



# Grassroots

District 7 News

## District Director's Report



**Brian Preder**

WFBF District 7 Director

Summer is in full swing and county Farm Bureau members have been busy promoting Wisconsin agriculture: from dairy breakfasts and parades to county fair activities.

In June, YFA members traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for Wisconsin agriculture.

During the week-long trip, they met with AFBF, USDA and our representatives on Capitol Hill, discussing issues ranging from the farm bill to dairy pricing and sustainability.

Thank you to District 7 YFA members Brittney Muenster, Jake and Jennifer Hoewisch for stepping up to advocate for our farmers. The policy we advocate for in Washington, D.C. and Madison starts at the county level.

We are currently in policy development season for WFBF. It's the time of year when county Farm Bureaus are holding their annual policy development meetings.

The policy process is an important part of WFBF's grassroots structure. Policy development starts at the county level where members discuss the challenges they face and develop policy. Then once passed at the WFBF Annual Meeting policy session, it will guide the lobbying efforts of WFBF. As a voting member, be sure your voice is heard and get involved in your county's upcoming policy development meeting.

WFBF continues to advocate for our members on every level on a wide variety of issues. If you want to stay up to date be sure to subscribe to Policy Pulse.

I'm excited to see you throughout the next several months at your county annual meetings and at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Until then, continue sharing the needs of Wisconsin agriculture.

## Insight FS Tour | Presented by Langlade County Farm Bureau and Insight FS



**Bob Nash**

Langlade County Farm Bureau Board Member



Langlade County Farm Bureau is excited to announce our Kickoff to fall Insight FS tour of the Antigo feed and fertilizer plant. We would like to invite all of District 7

to join us on September 10th for the tour and networking event. Over the last few years Insight FS has invested in robotic bagging and stacking systems and countless other upgrades to its facility in Antigo. I just took the tour this week and I am very excited for this event. Really cool to see all the new technology behind the scenes. Any questions please reach out. Looking forward to a great planting season and seeing you all in fall.

LANGLADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU INVITES YOU TO:

# TOUR INSIGHT FS

NOON | SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

Join Langlade County Farm Bureau for a tour of Insight FS. Over the last few years they have invested in a robotic bagging and stacking system in addition to countless other upgrades to the Antigo Facility.



Contact Bob Nash at 262.617.7170 or Jake Bula at 715.219.1816

\*Tour and lunch will be provided  
 \*No RSVP required  
 \*Address: 2311 Clermont St, Antigo



## President's Message



**Jake Bula**

Langlade County Farm Bureau President

Howdy all, now that most of the planting and spring fieldwork is done, we look forward to the summer and all the events that the summer holds. From fairs and livestock shows to tractor pulls and farm shows. In all the hustle and bustle, I urge everyone to slow down and absorb the

moments. As I get older, it seems the years go by faster and faster. Also, I encourage everyone to check on each other. I had the good fortune to participate in a Farm Neighbors Care event in May. Bob Nash and I went through the area to bring lunch to farmers doing spring fieldwork. We had the privilege of feeding approximately 40 local farmers. It was a great experience, and I look forward to doing it again. It was great to get out and see and talk with everyone. As we get into the harvest season, I just want to remind everyone to be safe and be smart and with that always keep your furrow straight.

## Farm Bureau Music in the Park Returns August 4!

**Matthew Fronck**

Langlade County Farm Bureau Board Member

The Farm Bureau Music in the Park event is back, bringing together the community for an evening of great music, delicious food and summer fun under the open sky. Mark your calendar for **Monday, August 4**, and get ready to celebrate the best of local agriculture and entertainment!

### Dinner Starts at 5:30 PM

The festivities begin at 5:30 PM with food service—so come hungry! Local vendors and Farm Bureau volunteers will be serving up a variety of tasty eats, perfect for enjoying picnic-style in the park. Whether you're craving classic cookout fare or something sweet, there will be something for everyone.

### Live Music at 6:00 PM

At 6:00 PM, the music begins! Local performers will take the stage to entertain with a variety of tunes—so grab a lawn chair or blanket and settle in for a great show in the park.

### A Night to Celebrate Agriculture

This event is about more than just food and fun. It's a chance to connect with the farming families in our community and learn more about the vital role they play in our lives. Sponsored by Farm Bureau, the

evening is a celebration of the land, the people, and the partnerships that keep our region thriving.

### We Need Volunteers!

To make this event a success, **we're looking for volunteers** to help with food service, event setup and cleanup as well as other event-day duties.

It's a great way to give back, meet neighbors and be part of something special.

### Donate a Dessert!

We're also asking for donations of homemade pies and desserts to sell at the event. Whether it's a family recipe or a favorite summer treat, your contribution helps raise funds and adds a sweet touch to the evening.

If you're willing to **volunteer** or **donate a dessert**, please contact:

Tom 715-216-2929 / Jake 715-219-1816 / Rosanna 715-610-1877

**Location: City Park Antigo | Date: Sunday, August 4**

**Food at 5:30 PM | Music at 6:00 PM**



Attendees last year enjoyed the meal provided by the Langlade County Farm Bureau!

 *You're invited!*

## Langlade County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

Join us to elect new Board of Directors and Delegates to represent us at the WFBF Annual Meeting. Make your voice heard as we discuss and vote on policy resolutions.

In addition to the regular items of business coming before the members at the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors will submit for approval by members a bylaw change to update location requirements for the Board of Directors

  
*Shine Bright*  
**& LEAD BOLDLY**

### TIME & COST

1:30 p.m. - Registration | Social  
2:00 p.m. - Appetizers | Meeting  
Cost: FREE

### LOCATION

Solin Cattle Company  
W6217 Hattes Lane  
Bryant, WI 54418

### RSVP

RSVP by August 20<sup>th</sup> to Sam Solin at 715.610.3640 (text) or samantha.solin@yahoo.com (email)

## Essay Contest – County Winner Announced!

Read the essay of the 2025 Langlade County Farm Bureau contest winner below:

### Wisconsin's Maple Trees By Lily Koepfel

Wisconsin's forests are full of trees. I like the maple trees. The maple trees make sweet treats for you and me to eat. Wisconsin produced 402,000 gallons of sweet maple syrup in 2023.

The sap you know, is the blood of the tree. It comes up from the roots when warm weather begins. It has to be about 40 degrees Fahrenheit to bring it up. Going tree to tree drilling holes in them, maple producers hammer sharp little drippers that they call spiles into the holes. Every hole must be in a new and different place from those of last year and the years before. The old holes grow over, like scabs. The sap is bright and clear and it can come up so fast that before they get the buckets on, the spiles are dripping sap into the empty tin pails. Plop, plop, plop. What it takes to make the sap run is freezing nights and warmer days. A north wind will stop a run. A south wind blows the sap right back up into the spiles.

This is a first prize run. I can smell it! They will be boiling night and day with a good run of sap. In long pans on a huge stove the whole length of the sugarhouse, sap is boiling high. Bubbles like amber jewels tumble, up and up and up! Breaking and rising and breaking and rising. In the first section of the evaporator the sap is as thin as water. It flows into the next pan darker and darker until it is not sap anymore, but syrup. He will boil away 40 gallons of sap to make one little gallon of syrup. He lifts a spoonful of syrup from the last pan into his wooden paddle and lets it slowly drip to see whether it is thick enough. The uncovered bucket is full of dark brown syrup. It is ready to be bottled! There is all outdoors in that smell.

After the sugar season, there are sugaring off parties. Sugaring off parties are a sort of a festival to celebrate the maple sugar crop. Then they will eat sugar on snow. Sugar on snow is hot maple syrup boiled just long enough to turn chewy caramel when it is poured over the fresh snow. I hope to go to a sugaring off party someday!

This is why I like the maple trees. I like the maple syrup on my pancakes and ice cream. It is sooooo YUMMY. I hope you enjoy Wisconsin maple syrup too.



Roseann Hoffman recognizes Lily Koepfel, 2025 Langlade County Farm Bureau Essay Contest Winner!

## Agriculture in the Classroom and Promotion and Education Update

### Roseann Hoffman

Langlade County Farm Bureau AITC and P&E Chair

About six years ago, a friend talked me into purchasing three honeybee hives. I did my usual research. Everything I found said it was an easy, fulfilling hobby that helps the struggling bee population and provides wonderful honey. Well, it has turned out to be one of the hardest hobbies I have. Heavy, hot and an occasional sting! Funny – but I don't think I would ever give it up. I love to hear the wild plum, cherry and basswood trees buzzing with activity. During July and August many of the worker bees come to our back patio for a sip of water from a teacup I keep just for them. They are amazing little creatures.

I have seen several observation hives on display, like the one pictured here. I could watch them for hours. This winter, I came across one in a trusted supply catalog so I bought it. With the help of the Langlade County Agriculture in the Classroom and Promotion and Education, the five-frame observation hive will be on display at our county fair the last weekend in July. I hope it is as big a hit as our chick hatching was last year.

Other activities on the agenda for the Langlade County Farm Bureau AITC and P&E include chick hatching in the poultry barn and a potato story walk, both during the fair. We are also working with the newly formed Antigo Silt Loam and Water, a farmer-led conservation group. On June 27, we participated in their community field day using the tabletop erosion runoff display. That display was provided by Beth Schaefer through one of her fall trainings. More to come on that event at a later date.

I hope everyone takes time to enjoy our wonderful Wisconsin agriculture and that everyone has a wonderful summer.



The five-frame observation hive will be on display at our county fair, the last weekend in July. I hope it is as big a hit as our chick hatching was last year.



During July and August many of the worker bees come to our back patio for a sip of water from a teacup I keep just for them.



# Marinette County

## President's Message



**Alexandria Broderick**  
Marinette County Farm Bureau President

Hello everyone, I hope everyone had a safe and hopefully easy planting season. Rain seemed to hold off for us to get most of our field crops in the ground. Although once the rain started, it seemed to never stop. Just something to keep in mind, don't be afraid to share with our non-farming friends and family the road rules when approaching and passing farm equipment. There were many instances this spring where many people flew past me and others when we were in places that they should not have passed. This could be as simple as a social media post or just a casual conversation. It never hurts for you to double check before making a turn too to keep everyone safe. As for a county update, the annual meeting has been planned, and information for that will be out soon. Another thing to keep in mind is that we will be looking for volunteers to help work in the ice cream stand at the county fair in August. Some other business that we have been talking about is the potential of making major updates to our fair stand. This will not be a project that will happen this year, but hopefully we can make some updates in future years as our stand needs some work. Have a good summer and remember to be safe!

## Marinette Ice Cream Stand – Volunteers Needed!

Screaming out loud for all to hear! We will need help from our membership to scoop and serve ice cream at the ice cream stand at Marinette County Fair in Wausaukee. Scan the QR code to sign up. All members and their families are welcome to help out. Come one, come all...



# Oconto County

## President's Message



**Dennis Jahnke**  
Oconto County Farm Bureau President

I joined Farm Bureau in 1976 and have seen and taken part in many June Dairy Month activities. One of my most enjoyable was our recipe contest where Ken Harter and I were judges. The theme was casseroles. I could really eat in those days, so I had a blast. Unfortunately, back then there were no taco casseroles with guacamole,

As these activities have changed over the years, so has the dairy industry. Here are a few statistics: 1976-25 cows/herd -2024-253 cows/herd – 1976-11,232# milk per cow/year – 2024-25493# milk per cow/year – 1976-105,000 dairy herds in Wisconsin – 2024-5348 dairy herds in Wisconsin. One can see these changes by driving around the countryside. Abandoned farms are almost as plentiful as ragweed. Most farm barns have more goats, sheep and chickens (mine has 3) than cows.

So, for this June Dairy Month, thanks to the hard-working dairy farmers for providing our wonderful dairy products we all enjoy. I heard from my sisters out west that they are learning how to make decent cheese curds. They will need a June Dairy Month just for that.

## Rural Road Safety Signs

**Mark Alden**  
Oconto County Farm Bureau Board Member

The rural area throughout Oconto County is messaging safety on the roads this summer. Through Farm Bureau's Farm Neighbors Care grant and partnerships with the Breakfast on the Farm group, Dairy Promotions, our local FFA Alumni and area businesses, we were able to offer 500-yard signs calling attention to road safety. As of early June, over 200 signs have been put out along the road alerting drivers to be aware of farm machinery and to share the road. The signs cost us \$10.50 each to make, and we are asking for \$5.00 per sign. We're seeing that about 1/2 of the signs on lawns that are not farm property, just country neighbors. We've even seen a few on the lawns in town. That's neighbors caring for neighbors! Anyone thinking about a similar type of project, we recommend upgrading to a heavier sign panel and fence stake. We are having issues with the wind bending them. Otherwise, all the feedback has been positive. Signs can be picked up at the feed mills in Abrams, Gillett and Suring, or at United Coop in Oconto Falls, and at Vanderloop Equipment in Lena.





**Oconto County Farm Bureau®** **ANNUAL MEETING**

*Join Us*

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

@ S&S Hometown Bar and Restaurant,  
Oconto Falls, WI

7:00 p.m. Registration begins  
7:30 p.m. Meal with Business Session to follow

\$15 per person at the door

**PLEASE RSVP TO:**  
Dennis Jahnke  
920.604.2578 or dljahnke@gmail.com



**Brat & Burger Fry**

*Supporting Agricultural Education*

June 13 & July 18

**piggly wiggly**  
409 E. Highland Avenue  
Oconto Falls, WI

\*NEW\* Sept. 12 | Steak Fry  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Oconto County Farm Bureau®**

## President's Message



**Bob Fox**

Outagamie County Farm Bureau  
President

Hello fellow Farm Bureau members. Since the last newsletter, the weather has become very favorable and we've been able to harvest first crop hay.

On June 8, the Outagamie County Dairy Promotion put on the 37th Annual Breakfast on the Farm. It was hosted by the J-Springs Dairy by Judy, Amber, Jay, Tami, Sam and Gracie. Outagamie County Farm Bureau also had an educational booth in the youth tent!

On August 14 at 7:00 PM at the Black Creek Town Hall, Outagamie County Farm Bureau will hold its policy development meeting. If you have any local, state or federal issues you would like to discuss or resolutions you would like to have voted on at the annual meeting, please attend. We are a grassroots organization, and all resolutions start at the county level. If you have any resolution, questions or input, please come to the meeting starting at 7:00 PM.

Mark your calendar for September 11, 2024, at 7:30 PM for Outagamie County Annual Meeting at Buzz's Sports Bar in Freedom.



## Octoberfest Volunteers Needed!

**Bernie VanderHeiden**

Outagamie County Farm Bureau Board Member

On September 27, we will have our cream puff booth on College Avenue selling cream puffs and coffee, this is our largest fundraiser and to make it run smoothly we need volunteers starting at 6:00 AM with setup and throughout the day until 6:00 PM with cleanup. The money raised is used to support programs like Adventure in Dairyland program, 4-H programs and FFA Farm Forum to name a few. So come



down to College Avenue and enjoy Octoberfest and volunteer for a couple of hours in the Farm Bureau booth and try some of the food served on the Avenue. To volunteer call 920.766.9377. If I don't answer, leave a message and I will return your call.



# SEPT. 27 APPLETON OCTOBERFEST

## Cream Puff Fundraiser



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**CONTACT BERNIE  
VANDERHEIDEN**

**920.766.9377**

**6 A.M. SET-UP  
9 A.M. - 6 P.M. SELLING**

## Century Farms Recognized at the 2025 Outagamie County Fair

### The Henning Farm

The Henning farm began in 1871. Peter and Minnie Henning purchased 1/2 of the home farm from the Fox and Wisconsin Improvement Company for \$240. The second half of the farm was purchased by John and Wilhemina Henning from Robert and Jane Little in 1872 for \$500.00. In 1876, John and Wilhemina purchased Peter and Minnie's 1/2 of the farm for \$1.

From there the farm went to: Charlie and Emma Henning, Edward and Laura Henning, Arvon and Ella Henning and then Don and Diane Henning (current)

Multiple generations lived

together in the "duplex" type farmhouse for many generations. It was a dairy farm for many generations.

The old milk house, with the milk cans where the wagons would pick up milk, was still standing here until 2010. There were also hogs raised from farrow to finish. The stories heard over the years from older generations created a deep history of memories of the Henning family.

Up to the day that Arvon Henning passed in 1992, it was still a working dairy and hog farm with 29 stanchions for milking. No pipeline, no dumping station. No barn cleaner, no silo unloaders. It was all done

with hand labor.

After Arvon's passing, Don and Diane, along with their three boys Paul, Jason, and Kevin, continued the hog operation for many years. After the hog portion ended, Don and Diane are still cash cropping with the help of their boys.

The June 15 tornado three years ago damaged the barn and took down a few of the historical buildings behind the barn. But left standing, the old wooden silo!

### The Uhlenbrauck Farm

Peter and Anna Uhlenbrauck bought the farm on October 27, 1920. They milked ten cows and planted corn, hay and oats. They then sold the farm to their son Marvin and Eunice Uhlenbrauck on April 29, 1953.



They milked 45 cows. They also grew corn, hay and oats. In 1965, a tornado came through and took the barn down. They rebuilt the barn. In 1969, Reed started milking with his parents. In 1991, Reed and Renee bought the farm. They milked 100 cows. Reed planted corn, hay, oats and

soybeans. In 2004, Reed and Renee sold the cows, and they raised steers for a couple of years. Reed now cash crops corn and soybeans.

## President's Message



**Neil Christianson**  
Shawano County Farm Bureau President

Greetings!! Hope your summer is going well.

Our Shawano County Farm Bureau Annual meeting will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 7:00 PM at Stubborn Brothers Brewery in Shawano. Invitations will be sent out soon.

We held the District 7 Discussion Meet and Policy Development Meeting on July 9 at Stubborn Brothers Brewery as well.

Next, we will be gearing up for the Shawano County Fair and the Farm Bureau Ice Cream stand. We are currently looking for volunteers to work at the stand.

Now it's time to pick on my Norwegian heritage.... Pastor asks, "Ole, do you say your prayers every night?" Ole nods, "Yah, sure, every night." Pastor says, "And in the morning?" Ole replies, "Nah, I ain't afraid in the daytime."

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

THE NEW  
SHAWANO CTY.  
PLAT BOOKS  
ARE NOW  
AVAILABLE FOR  
ONLY \$40



Available at: Shawano Cty. Treasurer's Office,  
Shawano Cty. Courthouse  
Kropf's Meat, Bowler

Also available online at:  
<https://www.shawanofarmbureau.com/plat-books>

Or by mail at: Ken Matyas N3876 State Hwy. 22,  
Shawano, WI 54166

## Shawano County Farm Bureau Awards Scholarships

**Ken Matsche**

Shawano County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

We are proud to announce this year's recipients of the Shawano County Farm Bureau Brunch on the Farm Scholarships! Each year, we are honored to support outstanding students from Shawano County who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership and a commitment to service in their communities. We are excited to announce our 2025 scholarship recipients include:

- Natalie Rickert – Bowler High School
- Logan Harbaugh – Clintonville High School
- Faith Posbrig – Pulaski High School
- Kendra Strebel – Shawano High School
- Hannah Yeagar – Shawano High School
- Ava Medo – Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School
- Adrianna Quade – Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School

## Shawano County Farm Bureau Supports Area High School Grad Nights

**Ken Matsche**

Shawano County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Chair

The Shawano County Farm Bureau was happy to once again support area high school grad nights with donations of cheese curds. Bowler, Gresham and Wittenberg-Birnamwood High Schools all received donations. The cheese curds were used during each school's substance-free graduation events. The events, which are held after each school's graduation ceremony, are designed to create a safe environment for the graduates to celebrate together on their graduation night. In total, 25 pounds of cheese curds from Dupont Cheese were donated to these events. The fresh cheese curds are always a huge hit and are greatly enjoyed by the graduates. The Shawano County Farm Bureau is happy to support these positive events in our community while promoting local agriculture.

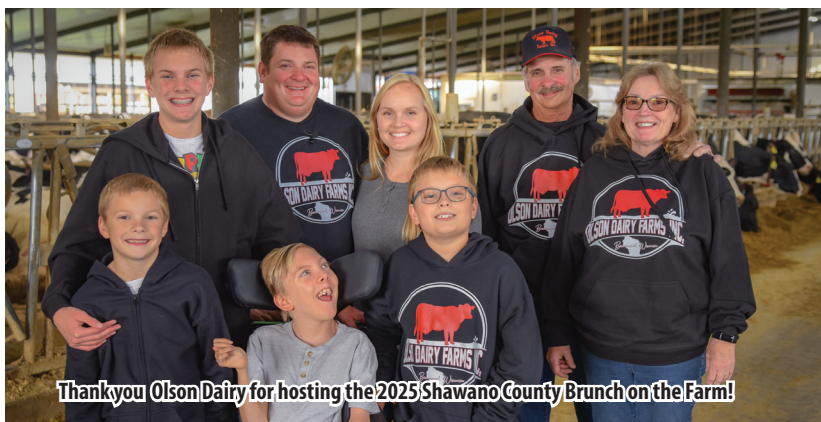
## Brunch on the Farm - THANK YOU!

We had an incredible turn out for the 2025 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm! A huge thank you to the Olson Family for graciously opening up your farm and hosting such a beautiful, fun-filled event. Your hospitality made it a day to remember!

To all of our amazing sponsors, we couldn't have done it without your support. Your contributions helped create a fantastic experience for families from all over the county.

From sunshine and tractors to delicious dairy and smiling faces, it was the perfect way to celebrate June Dairy Month together. We served approximately 3,000 attendees!

We're so grateful to everyone who came out to enjoy the day - see you again next year!



Thank you Olson Dairy for hosting the 2025 Shawano County Brunch on the Farm!

## You're invited!

### Shawano County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

Join us to elect new Board of Directors and Delegates to represent us at the WFBF Annual Meeting. There will also be a special presentation from Stubborn Brother Brewery!

*Shine Bright*  
**& LEAD BOLDLY**

#### TIME & COST

6:30 p.m. - Social/Registration  
7:00 p.m. - Meal/Meeting  
\$5/person | New members Free

#### LOCATION

Stubborn Brothers Brewery  
220 s Main St  
Shawano, WI 54166

#### RSVP

By September 10 to Ken Matyas  
920.810.2245 or  
matyaskenneth13@gmail.com

# Waupaca County

## Policy Development - What Is It and Why Should I Care?

### Al Tank

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Vice President

There are many benefits to your membership, but one of the most important is the fact that your dues get you and your fellow producers a seat at the table in Madison and Washington.

How? American Farm Bureau Federation and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation both develop annual policy books, and these books start right here in Waupaca County and every other county in Wisconsin and the country that has a county Farm Bureau.

In Waupaca County, we will meet September 3 at 8:00 PM in Manawa, at the City Hall, to start this process. The board, and any guests present, will develop a list of resolutions to recommend to members to be approved at our county annual meeting, September 10 at Bear Lake Resort (7:00 PM dinner). By the way, if you work four hours in the Farm Bureau food stand at the county fair booth, you and your spouse's dinners are free!

After county membership approves our resolutions, they are submitted

to the WFBF Policy Development Committee. Their job is to take resolutions from all counties and combine them into one list. They combine duplicate resolutions from different counties, etc. and then send them out to counties again for review and possible modification. The final

list is presented to delegates at the WFBF Annual Meeting for review and approval. This happens the first weekend in December at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells and any member is welcome to attend, however, only elected county delegates can debate and approve the list of resolutions. After approval, these resolutions become the WFBF policy book and AFBF policy book. These Books are used by the WFBF government relations team and AFBF extensively as they work with state and federal legislators in their work on the

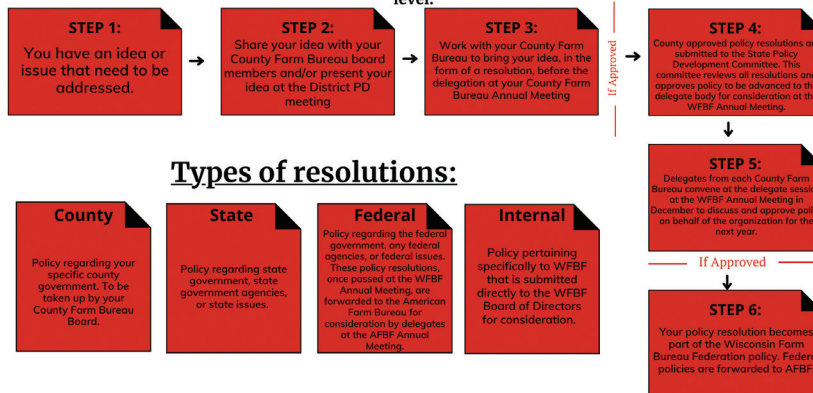
congressional meeting floors.

In short, the state Policy Book determines how the government relations team lobbies on your behalf. Any national resolutions are submitted to AFBF as they go through a similar process at the AFBF Annual Meeting to become the national policy book.

Again, if you have thoughts or issues with state or national issues, join us in Manawa on September 3 to start the resolution process.

### Policy Development Process

Farm Bureau's Policy Development Process starts with YOU the members. Policy Development is the grassroots process by which Farm Bureau voting members craft, refine and propose new and updated policy through a series of steps starting with the members at the county Farm Bureau level.



## D.C. Fly-In



**Jake Hoewisch**

Waupaca County Farm Bureau President

The spring was a good one for planting and getting first crop hay off. It's been a few years since we could say that. The first week in June, Jen and I were able to get away from the farm for five days and join the YFA D.C. Fly-in. What an experience it was and I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to definitely do it. We started at the

American Farm Bureau building, there we got brought up to speed on trade, farm bill, dairy issues and Making America Healthy Again (MAHA).

We got to see Zippy Duval's office and the view of the Capitol from his office, very beautiful. Later that day, we went to the USDA building and the Mexican Embassy and got to talk with representatives for both. Day two was filled with congressional visits with our district representatives. Tony

Wied is our representative. He started his two-year term in January. He was very receptive to our concerns in District 7. He took us through the tunnels that lead to the Capitol underground after our meeting. That was a very awesome experience. Our group also had meetings with our Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin. The final day, we toured the White House and met with staff in one of the connected buildings. There is no shortage of security in those buildings. Later that night, we had a guided tour of the town, memorials and monuments. All in all, it was an unforgettable experience and makes us proud to be Americans.



Jake and Jen Hoewisch attend the 2025 D.C. Fly-in.

## Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez Listens to Thoughts on Critical Issues at New London Farm Tour

**Kyle Munch**

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Secretary

On April 21, Bouessa Family Farm in New London had the honor of hosting Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez for a firsthand look at the next generation of grazing and beef production. After touring the operation, she sat down with local farmers, including members of the Waupaca County Farm Bureau for a productive discussion on the real issues affecting Wisconsin's family farms. We talked candidly about the ripple effects tariffs are having on our markets and shared our strong support for the Agricultural

Roads Improvement Program (ARIP)—an initiative that's helping ensure our rural roads stay safe, passable and fit for modern equipment. We emphasized the need to maintain open markets and fair pricing for our commodities and discussed how the state can continue to be a partner in helping us

grow with resilience. Beyond ag policy, we also touched on the broader challenges facing rural communities, because strong farms depend on strong, healthy hometowns. We're grateful to Lt. Governor Rodriguez for taking the time to listen, and to the Bouessa family for opening their farm and their gates to this important conversation.



Al Tank and Kyle Munch meet with Lt. Governor Sara Rodriguez at the Bouessa Family Farm

**Waupaca County Farm Bureau®**

## Chicken BBQ

Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> | NOON

Voting members Free | Non-members \$10

The Iron Furrow

N5740 US Hwy 45, New London

RSVP by Thursday, September 4th to Al Tank at  
apdjtank@gmail.com or 920.250.0338



## Waupaca County Hosts Farm Technology Days

**Brian Preder**

Waupaca County Farm Bureau Board Member

July is almost over and that means Farm Technology Days are right around the corner. It's great to once again have Clinton Farms hosting the event in Waupaca County. To showcase Clinton Farms and the event, we are giving away ten entry tickets: limited to one ticket per person per request. For a chance to win the tickets, please contact Brian Preder by emailing bpreder@gmail.com or calling/texting 920.851.5776. We will also have a booth at this year's Farm Technology Days and are looking for volunteers to help staff the booth. What a great way to meet other Farm Bureau members and farmers from across the state. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Brian Preder. We hope to see you there, and be sure to stop by our booth in the Agribusiness Tent B, booth B106.



## Fair Food Volunteers NEEDED!

**Kaisha Nash**

Food Stand Coordinator

Hello, Summertime! I don't know about you, but this hot, sunny weather has me looking forward to all of the fun summer activities, especially the county fair! This year's theme is Red, White, and You: Year 152, and runs from August 20 through August 24 this year. We are SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

Are you looking for a way to support farmers and agriculture? We have the perfect position for you! The Farm Bureau is reaching out for your support and hopes you can volunteer a few hours of your valuable time in the food stand this year. We are expecting high traffic at the fair and would appreciate all the help we can get to keep the food stand running smoothly - thank you in advance!

Working in the food stand is a guaranteed good time - there is always something to work on, laughs to be had and you get to meet and work

with other friendly, fun and fantastic Farm Bureau members. Volunteers receive a free meal, and if you work 8+ hours, your annual Farm Bureau dues are covered. Your skills are needed! There are volunteer positions for cooks/fryers, order takers and general kitchen help (washing dishes, opening new packages of food, wrapping sandwiches, etc...). Whatever your strengths are, we have a spot made for YOU. There are slots for each hour we are open during the day, so please feel free to sign up for as few or as many as you're able.

We are looking forward to working with you this year, all volunteers (Farm Bureau members or not) are welcome! We ask that volunteers under 15 be accompanied by an adult. Sign up using this link, which will also be sent via email: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044CA4AA2AA5FB6-57165435-2025>.

Please reach out to Kaisha Nash (kaishanash@gmail.com or 920.716.5623) with any questions or concerns.



## Auroara Riley of Waupaca Middle School is the District 7 Fifth Grade Essay Contest Winner!

Read Auroara's Essay Below!

**All About Maple Sugar Season**

**By Auroara Riley**

Maple season is our family tradition. We tap maple trees in the spring and in March. Sometimes, there's snow on the ground. When it starts to warm up, the sap runs. The daytime temperature needs to be above freezing. During the night, the temperature must be below 32 degrees. Fun fact: The Indians were the first people to discover maple sap.

We load a wagon with pails, lids, and spiles. We head to the woods pulled by a small tractor. We drill small holes in the maple trees and put the spiles in the trees with a tapper and hammer. Then, we hang the buckets and lids on the tree and wait for them to drip maple sap. We tapped over 600 spiles on 300 Wisconsin maple trees.

When the buckets are full, we go and collect the maple sap and dump the sap into a large holding tank. We take the sap back to the sugar shack and dump the sap through a spout. We then filter the sap and take out the moths, sand, and debris. Then, we cook the sap in an evaporator pan. It takes 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup. We fuel the fire with wood. It is a very hot fire, and we can warm up our bodies and hands after collecting.

Maple syrup is finished when it reaches 219 degrees Fahrenheit. Then we draw it off the heat and filter it. Then we can sample it. My family bottles the syrup in glass jars to sell or give away. Maple syrup is good on ice cream and Pancakes. But my favorite is when you pour maple syrup on snow and put it in a Ziploc bag with a popsicle stick. Then you freeze it. And enjoy your maple lollipop.

Wisconsin is the fourth largest maple syrup producer in the US. Wisconsin produces 402,000 gallons of maple syrup. Eisentraut Farms maple syrup. We harvested 140 gallons of maple syrup this season.



## New London Essay Winners



## New London Submits a Variety of Interesting Essays!

Read Kennedy's, Roman's, Sawyer's and Victoria's essays below!

### **Wisconsin Willow Tree**

**By Kennedy G.**

Wisconsin willow trees are very unique. Big, wavy branches flow in the wind. They come in many different colors and sizes. Willow trees can be as tall as 50 feet tall, with a lifespan of 30 to 300 years old. When I was five my dad and I planted a willow tree in my backyard. It grew big in the first year, but it kept on growing. It grew almost as big as my house. Its branches were like vines in the jungle. My dad hung a swing in the vines just for me to play. When I was about seven my great grandpa passed away. I went out and sat on my swing and my willow tree sat there all night. It comforted me, and it made me realize what a great life I have.

Wisconsin willow trees are most often found near bodies of water such as streams and lakes. They provide the tree with the water and nutrients they need to grow. This helps them grow about 10 feet each year. When they grow big enough it is used for shelter for deer and smaller animals. The willow tree's root system needs lots of water to make its roots grow big, so that the whole tree grows big. Willow trees need nearly 100 gallons a day, that's a lot.

The Wisconsin willow tree has many healing properties. The willow tree bark is used as a treatment for colds and sometimes the flu. Willow tree bark contains aspirin. It has pain limiting effects in the body. People commonly use willow bark for fever, flu, and other conditions.

Willow trees are unable to regrow their limbs. It can grow if you push a healthy cutting into the soil. These properties make the willow tree so special.

That is why I think that the Wisconsin willow tree is the best tree you could get at the market. If you get it when your kids are little and watch them age with it, it would be just like I said in my story.

### **Think of Trees.**

**By Victoria H.**

Have you ever thought about how a closet was made? It was probably made from an oak tree, because they are commonly used for furniture. Oak wood is strong and durable. Oak trees can live to 100 years old, their maturity age, and could live on for about 900 more years. We will be talking about a common, and widespread species of oak, White Oak. These ones commonly grow up to about 70 to 150 feet. The width of White Oaks most of the time would be 4 feet. White Oaks are named by their rough whitish edges on their bark. Oak trees are usually largely populated in the temperate area of the Northern hemisphere, and most of the time at high elevations.

The second species I will be talking about is the English Oak. Long ago, English Oak wood was used for ship building and wood carving in Great Britain. The English Oak is a large type of species, it can grow to 80 feet or higher, even if they have short trunks. It has large spreading branches. They usually have a semi-circle-like shape formed with their branches and leaves. They have long leaves, commonly found 5 inches long. They are smaller at the bottom, and extend outwards and larger. They have a squiggly type of outline at the larger side, and have pinched edges. Their acorns are commonly found in a slightly skinny oval shape, with dull brown caps and bright green shells.

Both these Oak trees are different, and used for different purposes; like how I said the English Oak was used for wood carving, and ship building. While the White Oak is used for furniture, construction, and floors. They both are good timber, and last long, so they will be commonly used in things today.

These trees have been around for a very long time; their fruit, or acorns even being boiled and eaten by us humans a long time ago. Trees are important, and we barely recognize them in our daily lives, often forgetting how amazing they can truly be. Trees remind me of stars, they live really long and then die; then are reborn.

Just as I said, trees are super important for you, and everyone around you. Trees are an important part of most industries nowadays, and if we lost them we would most likely die from the lack of support for basic organisms like us humans. In conclusion, trees have been used in our industries for centuries, being one of the main sources for our furniture, tools and buildings. All trees

are truly important and sometimes we forget about them, we should remind ourselves about how long they have been here for us. The best thing to do is just hang out with a tree, read a book under it or put a tire swing on it.

### **Sweet Pears!**

**By Sawyer H.**

Have you ever had a pear? I love how sweet then sour they are. I also love their weird texture, tastes, and how jucys they are. Pears are usually picked by hand while they are still hard. Then you need to wait until it gets soft, and then wash it before eating it.

Its leathery leaves are round to oval and its flowers are usually white. They usually grow in late spring into summer. It is cool to see them grow. The flowers on the tree are where the pears come from. The pears grow out from the flowers.

Pears are a cool fruit they grow in a weird oval shape with a divot on the top. They are the same color as a green apple. A pear is a good fruit that you should eat.

Pears grow in a tree that is 50 feet (15 meters). Pears grow in a cool climate, so it's a little moist for the fruit. My pears grow on tall branches. For us it's lucky to have one on a low branch, but you just might get one.

I have pear trees in my backyard and every year when the pears grow, I bring them up to my bear hunting place. We spread them around with some other food for the bears, and we wait and see if any bears come and get trapped. I hope you learned a lot about pear trees.

### **Pine Trees**

**By Roman T.**

What is your favorite part of the winter's festive activities with family and friends? Mine is cutting down a Christmas Tree and decorating it with bright pulsing lights with my family. Going to the Christmas Tree farm is fun, searching for the perfect fit for your home. You may have wondered what the festive tree we all love is. Well, it's a Pine Tree!

700,341 Christmas trees are harvested in Wisconsin each year. That means of the 859 Christmas Tree Farms, that many trees have been harvested. Wow, that's a lot. Also Wisconsin has 23,373 Acres of Christmas Trees. Christmas tree farms are a fun festive activity with your family. My family goes every other year and my Dad and I cut it down. The fun part is decorating it when you find the perfect spot in your living room. Wrapping lights around the tree and putting the ornaments you collected throughout the years is my favorite. Hopefully you shook the Pine Tree, so all the dead needles are not on the carpet. My Parents are so Evil. One time we forgot to shake the tree, and needles went flying over the carpet. So for NO reason my Sister and I had to pick ALL of them up. Another story was at the Christmas Tree farm, there were so many animals in trees. The perfect tree was right in our eyes., but then when I looked up there was a huge bird nest! That was a bummer. If you want a great fresh smelling tree to block your son's dirty underwear smell I would recommend a Christmas tree farm Visit!

Wisconsin's Pine Trees are usually about 6-7 feet tall. Wisconsin's Pine Trees take about 15 years to grow to the heights above. Wisconsin is number 5 ranked for pine trees harvested in the Country. What makes Wisconsin's rank a big deal is it's not just a few states that plant Pine Trees, It's ALL of them! The most common Pine Trees are, Spruce, White Pine, Scotch Pine, Canaan Fir, And the Balsam Fir. Out of all the Pine Trees, my favorite is the White Pine. What's your favorite Pine Tree?

One thing you may always wonder is: how do Pine Trees survive in the Wild? Well the answer is when they are planted farmers plant 2-3 trees for all that were harvested to keep the land in green space. Also, Pine Trees grow in every state in the country. Some Pine Tree stuff you can buy are wreaths, and if you LOVE the smell, you can put it in your car! All you do is buy a Pine Tree air freshener. Another thing you can buy are ropes that you can wrap around the tree to make it pop out. Now you know how Pine Trees survive in the Wild and some fun accessories to buy.

That's why I think Pine Trees are the best tree in Wisconsin.

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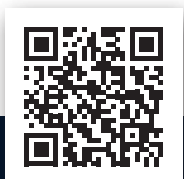
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