



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Institute

MISSION: TO DEVELOP STRONG AND EFFECTIVE COUNTY FARM BUREAU LEADERS

Developing strong and effective agricultural leaders is necessary for our industry's continued success in an ever-changing world. The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Leadership Institute program will provide personal and professional leadership growth and training to local Farm Bureau leaders who have the potential to make a positive impact on Farm Bureau in the future.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

- Voting Farm Bureau members 18 years old and older
- Experienced county Farm Bureau leaders
- Inexperienced county Farm Bureau leaders with the potential for future leadership
- Applicants from every county in the state.
- Applicants who produce different commodities or represent different agribusinesses

CLASS SELECTION

A class of 15 members will be chosen to participate in Class XVII of the 2027 Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Leadership Institute. All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee made up of three individuals representing various aspects of Farm Bureau and Wisconsin's agriculture community.

PARTICIPATION FEE

Each participant must secure \$1500 (\$750 for 2027 and \$750 for 2028) to participate in the Leadership Institute either individually, through their county Farm Bureau or other entities. Participants may seek local sponsorship, pay the enrollment fee themselves, or a combination of both. The participation fee covers all hotel and meal costs, class materials and travel fees associated with the trip to another state Farm Bureau and Washington D.C.

New in 2027! The Mike & Shirley Duerst Institute scholarship program. Institute applicants who are not sponsored by their County Farm Bureau, employer or other organization and have financial need can apply for a scholarship to cover their participation fee.

APPLICATION

Members interested in the Leadership Institute must complete the online application by **11:30 p.m. on June 15, 2026**. The online application can be found at <https://bit.ly/fbleader25>. Applicants must also provide a recommendation from their county Farm Bureau president or a designee of the president. Recommendation forms can be found at <https://wfbf.com/programs/leadership-institute/>

QUESTIONS?

Questions can be directed to Wendy Volkert, Senior Director of Member Relations at wvolkert@wfbf.com or 608.828.5719

The Leadership Institute is a Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Program



Institute Session Dates and Topics

SESSION 1 | PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT JANUARY 22-24, 2027 | MADISON

Get to know your fellow Institute participants, develop an understanding of your personal strengths, identify your emotional intelligence level and fine tune your public speaking skills.



SESSION 3 | ADVOCACY MARCH 19-20, 2027 | LA CROSSE

Create a message for your advocacy efforts, learn more about Farm Bureau's public relations efforts and test your interview skills through mock media interviews.



SESSION 5 | NATIONAL AGRICULTURE ISSUES OCTOBER 21-23, 2027 | LOCATION TBD

Learn more about agriculture issues and Farm Bureau programs with a visit to another state Farm Bureau.



SESSION 2 | BUILDING A TEAM FEBRUARY 26-27, 2027 | STEVENS POINT

Learn more about Farm Bureau, develop skills to help build a team, practice difficult conversations and complete a team task.



SESSION 4 | POLICY DEV. & GOV. RELATIONS SEPTEMBER 16-17, 2027 | MADISON

Develop a deeper understanding of Farm Bureau's policy development process, participate in a mock legislative hearing on current agriculture issues and take a capitol tour.



GRADUATION DECEMBER 5, 2027 KALAHARI RESORT, WISCONSIN DELLS



CAPSTONE LEADER TRIP WASHINGTON D.C. MARCH/APRIL 2028

