



Grassroots

District 8 News

From the Driver's Seat: Your Voice Matters

Kim Bremmer
WFBF District 8 Director



In every one of our rural town board meetings, county board meetings and local committee discussions, one truth remains constant: farmer voices matter. The decisions made at the

local level shape the future of our land, our operations and our rural communities. When farmers show up, speak up and stay engaged, good things can happen.

We saw this firsthand recently with a meaningful win in our district in Marathon County – a reasonable commonsense adjustment to local regulation that came directly from farmers participating in the process. The details are covered later in this newsletter. But it wasn't luck and it wasn't chance. It was the result of people with firsthand knowledge and experience in agriculture taking the time to share their perspective and advocate for practical solutions.

Although this victory is worth celebrating, it's also a reminder: there is still a great deal of work to do. Other areas in our district are facing local regulations that need strong, informed agricultural voices at the table. Portage County Farm Bureau continues to battle a proposed livestock operational ordinance when the deck appears to be stacked against them. Clark County Farm Bureau is working to set up farm tours and build relationships with local county committee members who have made disparaging comments in committee meetings. But rather than being upset about the disconnect between committee members and the farm, they've chosen to engage in conversations and build relationships with board members. Our discussions about how to get more farmers represented on local boards continue to grow. The more farmers who get involved – whether by attending meetings, asking questions, building relationships or speaking up and sharing real-world experiences – the more balanced and effective our local regulations will be.

Or even better yet? Consider running for your local board and Farm Bureau has resources to help you along the way. Because local government works best when the people most affected by the decisions are part of the conversation. Your voice is powerful. Your experience is valuable. And your participation can make all the difference. Let's keep showing up and speaking up. And let's make sure agriculture is heard, respected and represented in every room where decisions are made.

The Power of One Voice

Ashleigh Calaway
WFBF District 8 Coordinator



Sometimes it feels like we're carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders. Between tending to our farms, caring for our families and navigating the latest ordinance or regulation, it can start to feel like we're walking the "Green Mile" – exhausted, worn down and wondering if what we're doing even matters.

But it does.

Every time one person stands up and speaks out, it makes a difference. Every time someone dares to ask a hard question at a town board meeting, every time someone writes a letter or makes a phone call, it moves the needle even if we don't always see it right away.

The truth is, change rarely comes all at once. It starts small, with one person choosing to say, "This isn't right." Then another voice joins in. And another. Before long, what started as one spark becomes a chorus of neighbors standing together to protect the future of farming in our communities.

We know the fight isn't easy. Those of us on the front lines pushing back against so-called "Good Neighbor" ordinances are tired. It can feel like we're spinning our wheels, trying to make others see the effort, the care and the integrity that go into what we do every day. And too often, it feels like we're doing it alone.

I understand that no one wants one more thing added to their plate. But this work, this local affairs program, was built for you, the everyday member. It's not about politics or fancy presentations. It's about conversations. The kind we used to have over coffee at the local gas station. Talking about what's going on in our towns, what we're seeing and what needs to be said out loud.

If you see something, say something. If your town board is considering something that will impact your farm, your neighbors or your community, don't assume someone else will speak up. Reach out to your local Farm Bureau. Tell us what you're facing. Because when one person stands up, others find the courage to stand too.

And maybe most importantly, we need to stop fighting each other. It's hard enough explaining to consumers why we make the choices we do. We can't afford to be divided among ourselves. We all want the same thing: to keep farming, to care for our land and animals and to pass this legacy on to the next generation.

The power of one voice is real. But when we raise our voices together, that's when real change happens.



District 8 News

Honoring Aly: The Third Annual Aly Sosnovske Sporting Clay Tournament

It's hard to put into words what this year's event has meant. After the last participant left and just our committee and the Sosnovske family remained, we began the quiet work of tallying donations, bake sale proceeds, raffle totals and every contribution made by so many. It was at that moment that we realized our community has carried us to an extraordinary milestone: nearly \$19,000 raised in just three events over two years in Aly's name.

This year, 75 shooters joined us, with each one stepping onto the property, bearing witness to the spirit of Aly and what she stood for. We savored the flavors of freshly baked goods, shared basket raffles that brought joy to winners and winners turned supporters and gathered around hearty food and conversations that bridged generations. Generously donated trophies were placed into proud hands. Yard signs with Aly's name were handed out to usher in next year's hope. Window clings featuring her logo now serve as quiet reminders of the life she loved and the impact she continues to make.

How we felt her presence:

- In the perfect weather, the kind where the sunshine warmed us and the breeze reminded us of movement and change.
- In the way the rain seemed to circle around us but held off just long enough so we could be together under clear skies.
- In the flow of the event itself – smooth, meaningful, full of purpose.

We would give anything to have Aly here with us. Her laughter. Her drive. Her gentle encouragement. Yet here we were – an entire community stepping in for her, lifting her legacy and carrying her values forward: hard work, compassion, unity.

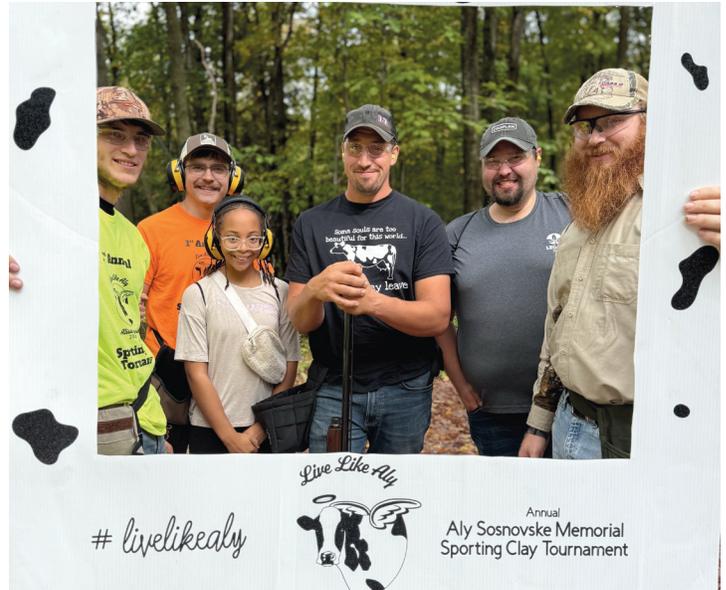
Looking ahead, we've set our sights on a new horizon: a goal of \$25,000 to secure Aly's place on the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation Legacy Tree. Through this, we aim to offer scholarships to young farmers and agriculturalists beginning their own Farm Bureau journeys, spreading the very spirit Aly embodied: community, growth and faith in the land and each other.

None of this would be possible without you, our sponsors and every participant who showed up, baked, cheered and donated. To the gracious host, the Wausau Skeet Club, thank you for opening your doors and your hearts. To our committee, for bringing the vision to life. And most deeply, to Aly's family for sharing her with us, for your unwavering support, your love and your presence.

Together, we made this event more than an event. We made it meaningful. We made it memory. And we made it love, reflected back to us in the faces, the hands, the hearts in that room.

From all of us: thank you.

THANK YOU SPONSORS



District 8 News

Thank You, Rural Mutual Insurance Agents!

As We wrap up another successful membership year, we want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you to our partners at Rural Mutual Insurance Company (RMIC).

RMIC agents continue to play a critical role in the strength of Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Their support, advocacy and dedication to connecting with farm families and rural businesses has made a meaningful difference in both member engagement and member growth. Each conversation, each referral and each moment spent sharing the value of Farm Bureau contributes directly to our mission.

This year's membership results reflect the power of teamwork and shared purpose. RMIC agents not only help protect Wisconsin farms and rural communities, they also help invest in their future by encouraging involvement in Farm Bureau programs, events and grassroots policy work.

We appreciate your partnership, your professionalism and your ongoing commitment to building a stronger rural Wisconsin. Thank you for helping make this membership year a great one!



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.

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P.O. Box 5550
Madison, WI 53705
(608) 836-5575
**Join WFBF Today
or Pay Your Dues**



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



Survey: We Want to Hear from You

Your Voice Matters: Help Shape the Future of Farm Bureau!

Wisconsin Farm Bureau is more than just an organization; it's a community of over **53,000 members** working together to strengthen agriculture and rural communities across our state.

As we continue to grow, we want to make sure the events, programs and resources we offer truly reflect what you care about. That's where you come in!

Take a few minutes to share your thoughts through a **short member survey** to help guide the direction of your **county, district and state Farm Bureau**. Tell us what matters most to you, from local involvement and leadership opportunities to advocacy, education and community outreach.

Your feedback helps shape the next chapter of Farm Bureau!

Plus, complete the survey by **January 31, 2026**, and you'll be entered to **win a Farm Bureau swag prize pack!**

Take the survey today by scanning the QR code or at this link:

bit.ly/D8feedback2026

Thank you for helping us grow stronger together. Your voice truly makes a difference.



Dare to Lead: Where Will Your Farm Bureau Membership Take You?



Jason Behrend
District 8 YFA Chair

When I signed up for WFBF's Leadership Institute, I knew nothing about it but started asking others who had gone through the experience. Everyone I talked to said the class will challenge you, make you think differently and sharpen your public speaking skills. I was looking to become more outgoing while building more self-confidence in public speaking. I hoped to gain more confidence in talking to anyone in any situation and make more connections through meeting new people through Farm Bureau.

The Leadership Institute is a yearlong program that includes five multi-day sessions, a graduation ceremony at the WFBF Annual Meeting in December, and a final trip to Washington, D.C., where participants learn about agricultural policy and meet with elected officials. We were challenged during each session to do things we wouldn't normally do. The highlights for me during the class include giving speeches, learning how the policy process works from Farm Bureau's government relations team, going through media training to be able to be the most prepared person possible when media asks us questions and finally writing mock testimonies and delivering them in front of our group. We also enjoyed social time with our new friends in the group and got to go on some very cool tours at Fair Oaks Farm, Ozark Fisheries and meet with Indiana Farm Bureau staff.

The things I learned while in the Leadership Institute will be skills I can use every single day for the rest of my life. Being able to articulate new conversations with political leaders, Farm Bureau leaders and administrators at work has been very helpful. Asking or answering the tough questions that would have stumped me before the training we had continues to push me each day to make more connections with other people. Changing the way I think, ask questions and looking at how others see things is very impactful.

If you are looking to grow personally and professionally, I challenge you to apply for the next Leadership Institute Class! You do not need to be a farmer to join the next leadership class; I encourage anyone who is passionate about agriculture and leadership to apply.

Applications are now available at wbf.com/programs/leadership-development/leadership-institute.

Thank you to everyone in Farm Bureau who gave me this special opportunity to learn as a Farm Bureau leader! The best words I have learned from a fellow farmer are "You can do it, don't wait for someone else to do it." Create the change you want to see.

Meet Rob Klussendorf: District 8 Promotion and Engagement Representative



Rob Klussendorf

District 8 Promotion and Engagement Representative

My name is Rob Klussendorf, and I am honored to be filling the remaining two years of a three-year term on the Promotion and Engagement Committee. For those of you who don't know me, I currently serve as president of the Taylor County Farm Bureau. I have a lifelong passion for promoting agriculture and helping

consumers understand where their food comes from. I have been actively involved with Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations for more than 50 years.

I am especially excited about the recent bylaw change shifting the committee's focus from "Promotion and Education" to "Promotion and Engagement." I have always believed that our role is to inform and connect with the public – not to educate them in a classroom sense, but to engage them in meaningful conversations about agriculture.

The P&E Committee provides Farm Bureau members with opportunities to grow as strong communicators, collaborators and influencers who help build consumer trust and confidence in American agriculture. As Farm Bureau members, we all have countless opportunities, both on and off the farm, to share our experiences within our communities and with consumers.

If you are enthusiastic about telling agriculture's story, the P&E Committee is here to support you.

Together, we can:

- Promote awareness and understanding of agriculture.
- Empower grassroots members with effective tools for engagement.
- Provide training opportunities that equip volunteers to connect with consumers and strengthen trust and confidence in American agriculture.

I look forward to working with all of you as we pursue these goals and continue building a strong future for agriculture in District 8.

Interested in getting involved? Contact me at rfklussendorf@gmail.com.

WFBF Promotion & Education Event

CULTIVATE & Connect

February 21st, 2026 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in Neenah, WI

Keynote Speakers:

Marlene Eick, Ohio Farm Bureau
Annaliese Wegner, Modern Day Farm Chick

Optional pre-conference activity:

February 20th from 5 - 8 p.m.
Fox Valley Technical College



Scan to learn more
and register!

Step Up and Speak Out: Agriculture Needs You at the Table



Nate Zimdars

WFBF Director of Local Government

Two of the most important parts of life that affect every person in the world are agriculture and politics.

Everyone needs to eat and agriculture is the source of almost all the food we eat. Everyone also lives in a country that has different levels

of government and rules that affect our day-to-day lives. Many consider agriculture to be the backbone of the United States. In Wisconsin, our identity as a strong agricultural state means that government, whether we like it or not, will have a role to play in how our food gets from field to table.

One of the greatest challenges that we face when discussing government involvement in agriculture is that far too many of the people tasked with making decisions do not have a strong agricultural background. Just a few decades ago, it was commonplace for many of our state's rural residents to have grown up on a farm or at least had parents and grandparents who were raised on farms. This was reflected among the members of the Wisconsin legislature and our county or town boards.

That is not the current reality when looking at the backgrounds of our elected officials.

While that isn't the most surprising given the number of people actively farming in Wisconsin has dropped, agriculture is still very much the lifeblood of rural Wisconsin. So, you would think that our county and town boards are full of farmers and agricultural workers, right? My work in local government would suggest otherwise.

When Farm Bureau members reach out to me about local issues or I am made aware of an ordinance that will have a significant impact on agriculture, those are taking place in the rural parts of our state, not on the edge of our large urban centers like Madison or Milwaukee. A key reason for that is we do not have officials with the deepest knowledge of agriculture making those important decisions.

This is where YOU come in. There is no one better than YOU to serve as a positive voice for agriculture on your county or town board. YOU know your community better than I ever will. YOU understand the challenges affecting agriculture in your backyard better than a town board member who isn't connected to agriculture.

Serving on a board is a time commitment and time is our most precious resource, especially when you are juggling responsibilities to your farm, family, or an off-farm job. But attending meetings to voice your concerns about a local issue and staying to listen to the board discussion is also a time commitment. The only difference is that you ultimately don't get to decide on the ordinance that will affect your farm or business when it comes time to vote. So why not get in the driver's seat and have some control over the direction your town or county is moving in?

We need more Farm Bureau members serving on our town and county boards. Our Farm Bureau vision states that we are "the trusted voice leading Wisconsin agriculture forward." The only way we remain that strong voice is by having members using their voices to shape local decisions that will ensure agriculture remains strong and valued in our state.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter." You have a role to play in our political process. Don't remain silent. Use your voice to speak up for agriculture.

From Barn to Body: How Farms Support Wellness

Living and working on a farm is more than just providing food—it may also support long-term health for both adults and children. Recent research from institutions including Marshfield Clinic Research Institute, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and studies published in leading scientific journals highlight the many ways that farm environments promote physical well-being.

Stronger Microbiomes, Healthier Farmers

Studies have shown that dairy farmers and those working closely with livestock tend to have higher diversity of beneficial gut bacteria compared to non-farmers. Exposure to soil, manure and livestock introduces microbes that can enhance gut health, which plays a critical role in immunity and overall wellness. In fact, some research suggests that handling cows and manure may contribute to better immune function and lower rates of certain inflammatory conditions in farmers.

Children on Farms Breathe Easier

For many families, a farm is a wonderful place to raise children. Now science is backing that up too. Growing up on a farm is linked to fewer respiratory issues, lower rates of asthma and reduced allergies. Exposure to a variety of microbes from animals, dust and soil appears to "train" the immune system, helping children respond appropriately to allergens and environmental triggers. Multiple studies from the University of Wisconsin and international research echo these findings, suggesting that children who spend time on farms enjoy stronger respiratory health throughout life.

Environmental and Lifestyle Factors Matter

Beyond microbes, daily farm work promotes physical activity, outdoor exposure and time spent in nature – all factors that support cardiovascular and mental health. The combination of physical work, diverse microbial exposure and connection to the natural environment contributes to a unique set of health benefits for those living and working on farms.

A Win-Win for Families and Communities

These findings reinforce the value of farm life, not just as an economic and cultural cornerstone, but also as a contributor to lifelong health. Supporting agriculture, encouraging responsible farm exposure for children and recognizing the role of farms in public health can have benefits that extend beyond the farm gate.

For more information on this very exciting research check out: marshfieldresearch.org/nfmc

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 members of the state's congressional delegation. During the trip, attendees advocated for key issues including the delisting of the grey wolf, passage of a Farm Bill, labor reform, sustainable aviation fuel, year-round E15 and expanded pro-agriculture trade opportunities.

In addition to congressional visits, participants met with officials from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and the America First Policy Institute.

Member leaders included: Tony Christopherson, Elk Mound; Steven Earleywine, Brodhead; Doug Schulz, Iron Ridge; Nicholas Retzlaff, Ripon; Tyrone Tutland, Mason; Levi Bratt, Saint Nazianz; Cullen Schlewitz, Eau Claire; Dan Fremstead, Whitehall; Terrance Beck, Oshkosh; John Fischer, Plymouth; Jessica Gruetzmacher, Merrill; Don Lutz, Scandinavia; Melissa Yates, Merrill; Kent McClurg, Viroqua; and Tammy Wiedenbeck, Lancaster.

District 8 was well represented, and we thank Melissa and Jessi for stepping up to carry our voice to Washington.

District 8 News



GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation will provide 10 - \$250 grants to support county Farm Bureau projects related to Farm Neighbors Care.

Application deadline is February 13, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

Grant information and application can be found at <https://bit.ly/FNCgrant26>

Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation
-2026-
FFA FARM FORUM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11
CENTRAL WISCONSIN CONVENTION & EXPO CENTER • ROTHSCHILD, WI

REGISTRATION OPEN **REGISTER AT:**
bit.ly/FFAFarmForum2026

Clark County

wfbf.com/about/counties/clark
ClarkCountyFarmBureau

Clark County Farm Bureau Hosts First-Ever Farm Gate Event

Clark County Farm Bureau recently hosted its first-ever Farm Gate, bringing together county board members, Land and Water Department staff and local farmers for a unique behind-the-scenes experience.

Participants toured Meyer Family Dairy's new manure lagoon and had the opportunity to network with area farmers, learning firsthand about recent expansion projects and day-to-day operations.

The event provided an excellent setting for meaningful conversations about future partnerships and collaborations within the county's agricultural community.

Clark County Farm Bureau looks forward to continuing these events and fostering connections between farmers, local officials and the broader community. We hope to see you at the next Farm Gate!



Clark County Farm Bureau Scholarships Available

We are pleased to again be offering two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors, college and technical college students pursuing a post-secondary degree.

Applications are due April 1st, 2026

Clark County Farm Bureau PRESENTS

FARM TO FORK BANGUET

SAVE THE DATE
LATE MARCH

MORE DETAILS TO COME!

Lincoln County

wfbf.com/about/counties/lincoln
LincolnCountyFarmBureau

APPLY TODAY!

Lincoln County Farm Bureau

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

We are pleased to again be offering two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and first-year college and technical college students preference given to students pursuing a post-secondary degree in agriculture.



**Applications
are due April
1st, 2026**



Looking Back with a Thankful Heart

Jessie Gruetzmacher

As I reflect on this past year, I can't help but count my blessings. Farm Bureau has accomplished so much here in Lincoln County and I have been personally blessed by the experiences and opportunities that came with being part of this organization.

In December, I attended the WFBF Annual Meeting as a voting delegate for the first time. It was a great honor to participate in the process that helps shape policy for our state.

March brought Ag Day at the Capitol, where several of us traveled to Madison to meet with lawmakers. Tractors and cows in the same photo as the Wisconsin State Capitol – now that's a sight you don't see every day!

In May, we awarded scholarships to four outstanding Lincoln County youths as they embarked on their college careers.

June was an exciting month as we hosted a truly exceptional Dairy Breakfast, supported by many new volunteers as well as returning helpers and guests.

In July, we took a break from the busy summer season with a YFA Game Day on the farm, Cornhole and Cards, a welcome chance to relax and enjoy fellowship.

August brought our county annual meeting, where we welcomed both longtime supporters and new faces interested in learning more about what Farm Bureau is doing for our community.

In September, Melissa Yates and I, along with 18 others from across the state, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a Fly-In. We met with representatives to ensure Wisconsin voices were heard on issues such as wolf management, road restrictions, dairy policies, the farm bill, biofuels, foreign labor and health care.

As I look back, my heart is full of gratitude for God's blessings on our farmers. For family, friends, and faith that carry us through the daily grind we call life. We truly are blessed.



Marathon County

wfbf.com/about/counties/marathon
MarathonCountyFarmBureau

Marathon County Members Gather for Annual Meeting

Katie Zoromski

The Heritage Barn provided a perfect setting for the recent Marathon County annual meeting. True to its name, the venue has been thoughtfully renovated with farm-inspired décor, offering a warm and inviting atmosphere for members to gather and connect.

The evening opened with a delicious meal featuring brisket, corn on the cob, coleslaw and potato salad. A highlight of the program was the presentation of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award to Pat Socha. Pat and his wife were also recognized as runners-up for the Aldo Leopold Award.

Members also took time to reflect on the past year's progress and extend heartfelt appreciation to retiring board member Will Litzer for his faithful service and dedication.

Additional business included voting on resolutions and electing delegates who will represent Marathon County at the WFBF Annual Meeting in the Dells.



Marathon County Farm Bureau

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

We are pleased to be offering three \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors and first-year college and technical college students pursuing a post-secondary degree in agriculture.

**Applications are due
March 1st 2026**

Collaboration Leads to Better Policy in Marathon County



Randy Wokatsch

About a year ago, Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ), along with the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee (ERC) proposed a two-month manure spreading ban (February and March) for liquid and slurry manure for all farms. After considerable feedback, including a proposal from the local Farm Bureau asking

for a seat at the table, the county formed a well-represented stakeholder working group. This group, comprised of farmers of various sizes, county staff, town officials, agronomists and others with relevant knowledge, met throughout 2025.

After many hours of discussion and deliberation, the working group helped provide input for the proposed changes to Chapter 11.02 of the Marathon County Animal Waste Ordinance that's been in place since 1985 (and updated several times over the last 40 years). If adopted, implementation of the ordinance will be delayed in various stages for each practice, ranging from almost two years and almost four years.

Here's a summary of the proposed changes:

1. Farms with 300 to 999 animal units cannot spread liquid manure in February and March. Exceptions are made for emergencies or if no snow or frozen ground is present.

2. Winter Spreading Licenses are required for all farms that apply liquid manure when the ground is frozen or snow-covered, unless the landowner/operator has a 590 Nutrient Management Plan. Marathon County Staff will work with farmers who don't have a 590 nutrient management plan to develop the winter spreading maps to identify fields that can/cannot have manure applied.
3. Buffers of 35 feet will be required along perennial and intermittent streams. The vegetation from the buffers can be managed or harvested. If a vegetated buffer already exists in these areas, then they can be left as is.

The county has funds available for writing a 590 Nutrient Management Plan (\$40/acre). If a farmer is interested in writing their own plan, Marathon County does offer training classes and all expenses for the class are reimbursed (and the farmer receives a \$100 incentive payment when the plan is completed). Class participants can receive up to \$750 for assistance with soil samples and Marathon County staff are also willing to assist farms with first-time soil sampling.

Marathon County Farm Bureau was well represented in the working group, and was satisfied with the resulting recommendations, especially considering where they started. These were reasonable updates to the Animal Waste Ordinance, and our concerns were respectfully considered by the county. The process was a great example of what we can accomplish if we work together to find sensible solutions and continue improving.

Portage County

Save Our Farms: Protecting Our Legacy, Our Livelihood, Our Land

In Wisconsin, farming isn't just an occupation. It's a way of life.

It's the sound of the barn door swinging open before dawn. It's the smell of silage, the rhythm of the milk pump, the muddy boots by the back door.

It's family – past, present and future – all connected through soil, sweat and sacrifice.

Our farms are not faceless operations. They are family-built, family-worked and family-loved. Each one represents generations who poured their hearts into this land so their children could have the chance to do the same. But today, that legacy is being tested.

Local "operational ordinances" – written by people removed from the realities of agriculture – threaten to put more rules, more costs and more red tape between Wisconsin farmers and the work they've done responsibly for decades.

Rules that duplicate what's already enforced by the DNR, DATCP, and EPA. Rules that ignore the fact that farmers already wake up every day with the environment, their animals and their neighbors in mind.

These ordinances don't protect our communities. They divide them. They make it harder for family farms to stay afloat, grow responsibly and pass on their heritage to the next generation.

We cannot stand by and let misinformation or misunderstanding define what farming in Wisconsin looks like. We know better because we live it.

Farmers are not the problem. Farmers are the solution. We are innovators, caretakers and neighbors who give more to our communities than we ever take back. We feed families – ours, yours, and the world's.

That's why we're asking you to stand with Portage County farmers. Join the #SaveOurFarms movement to defend the families, traditions and livelihoods that keep our rural communities alive.

Because when farms disappear, so does everything that makes Portage County feel like home. Here's how you can help:

- Stay informed. Sign up for updates as the ordinance process unfolds.
- Speak up. Let local leaders know you support fair, science-based policy – not unnecessary red tape.
- Stand together. Be ready to lend your voice when it's needed most.



Portage County Farm Bureau SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

We are pleased to offer a \$500 scholarship to graduating seniors and first-year college and technical college students pursuing a post-secondary degree in agriculture.



**Applications
are due
April 1st,
2026**



Growing Dairy Pride in 2025: Your Voice and Ideas Needed!

Price County Farm Bureau is proud to continue expanding our dairy promotion efforts throughout the community in 2026. From youth education and library partnerships to community events and retail promotions, we are working hard to tell the story of Wisconsin dairy and ensure more families understand the importance, value and quality of the products our farms produce. This year, we are submitting a proposal to Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin to support the following projects and we want our members to help shape them.

Investing in Youth and Farm Education

One of our top priorities is giving young people the chance to learn about agriculture directly from the source. In partnership with **United Pride Dairy**, students will experience the joy and learning that comes from visiting a working dairy farm:

- **Books in the Barn:** Children will read farm-themed stories surrounded by calves, feed and the sounds of a real dairy operation. Staff and volunteers will lead hands-on learning about feeding, milking and how farmers care for animals.

- **Fourth Grade Farm Field Trip:** Students will take part in a guided tour to learn how milk goes from barn to breakfast table. They'll see sustainability in action, meet the farmers and gain an appreciation for modern dairy.

We're also working to partner with the **Phillips, Park Falls and Ogema Libraries** to stock dairy-focused books, develop story hours, activity kits and educational displays that teach kids about farming, nutrition, and Wisconsin agriculture.

We have continued working with **local 4-H clubs**, supporting youth-led dairy promotion through farm visits, recipe contests, community demonstrations and leadership opportunities to help young advocates gain confidence and a voice in agriculture.

Bringing Dairy into the Heart of Our Communities

We want people to see dairy not just in grocery stores but at the places where neighbors gather. That's why we're increasing our outreach at community events, including:

- **The Horse Pull:** We hope to expand this event by offering visitors the opportunity to sample Wisconsin cheese and dairy products while talking with dairy ambassadors about how dairy supports local farms and families.

- **Community Requests:** Whether at races, community meals, blood drives or other events, we are committed to showing up with Wisconsin dairy

products and educational materials.

Celebrating National Dairy Month – All Across the County

In June, we partnered with local businesses, farms and organizations to celebrate National Dairy Month in a big way:

- Yard signs and displays
- Brochures, recipes and educational materials
- Kids' giveaways
- Retail promotions and in-store discounts

Worked closely with **Prentice Grocery**, shoppers saw:

- June Dairy Month \$1 milk discount, helping families access fresh dairy products

- Holiday dairy coupons in November and December

These promotions help boost local dairy product sales and remind consumers why dairy is essential to Wisconsin families and our economy.

We Want Your Voice – Help Shape 2026 Dairy Promotion! This is **your Farm Bureau** and your dairy story, and we want to make sure our programming reflects what matters most to you.

We're asking members:

- What dairy promotion activities would **you** love to see in Price County?
- What events should we bring dairy to?
- Are there schools, libraries or youth groups we should be working with?
- Would you like to help with planning, volunteering or sharing ideas?
- What messages or issues do you think the public needs to understand about dairy?

How You Can Get Involved

- Attend our dairy promotion planning meeting
- Volunteer at events
- Host a farm tour or youth visit
- Share ideas, feedback or opportunities
- Help promote dairy pride in your community

Whether you have one idea or twenty, five minutes or five hours – **your voice matters**. Together, we can strengthen support for Wisconsin dairy, encourage future agricultural leaders and ensure our community continues to celebrate the farms that feed it.

If you'd like to contribute ideas or get involved, please reach out to:

Todd Cummings at 715.922.0150 or PriceCFB@gmail.com

Let's make 2026 our biggest dairy promotion year yet.

PRICE COUNTY FARM BUREAU

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

WE ARE PLEASED TO AGAIN BE OFFERING \$500 SCHOLARSHIP TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, STUDENTS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN AN APPRENTICESHIP/TRADES PROGRAM, OR A TWO- OR FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM STUDENTS PURSUING A POST-SECONDARY DEGREE PREFERENCE GIVEN TO THOSE PURSUING A DEGREE IN AGRICULTURE.



APPLICATIONS ARE DUE APRIL 1ST, 2026

Thank you to the 2025 Price County Farm Bureau Horse Pull and Youth Scholarship Fundraiser Sponsors



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From the President's Desk



Rob Klussendorf

Taylor County Farm Bureau President

Taylor County Farm Bureau had a very successful year, and I am proud to share some of the highlights.

This spring, we partnered with Alice in Dairyland to bring the Expedition Agriculture presentation to Medford and Stetsonville fourth-grade classes. Our annual COWS – Celebrating

Our Wisconsin Specialties – Fourth Grade Ag Day was also a tremendous success, with 185 students from across the county participating. Students rotated through small-group, hands-on stations every 15 minutes, learning about water quality, robotic milkers, drones on farms, which milk makes the best bubbles, sustainable agriculture practices, equipment manufacturing, flowers, fur and food.

We again hosted the Adventures in Agriculture booth at the Taylor County Fair and partnered with Taylor County Dairy Promotion for Dairy Day at the fair. We also proudly sponsored the Dairy Dessert Contest.

We closed out the year with our annual meeting at Sugar Moon Hills Maple Syrup, where Chris Knoll gave a short tour and explained the maple syrup production process.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the many volunteers who give their time, talent, and energy. Thank you to each of you who helped make this year a success.

Looking Ahead to 2026

In 2026, we look forward to expanding our promotional activities. We are exploring opportunities to host a beef-focused educational event and plan to grow our Adventures in Agriculture booth at the fair. We will continue working closely with fourth-grade teachers to provide up-to-date, factual agricultural information and to coordinate the Expedition Agriculture presentation with Alice in Dairyland.

We are also putting a renewed emphasis on strengthening our Young Farmers and Agriculturists (YFA) program. Our goal is to have a full board of directors—we currently have two open seats, as well as the Promotion and Engagement Chair position available. If you have ideas for promotional activities or are willing to spend a few hours helping share the story of agriculture, we welcome you to join one of our committees.

For the past four years, our county annual meetings have been hosted at local farms and agricultural businesses. If you know of a location that would be willing to host and share a 10–15 minute overview of their operation, please reach out.

Thank you for your continued support of Taylor County Farm Bureau. I look forward to working together for another strong year ahead.

Interested in getting involved? Contact me at rklussendorf@gmail.com.

Taylor County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at Sugar Moon Hills

The Taylor County Farm Bureau held its annual meeting on September 9 at Sugar Moon Hills, a local maple syrup business. Members gathered to review the past year's activities, elect officers and directors, and discuss policy issues important to agriculture in Taylor County and across Wisconsin.

The evening featured a meal and fellowship, with updates from state Farm Bureau representatives on legislative priorities, membership growth and upcoming opportunities for involvement. Discussion focused on rising farm input costs, market challenges and ways to support farm families and rural communities.

Members also introduced and debated policy ideas that may move forward to the state Farm Bureau for consideration.

Hosting the meeting at Sugar Moon Hills highlighted the diversity of agriculture in Taylor County and provided a fitting backdrop for farmers to connect, share ideas, and strengthen their voice in shaping the future of Wisconsin agriculture.



Taylor County Farm Bureau

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE!

Taylor County Farm Bureau will be awarding a higher education scholarship to one (1) high school senior from the county.

**Deadline to apply is
April 01, 2026.**

VISIT
WFBF.COM/ABOUT/COUNTIES/TAYLOR
FOR AN APPLICATION.

Wood County Farm Bureau Hosts 101st Annual Meeting

Wood County Farm Bureau members gathered this fall at Bakerville Bar and Grill to celebrate the organization's 101st Annual Meeting. The evening brought members together to reflect on the past year, strengthen organizational priorities and look ahead to another successful year of advocacy and service.

Members took part in the grassroots policy development process that Farm Bureau is known for, discussing and voting on resolutions that will help guide the organization's work at the county, state and national levels. Elections were also held for county board directors and voting delegates who will represent Wood County at the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting serves as a reminder of the strength of member involvement in shaping Farm Bureau's direction. The organization thrives because local farmers, agribusinesses, and community supporters continue to show up, participate, and lead.

Thank You to Our Supporters

A special thank you goes out to the local businesses and partners who generously donated door prizes for the evening:

- Allied Cooperative
- Swetz Country Custom Mart – Blinker
- Hahn Transportation
- Dorshorst Wood Recycling
- Melody Gardens Restaurant & Skateland
- Marshfield Vet Service
- First State Bank
- Dairy State Cheese

Their support helped make the meeting enjoyable and shows how strong agricultural and rural partnerships are in Wood County.

As we enter another year, Wood County Farm Bureau welcomes members who would like to get more involved – whether through helping with programming, offering ideas or serving on the board.

Together, we continue the legacy of supporting agriculture, strengthening rural communities, and ensuring a strong voice for Wood County farmers.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn more about how to engage with your county Farm Bureau, please contact:

Bruce Pankratz | Wood County Farm Bureau President | 715.383.0576



2025 Wood County Farm Bureau Friend of Agriculture Award

Wood County Farm Bureau is proud to recognize Donna Fosberg as the 2025 Friend of Agriculture Award recipient. Donna has dedicated 35 years of service to Rural Mutual Insurance, supporting six different agents during her tenure – and hasn't taken a sick day in over 20 years!

Raised on a farm near Longwood in Clark County, Donna continues to live her values through exceptional community service. Alongside her husband of more than 20 years, Brent, she volunteers across the tri-county area, helping with June Dairy Breakfasts, scooping ice cream at events, supporting Market Animal Sales at the fair and ensuring no veteran goes unnoticed by placing flowers every Memorial Day.

Donna's commitment to agriculture and her community is truly inspiring, and we are honored to celebrate her outstanding contributions.



Wood County Farm Bureau
SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to again be offering scholarships to graduating seniors and first-year college and technical college students



Applications are due April 1st, 2025

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Highlights for:**

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Price County
Taylor County
Wood County



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