternoon members had the opportunity to attend the trade show and many educational sessions. Session topics included succession planning, a cranberry grower, what's next after YFA, a farm bill update and enhancing soil health. After a very educational afternoon members attended the Farm Bureau Proud Banquet where members were awarded for helping sign new members. Once dinner was wrapped up, the night ended with dueling pianos and a live auction.

Sunday was a relatively short day for YFA members. The morning started with the Colligate Discussion Meet and then led right into the final YFA Discussion Meet. Once the contests were finished, members who attended brunch listened to Damon West on how the importance of staying true to yourself and creating a better environment for all and wrapped the session with the last remaining rewards. Overall, all members had an amazing time, met new people and learned a lot of valuable information.

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