



Grassroots

District 3 News

District Director Report



Robert Nigh

WFBF District 3 Director

Seasons greetings.

As harvest winds down, I hope yours was both safe and bountiful. Just as farmers are reaping the rewards of their hard work, your Farm Bureau team is also harvesting the results of a productive year.

From strong ARIP performance and significant membership growth to an award-winning website from our public relations team, there's much to celebrate. Our operations team has once again delivered a balanced budget, setting us up for another successful year ahead. The newly adopted strategic plan will guide our direction over the next five years, ensuring continued strength and purpose.

Our Foundation continues to thrive under the enthusiastic leadership of director John Hromyak and our engaged Board of Trustees, truly paying dividends for the future of our organization. In government

relations, the Ag Coalition remains active at the Capitol, representing our interests and advancing the Farm Bureau Health Plan legislation.

Across the board, progress continues, our new database implementation is underway, PR is expanding the reach of our Farm Bureau message and our membership and district coordinator teams remain dedicated to serving you, our members. Programs like Agriculture in the Classroom, Promotion and Education and YFA are also making great strides, promising even more success in the coming year.

A heartfelt thank you to our ag-friendly legislators for their continued support, and to each of you for your tireless efforts in promoting agriculture and Farm Bureau membership. We've reached another important membership milestone thanks to your commitment. You set the example every day, on your farms, in your communities and through your leadership in Farm Bureau.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your District 3 Director. As always, please feel free to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions at 608.689.2633 (home) or 608.606.4319 (cell). Stay safe and informed.

Finalists Named in WFBF's 35 Under 35 Program

Finalists have been selected for Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 Award program. The award is presented by WFBF's Young Farmer and Agriculturist program in partnership with Insight FS.

The 35 Under 35 program recognizes the creativity and innovation of young farmers and agriculturists who are preserving agriculture through leadership in environmental, social and economic activities.

Applications were evaluated for their involvement in one of five categories – Sustainable Environment, Sustainable Future, Sustainable Self, Sustainable Service and Sustainable Storytelling.

"It's an honor to recognize these young leaders who are stepping up—whether on the farm, in agribusiness or within their communities—to drive agriculture forward," said Young Farmer and Agriculturist Chair Kendall Riskedal. "Celebrating them through the 35 Under 35 award program reminds us that leadership comes in many forms and that the next generation is already hard at work, doing good and making a difference."

The 2025 finalists from District 3 are:

- Olivia Cernek, Lafayette; Sustainable Storytelling
- Benjamin Cooper, Lafayette; Sustainable Future
- Andrew Dal Santo, Grant; Sustainable Self

The Sustainable Environment category recognizes individuals who are good stewards of the land and their resources. The Sustainable Future category recognizes individuals who are preserving generational success on the farm.

The Sustainable Self category recognizes individuals serving their community through leadership, mentorship and mental health advocacy. The Sustainable Service category recognizes individuals who are serving agriculture through trade skills or advisory roles. The Sustainable Storytelling category recognizes individuals who use their platform to share agriculture's sustainability successes.

Each finalist will receive an apparel item and cash prize sponsored by Insight FS. The top individual in each category will be announced during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's 35 Under 35 award program is sponsored by Insight FS. Information about all YFA contests can be found on wfbf.com.



District 3 News

Farm Bureau Proud Club Recognizes Volunteers

Each year WFBF recognizes membership volunteers who have made an extra effort to promote Farm Bureau by signing up five or more new members.

These members will be acknowledged at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December during the Farm Bureau Proud Club Banquet on Saturday evening.

Congratulations to the following District 3 members who signed up at

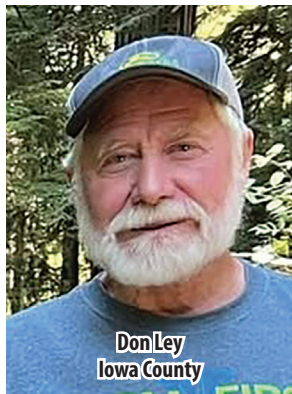
least five new members and continue to work hard to keep Farm Bureau strong and growing.

Thank you to these volunteers for promoting Farm Bureau and its membership benefits.

For more information about Farm Bureau membership incentives, please contact District 3 Coordinator Katie Fitzsimmons at 608.574.9920 or kftzsimmons@wfbf.com.



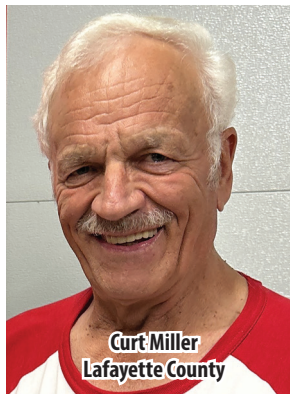
Katie Roth
Grant County



Don Ley
Iowa County



Krista Dolan
Iowa County



Curt Miller
Lafayette County



Robert Nigh
Vernon County

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Members Advocate on Capitol Hill

Farm Bureau leaders from across Wisconsin traveled to Washington, D.C. September 15-17, to meet with the state's congressional delegation.

Members advocated for the delisting of the grey wolf, passage of a farm bill, labor reform, sustainable aviation fuel, year-round E15 and pro-agriculture trade opportunities.

"It's incredible to see how we as members can work with our legislators to influence policy that impact us back home," said Lincoln County Farm Bureau member Jessica Gruetzmacher. "I appreciate the opportunity to see things from a different perspective and getting to know other farmers from across the state of Wisconsin."

In addition to Congressional visits, Wisconsin Farm Bureau members also met with officials from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the America First Policy Institute.

Member leaders joining the board members from District 3 included: Kent McClurg (Viroqua) and Tammy Wiedenbeck (Lancaster).



Young Farm Bureau Leaders Take Agriculture's Message to Washington

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 from District 3 include: Paige Hampton, Grant County; Jackie Seelow, Grant County; Casey and Morgan Lobdell, Iowa County; Breanna Cisketti, UW-Platteville Collegiate Farm Bureau.



District 3 News

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee Update



Casey and Morgan Lobdell

District 3 YFA Committee Chairs

It's hard to believe that 2026 is right around the corner. As 2025 comes to a close, we find ourselves reflecting on what an incredible journey the past three years have been serving on the District 3 Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. From county-level

discussion meets to statewide events, leadership conferences and hands-on service projects, it has been a true honor to represent and work alongside so many dedicated young agriculturalists across our district.

When we first began this term, our goal was simple, to connect, engage and grow the next generation of Farm Bureau leaders. Over the past

three years, we've had the privilege of watching that mission come to life. Whether it was seeing first-time attendees competing at a discussion meet, lending a hand at local events or cheering fellow members at state competitions, the passion and commitment of our YFA members have continually inspired us.

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported, encouraged and joined us along the way, from county board leaders and district coordinator Katie Fitzsimmons, to fellow YFA members who showed up, volunteered and brought their energy to every event. The friendships we've built and the memories we've made will stay with us for years to come.

As we close this chapter and look ahead to new opportunities in 2026, we're filled with gratitude and optimism for what's next for District 3 YFA. The future of agriculture is bright, and we're so proud to be a small part of the story being written right here at home.

Collegiate Corner

The Collegiate Farm Bureau at UW-Platteville has had a busy fall semester. The students took part in homecoming activities, hosted the Collegiate Discussion Meet, and planned the Brag About Ag event. The officer team has done an impressive job organizing meetings and events, welcoming new members and representing Farm Bureau.



The Collegiate Farm Bureau Discussion Meet was held on October 16. Holly and Isabelle were selected to move on to the state competition held during YFA Conference in December.

District 3 YFA Discussion Meet

The District 3 YFA Discussion Meet was held on July 23 at The Meat Schoppe. As always, the event kicked off with a delicious catered meal from The Meat Schoppe.

The Discussion Meet gives YFA members a chance to demonstrate their speaking skills on agriculture-related topics. Contestants are judged on their problem-solving as they discuss timely topics with their colleagues.

This year's district topic was *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?*

Ben Cooper (Lafayette County), Paige Hampton (Grant County) and Mia Hillebrand (Iowa County) will represent District 3 in the WFBF YFA Discussion Meet held during the WFBF Annual Meeting and YFA Conference in December.



BEN COOPER



PAIGE HAMPTON



MIA HILLEBRAND

Congratulations!

**District 3
Discussion Meet
Finalists**

*Good luck in
December!*

*Shine Bright
& LEAD BOLDLY*

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



Promotion and Education Committee Update



Tammy Wiedenbeck

District 3 Promotion and Education Committee Chair

From Washington D.C. to Wisconsin: Your Farm Bureau in Action

Farm Bureau members from across Wisconsin traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with lawmakers, federal agencies and national organizations on key issues impacting agriculture. The delegation attended AFBF briefings and met with Sen. Tammy Baldwin, Sen. Ron Johnson, Rep. Derrick Van Orden as well as representatives from the Department of Transportation and the America First Policy Institute to discuss the Health and Harvest Campaign, the Farmers First Agenda and Rural Voices Coalition initiatives.

AFBF Briefings and Recap

EU Deforestation Regulation:

The European Union's new EUDR requires that cattle, soy, palm oil, wood, cocoa, coffee and rubber (plus many derived products) imported into or sold within the EU must be deforestation-free, meaning it cannot originate from land cleared or degraded after December 31, 2020. The U.S. is currently designated as a low-risk country, but exporters will need to meet strict traceability standards to maintain access to EU markets.

Farm Bill:

The biggest livestock issue remains California's Proposition 12, which restricts interstate commerce of livestock products based on California's animal housing requirements. The livestock sector is urging congress to act so one state doesn't impose policies that ripple across every farm in America.

Trade:

China is still a top customer—the #3 U.S. ag market—but it's volatile. Global tariffs have climbed from the previous average of 2%, with India remaining the highest tariff nation. Canada has removed some tariffs, while the EU's planned tariff adjustments were not implemented. The U.S. is not part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), though it continues trade work through groups like the U.S. Grains Council. China's ongoing investments in Brazilian infrastructure—roads, railways, and ports—have strengthened South America's role in meeting global demand once filled by the U.S.

EPA and Environmental Regulations:

The EPA continues to work on a WOTUS rule following the Sackett v. EPA Supreme Court decision. Environmental groups are advocating for on-farm emissions testing and additional reporting for nitrogen and phosphorus at processing facilities. PFOS contamination in dairies remains a concern, particularly from historical firefighting foam use and

biosolid application. Regulators are studying contamination levels, but testing thresholds remain under review.

Dairy and Livestock:

U.S. dairy exports surpassed imports this year, reflecting strong international demand. The nation's dairy herd size remains stable with slight growth. The U.S. beef cattle inventory has reached its lowest level in 78 years, contributing to record-high beef prices.

County Annual Meetings

County annual meetings across the district generated strong discussions on local and state policy. Members also heard from the West Central Metropolitan Task Force, a seven-county initiative (La Crosse, Jackson, Vernon, Crawford, Trempealeau, Monroe and others) focused on combating drug trafficking and use across southwest Wisconsin.

Promotion and Education: Curds and Cream Tour

Members toured Prairie Farms Dairy and White Hill Cheese, two exceptional examples of Wisconsin's dairy excellence.

At Prairie Farms, the group learned the operation runs seven days a week, with 80–100 trucks leaving daily. The warehouse cooler, held at a steady 36°F, fills and empties three times per day. Milk is processed into gallons, half pints and single-serve cartons—including chocolate, strawberry and white milk—using packaging designed specifically for Prairie Farms. Whole milk contains about 4% fat, and when school orders slow in summer, excess milk is diverted to cheese and cream production. Products move from farm to grocery shelf in just 48 hours, a true showcase of efficiency and freshness.

At White Hill Cheese, members saw the transformation of 30,000 pounds of milk per day into award-winning cheeses. The facility's vaults produce 3,000-pound batches of baby Swiss, organic Swiss, cream cheese and butter. Their Swiss wheels mature at 70–80°F for up to three weeks, developing their classic "eyes," before moving to coolers for stabilization. White Hill earned first place at both the Wisconsin State Fair and World Dairy Expo, producing 100-pound blocks for Culver's and Organic Valley, among others. Any unused cheese is repurposed for food processing or fish feed, ensuring nothing goes to waste. The tour highlighted the craftsmanship, innovation and sustainability woven into Wisconsin's dairy heritage.

Closing Note

The network you build at a county meeting or on a tour might be the call you need tomorrow. These experiences remind us why we advocate, why we educate and why we gather. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Fly-In, annual meetings and the Curds and Cream Tour. Together, we keep Wisconsin agriculture moving forward.

Your friend and advocate in ag,

Tammy Wiedenbeck



Annual Meeting Highlights

Crawford County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on September 19 at the Seneca Town Hall. This year's gathering featured a fun luau theme, adding a festive and relaxed atmosphere for members to enjoy before the meeting began. The evening opened with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Don Brown, Lori Brown, Evan Daskocil and AV Roth were elected to serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting. Members of the Board of Directors include AV Roth (president), Don Brown (vice president), Pat Dearth (secretary/treasurer), Lori Brown, Joseph Childs, Cheyenne Daskocil, Evan Daskocil, Ron Ellefson, Wilja Happe, Craig Hromadka and Leroy Peterson



Dishing Up Dairy at the Crawford County Fair

The Crawford County Fair took place August 21–24 in Gays Mills, where Crawford County Farm Bureau members stayed busy behind the counter at the Dairy Bar. Fairgoers enjoyed a tasty lineup of pie, ice cream treats, grilled cheese sandwiches, and refreshing lemonade, all served with a smile by your local Farm Bureau volunteers.



All-American Fun at the Summer Picnic

The Crawford County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic is a cherished annual tradition that brings members together for fellowship and fun. This year's picnic was held on July 17 at Eastman Park and celebrated an "All American Farmers" theme. Thank you to everyone who joined us and continues to make this event a highlight of our summer!



Sowing Hope Abroad: Crawford County's Wilja Happe Shares Driftless Roots in Rwanda

Crawford County Farm Bureau board member Wilja Happe recently traveled to Rwanda, where she shared her agricultural knowledge and compassion with local communities. Bringing seeds from Driftless Seed Co., Wilja worked with genocide survivors to teach sustainable vegetable farming practices. During her visit, she also helped establish a school garden and donated soccer balls, leaving a lasting impact that extended beyond the fields.



President's Message

Allen Johnson

Grant County Farm Bureau President

Hello from Grant County!

My name is Allen Johnson and I am the newly elected Grant County Farm Bureau President. I'd like to start by extending a sincere thank you to Peter Winch for his many years of dedicated service as our county president.

A little about myself, I farm just west of Platteville on a farm that has been in my family for over 125 years. I was a dairy farmer until 2012, when health issues required me to step back from milking. Today, I operate a cash crop farm, raising corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

This year has been a strong one for the Grant County Farm Bureau. We had great participation at our food stand and Ag Tent during the county fair, and we were proud to support Truck'n for Childhood Cancer by providing a petting zoo. We also enjoyed an excellent turnout at our County Annual Meeting.

I am looking forward to serving as your Grant County Farm Bureau President!



Truck'n For Childhood Cancer

Derek Orth

Grant County Farm Bureau Vice President

After seeing our Ag Tent at the Grant County Fair, we were asked to put on a petting zoo during the Truck'n for Childhood Cancer event in Lancaster. Grant County Farm Bureau members curated a group of animals and kids spent the afternoon petting and learning about farm animals. We had calves, lambs, goats, pigs, kittens and a horse! The event donates money each year to CHASING RAINBOWS. A nonprofit supporting pediatric cancer research and supports families affected by pediatric cancer.



Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation

-2026- FFA FARM FORUM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER • ROTHSCILD, 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

Annual Meeting Highlights

Grant County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 23 at the Youth and Ag Center in Lancaster. The evening began with a meal catered by Ma's Bakery and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Grant County members passed 11 resolutions, including the following:

State

- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We support UW Extension establishing regions in which specialized agricultural agents are assigned." (UW System - Page 4, Line 45)
- We oppose statewide ballot initiatives.
- We support banning pharmaceutical advertising on TV.
- We support banning any and all attempts at weather modification.
- We support Smith-Lever Funding as outlined in the 1914 Smith-Lever Act being used for its originally intended uses for agriculture and 4-H and youth programming.
- We support bringing back incandescent lighting.
- We support finding an economical and environmentally sound way to recycle agriculture tires.

Federal

- We support Smith-Lever Funding as outlined in the 1914 Smith-Lever Act being used for its originally intended uses for agriculture and 4-H and youth programming.
- We support uniformity among states and federal milk inspection requirements.

Internal

- We support the Promotion and Education Committee informing farmers about the resources available from check-off programs to assist them in promoting events.
- We support the policy development committee revising page 4 lines 26 - 56 to reduce repetitiveness and be more concise.

Andrew Dal Santo, Kent Jerrett, Allen Johnson, Derek Orth, Jackie Seelow, Abby Walker, Christina Winch and Peter Winch will serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include Allen Johnson (president), Derek Orth (vice president), Katie Roth (secretary/treasurer), James Edge, Charisse Orth, Andrew Dal Santo, Kristen Fischer, Paige Hampton, Jason Heberlein, Kent Jerrett, Jackie Seelow, Brady Vondra, Abby Walker and Peter Winch.



Farm Fresh Fun at the Fair

The Grant County Fair was held August 14–17 in Lancaster, showcasing the very best of local agriculture and community spirit. Two highlights of the fair were the Farm Bureau Food Stand and the Agriculture Education Tent, both of which drew large crowds throughout the weekend.

The Farm Bureau Food Stand was once again a great success, serving up fair favorites like pork chop, cheeseburger and brat patty plates — a tradition fairgoers look forward to each year.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Education Tent offered hands-on learning and fun for all ages. Visitors tested their agriculture knowledge, sampled Wisconsin cheeses, met friendly farm animals, helped color a large wall mural and took home prizes for participating.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the volunteers who dedicated their time to making both the food stand and education tent a success. Your hard work helps us share the story of Wisconsin agriculture and serve up both delicious food and memorable experiences at the fair each year.



Annual Meeting Highlights

Iowa County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on September 25 at Hi Point Steakhouse in Ridgeway. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Iowa County members passed six resolutions, including the following:

State

- We oppose statewide ballot initiatives.
- We support finding an economical and environmentally sound way to recycle agriculture tires.
- We support requiring schools to be added to the list of places required to offer real butter.
- We urge the state attorney general to take

action to uphold and enforce established anti-trust laws, especially regarding companies providing inputs and services to agriculture.

Federal

- We support classifying alfalfa and alfalfa mix as a cover crop.

Laura Daniels, Krista Dolan, Ryan Dolan, Don Ley and Megan Yager will serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Krista Dolan (president), Laura Daniels (vice president), Dan Adams (secretary/treasurer), Megan Yager, Tamra Ihm, Bob Daentl, Ryan Dolan, Justin Doyle, Adam Heisner, Kyle Levetzow, Don Ley, Matthew Limmex, Morgan Lobdell and John Meyers.



Promotion and Education Update



Megan Yager

Iowa County Promotion and Education Chair

Hello! It was another busy summer for the Iowa County Farm Bureau. The weather was once again perfect for the 139th annual Farmers Appreciation Day in Dodgeville on July 13. The parade lasted for a full hour and featured lots of fabulous participants, including a Farm Bureau tractor float driven by Graham Fitzsimmons.

Once again, we had a food stand and sold steak sandwich meals. We cooked up 400 steaks and sold out in 90 minutes. It was a very successful fundraiser for the Iowa County Farm Bureau, and we couldn't have done it without all of the wonderful helpers who showed up. Thanks again to all of those who helped!

The Iowa County Fair was held over Labor Day weekend, and the Iowa County Farm Bureau was proud to sponsor the 11th annual Master Showman Contest. Ten kids did a wonderful job competing and showing the different kinds of livestock. On Point Auction Company auctioned off several pies and raised \$10,000 for future scholarships, which is a new record! Scholarships of \$1,000 each were given to Annie Robinson, Ellie Robinson, Jimmy Tibbits and Regan Suddeth. The winner of the 2025 Master Showman contest was Kaycee Lindner. This contest has grown more successful every year, and we appreciate the support for the youth exhibitors of Iowa County. We look forward to the 2026 fair and master showman contest! I hope everyone enjoys a safe and healthy holiday season with friends and family.



Iowa County Safety Day

Krista Dolan

Iowa County Farm Bureau President

As the needs and safety concerns of Iowa County residents continue to evolve, so too does the importance of educating our local youth. The Iowa County Extension 4-H and Iowa County Farm Bureau partnered once again to host the third annual Iowa County Safety Day for all fifth-grade students from public and private schools across the county.

Thanks to the leadership and dedication of Dan Brandt, Krista Dolan, Kyle Thompson and Karlee Thompson, this year's event welcomed approximately 280 students, who rotated through eight interactive sessions focused on real-world safety lessons. Topics included UTV/ATV and boat safety, tick awareness, animal safety and the vital role of the Tech Rescue team. Students also had the opportunity to practice using a fire extinguisher, learn basic CPR and "Stop the Bleed" techniques and hear an inspiring message from Kyle Thompson, a farm accident survivor. Additional highlights included a presentation from Deputy Benisch and K-9 Fenix and a safety demonstration from Alliant Energy on the dangers of downed power lines.

This impactful day would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, resources, snacks, and smiles to make Safety Day a meaningful and memorable experience for Iowa County youth!



Annual Meeting Highlights

Lafayette County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on August 12 at the Belmont Convention Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting and elected directors.

Tim Appell, Christina Benson, Ben Cooper, Joe Riechers and Jordan Torstenson will serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Christina Benson (president), Tim Appell (vice president), Ben Cooper (secretary/treasurer), Curt Miller, Olivia Cernek, Paul Johnson, Joe Riechers and Dan Frank.



Lafayette County Fair Food Stand

Farm Bureau members were hard at work and serving up smiles at this year's Lafayette County Fair. The crowd-favorite steak sandwiches once again on the menu for the 2025 fair.

Proceeds from the stand support educational programs and scholarships for students

pursuing careers in agriculture, continuing Farm Bureau's mission to invest in the future of Wisconsin farming.

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to all the members who volunteered their time and energy. The help was truly appreciated this year amid the difficult weather and flooding. Your dedication truly makes a difference!



President's Message

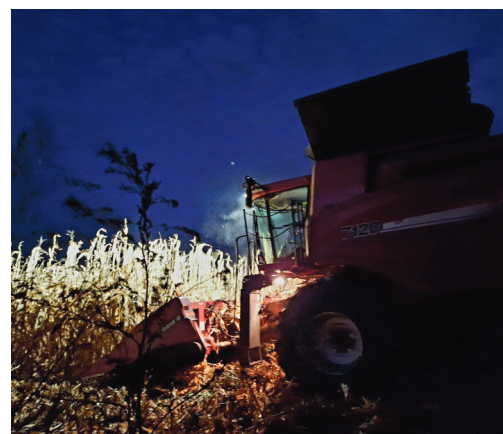


Christina Benson

Lafayette County Farm Bureau
President

As I sit here pondering what to write about this issue for the newsletter, my mind thinks about a recent conversation I had with a fellow Farm Bureau member.

There's a song that says "When I get knocked down, I get up again." This phrase can be used when you're having a bad day. It can also be used when you're going through something tough. Losing loved ones, friends and family members is tough, but we get up again. I found comfort in my Farm Bureau family. In addition to family and friends recently going through a transition, our dairy cows were sold. Finding out what our new day is going to be can feel overwhelming. We get up anyway, every morning, and we turn to things that are familiar. Our routines might have changed. But we are still providers of comfort, conversation and continue to make memories. I wish you comfort in any season you may be going through. If you have questions or ideas about things you would love to see the Farm Bureau involved with, please let me know at 815.275.4400.



President's Message



Josh Joseph

Richland County Farm Bureau President

The Richland County Farm Bureau hosted their annual meeting at the Phoenix Center in October. During the meeting we heard updates from the district leaders, insurance updates and assembled the officer team. Our officer team will be led again by Josh Joseph as president. John Schweiger enters his second year as vice president. Olivia Rodriguez-

Golner was reelected as secretary for back-to-back years. Dick Hauser will serve as treasurer for this year and Jim Hying as a director. As president again, I am excited to welcome back our same officer team as we work to continue to make improvements to the county Farm Bureau.

Recently our organization wrote and submitted a letter to DATCP opposing their proposed major increases on fees that impacted livestock markets, truckers and dealers. This work is exactly why Farm Bureau exists: farmers activate their grassroots networks and work to influence policy and government towards what is best for farmers and rural communities. If these fees are passed on to ag businesses, those costs will be pushed down on to the farmers as extra fees as well which we oppose.

Josh Joseph and John Schweiger will represent the county at the WFBF Annual Meeting held at the Wisconsin Dells in December. Their votes will be used as part of the grassroots review of the organization's policy book that helps influence our positions on issues involving Wisconsin agriculture. Richland County is not bringing any specific policy changes to the state convention this year, but rather will use our best judgment on our agreement or disagreement with other counties' changes proposed. If general members of the county Farm Bureau are interested in getting more involved, we would welcome folks to join us. Please reach out to Josh Joseph at 608.604.9819.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Richland County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on October 8 at The Phoenix Center in Richland Center. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting.

Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Richland County members passed 1 resolution:

State

- We oppose statewide ballot initiatives.

Josh Joseph and John Schweiger will serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Josh Joseph (president), John Schweiger (vice president), Olivia Rodriguez-Golner (secretary/treasurer), Bill Hying and Jim Hying.



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**



Promotion and Education Update

Drew Hendrickson

Vernon County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee Representative



Hello District 3! I am happy to share that Vernon County Farm Bureau had a busy summer planning Promotion and Education activities in the county. Back in August, we put together a booth at the Vernon County Night Out, where we emphasized the importance of farm safety. We handed out yard signs to attendees that featured a farm safety awareness message. Of course, the highlight for children was getting to climb up into the tractor cabs to get their picture taken! It was a great opportunity to interact with community members and to also teach them about roadway safety when passing farm equipment. The timing of the event couldn't have been better to spread this message with the busy harvest months quickly approaching.

It was a great summer for Vernon County Farm Bureau, and I look forward to helping put on these activities again next year! If you ever have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to reach out at 608.606.1999 or hendricksonfarming@gmail.com. In the meantime, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holidays!



Annual Meeting Highlights

Vernon County Farm Bureau held their annual meeting on August 21 at The Eagles Club in Viroqua. The evening began with a meal and was followed by the business portion of the meeting. Members present selected delegates for the WFBF Annual Meeting, elected directors and discussed resolutions. Vernon County members passed four resolutions, including the following:

State

- We oppose statewide ballot initiatives.
- We support aggressively lobby the state legislature for a Wisconsin ban on the sale of lab-grown meat.
- We support striking the current WFBF policy that states: "We oppose de-pooling of milk by processors." (Dairy – Page 2, Line 11)
- We support ways of finding alternative recycling opportunities for bale wrap.

Alex Bringe, Andy Diehl, Eldon Henthorne, Kevin Larson and Kent McClurg will serve as delegates to the 2025 WFBF Annual Meeting.

Members of the Board of Directors include: Alex Bringe (president), Kevin Larson (vice president), Andy Diehl (secretary/treasurer), Drew Hendrickson, Cosette Henthorne, Eldon Henthorne, Dave McClurg, Kent McClurg, Robert Nigh, Scott Sherry and William Walliser.



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