



Grassroots

District 1 News

Farm Bureau Strategic Plan and Value Statement



Jim Renn
District 1 Director

Greetings District 1 Farm Bureau members,
Thank you for electing me to serve as your District 1 Director. I have met a lot of great people and am excited to meet more people at the WFBF Annual Meeting.
The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation is stronger than ever as we have once again achieved overall membership growth. Thank you for making membership a priority in your county and thank you for being a Farm Bureau member.

With member input, the WFBF Board of Directors approved a strategic plan in April, and we have begun implementation. The strategic plan is our roadmap for the next four years and we are hoping that all of the counties will take a look and see how their programs fit into the strategic plan. In addition to the strategic plan, we also approved a value statement, or as I like to call it, an elevator speech. Farm Bureau programs fit into one of the four pillars of the value statement which you can read in the accompanying graphic.

Thank you for being a Farm Bureau member and I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Wisconsin
Farm Bureau
FEDERATION

A Unified Voice for Agriculture
As the leading voice for Wisconsin agriculture, WFBF ensures that farmers' concerns are heard and addressed, allowing you to focus on what you do best—feeding, clothing and fueling our communities.

Shaping Policy
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation champions policies that protect farmers' rights, making sure that agriculture remains a thriving industry through proactive engagement at all levels of government.

Developing Members
Members gain access to leadership development, business resources and networking opportunities designed to help farmers expand their businesses and influence.

Engaging Consumers
Through outreach and education, WFBF bridges the gap between farmers and consumers, promoting a deeper understanding of modern agriculture and its role in everyday life.

1241 John Q. Hammons Dr.
P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 836-5575

**Join WFBF Today
or Pay Your Dues**

Membership Success!

Patti Wilhelme
District 1 Coordinator

Each year the counties have a goal to have a total and voting member gain by the end of the membership year, September 30. I am excited to report that all eight counties achieved a voting gain and seven counties in District 1 achieved a total gain. This isn't possible without the dedication of the county Farm Bureau board members, membership volunteers and those working behind the scenes promoting Farm Bureau.

Thank you to all the membership volunteers this year. Between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025, we had 25 membership workers who signed up a total of 96 new members. Thank you to the membership volunteers:

- Jefferson County: Dawn Jones, Cyndi Pitzner
- Kenosha County: Dave Daniels*, Ben Harbach
- Ozaukee County: Zach Dieringer*, Rick Roden, Kurt Schoessow
- Racine County: Traci Himebauch, Kayla Lois, Joe Mealy, Brian Schaal*, Jim Waldron*
- Walworth County: Rick Bottlemy, Rick Getka*, Derrick Papcke*
- Washington County: Chad Gillian, Greg Goeller*, Tyler Hetebrueg, Peter Muth, Scott Schreffler*, Carl Wolf
- Waukesha County: Chris Mommaerts, Jay Moore*, Jim Renn*, Rob Schuett

*Those with an * have signed up five or more new members and will be recognized in the Farm Bureau Proud Club at the WFBF Annual Meeting in Wisconsin Dells in December.*

Now that the new membership year has begun, it's time to think about signing up new Farm Bureau members! For every new member that you sign up, you will get \$20 from Wisconsin Farm Bureau. In addition, if you sign up two new members, you will get a Culver's gift card. Sign up four new members and you get a Farm Bureau logo duffel bag and signing up seven new members earns you a Farm Bureau logo flannel shirt!

Counties who reach their new voting goal by the January 31 month-end will get \$2,000 cash award; those who reach their new voting goal by the end of February will get a \$1,500 cash award; and counties who reach the goal by March 31 will receive a \$1,000 cash award. Don't delay, start membership TODAY! Thank you for being a member!

District 1 News

Shine Bright. Lead Boldly.

Patti Wilhelm

District 1 Coordinator

Each year, a theme is chosen for membership and the WFBF Annual Meeting. This year's theme is "Shine Bright, Lead Boldly". As I reflect on the year, I think District 1 has done just that.

Shine Bright.

District 1 stands out amongst the rest; this past year has been a year to celebrate the success of District 1 members. Counties have had very successful events and fundraisers. Counties are taking ownership of their events and getting the community involved. Some of the events taking place throughout the counties include tractor safety training, classroom on the farm events, gun raffles, bowling and awarding scholarships.

We have had successful district events, with five competing in the discussion meet. YFA members have gathered numerous times throughout the year to network, learn and have fun at events like the professional bull riding, whirlyball and bowling.

On the state level, Kallie Jo Coates from Racine County competed in the discussion meet and was named the state winner in December 2024, who went on to compete at the American Farm Bureau Convention! Mike Strupp received the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award at the WFBF Annual Meeting as his contributions to Washington County Farm Bureau have consistently exceeded expectations. Ann Brost from Walworth County is a current participant in the Leadership Institute and will complete her year with a trip to Washington, D.C. in 2026.

Lastly, District 1 stands out that we are the only district where all of the counties donate to the WFB Foundation Giving Day fundraiser. The counties in District 1 see firsthand the impact the Foundation has on our members and gives back. Thank you!

Lead Boldly.

We have a lot of great leaders in District 1 and I want to point out a few who have taken on new leadership roles.

- Darren and Kendall Riskedal's three-year term on the state YFA Committee comes to a close in December 2025 and I want to thank them for their time and dedication to moving the YFA program forward. Kendall Riskedal has been the state YFA Chair, earning a spot on the WFBF Board of Directors and has done a great job. We look forward to seeing their leadership continue to shine with Farm Bureau.
- Jim Renn was elected to the WFBF Board of Directors as District 1 Representative in December 2024. His commitment to moving Farm Bureau forward shows through his leadership and dedication to the organization. Thank you for being an active member of Farm Bureau.



Discussion Meet Contestants Advance

The District 1 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 14 and five contestants participated. Congratulations to those who are moving on to the state YFA Discussion Meet Competition during the YFA Conference December 5-7.

Best wishes to Andrea Edquist from Kenosha County and Jennifer Hinkel from Milwaukee County. Unfortunately Reese DeGarmo from Racine County is unable to attend.



REESE DEGARMO



ANDREA EDQUIST



JENNIFER HINKEL

Congratulations!

**District 1
Discussion Meet
Finalists**

*Good luck in
December!*

*Shine Bright
& LEAD BOLDLY*



Essays Due February 15

The Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest invites fourth and fifth-graders to explore how food, fiber and fuel shape our daily lives and communities. This contest isn't just about writing – it's about exploring, connecting and celebrating the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin.

Students write a 100 to 300-word narrative essay responding to the prompt: Dig into Wisconsin Soil... Where Good Things Grow! The prompt is inspired by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Book of the Year The Soil in Jackie's Garden.

The top ten essays in each grade level are recognized at the state level with a cash prize and medal.

Want to learn more about this year's essay contest? Visit our website wisagclassroom.org/programs/essay-contest.



District 1 News

Counties Donate to Giving Day

All eight District 1 counties contributed a cumulative amount of \$7,600 to the fourth annual Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Giving Day on August 13!

Proceeds from Giving Day provide funding for education and leadership programs, which include: Agriculture in the Classroom, YFA, Promotion and Education programs, Leadership Institute, Gather Wisconsin, Collegiate Farm Bureaus, Sustainability and Education Programming and Farm Neighbors Care.

Counties who donated \$1,000 or more will be recognized on stage at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

Ag Day at the Capitol

Mark your calendars – Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026! This is the largest gathering of farmers from across the state, representing a variety of farm groups, to learn more about issues impacting Wisconsin agriculture and meet with their state legislators.

Like in years past, the event will be held at the Monona Terrace in Madison, followed by legislative visits at the Capitol.

If you are interested in attending, please contact District 1 Coordinator at pwillhelme@wfbf.com or 262.689.1838.



Ag Day at the Capitol will take place on Wednesday, January 21, 2026

For additional details visit wfbf.com/events/ag-day-at-the-capitol



Jefferson County

Float Appeared in Parades

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau float has been in numerous parades throughout the county. If you want to see the float in your local parade, contact one of the board of directors.



Jefferson County Board of Directors

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Insight FS office in Jefferson. If you are interested in being more involved with Jefferson County Farm Bureau, contact president Randy Mitchell at 414.899.4822.



Pictured front row (from left): Ashley Schlander, vice president Ryan Hafften, president Randy Mitchell, secretary/treasurer Melissa Gross. Back row (from left): Darren Riskedal, Mark Goose, Tony Schadt, Steve Knoebel, Dawn Jones, Steve Jones, Eugene Mess, Lindsay Baneck, Dan Schmocker. Not pictured: Tyler Troiola.

Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Training

Ashley Schlander

We are excited to be offering our second annual Youth Tractor and Machinery Safety Training in early 2026. Wisconsin State Law (Act 455) requires that any youth under the age of 16 who operates a tractor or self-propelled equipment on the highway for a parent must successfully complete a tractor and machinery safety program. The U.S. Department of Labor and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration require those aged 14 to 16 who work for a non-parent must complete an approved farm safety course. Class participants younger than 14 years old will receive the federal certificate after they turn 14. The minimum age is 12 years old.

Youth must be available to attend all three classes at the Dodge County Administration Building from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on January 24, January 31, February 7 and a snow date of February 14. There will also be a driving test scheduled for spring.

The class is limited to the first 35 sign-ups and costs \$100 per participant, with \$25 reimbursement upon course completion.

For additional details and to register, go to our website wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson. The registration deadline is January 9

Jefferson County

wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson
 JeffersonCountyFarmBureau

Members Recognized at Annual Meeting

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting was held on September 21 at Fairview Inn. A total of 46 attendees were present.

Voting members in attendance voted on the resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting in December.

Two Service to Agriculture Awards were presented. One was presented to Becky Roberts of the Jefferson County Fair Park and another to Tim Medenwaldt for his service on the board of directors. Congratulations to our two award recipients.



Lindsay Baneck presented Becky Roberts with the Service to Agriculture award.



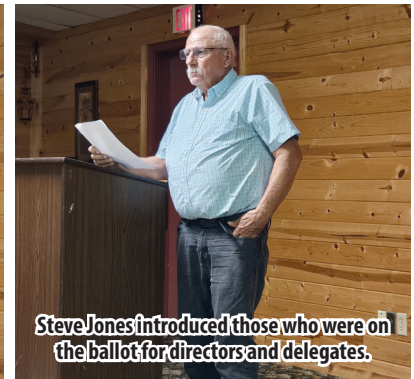
Tim Medenwaldt received the Service to Agriculture award from president Randy Mitchell.



Darren Riskedal provided a report about the YFA program and reported on behalf of Insight FS.



Vice president Ryan Hafften went through the resolutions that members voted on.



Steve Jones introduced those who were on the ballot for directors and delegates.

Kenosha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha
 KenoshaCountyFarmBureau

Kerkman Receives Scholarship

Kim Muhlenbeck

Please join us in congratulating Evan Kerkman for receiving this year's \$500 scholarship.

Evan is the son of Samantha and Chad Kerkman. He graduated from Wilmot High School, ranking second out of 195 students with a GPA of 3.7. He is now attending UW-Madison, studying agricultural engineering.



He participated in academic decathlon, where he is currently rated third in the state. He has participated in National Honor Society, student government and 4-H, where he has served as president and other seats. In 2023, he participated in the international exchange program, where he traveled and stayed with a host family in Japan for six weeks. He even went to the length of learning Japanese to be able to better communicate with his host family.

Evan has worked as a pizza maker and for the Kenosha County Parks in maintenance.

Evan is very deserving of our scholarship this year. Congratulations!

Booth at Dairy Breakfast

We had a booth at the Kenosha County Dairy Breakfast at Mighty Grand Dairy on June 14. They served 2,699 people and we enjoyed meeting many new people.



Photo credit: Samantha Kerkman

Kenosha County Board of Directors

The Kenosha County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the fourth Tuesday of the month. If you are interested in being more involved with Kenosha County Farm Bureau, contact President Kevin Muhlenbeck at 262.206.4140.



Pictured (from left): YFA Chair Andrea Edquist, secretary/treasurer Dan Kevek, Promotion and Education chair Kim Muhlenbeck, president Kevin Muhlenbeck, Wes Hawkins, vice president Tim Edquist. Not pictured: Ben Harback.

Kenosha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/kenosha
 KenoshaCountyFarmBureau

Annual Meeting Success

Kim Muhlenbeck

The 19 attendees who attended the Kenosha County Farm Bureau annual meeting on September 23 at the Birchwood Grill enjoyed what the different speakers had to say, the wonderful buffet and we ended the night with raffle prizes.



Kim Muhlenbeck presented Samantha Kerkman with a scholarship certificate. Samantha accepted the award on behalf of her son Evan who was this year's recipient.



Sen. Steve Nass, District 11 Director Jim Renn, County Executive Samantha Kerkman and Kenosha County Farm Bureau president Kevin Muhlenbeck gather for a photo following the county annual meeting.



President Kevin Muhlenbeck led the meeting.

Milwaukee County

wfbf.com/about/counties/milwaukee

Board of Directors Elected

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau held their Annual Meeting on Monday, September 15 at Benny's Café. There were a total of 12 attendees who had great discussion.

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau board of directors meet quarterly. The board has donated money to helping schools educate about agriculture, has had essay contest participants in recent years and has formed a unique relationship with numerous Milwaukee County schools. If you are interested in being involved with Milwaukee County Farm Bureau, contact President Scott Ninnemann at 414.617.2960.



Pictured (from left): Secretary/treasurer John Napientek, Steve Gyuro, vice president Henry Kiesow, president Scott Ninnemann.

FFA FARM FORUM
 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
 CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER • ROTHSCHILD, WI

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 8:00-10:00am - Registration and Chapter Photos
- 8:30-9:30am - Early Riser with FFA Officers (Optional)
- 10:00am - Program and Brunch
- 12:00-3:00pm - Concurrent Workshops
- 3:00pm - Closing Session
- 4:00pm - Adjourn and Travel Home

REGISTRATION:

- > STUDENTS - \$80
- > ADVISORS/CHAPERONES - \$40

REGISTER AT:

bit.ly/FFAFarmForum2026

Agricultural Ambassador Farewell

Shannon Roberts, 2024-25 Agricultural Ambassador



I have had a great year serving as the Racine County Ag Ambassador, I made sure to take advantage of everything because I knew the time would go by super fast. I started off my year at the Tucker 4-H pancake breakfast and things just took off from there. I have made endless connections and memories that I am incredibly thankful for.

I had a great time this year celebrating Racine County agriculture. Some of my favorite memories include:

- Burlington FFA Food for America: I helped welcome about 250 fourth grade students from the Burlington area to the Schaal farm. I loved connecting with students and teaching them the importance of the dairy industry.
- I spent a lot of time at Raymond School this year during National

Agriculture week. I loved being in the school and the classroom settings teaching about agriculture.

- The Union Grove Fourth of July parade was a very memorable day. Despite the rainy morning, people came out to celebrate and the showers ended just in time for the start of the parade.
- The Racine County Fair was the best week of the year once again. One of my favorite things I participated in as Ag Ambassador at the fair was working in the Farm Bureau stand. I think it is so fun to be able to serve the best food at the fair and hear all of the stories that the customers tell you when they are sitting at the counter. I participated in the milk in a bottle competition and the hay bale toss. It was a wonderful fair and I loved being able to represent Racine County agriculture at what I like to think of as the best agriculture community family reunion.

Overall, my year as the 2024-2025 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador could not have been better. I have made so many unforgettable memories and I am so thankful for this opportunity. I am very excited to announce that your 2025-2026 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador is Ashley Schaal. I look forward to following along with all of her adventures!



New Agricultural Ambassador Selected

Ashley Schaal, 2025-26 Agricultural Ambassador



My name is Ashley Schaal, and I am honored to serve as the 2025-2026 Racine County Agriculture Ambassador! I am seventeen years old and a senior at Burlington High School. I am involved in 4-H, FFA, Future Business Leaders of America, National Honors Society and Wisconsin Junior Poultry Association. I am also on the Wisconsin Agriculture Council this school year. I was raised and currently work at Schaal Dairy Farm, where I developed my passion for agriculture.

My goal as ag ambassador is to promote understanding and appreciation for agriculture, not just among those who live and work on farms, but throughout all parts of Racine County. Agriculture plays a vital role in our lives, from the food we eat to the clothes we wear, and I want to help people understand how deeply it connects us all. I hope to educate youth

about where their food comes from, highlight the hard work of our local farmers, and encourage the next generation to explore careers in agriculture.

Agriculture has always been and will be a large part of my life, and I am excited for the opportunity to share that passion with others in our community.

If you are interested in following along with all of my agriculture adventures, please follow the Racine County Agriculture Ambassador page on Facebook.

Members Gather at Annual Meeting, Board Elected

The Racine County annual meeting was held on September 7 and finished in time for attendees to get home to watch the Packer game. There were a total of 28 attendees at the meeting, thirteen of which were voting members and voted on resolutions, board of directors and delegates to the WFBF Annual Meeting.

The Racine County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the second Tuesday of the month at River City Lanes in Waterford. If you are interested in being more involved with Racine County Farm Bureau, contact president Jim Waldron at 262.206.4025.



President Jim Waldron ran the meeting and gave a great president's report on the events of the past year.



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation director John Hromyak was the guest speaker and talked about the different programs the Foundation supports and thanked the county for their support of Giving Days.



Judy Uhlenhake provided the report for the cream puff Stand.



Front row (from left): Secretary/treasurer Jim Hanson, Judy Uhlenhake, president Jim Waldron. Back row (from left): Vice president Traci Himebauch, Tasha Hegemann, Keith Jacobson, Joe Mealy, Kayla Lois holding Jordy. Not pictured: Brian Schaal.

Mercantile Building Displays

Traci Himebauch

Racine County Farm Bureau had a display set up in the Mercantile Building at the Racine County Fair this year. This was our fourth year doing this display with old and new aerials of farms throughout Racine County. We were happy to add more aerial photos of farms this year and hope to continue to expand the display. We interviewed three featured farms which included Ela Orchard, Rochester; Isaacson Farm, Burlington; and Funk Farm, Union Grove. We enjoyed interviewing all these farms and really appreciate all of them taking time to tell us the history of their farms.

Ela Orchard was founded in the early 1920's and is on the fourth generation of family that is involved in making this orchard a success. The family started planting trees in the early 1920's when George was looking through a seed catalog. He asked his children if they wanted to plant an apple tree, and the rest is history. The land and soil were not suitable for row crops but it was suitable for apple trees and pasture for the sheep on the farm. The orchard relies

on family and family friends to run the business. They grow over 30 varieties of apples, a variety of pears and fresh pressed apple cider done weekly. Spring pruning is very important as this helps encourage the apples to grow larger and allows sunlight to

get around the entire tree. Harvesting of apples start in July for the summer varieties and can go all the way until a hard freeze, which they consider around 28F. They usually have product from late summer well into winter months, weather permitting and depending on product availability. The family started the cider operation in 1980 and it began with a home-built press. Check out their website to see the availability on their cider. Ela Orchard is at many different farmers markets around the area (Burlington, Greendale, Lake Geneva, and Sturtevant) and they also attend the market in Madison on the square. Feel free to visit their website for their locations at elaorchard.com. The team that they have is very helpful in selecting the right apple for your liking. If you are ever in the Rochester area, you need to go check out their apple selection, as you will not be disappointed.

Isaacson Farm is a sheep and cash crop farm in Burlington that is truly a family run business. Rick, his daughter Sarah (Bill) Erickson and their two children Isaac and Emily, and son Jake (Tony) Isaacson and their son Zeke (lives in Colorado) all work hard to continue this family farm. Sarah and Jake started showing sheep at a very young age and have showed at all different levels, county, state and national. Continuing the tradition, Zeke, Isaac, Emily also showed sheep at the different levels with the support of their family and

especially Grandpa Rick. They attended the North American International Livestock show in Kentucky and had Reserve Grand Champion with their ram. What an accomplishment for the family! The sheep on the farm are for different purposes such as breeding, showing and meat. Sheep was not the first species Rick started with; he helped his dad milk cows when he bought the farm in 1978. As the years went on, it got harder and he had to make the decision to sell the cows in 2001. It was either spend a lot of money to update all the equipment, or sell. As Rick says, it was the hardest decision to make at that time. They take pride in keeping the family farm "active and alive." While they all have full time jobs, it does not stop them from putting the

time and work in at the farm. They very much enjoy spending time with each other as a family, even if it means baling hay and unloading a wagon while it is 90F outside!

Funk Farms was once a very successful vegetable farm when Robert Funk started farming. They grew mostly cabbage, but did have parsley, onions, tomatoes and sweet corn. The soil in the area around the farm was perfect for vegetables as it was dark and rich in nutrients. They had a contract with Ben Ben's (vegetable broker in Sturtevant) that they would sell



their vegetables to. Their homegrown cabbage was even sold to KFC stores down south where most of their vegetables were shipped to. The Funk Farm would average 6-10 semi loads of cabbage out a day. In the 90's, the cost for packaging the cabbage would go up, finding labor was getting harder and the cost for selling the cabbage was going down. This is when they transitioned to more of a cash crop farm. Vicki (wife of Robert E. Funk), Robbie (son of Robert E. Funk), two hired hands (that have been with them for 30+ years), and grandson Bruce are very active in running the daily operations on the farm. When it comes time to planting and harvesting, the other siblings and grandchildren love to come out and lend a helping hand. Along with the cash crops, they grow pumpkins, squash and gourds. They have a beautiful stand on the farm that brings in customers from all over the county. If you are in the area in the fall, search Robert E. Funk Farms and go check out their fall decorations and pumpkin selections in Union Grove.

We are always looking for additional aerial photos of farms in Racine County that we do not currently have, so please contact us to get your aerial displayed. Also, if you have a farm history and would like to be considered as featured farm in the Mercantile Building during the Racine County Fair, please contact Traci Himebauch at 262.716.6797 or t_himebauch@hotmail.com.



Showmanship Contest at Racine County Fair

Jim Waldron

Racine County Farm Bureau had the opportunity to participate in judging the Sue Isaacson Memorial Showmanship Contest at the Racine County fair this year. This contest was started in 2009 by the Ric Isaacson Family, in memory of Sue Isaacson, their wife and mother. Sue had a love like no other for the Racine County Fair, all the different livestock projects, and the youth that participated in showing at the fair. In the Showmanship Contest, the senior showman of the horse, dairy, beef, swine, sheep and goat species compete in all six show rings showing the species represented. They may be familiar with the species of animals or it may be completely new to them. It is in the showman's best interest to learn how to show and/or present the species they are not familiar with to increase their chances in winning the contest.



The supreme champion showman is determined by the points accumulated as the contestant progresses through all six species. He or she receives a cash prize, awards and their name on the traveling trophy. These six contestants are also eligible to compete in our Case IH scholarship contest for \$500 toward their post-secondary education.

The judges for the species are former showman that exhibited at the Racine County Fair. The judges for the swine, beef, sheep and dairy were all members of the Racine County Farm Bureau. We were happy to have the emcee for the contest be able to "shoutout" Racine County Farm Bureau multiple times as we moved from the different show rings! Through this contest, we are proud to build on these relationships with the participants, their family and the spectators. We would like to thank the Ric Isaacson Family on the opportunity to partner up with us on this!

Walworth County

Never Too Old to Learn

Ann Brost

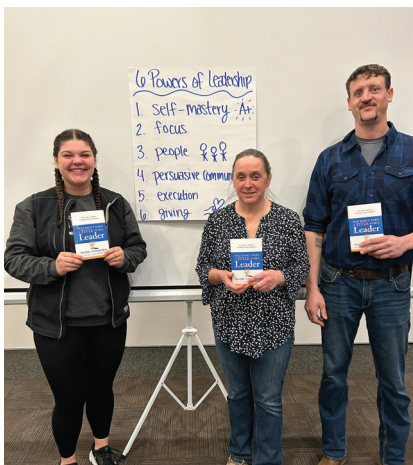
I've had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Leadership Institute. The program challenged me, inspired me and reminded me that you're never too old to learn new things.

Throughout the session, I gained a deeper understanding of leadership, communication and advocacy. We learned how to share out stories effectively and how to make a stronger impact within our communities and within Farm Bureau. I discovered new strengths in myself and came away with tools I can use both personally and professionally.

I enjoyed connecting with other Farm Bureau members from across the state. We shared ideas, laughed and built lasting friendships – all while working toward a common goal of strengthening agriculture and rural communities.

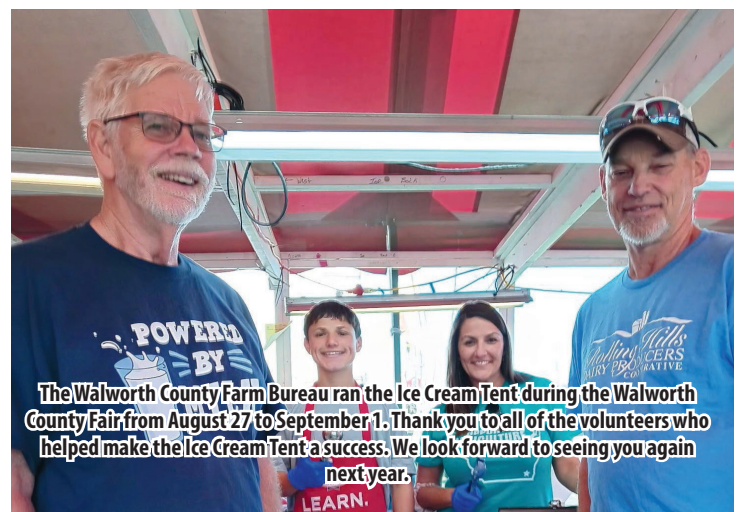
I'm grateful to have been part of such a positive, encouraging group and to represent Farm Bureau in this way. The Leadership Institute reminded me that growth doesn't stop at any age – it just takes curiosity, courage and a willingness to try something new.

I encourage anyone who is passionate about agriculture and leadership to apply for the next class. Applications for the 2027 class are now available at <https://bit.ly/fbleader27>.



Ice Cream Tent

Greg Sawtelle



Junior Exhibit Award



Walworth County

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

Walworth County Board of Directors

The Walworth County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the first Wednesday of the month. The three main fundraisers for Walworth County Farm Bureau include the dairy breakfast, rib fest and ice cream tent at the Walworth County Fair. The money raised at the events is used for scholarships. If you are interested in being more involved with Walworth County Farm Bureau, contact President Scott Simons at 262.215.4250.



Front row sitting (from left): Vice president Rick Getka, Greg Sawtelle. Back row (from left): Luke Hagen, treasurer Rick Thelen, Leslie Reinke, Rick Bottlemy, secretary Ann Brost, Bill Holtz, Mark Polyock, president Scott Simons. Not pictured: Sydney Bender, Kathy Duhigg, Hayden Kyle, Dan Nettesheim.

75th Annual Meeting Celebrates Success

More than 75 people attended the Walworth County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting to help celebrate our 75th year! The meeting, held at the Duck Inn, was also a way for us to appreciate and thank the volunteers who helped at our fundraising events.



JC-Kow Farm was presented with a plaque for hosting the 48th Annual Walworth County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast.



President Greg Sawtelle ran the meeting.

Washington County

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

Successful Fundraising Events in 2025

Tyler Hetebrueg, Food stand co-chair

A big thank you to our numerous volunteers who helped make the Classic Green and Washington County Fair a big success! Without you, our volunteers, our food stand wouldn't be possible.

The Classic Green was held in June and we served 1,375 burgers, 750 french fries, 340 ice cream sundaes and 220 grilled cheese. We profited about \$16,000 for this event.

As most of the summer was, fair week was very hot! We served a total of 4,750 burgers, 3,300 orders of french fries, 1,100 grilled cheese, 2,250 ice cream sundaes and 1,250 cream puffs. After expenses, we had a profit of \$37,000.

After numerous years of scheduling volunteers, Mariann Gundrum is looking to step down. We are looking for someone to help take over scheduling our volunteers and thank Mariann for her attention to detail and dedication to Washington County Farm Bureau. Thank you!

With the addition of french fries the last couple of years, we are now looking to add onto our existing building. A small committee researched adding onto our current stand and the Washington County Farm Bureau board of directors voted to approve the addition. The plans include adding a 18x19 structure to the south, with plans to move the existing hood to the addition for frying burgers and french fries. This will eliminate some of the heat inside and will hopefully streamline a third window on the busy evening shifts to help increase sales.

We have already started receiving financial support for the addition. If you are interested in donating, please find our letter and donation form on our website wfbf.com/about/counties/washington. Thank you for your support!



Washington County Board of Directors

The Washington County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The board puts a lot of focus on achieving the membership goals and has very active committees. Two committees who put in long hours of work include agriculture in the classroom, which includes classroom visits and farm tours, and the fair food stand. If you are interested in being more involved with Washington County Farm Bureau, contact president John Falk at 262.483.6114.



Front row (from left): Allen Dornacker, Samantha Krueger, vice president Leah Weninger, Kaitlyn Wuebben, Chad Gillian. Back row (from left): Matt Beck, Mark Schaefer Jr., Paul Ziemer, Scott Nehm, president John Falk, secretary/treasurer Carl Wolf.

Youth Farm Safety Program

Allen Dornacker

Farm safety has been a big topic for many years, and we are proud to have hosted a youth farm safety program the last two years. We are making plans for our third annual farm safety program.

The certification program is open to youth ages 12 to 16, and they must be able to attend three, 8-hour sessions. Youth will learn to be safe with farm equipment, animals and other agricultural hazards. This program will give the youth a certification card to allow them to drive an implement on the highway. Other ages can apply and be put on a waiting list if classroom space is available. Priority will be given to youth, but others can inquire on training if classroom space is available to learn also.

The registration form will be available in January on the Washington County Farm Bureau website. Date will be determined at first planning meeting in early January, the class is usually held Saturday's in March and early April.

If you are interested in more details, contact Allen Dornacker at 262.689.7283.

Manure Pit Rescue Training

Ron Naab

The Washington County Farm Bureau is hosting a manure pit rescue training on Saturday, January 31 at the Allenton Fire Station. The training is being presented by the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety with the lead instructor being Dan Neenan.

This training addresses procedures for safely entering the confined space of a manure pit to work around the area. Along with first responders learning how to perform rescue operations in low oxygen situations, including the importance of air quality monitoring before, during and after rescue, proper use of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), harnessing, rope rigging for below grade rescue and the use of a rescue tripod. Attendees will have the opportunity to work through several evolutions in various roles with our one-of-a-kind training prop. There will be HANDS-ON training for the first responders.

Two sessions will be offered, each session can have 30 participants. The first session will be from 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and the second session is from 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided from 12:00 p.m.-12:30 p.m. for both groups.

A \$10 per person registration fee is required to reserve your spot and to help cover the cost of food, beverages and other costs.

Farmers and EMS professionals may come to watch and learn. Firefighters are required to bring bunker gear and SCBA apparatus (must also be clean shaven).

Questions and to secure your registration, contact Ron Naab. Call/text 262.716.7292 or email rjnaab@gmail.com.

Largest Annual Meeting in State

The Washington County Farm Bureau consistently hosts the largest county annual meeting each year. The meeting includes the essay contest winners reading their essays, the friend of agriculture award, membership awards, fair report, resolutions and elections.

There were a total of 129 attendees and 51 of those were voting members. The meeting was held on October 7 at the Columbian.

We would like to thank our members for attending, the Columbian for hosting and Mr & Mrs Catering for the delicious food.



Treasurer Carl Wolf provided the financial report.



Matt Immel, the county's financial advisor, provided an update on the county's investments.



President John Falk ran the meeting and gave an outstanding recap of the year.



Samantha Krueger introduced the essay contest winners.

Rob Selzler Receives Friend of Agriculture Award

Allen Dornacker

Rob Selzler is this year's Friend of Agriculture Award recipient. He takes pride helping others, being a volunteer in the community and educating the next generation. He feels a great sense of gratitude knowing that he has made a difference in the community and the lives of others.

Rob has been a long time member of the Lions Club, an active member in his church and started teaching at Slinger High School and was an advisor for the FFA chapter since 1995.

Rob had a long history of being involved with the tractor safety program through UW-Extension and when the Extension no longer offered the program and Curtis Nehm was tragically killed in a farming accident, I approached Rob to help the county Farm Bureau keep the tractor safety program going.

Rob has taken the tractor safety program to the next level and our class continues to fill up fast.

Please join us in congratulating Rob Selzler for receiving this year's Friend of Agriculture Award. Congratulations and thank you for all that you do for Washington County Farm Bureau and our community.



Agriculture in the Classroom Presented at Annual Meeting

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was held on September 4 at the Delafield Brewhaus. Thirty-nine attendees gathered to hear from guest speaker, Beth Schaefer, who spoke about the Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom program.

A great meeting was had, resolutions were discussed, board of directors were elected and delegates were voted on.

We thank Dave Swan for his many years of service on the Waukesha County Farm Bureau board of directors.



President Tom Oberhaus led the meeting.



Dave Morris, nominating committee chair, presented the names for directors and delegates.



Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom coordinator Beth Schaefer was the guest speaker.



Jim Renn, Waukesha County Farm Bureau vice president and District 1 Director, gave an update on Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

Scholarship News

Ken Rosenow

Our county scholarship committee is proud to be awarding deserving students awards to help defray the costs of their education. This year, those of you who attended the annual meeting, were able to witness how it is already giving us a return on our investment. Emily Udulutch, a past scholarship winner, attended the meeting and took a confidential survey for agriculture workers over the age of 60, which fit pretty well with those of us in who were

there. She is doing research to see how older workers are able to maintain their mobility as they extend their time on the farm. This is just the kind of payback we like to see from our investments in our students!

At the annual meeting in September, we also announced the 2025 Scholarship winners. They are, in no particular order: Kate Reese, Jackie Bass and Karisa Ridgman. These winners again had some very outstanding credentials in the applications they turned in. We are hoping to be able to continue the program again in 2026, so stay tuned for an announcement next year!

Classroom on the Farm

Ryan Brueggemann and Brittany Renn Gerrits

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau has various opportunities for schools, all FREE to participate. If you know anyone who teaches fourth-grade or any fourth-grade students, encourage them to participate!

One-Hour Agriculture in the Classroom Program: Local farmers will come into the classroom to present about the agriculture industry. The presentation will last approximately 45 minutes with time for questions and further discussion. Presentations will be scheduled between January and early April to accommodate the farmer's spring field work. Let Ryan Brueggemann know by January 1 if you are interested in a classroom presentation.

Classroom on the Farm: We are excited to host our Classroom on the Farm on Friday, May 8. This event allows students and teachers to take a free tour of Cozy Nook Farm in Waukesha to learn all about a dairy farm. The tour will cover milking, dairy cow housing, calf raising and crop growing. Let Brittany Gerrits know by April 1 if this opportunity is of interest to your class.

Use this QR code to reply about the classroom presentations or farm tour.

Questions? Contact us today!

Ryan Brueggemann

414.429.5499

ryan.brueggemann@gmail.com

Brittany Renn Gerrits

414.801.4536

brittren11@gmail.com



Waukesha County Board of Directors

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau board of directors meet the first Thursday of the month. We are proud to be able to offer numerous scholarships to college students and a farm tour. If you are interested in being more involved with Waukesha County Farm Bureau, contact president Tom Oberhaus at 262.337.1386.



Front row (from left): Dennis Rasmussen, Ken Rosenow, Brittany Gerrits, Chris Mommaerts, Katie Agnew. Back row (from left): Dave Morris, Tom Kipp, Ron Williams, president Tom Oberhaus, secretary/treasurer Ryan Brueggemann, vice president Jim Renn, Rob Schuett, Tony Weber, Don Bartholomew, Brad Audley, Not pictured: Dan Downing, Jay Moore, Charlie Oberhaus.

 **County Farm Bureaus**
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