



Grassroots

District 8 News

From the Driver's Seat



Kim Bremmer

WFBF District 8 Director

Is the future of our local agriculture in good hands?

The decisions made by local government can have a profound impact on your livelihood. Unfortunately, too often we end up learning this the hard way.

Personally, I spend a lot of time attending local meetings and working with farmers on local issues as they arise across the state. I end up battling activist groups, but it's getting more common to see the attack on agriculture coming from unsuspecting places. I recently had a good reminder of why this issue of getting involved in local government is more important than ever. We have a local county with 66,000 dairy cows and 32,000 people being governed by board members who discuss ag with careless comments such as: farmers today are "cutting corners because they have so many cows," or we have water quality problems because "farmers spray so much chemicals that no grass ever comes up" or it doesn't matter what we charge for permits to "the big guys" because "they can pay for it," or "smaller farms are doing a better job with manure because they don't have so much going out"...etc...is quite concerning. This sort of rhetoric is divisive and harmful to agriculture.

Now I don't care how many animals you have or acres you run...the success of any farm, regardless of size or type, has everything to do with the

farmer, the tools they choose to use and the business plan they have with their family. As farmers, you have been and will continue to be the true environmental stewards of the land...not any elected or unelected bureaucrat or person with an agenda. George Washington Carver said it best – "In the end, the farm is not just a place to produce crops and livestock; it is the keeper of the environment, the care of which lies squarely in the hands of farmers."

Agriculture is the backbone of our local economies, but without strong representation, our voices can easily get drowned out. Local officials might enact policies that unintentionally, or intentionally, create barriers to modern agricultural success. But you have the power to help ensure that your concerns are heard, especially as our district continues to persevere and work through zoning issues, environmental regulations and ordinances that dictate the framework within which you operate.

Your Voice Matters

Whether it's by attending town hall meetings, joining a local advisory board or running for a position yourself, your voice matters. Your knowledge of agriculture could be the difference between policies that support a healthy agriculture community and policies that hinder it.

Now is the time to consider running for office, and Farm Bureau has resources to help you.

We must do everything we can to ensure the agricultural sector is represented in the policy decision making process. Let your passion for farming and doing what's right fuel your involvement in local governance. It's the best way to ensure the future of agriculture is in good hands.

DISTRICT 8 DISCUSSION MEET & POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

SUNDAY, JULY 20

6:30PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET

7:00PM - DINNER

7:30PM - POLICY DEVELOPMENT

ABBOTSFORD CITY HALL

203 N. FIRST STREET - ABBOTSFORD, WI

PLEASE RSVP & DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

DISTRICT 8 COORDINATOR

ASHLEIGH CALAWAY

715.781.2306 | acalaway@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?"



District 8 News

Take the Break: Your Cup Deserves to be Full

Ashleigh Calaway

WFBF District 8 Coordinator

As farmers, volunteers and leaders, we're often running at full throttle, rarely stopping until the fuel light comes on. But recently, I had a powerful reminder of the importance of hitting pause and filling my own cup.

I had the opportunity to attend the Midwest Field Staff Conference in Lincoln, NE, one of the best professional development experiences a Farm Bureau field staff member can attend. Over the course of three packed days, I soaked up ideas and inspiration from American Farm Bureau staff,

Farm Bureau Financial Services and fellow field staff from across the midwest.

By 10 a.m. on day one, I had already filled half a dozen sheets of paper with ideas for our district. By the end of day three, I

was practically buzzing with energy, texting key volunteers and resisting the urge to schedule a conference call before even getting home. That kind of excitement and inspiration doesn't happen when we're burnt out. It happens when we step away and give ourselves room to breathe and grow.

On the drive back, my travel crew let me make a quick stop in Winterset, IA, birthplace of my favorite actor, Marion Morrison, better known as John Wayne. Standing in front of his childhood home and the iconic covered bridge from *The Bridges of Madison County*, I had one of those surreal,



Farming is a demanding lifestyle. It can swallow us whole, even as it gives us purpose. But this summer, I hope you carve out some space to refuel. Take a day trip. Attend a fair just for fun. Volunteer for something

quiet moments where gratitude just washes over you.

Here I was, just coming off an incredible, energizing experience, standing in a place I'd always wanted to visit, heading back to a farm and community I love. That moment reminded me how essential it is to take breaks—to rest, reflect and reconnect with the parts of life that fill us up instead of draining us.

So, I ask you: When was the last time you paused? Even for just an hour?

When did you last take a moment to appreciate the life you've built? To recognize how far you've come? Or to share your time and talents in a way that recharges you, instead of wearing you down?

that inspires you. Explore a passion that has nothing to do with your to-do list.

As the Duke himself once said, "Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway." For some of us, that courage looks like stepping off the tractor, unplugging for a little while and embracing what the world beyond the farm has to offer.

This is your reminder: You're allowed to take the break. And you deserve it.

Dairy Committee Report

Sam Olson

WFBF Dairy Committee Chair and District 9 Representative, Barron County Farm Bureau President

Greetings from the WFBF Dairy Committee! My name is Sam Olson, a dairy farmer from Barron County in District 9 as well as Barron County Farm Bureau president. It has been an honor to be appointed chair of the Dairy Committee and serve alongside two committee members from each district across the state in addition to two members from the WFBF board of directors.

We understand we have a uniquely strong voice representing our members in the largest general farm organization as the Dairy Committee in the dairy state. To that end, we have made a concerted effort to make our voice heard and needs known to those who ultimately make decisions that affect our farms and daily lives.

Utilizing the "slow" time of year before spring work ramped up was very important to us. The committee met in late February at the WFBF office and heard from several experts on key issues including trade, markets and the upcoming farm bill.

Following the first meeting, we prioritized certain key issues to address at both the state and federal levels and discussed them over a virtual meeting in March. We voted to take action on five issues by sending letters from the committee to appropriate lawmakers or government agencies. Thank you to WFBF's director of national affairs Tyler Wenzlaff for the hard work drafting the letters and committee member Pam Selz-Pralle for the in-depth editing.

A second virtual meeting to review and approve the letters was held in

early April. All five letters were approved by the committee and sent to the WFBF board for final approval. The WFBF Board approved the five letters at their April meeting and went as far as to sign on themselves!

The five letters were as follows:

Federal:

- Support H.R.295 - Fair Milk Pricing for Farmers Act
- Support and cosponsor H.R.649/S.222 - The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025
- Support continuation of Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP), Livestock Gross Margin (LGM) for Dairy and Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC)
- Urge the FDA to vigorously enforce food standards regarding the labeling of dairy substitute products and prohibit misleading labeling of nut and plant-based beverages as "milk" or other common dairy terms

State:

- Support increased funding for Agricultural Road Improvement (ARIP) grants

We encourage our members to contact your legislators in support of these bills. Further, we plan to send the letters to Farm Bureaus in other states to garner more support across the country for these bills that can positively impact farmers in your local community and across the country.

Volatility may be at an all-time high with uncertainty in global trade and a farm bill set to expire September 30. The Dairy Committee will have more meetings throughout this year and work to address new issues that may arise along with working towards potential solutions to ongoing issues that have hindered the success and viability of Wisconsin dairy farmers.



3RD ANNUAL ALY SOSNOVSKE MEMORIAL SPORTING CLAY TOURNAMENT



Sunday, September 21, 2025

Wausau Skeet & Trap Club

153200 County Road WW, Wausau

Check-in at Noon

Safety Meeting at 1:00 p.m. followed by shotgun start meal and basket raffle.

Registration:

- Max 5 person team -\$300.00
 - includes meal ticket, shells, t-shirt and safety gear
- Individual - \$60.00
 - includes meal ticket, shells, t-shirt and safety gear
- No Single Shot or Bolt Action Allowed
 - 12 or 20 Gauge Only
- 50 Bird Shoot
- Meal only \$10.00

Sponsorships:

T-Shirt Sponsorship level - \$150 - All donations of \$150 or more will have their name or logo put on the shirt

Station Sponsors: \$150/station
Milk/Soda/Water Sponsorship: \$200

Lunch Sponsorship: \$300
Bucket Raffle Items (any value)
Baked goods for the bake sale

Register at:



Scan the code or go to:
<https://bit.ly/Alyshoot25>

Make Checks Payable to:
Marathon County Farm Bureau or MCFB
135392 Rainbow Drive
Athens, WI 54411

Registration and Sponsorships must be turned in no later than August 20th

For inquiries and questions, contact Ashleigh Calaway at 715.781.2306 or acalaway@wfbf.com

Funds raised will support Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation programming and activities in Aly's memory.



YFA Report



Jason Behrend
YFA Chair

“If I Can Do It, You Can Do It!” – Wisdom from Harold Altenburg

At 92 years young, Harold Altenburg is still inspiring the next generation of farmers with his trademark wit and wisdom. I had the honor of sitting down with Harold to record an inspiring

conversation, which will soon be available on the Wood County Farm Bureau's Facebook page.

In the video, Harold shares timeless advice on how to get started in farming, how to handle tough times on the farm and why a good sense of humor can take you far. He reminds us that farming isn't just one skill, it's a blend of many trades: agronomy, veterinary work, electrical, plumbing, mechanics and more. There's always something new to learn, and one of the best ways to grow is to learn from each other.

“You can grow food on any size yard,” Harold says with a grin. “Believe in yourself and never give up.”

He also leaves us with a powerful reminder: The two things you can't get back in life are your time and your health. Use both wisely.

Adapting to a Cool, Cloudy Spring

This spring has been anything but typical. With cooler temps and less sun than usual, many farmers are adjusting their approach. Are you making more haylage or baleage this year for first crop? Corn is behind schedule due to the lack of heat. What changes are you making to adapt?

Now is a good time to think creatively:

- Could you diversify your income streams?
- Is there a new product or market channel you haven't explored yet?
- Are there adjustments you can make today to strengthen your farm for tomorrow?

Change isn't always easy—but it's part of the farming journey. Just like Harold says: “If I can do it, you can do it!”

Young Farmers and Agriculturists Head to D.C.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist members met with Wisconsin's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. to discuss issues impacting agriculture on June 4. Issues discussed included strengthening workforce stability, supporting a pro-agriculture trade agenda and encouraging opportunities for young farmers to get involved in the family farm.

The June 2-6 trip was available to Farm Bureau members active in the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Program. The program provides members between the ages of 18 and 35 with an opportunity to enhance their leadership skills while networking with their peers.

“As young leaders in agriculture, we have a responsibility to share our stories—if we don't, someone else will tell it for us,” said WFBF YFA Chair Kendall Riskedal. “Whether we are actively farming or working in agribusiness, our stories matter. We owe it to ourselves, and to the next generation, to speak up.”

While in Washington, D.C., YFA members met staff from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S Department of Agriculture where they discussed issues pertaining to tariffs, dairy pricing, sustainability and the farm bill.

A visit to the Mexican Embassy on June 3 included a conversation on trade dynamics and Mexican markets.

The 24 young leaders met with Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Ron Johnson's staff and their member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

“Even if we represent just one piece of the agricultural system, sharing our perspective helps bridge the gap between consumers and the people who grow and raise their food,” added Riskedal.

Members who attended the D.C. trip were: Darren and Kendall Riskedal, Jefferson County; Lily Schuster, Dodge County; Amy (Silver) Austin, Green County; Josh Schenk, Green County; Sarah Hetke, Sauk County; Paige Hampton, Grant County; Jackie Seelow, Grant County; Casey and Morgan Lobdell, Iowa County; Breanna Cisketti, UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau; Brianna Wanek, Monroe County; Victoria Smith, Marquette County; Miranda Ewald, Waushara County; Tiffany Kohlmann, Manitowoc County; Luke and Ashley Lisowe, Manitowoc County; Lashawna Vogel, Brown County; Brittney Muenster, Outagamie County; Jacob and Jennifer Hoewisch, Waupaca County; Brandon Jakobi and Rhiannon Reimer, Clark County; and Nathan Utecht, Marathon County.

For more information about the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program, visit bit.ly/WIYFA.



Attention Small Business Owners we want to hear from you!

Alongside County Farm Bureaus in District 8, we are excited to share our Local Small Business Guide - a growing resource we hope you will be able to utilize for your family's needs!

Scan the QR Code to be part of our online roster of small business



District 8 Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Winners Announced

Seventeen young writers were named state finalists in the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest. Wisconsin fourth and fifth graders were asked to author an essay with the theme 'A Wisconsin Tree and Me: How Trees Grow Food and Fiber' as part of the annual essay contest that focuses on food and agriculture. The contest is open to all fourth and fifth grade students across the state, with each grade level judged as its own division.

Over 1,500 students from 114 schools authored essays for the competition. County winners in both fourth and fifth grade moved on to their respective district levels and these district-winning essays are now vying for the title of state winner. In support of this contest, 51 county Farm Bureaus donated over \$13,000 in books and educational resources to local schools and libraries across Wisconsin.

The 18 district winners received a prize package including a medal,

certificate and custom laptop backpack. This year's District 8 state essay contest finalists are:

Fourth-Grade State Finalists

•District 8: Katelyn Benedict - Ed Heuer Elementary, Port Edwards

Fifth-Grade State Finalists

•District 8: Delaney Darton – Home School Student, Three Lakes

The state winners will be announced in June and receive their awards at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection board meeting in July. State winners will receive a cash prize provided through the generous support of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation and leading partners Compeer Financial, Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board and AgCountry Financial.

Here are the District 8 finalist's essays:

Fourth Grade – State Essay Contest Finalist

Apples: Wisconsin's Treat

By Katelyn Benedict



Have you ever eaten an apple pie? Have you ever eaten apple sauce? They are made of apples. Apples are found all over the world, and apples grow in Wisconsin too. Honey Crisp, Cortland, Liberty, Spartan, Gala, Haralson, Golden Delicious, and Jonathan are all apples that grow in Wisconsin. Wisconsin is well known for its apples in Door County and Bayfield, but how much do you really know about what it takes to grow an apple into the

delicious food you eat?

Farmers often grow apple trees by attaching a twig or bud from one tree to another young tree. This is a process called grafting. It takes four to eight years for an apple tree to produce its first apple crop. They need to be planted where they get at least six to eight hours of direct sunlight as measured in early summer (late June to early August).

My mom and I watch for the white flowers to appear on the trees each spring. In August through October, I watch the apples in my backyard ripen, and we pick them. We harvest the apples when the color isn't green. They are ready to pick when the apples start to fall from the tree.

Farmers grow apples in orchards. When apples are ready, they are picked by teams of workers. Workers put the apples into containers (pails and or crates) and are transported to a packing factory. When the apples arrive, they are washed to get rid of any dirt and all the rotten apples are thrown away. Then the apples are put in rooms until they can be sorted. Each container has a bar code, so they can be tracked during the process. The apples are sorted by machines, so the choicest apples make it to me and my family at the grocery store. The packed apples are filled into refrigerated trucks and sent to the shops where my family can buy them to make our tasty desserts, or even enjoy straight from the bag.

Apples make up half of the world's fruit tree production. Apples can help improve your memory and mental alertness. An apple a day keeps the doctor away is what they say. So the next time you bite into a delicious apple or an apple-based product, think about the journey it took for the apple to get to you and your family.

Fifth Grade – State Essay Contest Finalist

Birch's Chaga: Hidden in Plain Sight

By Delaney Darton



Look up! There might be a hard, lumpy, black, charcoal-looking, sometimes rather large growth which is the mushroom chaga growing from the side of a birch tree in your woods. Chaga is a slow-growing fungi found on one in every ten thousand (mainly) birch trees mostly in the cooler northern hemisphere. Chaga's spores enter through a wound in birch bark and begin to grow. Birch bark contains betulin and this is the compound in chaga

that provides its health benefits.

Chaga is said to be packed full of antioxidants, a single cup of chaga tea having the same amount as thirty pounds of carrots! Wow! It also has adaptogenic, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, and antiviral properties. People use chaga to boost their immune systems like fighting off colds, for healthy skin and hair, and for cancer. You can find chaga skin cream but it's mostly used in tea and coffee.

You can collect chaga year round but it is easier in the winter when the trees do not have any leaves. As long as harvesting is done correctly it will not harm the tree.

When my dad and I harvest chaga near our home in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, he uses a hatchet or a small saw to cut it off the birch trees. He uses a ladder if the chaga is high on the tree but sometimes he can reach it from the ground without climbing. We always leave some chaga on the trees so there can be regrowth over the next five to ten years. Once done gathering the chaga, we trim it up and cut it into chunks and put it on a plate to dry. After the chaga has dried for a few days, we can drink it as tea. We either grind it up in a burr coffee grinder (instead of a coffee grinder with blades because the chaga is so hard) and put it in tea bags, or take a small piece and steep it in a mug of boiling hot water. The chaga can be reused multiple times with both methods! My favorite way to use chaga is to drink it as tea with honey and lemon. I have gotten in the habit of drinking a cup of chaga tea every night before I go to bed.

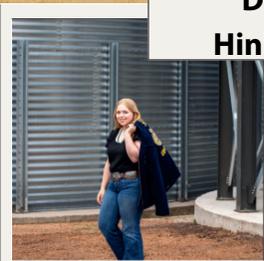
Chaga is so good for you and I think it is really delicious so I definitely recommend trying some! If you don't have the ability to harvest chaga yourself, it can be purchased at natural food stores. It is surprising that many people do not know that this mushroom grows on a Wisconsin tree!

Congratulations

2025 Clark County Farm Bureau Henry Stiemann Scholarship RECIPIENTS!



Devanie Hinkelmann



Victoria Seif

Not pictured:
 Tysen Linder

SAVE THE DATE CLARK COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUMMER TWILIGHT PICNIC

Wednesday, July 16
 7:30 p.m.
 Longwood Park
 W6596 Colby Factory Rd,
 Withee, WI 54460



Farm to Fork Banquet

A few highlights from the Farm to Fork Banquet:

Thank you to Fannie's Supper Club & Motel for their support of this new endeavor! They put together an amazing menu of pork, beef and vegetables. They also whipped up some amazing specialty cocktails for us including a maple old fashioned and a cranberry sour.

Thank you to our generous sponsors:

Harvest Sponsor: State Bank Financial, Marshfield | We truly appreciate your commitment to this program and supporting the agricultural youth in Clark County!

Cultivator Sponsor: Rural Mutual Insurance: Ryan Dillenbeck | Thank you! We appreciate your commitment to Clark County Farm Bureau and our programs!

To our raffle basket donors:

River Country Co-op, Lynn Dairy, 5991 Growing Acres, Jakobi Family, Christie Country Quilts, Tresmer Family and Clark County Farm Bureau.

This event couldn't have happened without our amazing Clark County farmers: Mathis Market, Marth Homestead Farm, Jack Creek Farm and Perfectly Calibrated! If you haven't checked them out yet, please do so!

We also want to thank Brandon and Isaac Jakobi for sharing their thanks and appreciation for our youth scholarship program!

Last but not least, the Clark County Farm Bureau board would like to thank Kristine Boon for all her work and time organizing this event!

We are excited to share that we raised over \$1,800 that evening, which has already been recycled into the community through our scholarship program. This year we were able to award three amazing students with \$500 scholarships.





Lincoln County Essay Contest



Congratulations to our 2025 Lincoln County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest winners: fifth grader Eric and fourth grader Landon!

June Dairy Banquet

In early June we welcomed over 975 to our annual June Dairy Breakfast. Attendees were able to hear live music, take part in a basket raffle, hang out with Matilda the cow, cuddle a goat or two, explore farming equipment and even go on a horse-driven wagon ride.

We want to thank our generous sponsors and our amazing volunteers! We couldn't do this without you! We hope that you got a chance to check out the other amazing breakfasts across the state!



Meet us in the barn!

Marathon County Farm Bureau in partnership with Marathon County Holstein Breeders and Marathon County DHIA are proud to announce that registration is open for the 2025 Little Britches program at both the Wisconsin Valley Fair and Athens Fair.



Scan here to find our registration form!

SO DON'T DELAY - REGISTER TODAY!

Meet us at the Dairy Stand!

Volunteer your time and have dinner on us!
Ice Cream Stand Volunteers will receive:
Free Fair Entry and Free entry to our county annual meeting Thursday, September 11!
Scan here to sign up for a shift!



2025 Marathon County Scholarship Recipients!



ALEXA LEONARD



PATTI LADURON



ELLA RAATZ

Congrats!

Portage County

Join the Call: Protect Our Farms

Large livestock operational ordinances hurt Wisconsin farmers, local businesses and the future of agriculture in our state.

What is an "Operational Ordinance"?

Operational ordinances allow local governments to regulate things like air quality, odor, traffic, lighting, land use and other concerns people may have about large, permitted animal farms. These ordinances often require farmers to pay for all "experts" hired by the town to review, approve and enforce an additional 11 or more plans—on top of what is already required by DATCP, DNR and EPA. Many of these ordinances are drafted by individuals with limited or no agricultural knowledge, relying on sensationalized internet stories rather than science or on-farm experience.

Where did these come from?

Several years ago, six towns in Polk County created a model livestock operations ordinance. Since then, the ordinance in Laketown was rescinded and the one in Eureka is in litigation. After losing traction, the movement has spread to other counties in western Wisconsin. Most town boards, after doing their homework, have chosen not to move forward. But now, activists are targeting Portage County—where they believe they can gain ground by capitalizing on repeated attacks against Gordondale Farms, a family CAFO that's been part of the community for over 100 years.

What does this mean for us?

There is not a wave of "mega-farms" moving into our area, despite what activists claim. In fact, no new dairy CAFO has been built in Wisconsin since 2018. Less than 2% of Americans grow and raise our food today. Farming—no matter the size or type—is incredibly hard work. Attacking our farms is an attack on the very people who keep food on our tables, support our rural economy and sustain Portage County's agricultural legacy. Whether it's dairy, beef, poultry, pigs, crops or produce, all farms are essential. Additional, unnecessary layers of regulation only make it harder for farmers to grow, adapt or pass their farms on to the next generation. All sizes, all commodities and all types of farms matter—and they all deserve a fair shot to thrive.

We should be supporting farmers with science-based policy—not more red tape.

What can you do to help?

We're closely monitoring this issue at the county level, but we will need your help as this process continues. Sign up today, by scanning the QR code to stay in the loop and be ready to take action when it matters most.



Scan here to get your sign or go to:
<https://bit.ly/saveourfarms>



Harlee Kirsling

CONGRATULATIONS!
 2025
 PORTAGE
 COUNTY
 FARM
 BUREAU
 RECIPIENTS!



Kylie Garner

Price County Farm Bureau Essay Winner

Amazing Maples

By Claire Waldner



Wisconsin is filled top to bottom with maple trees and Wisconsinites have found many ways to use this useful resource. When you eat delicious maple syrup on pancakes do you ever wonder where it's from? MAPLE TREES!! They are one of Wisconsin's more treasured trees.

Maple trees are truly amazing! They're mostly known for their popular maple syrup. Did you know that maple syrup is actually healthy for you? But don't eat too much!

Many people in Wisconsin work hard to gather the 450,000 gallons of syrup produced annually in the state! In early spring, when the sap begins to flow, people drill holes and insert spouts so the sap flows out. Then it must be boiled until it's the thick syrup we enjoy!

Sap is like the blood of a tree; it brings nutrients to the branches making the buds break out into nice green leaves. In autumn the maples lose their leaves and the sap runs to the roots to stay warm in the frigid winter, just like we run into our warm houses! Wood from maple trees happens to make great firewood, keeping our homes cozy for cold winter days.

The sugar maple is Wisconsin's state tree. How did it become our state tree? In 1893 the sugar maple was selected with a statewide vote by school children. I'm very glad they picked the sugar maple!

There are many kinds of maple trees such as the red, silver, and, of course, the sugar maple. In autumn maple leaves turn beautiful yellows, reds, and golds; they are one of the most beautiful things in Wisconsin. Everyone should come to Wisconsin to see these lovely colors.

Maple trees are great for woodworking; it makes beautiful furniture, wood flooring, and doors! A lot of trim in my home is made of pretty maple wood. Have you ever heard of bird's eye maple? We have a few pieces of this unique wood in the front entrance of my home. It's found in less than 1 percent sugar maples and is very valuable! They call it bird's eye maple because it has pretty little dots that look like bird's eyes.

Maple trees give us so much: syrup, trim, firewood, and beautiful scenery. They are my favorite tree and I'm thankful for them. I'm very happy God made the maple trees so perfect for us to enjoy.

Price County Farm Bureau
21ST ANNUAL HORSE PULL & YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER
SEPT. 27, 2025
 Pulls start following the parade
 The field behind the old Ogema school, Ogema

Thank you to the 2024 Price County Farm Bureau Horse Pull and Youth Scholarship Fundraiser Sponsors

Price County Fourth Graders Visit United Pride



Fourth graders across Price County spent half their school day exploring and learning from the owners and team members of United Pride. They took in the sights and sounds, asked questions and even indulged in a little ice cream before heading off on their next adventure. This program is made possible through Price County Farm Bureau's Dairy Promotion Committee funded in part through Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin.

Taylor County

You Can Make a Difference — In Just a Few Hours

Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

"You can make the difference" has been the theme of the Wisconsin Association of Fairs this past year, and it's more than just a slogan. It's a reminder that positive change doesn't always require a huge commitment. Sometimes, just an hour or two of your time every few months is enough to make a real impact.

If you've been looking for a way to give back to your hometown, Taylor County or even beyond, now is the time to step up.

Not sure where to start? Pick what matters to you:

- Love dairy? Join the Taylor County Dairy Promotion Committee. I recently stepped in as vice president because we simply didn't have enough hands. We're looking for new energy, creative ideas and anyone passionate about promoting dairy in our community. A couple of hours every few months can go a long way!

- Care about ag education? The Medford FFA Alumni and Friends supports agriculture students and teachers through scholarships, trip funding and more. With the high school greenhouse being removed during renovations, they'll likely be fundraising for a new one. If you're passionate about keeping hands-on learning alive, this is a great place to make a difference.

- Into community events? Farm Bureau's "Adventures in Agriculture" will return to the Taylor County Fair and we need volunteers to staff the booth and share the story of agriculture. It's only a two-hour shift, but it helps educate hundreds of people.

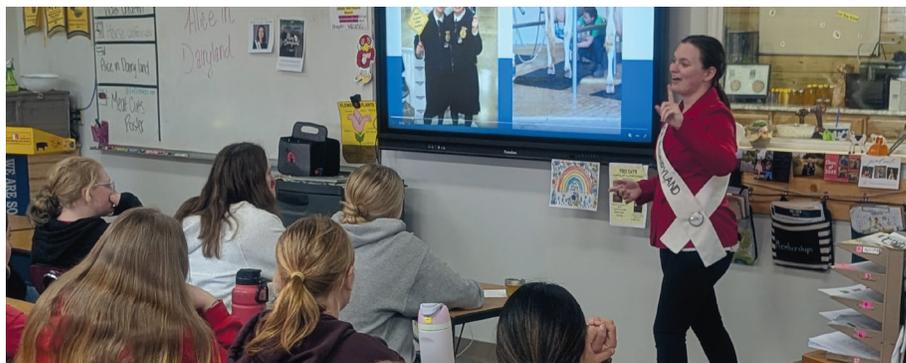
Why Volunteer?

Because your time matters. Whether it's an hour a month or a few hours a year, your involvement helps shape the future of agriculture, education, and community connection.

Bonus: Volunteering builds your resume, expands your network, and gives you a real sense of purpose. Plus, it's fun when you do it with friends.

If you're a young farmer, a student, or just someone who wants to get involved, we need you. Your voice. Your ideas. Your energy. You can make a difference.

Alice in Dairyland Visits Students



In early May we were excited to take part in the Celebrating of Wisconsin Specialties (COWS). Close to 200 students across Taylor County were able to take part in celebrating Wisconsin agriculture and learn from industry professionals on what makes their industry unique. Alice in Dairyland joined us for the celebration and spent most of her day visiting with fourth graders across the district. She was also able to squeeze in some time with the high school agriculture education students as well.



2025 Taylor County Farm Bureau
Scholarship Recipients
Congratulations!

Make a Real Difference: Volunteer with Jeremiah's Crossing

Have a Monday or Wednesday morning free? Looking for a way to give back that truly matters? Consider joining the herd at Jeremiah's Crossing, a therapeutic horseback riding ranch that offers life-changing lessons to students with special needs—completely free of charge.

Every week, volunteers gather at 8:15 a.m. to groom and tack up horses before the day's lessons begin. From 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., we walk alongside our students—literally and figuratively—as they ride, connect with their horses and gain confidence, balance and joy. After three lessons, volunteers help untack and wind down the day.

Sandy Schreier, a longtime volunteer and parent of a rider, shares: "This is a volunteer opportunity that will give you a sense that you are really making a difference in the lives of people who often aren't able to join in activities. They are just overjoyed at having the opportunity to do something with horses and people who are there just for them. If you want a feeling that your volunteering improves someone's life, this is the place to help!"

Whether you're retired and looking for a meaningful way to spend your time, a college student seeking hands-on experience or someone simply craving deeper connection in a noisy world, this is your moment.

No horse experience? No problem. We'll teach you everything you need to know.

Ready to make Mondays and Wednesdays your favorite days of the week?

Join us at Jeremiah's Crossing, where healing happens one hoofbeat at a time.

To learn more or sign up as a volunteer, contact us today.

(715) 884-2551 or jcrossing2911@gmail.com

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE *Central Wisconsin State Fair*

AUGUST 19TH - 24TH

CONTACT CHARLIE FOX 715.569.4781 OR JOSH CALAWAY 715.781.1220

WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SUMMER PICNIC

Sunday, July 20 | 12 - 2 pm
North Wood County Park
7500C Park Lane, Arpin
(off of County Rd. A)

Join us for a fun afternoon of Ag Olympics

Little Britches

Meet us in the barn at Wood County's Central Wisconsin State Fair

Wood County Essay Winners

Congratulations to our fourth and fifth grade winners! Winners received a certificate and cash prizes. Their classroom teacher was awarded a gift certificate to the National Agriculture in the Classroom store to purchase additional materials to aid in the classroom.

Fourth Grade Winners:

- 1st place: Katelyn from Port Edwards (also district 8 essay winner)

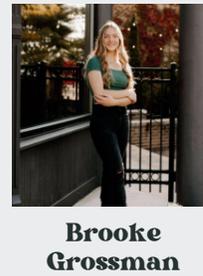
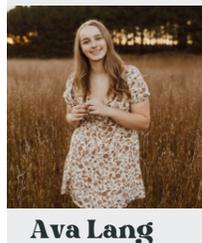
- 2nd place: Tanner from Marshfield
- 3rd place: Alena from Pittsville

Fifth Grade Winners:

- 1st place: Quinnley from Pittsville
- 2nd place: Eva from Pittsville
- 3rd place: Jace from Pittsville



Congratulations to the Class of 2025



Congratulations

2025 WOOD COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

 **County Farm Bureaus**
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

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

**This Issue Contains
Highlights for:**

Clark County
Lincoln County
Marathon County
Portage County
Price County
Taylor County
Wood County



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.

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company

Connect
with your
local agent



Home | Auto | Farm | Business | Life

RuralMutual.com

