



SUMMER 2026

Grassroots

District 1 News

Farm Bureau Hosts Opportunities



Jim Renn

District 1 Director

It is hard to believe we are already heading into summer. Congratulations to all the counties that achieved the early-bird membership incentives this year, this should make it easier for your county to achieve the year-end goals. I am doing my part to help with membership and have already signed up five new members this

year. I continue to promote Farm Bureau every chance I get.

I have had the opportunity to attend numerous events in your counties. I am proud of the grassroots efforts, including an informational data center meeting in Racine and Kenosha County. We are in the hot spot for rapid growth of data centers, and I think it's important to know the facts.

It is great to see so many of you working on safety programs in your

communities. Many are doing radio advertising to promote farm safety, and others are hosting tractor and farm safety classes. These initiatives take significant time to organize and are truly making a difference.

We are currently looking for the next Leadership Institute Class. Applications are due by June 15, so please submit yours soon or reach out if you have any questions. Additionally, please be aware that there are term limits on several Farm Bureau appointments coming up later this year. If you are interested in being on a statewide committee, please let me know.

If you don't already, make sure you listen to The Rural View Podcast. I am the new host, and new episodes are released on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. You can subscribe on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or YouTube.

Summer provides excellent opportunities to share the story of agriculture and Farm Bureau through county breakfasts, fairs and community functions. I look forward to seeing you at these events. I wish you all productive crops and health for your families.

Wisconsin Farm Bureau® Foundation *Giving Day* **AUGUST 5, 2026**



All proceeds from Giving Day provide critical funding for education and leadership programs supported by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation, including:

- Agriculture in the Classroom
- Young Farmer and Agriculturist
- Promotion and Engagement
- Leadership Institute
- Gather Wisconsin
- Collegiate Farm Bureaus
- Farm Neighbors Care
- FFA Farm Forum



District 1 News

Young Farmer and Agriculturist Update



Maryann Gudenkauf, District 1 YFA Chair

In early April the Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee convened in the Wisconsin Dells. Representatives from each district shared updates on current initiatives, discussed upcoming plans and collaborated on preparations for the 2026 YFA Conference. The meeting was filled with productive conversations, innovative ideas and a shared enthusiasm for the year ahead.

This year's YFA Conference will take place December 4-6 at the Kalahari Resort. The event will kick off Friday evening with a superhero-themed social – attendees are encouraged to dress in their favorite superhero attire for a chance to win a prize. For members attending the conference for the first time, Rural Mutual Insurance Company sponsors the registration and room reservations for up to 50 couples. Details about the YFA Conference sponsorship can be found on the WFBF website.

If you have questions about attending the YFA Conference, feel free to contact your county YFA chair or myself at 920.285.6788. Registrations are due in mid-October for the YFA Conference, so don't delay if you plan to attend.

YOUNG FARMER & AGRICULTURIST CONFERENCE

FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE SPONSORSHIP

December 4-6, 2026

KALAHARI RESORT | WISCONSIN DELLS

- ARE YOU A FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? JOIN US FOR **FREE!**
- ALREADY ATTENDED? REFER A FRIEND AND WIN **CASH!**
- SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW FOR DETAILS:



APPLY BY AUGUST 15



DISTRICT 1 DISCUSSION MEET & POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

MONDAY, JULY 13

5:30PM - REGISTRATION

6:00PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET

6:45PM - DINNER BUFFET

7:15PM - POLICY DEVELOPMENT

COST: \$30/PERSON | YFA ATTENDEES - FREE

DELAFIELD BREWHAUS BANQUET HALL

3832 HILLSIDE DRIVE - DELAFIELD, WI

PLEASE RSVP AND DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

DISTRICT 1 COORDINATOR - PATTI WILHELME

262.689.1838 | pwilhelme@wfbf.com

"Increased public concern over healthy diets and chronic childhood disease has raised questions, as well as criticism, about modern agriculture and the food system. How can Farm Bureau effectively engage in this discussion and advocate for the critical science-based tools and research farmers need to fulfill their commitment to grow healthy, sustainable food, fiber and fuel?"



District 1 News

Promotion and Engagement Update

Ashley Schlender, District 1 Promotion and Engagement Chair



The 2026 Cultivate & Connect Conference, held on February 20-21 in Neenah, was an excellent opportunity to network and gain practical tools to engage consumers and advocate for agriculture. The pre-conference activity on Friday was a tour of the culinary school at Fox Valley Technical College. It was impressive to see the facility and learn about how chefs are trained in preparing the foods that we, as farmers, provide. The culinary school even offers a class that involves the students having a hands-on opportunity to process a cow, hog and lamb

and learn how to use every part. This is a great learning experience for them to make the connection of where their food comes from and how to be resourceful.

On Saturday, attendees heard from two excellent speakers, Marlene Eick and Annaliese Wegner, who spoke about the importance of showing up for others, being true to yourself and sharing your story. Those who attended were able to participate in learning labs, which were hands-on activities that could be easily taken back to each county and replicated at community events.

Mark your calendar to attend the 2027 Cultivate & Connect Conference on February 19-20, 2027, in Rothchild.



The WFBF Promotion and Engagement Committee met in Watertown in mid-April. They toured Never Rest Dairy, LLC and began planning for the 2027 Cultivate & Connect Conference.



Tom Oberhaus from Waukesha County attended the Cultivate & Connect event.



The state committee posed for a photo at the Cultivate & Connect.

Counties Achieve Goals

Patti Wilhelme, District 1 Coordinator

The Power of One. Are you the one who is making a difference for your county Farm Bureau? Five of the eight counties in District 1 earned at least \$1,000 by achieving their early-bird membership goal by the end of March. Congratulations to Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Washington and Waukesha Counties for making membership a priority.

Additionally, twenty-two District 1 membership volunteers signed 68 new members between October 1 and March 31. Thank you to the following who have signed up new Farm Bureau members.

- Jefferson County: Lindsay Baneck
- Kenosha County: Ben Harbach
- Ozaukee County: Lisa Gantner, Mark Mayer, Rick Roden, Brian Vorpapel*
- Racine County: Traci Himebauch, Kevin Malchine, Joe Mealy, Judy Uhlenhake, Jim Waldron
- Walworth County: Derrick Papcke
- Washington County: Allen Dornacker, John Falk, Ken Falk, Greg Goeller*, Scott Nehm, Scott Schreffler, Leah Weninger, Carl Wolf
- Waukesha County: Jay Moore*, Jim Renn

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

The membership year-end is September 30. The goal is for each county to have a gain in membership at the end of September. When you receive your renewal notice in the mail, I encourage you to renew your membership right away to help each county maintain its membership numbers. Did you know that you can now sign up for auto-renewal? Make sure to create a member portal on our website and sign up for auto-renewal so you don't forget to remain current on your membership dues. Creating a member portal is also how you access your membership benefits.

Thank you for being a member of your county Farm Bureau!



Families Chase the Winter Blues Away

Lindsay Banek

The Jefferson County YFA Committee hosted a *Chase the Winter Blues Away* activity day for families on February 22. Families gathered at Rock Lake Activity Center for pizza and kid-friendly activities, including a bounce house.

Members enjoyed this family-friendly event to let the kids play while it was cold outside.



Meat Raffle Raises Money

Ashley Schlender

The 3rd Annual Something Special from Jefferson County Meat Raffle took place on March 21 at the Aztalan Inn Bar & Grill. Area farms and businesses contributed various goods, including half of a hog, honey, soy candles and other locally produced items for the raffle at this well-attended event. The primary objective was to generate funds for Jefferson County Farm Bureau scholarships while fostering connections between consumers and the producers who supply daily foods and products. This initiative aims to encourage consumers to support local businesses and instill greater confidence in the products they purchase.



Tractor Safety Course Held

Ashley Schlender

Jefferson and Dodge County Farm Bureau joined together to offer our second Tractor and Machinery Safety Course this winter. Volunteers and members from both counties and area agri-businesses taught sessions to train the youth on safe practices while driving equipment and completing other farm tasks. Donations from Rural Mutual Insurance Company, Dodge and Jefferson Farm Bureau, National Farm Medicine Center, Cargill, Lallemand Animal Nutrition, Emerald Clovers HCE and Wisconsin Women for Agriculture helped keep costs for participants low and provided each participant with a high visibility t-shirt, a safety vest and slow-moving vehicle signs. Ballweg's Equipment and Waupun Equipment provided tractors with an implement for the driving test day, which was held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds.



Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Wednesday, August 26

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 20

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and see who this year's Service to Agriculture award recipient will be. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Join Us at the Fair

Lindsay Banek

Fair season is one of the best times of the year. Join us as we partner with the Jefferson County 4-H Association to have a food stand in the activity center during the fair, Tuesday, July 7 to Sunday, July 12. Shifts will be 6 AM to 10 AM and 10 AM to 2 PM. We will be serving breakfast, family-friendly lunch and milk.

Watch our website wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson or Facebook page to sign up to help. Please contact Lindsay Banek at 920.988.1428 if you have any questions. Money raised is divided between the 4-H and Farm Bureau and goes towards scholarships for local youth. We look forward to seeing you in the stand for the best week of summer!



Nominations Open for Service to Agriculture Award

The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board of directors is now accepting nominations for the Service to Agriculture Award. The award was created to recognize those who are leaders while demonstrating a commitment to agriculture. The award is sponsored by the Jefferson County Farm Bureau and the winner will be announced at the Jefferson County Farm Bureau annual meeting held in September.

Any person(s) who has exhibited leadership in the promotion of agriculture in Jefferson County is eligible. Selection will be made by these standards: (1) focus on agriculture or rural issues, (2) importance of an accurate message about agriculture, (3) promotion of Jefferson County agriculture production, and (4) educate the public about the importance of agriculture.

Nomination forms are due by August 15 and can be found on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau website wfbf.com/about/counties/jefferson. If you have any questions or need help accessing the nomination form, contact Melissa Gross at mgross43@yahoo.com.



Spring Meal Delivery

Andrea Edquist

Racine and Kenosha County YFA joined forces on April 11 to deliver lunches to area farmers as they prepare for spring planting. We delivered about 50 delicious lunches to say thank you and good luck to our farming community before they get into the fields. A special thank you to Harry Hansen's Meat Service for their donation of brats for the meals.



Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Tuesday, August 25

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Tuesday, September 22

Elect the new county board members and vote on resolutions. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Milwaukee County

wfbf.com/about/counties/milwaukee

Top Ten Essay Contest Winner

The Milwaukee County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest winner was fifth grade student Jose Garcia Jr. from Samuel Clemens School. On April 17, Henry Kiesow presented Jose with his cash award and certificate, and the class celebrated with an ice cream treat. The class enjoyed asking questions about agriculture to Henry and they hope to be able to visit a farm soon.

Jose Garcia Jr.'s essay was also among the top ten in the state and he was awarded with a medal, \$50 and an Agriculture in the Classroom swag bag. Jose's teacher also received a gift certificate to the National Agriculture in the Classroom store. Here is Jose's winning essay:



The Soul of Our Soil

Have you ever wondered what is under the ground that we walk on? As a kid I answered that question, digging in the dirt to see what secrets it holds. Guess what I found? I found families of insects and underground dark tunnels. I figured out that there's magic happening down there...and that's not hyperbole! Come with me and explore why Wisconsin has the most magical soil on the planet.

Do you know that there are 65,496 square miles of soil in Wisconsin? Our state soil, called Antigo Silt Loam, is extremely fertile. It's 11,000 years in the making. It is made of silt, sand, clay, and gravel due to glaciers melting. Dead leaves and organisms decompose and fill the soil with organic matter. It holds water well. Good things stay in the soil and do not wash away. This is why magic happens!

Under our feet, Mother Nature's pantry is open. The roots that grow produce food which will fill dinner plates all over our nation. I live in Wisconsin but I never knew that so much food is grown right under our feet. Do you know that Wisconsin produces over 60% of the nation's cranberry crops? It also produces beans, brussel sprouts, soybeans, corn, potatoes, beets, alfalfa, soybeans, kale, and arugula. You probably didn't know that Ginseng, Hardy Kiwi, Pawpaw, Hazelnuts, Medlar, and Lingonberries are all exotic crops that are grown here too.

So you see, our soil is the "soul" of Wisconsin. It is alive. One single teaspoon has more living microbes than there are people on Earth. It breathes, it recycles the old into the new, and it powers our entire food chain. Our soil is a living, breathing secret world right under our feet...let's protect it!



Jose Garcia Jr. and Henry Kiesow.



Jose and his class.

Mark Your Calendar

County Annual Meeting: Monday, September 14

Plan to attend the county annual meeting scheduled for Monday, September 14. The dinner and business meeting will begin at 6:00 PM at Benny's Café. RSVPs are required. At the meeting, we will elect the county board members and discuss any potential resolutions. Voting members will receive a postcard invite in the mail with the final details.

Membership Drive Held

Jim Waldron

One of the goals of the Racine County Farm Bureau was to have a county membership drive. Traditionally, a membership drive was literally driving to meet farmers and talk about membership. With the technology that is now available, many of our memberships came from personal calls, texts or even snapchats. Our board was successful in meeting our goal and earned \$1,500 from Wisconsin Farm Bureau.



Agricultural Ambassador Update

Ashley Schaal, 2025-26 Agricultural Ambassador

As the Racine County Agriculture Ambassador, these past months have provided several meaningful opportunities to promote agriculture and connect with our community.

One highlight was attending the Kiwanis Farm City Night, where I had the opportunity to give a speech on the importance of agriculture in Racine County. I spoke about how agriculture impacts everyday life, from food production to supporting local economies. It was a great experience to share agriculture's story with community members and engage in conversations that helped connect both rural and urban perspectives. Being able to represent agriculture in this setting was especially meaningful and reinforced the importance of advocacy.

During National Agriculture Week, I also created and shared Facebook posts highlighting different areas of the agriculture industry and recognizing the work of local farmers. This was an effective way to reach a broader audience and continue spreading awareness.

In addition to the week, I visited Raymond School for classroom visits, where I introduced students to agriculture through interactive discussions. It was rewarding to see their curiosity and excitement as they learned more about where their food comes from, and I also assisted the Union Grove FFA Chapter with their afternoon agriculture assembly to help educate and encourage interest in agriculture and FFA.

These experiences continue to strengthen my passion for agricultural advocacy, and I look forward to representing Racine County in the months ahead. Please follow along on Facebook and Instagram @racinecountyag.



Racine County Agricultural Ambassador Ashley Schaal enjoyed spreading the good news about agriculture at Raymond School.

Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 PM at River City Lanes in Waterford

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Sunday, September 13

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and hear from guest speaker WFBF CAO Bradley Uken. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Informational Data Center Meeting

Eighty-five people were in attendance for the informational data center meeting on March 25. The event was held at Veterans Terrace and hosted with Kenosha County Farm Bureau.

The three guest speakers were retired technology executive Prescott Balch, Citizens Utility Board executive director Tom Content and health professional Paula Pintar.

All of the speakers talked about the risks and rewards of having a data center in your community and there was time for questions and answers.



Essay Contest Winner Announced

Jenny Waldron

Racine County's Agriculture in the Classroom essay contest winner was Omanshi Gupta. She attends Starbuck International School in Racine. Her essay was titled 'Dig into Wisconsin Soil, Where Good Things Grow!'

Omanshi's mom is grateful for the essay contest and said, "We truly appreciate all the support from the Racine County Farm Bureau. Students have learned a lot from this contest. They didn't just write an essay, they also connected with their roots and gained a deeper understanding of how fortunate we are to grow our own food and support one another through agriculture. One of the most meaningful outcomes was when my daughter shared that she wants to buy a piece of land to start her own farm. It's a beautiful thought, and I believe this seed was planted in her mind by the Racine County Farm Bureau. I am truly grateful for that. Perhaps one day she will build her own farm."



This picture was drawn by and accompanied Omanshi Gupta's winning essay.

Racine County

wfbf.com/about/counties/racine
RacineCountyFarmBureau

Cream Puff Stand Volunteers Needed

Judy Uhlenhake

The Racine County Farm Bureau Cream Puff is a highlight for fairgoers and an important opportunity to share agriculture's story through food!

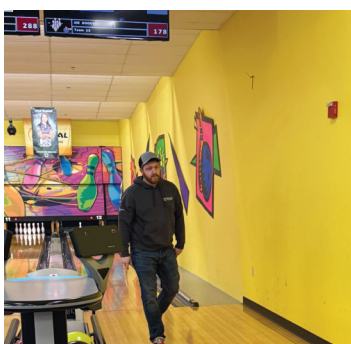
We are looking for volunteers to help in the stand throughout the fair, July 29 to August 2. At the stand, you will serve cream puffs, shakes, Moocachinos, eclairs, milk and coffee. Your help will make the cream puff stand a success and is a great way to enjoy the fair.

Go to our website or Facebook page for the link to sign up to volunteer.

Money raised is used for scholarships, library grants, agriculture promotions and community support. If you are interested in getting involved with the cream puff stand, contact Judy Uhlenhake at 262.949.1168.

Spare, Strike, Turkey – Fun was Had!

Farm Bureau families gathered at River City Lanes in Waterford on March 8 for a fun afternoon of bowling. The Racine County Farm Bureau enjoys hosting the social each year, to give members a chance to network while having family fun. Watch the Racine County Farm Bureau Facebook page for details on next year's social.



Raymond School Celebrates Agriculture

Jenny Waldron

I put together Agriculture Week at Raymond School each year. This year we celebrated Agriculture Week from March 16-20. We have daily trivia for all grades and daily prizes (seed packets and other fun items), a farm display in our library, dress-up days, healthy snacks in the lunchroom for all students, a coloring contest, a "guess how many cotton balls in the jar" activity with information about how cotton is grown and its uses, agriculture facts and other information throughout the school.

Racine County's Agricultural Ambassador Ashley Schaal visited classrooms 5K to eighth grade and spoke on the importance of agriculture in our daily lives.



We ended the week with an all-school assembly with Union Grove FFA and the Racine County Agricultural Ambassador. Ashley Schaal spoke on the importance of agriculture and had fun with our Ag Olympics with the FFA students helping out. Agriculture Week is an amazing and fun week for the students!

Walworth County

wfbf.com/about/counties/walworth
WalworthCountyFarmBureau

Leadership in Action: My Capstone Experience in Washington, D.C.

Ann Brost

Participating in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's Leadership Institute has been a truly rewarding experience, and our recent capstone trip to Washington, D.C. was the perfect way to conclude the program.

Traveling to our nation's capital alongside fellow participants and Farm Bureau leaders gave me the opportunity to see firsthand how policies are shaped and how important it is for farmers to have a seat at the table. During our visit, we met with members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation to discuss key issues impacting agriculture, including trade, immigration reform, year-round E-15 and the farm bill.

One of the most impactful moments for me was our visit to USDA when we heard from Undersecretary Richard Fordyce and how he started his journey as a farmer and now oversees key agencies including the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). It showed us that no matter your background, you have the opportunity to use your voice to support and influence agriculture.

Hearing directly from leaders at the American Farm Bureau, the United States Department of Agriculture and the European Union embassy helped me better understand the broader picture of agriculture beyond Wisconsin.

One of the highlights of the trip was the opportunity to attend a meeting

at the White House, where we received updates from officials with the Environmental Protection Agency, National Security Council and Domestic Policy Council. Experiences like this reinforced how important it is for farmers to share their stories.

This experience changed my perspective by understanding that our representatives are people too. They want to listen to what farmers are saying and are willing to take our perspectives into consideration when making a decision.

Beyond the meetings, we also had the chance to explore our nation's history by visiting places like the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and the national monuments. These moments allowed me to reflect on the role agriculture has played, and continues to play, in our country.

Completing the Leadership Institute program has strengthened my confidence as a leader and advocate for agriculture. Because of this program, I plan to look at additional advocacy opportunities within Farm Bureau. I am grateful to be part of this program and to represent Walworth County Farm Bureau. The relationships built and lessons learned will stay with me as I continue to be involved in Farm Bureau and support Wisconsin

agriculture.

If you or someone you know is interested in an experience like this, applications for the 2027 Leadership Institute are now open and can be found at wfbf.com under programs.



Dairy Breakfast Help Needed

Ann Brost

Final plans are in place and we are excited for the 49th Annual Walworth County Farm Bureau Dairy Breakfast. Join us at Loudeneck Farms Dairy Goats LLC.

Set up will be Friday, June 12 beginning at 10 AM, lunch will be provided.

We also need volunteers before, during and after the Dairy Breakfast on Saturday, June 13. You get a free shirt for helping!

Watch our Facebook page for more information on how you can volunteer.

Questions? Contact Ann Brost at 414.828.7223.



**49th Annual
Walworth County Farm Bureau
Dairy Breakfast**
June 13, 2026 6:30am-11:30am
RAIN OR SHINE
Under 5 free, Kids 5-10 \$5, Adults \$10

BREAKFAST ON THE FARM
Join us at Loudeneck Farms Dairy Goats LLC
N410 Hillside Rd, Lake Geneva, WI 53147

Parking at N473 Zenda Rd, Lake Geneva, WI for a short 5 minute bus ride to the farm. Handicap parking at the farm.

Meet the goats! • Kid's Activities

Volunteers Needed for Rib Fest – Join the Fun!

Rick Getka

Rib Fest is just around the corner and Walworth County Farm Bureau is excited once again to be part of this popular community event. To make it a success, we're looking for volunteers to help sell soda and water.

Whether you're a seasoned member or new to Farm Bureau, volunteering at Rib Fest is a great way to get involved. Rib Fest is Wednesday, July 15 to Sunday, July 19.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Rick Getka at 262.749.4913 or getkas4@hotmail.com. Grab a friend, sign up for a shift and be part of the action.



Walworth County Farm Bureau®

Baseball Night

BELOIT SKY CARPS vs QUAD CITIES RIVER BANDITS

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026
GAME STARTS AT 6:05PM,
GATES OPEN AT 5PM

SUITE SEATING
ALL YOU CAN EAT AMERICAN BUFFET
UNTIL THE 7TH INNING

\$60/PERSON
PRICE INCLUDES TICKET,
BUFFET DINNER, HAT,
SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS SHOW

MAKE A WISH NIGHT!
50/50 DRAWINGS AND A CHANCE TO WIN A HARLEY!

BELOIT SKY CARPS | 217 SHIRLAND AVENUE, BELOIT
RSVP JULY 15 | RICK GETKA 262.749.4913

Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Wednesday, August 5

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Wednesday, September 16

Elect the new county board members and vote on resolutions. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details, we will be at a new location this year!

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Register Now – Tractor Safety Course

Sydney Bender

Registration is now open for the Youth Tractor Safety Course sponsored by the Walworth County Farm Bureau, offering children ages 12-16 the opportunity to gain important hands-on training and certification before the busy farming season begins. The course will be held June 22, 23 and 24 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day.

Participants will receive both classroom instruction and hands-on driving experience, along with lessons covering rollover prevention, road safety and emergency response. Students who successfully complete the course may earn certification required for youth operating tractors on farms under federal labor regulations. Upon completion, students will also receive a free t-shirt!

The registration fee is \$25, and space is limited to 20 students. Participants must register by June 15.

To learn more, contact Sydney Bender at 262.745.8280 or sydneybender6702@gmail.com. Registration forms are also available on the Walworth County Farm Bureau website.

Scoop Up Some Fun

Rick Thelen

Nothing says summer like a trip to the Walworth County Fair and some delicious ice cream! We are looking for volunteers to help serve treats and smiles in the Ice Cream Tent at the Walworth County Fair.

This is a fun, family-friendly way to get involved, meet fellow members and support Farm Bureau. Join us in the Ice Cream Tent from September 2-7.

Want to scoop up fun? Contact Rick Getka at 262.749.4913 to sign up for a shift that works in your schedule.

Sign up today and help us make this year's fair a sweet success!



Essays Win Top Awards in County

Samantha Krueger

Washington County Farm Bureau had a total of 66 essays submitted from four different schools. The fourth-grade winner was Samantha Potratz from Bethlehem Lutheran and the fifth-grade winner was Charlotte Makowski from St. Frances Cabrini. Both of the winners' classrooms received an ice cream social along with an invitation to read their essays at the Washington County Farm Bureau annual meeting this fall. Huge congratulations to our winners and all the students who submitted essays.

Farm Safety Program Success

Thirty-two students were educated in this year's farm safety program. Over the course of three Saturdays, students heard from farmers and agriculture professionals about being smart and safe on the farm. Students learned topics including working with animals, operating on public roads, grain storage, skid loaders, farm chemicals, chainsaw safety and more.

On the first day, the class toured Krueger Dairy Farm and learned about animal care, manure storage, feed storage and being safe around machinery.

The second day, students learned to drive the tractor that was used for the program's test and also went to Farmers Grain & Feed for a grain bin rescue. Three students went into the corn and were rescued, providing hands-on learning and showing how fast accidents can happen.

The final class was a success with all 32 students passing the exams. Students also learned how to use a fire extinguisher and had first aid training.

Numerous Farm Bureau members were instrumental in teaching the course. Thank you to the nearly 50 volunteers who helped plan and facilitate the classes, we couldn't do it without your help.

The farm safety program is also successful because of numerous sponsors.

Thank You Sponsors!

Allenton Fire Department
Allenton Lions Club
Cargill Nutrients
Cedar Valley Cheese
Compeer
Country Visions Cooperative
County Wide Fire Extinguisher
Cousins Subs, Kewaskum and West Bend – Keith Novotny
Culver's
Farmers Grain & Feed
Farmers Implement
Fleet Farm, West Bend
Gehring's Meat Market
Helena Agri Enterprises
Kewaskum FFA Alumni

Krueger Dairy
Kwik Trip, Slinger
Lallemand Specialties, Inc.
Mid State Equipment
Renk Seed – Ken Kedroske
Rural Mutual Insurance Company
S&C Ag Services
Sunset Farms
Thrivent Financial Action Team
Town of Addison
Washington County Farm Bureau
Washington County Highway Department
Wisconsin Antique Power Reunion
Zuern Building Products



YFA Spring Fling

Kaitlynn Wuebben, YFA Chair

Farmers dusted off their boots and enjoyed a night with friends at Fillmore Turner Hall on March 28. Thank you to A&A Equipment Repair for their sponsorship of the venue. This year's band was the Judson Brown Band and everyone who attended had fun.



Scholarship Awarded

Ken Falk, Scholarship Committee Chair

The Washington County Farm Bureau has awarded one \$1,000 scholarship to Braiden Oestreich, son of Todd and Colleen Oestreich. He is graduating from Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School and plans to attend North East Wisconsin Tech College in Green Bay in the fall. He plans to study heavy equipment technology and enjoys working on equipment. He plans to be a technician at a heavy equipment dealership after school. Please join us in congratulating Braiden on receiving this year's scholarship.

Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Thursday, August 27

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

Watch your mailbox for a postcard with the meeting details. If you want to be on the ballot to be a delegate to the WFBF Annual Meeting, you must attend either the county or district policy development meeting.

County Annual Meeting: Tuesday, October 6

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions, thank the food stand volunteers and see who is awarded this year's Friend of Agriculture. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Hundreds of Students Educated

Samantha Krueger

2026 Agriculturwe in the Classroom farm tours are wrapped up! I visited ten schools to educate them about the dairy and agriculture industry in Wisconsin. These included seven Washington County fourth-grade classrooms and three 4k classrooms near Port Washington.

We had nine schools come to Riverback Farms for a farm tour at the end of April. On the tour we had an agronomist, equipment, vet, nutrition, environmental/manure, milking parlor, calf barn, fire department and a bee station.

We are super blessed to have had so many amazing volunteers and businesses donate their time and experience! Special thanks to Cedar Valley Cheese and Gehring's Meat Market for donating the snack! Another thanks to the Farm Bureau board and the Kewaskum FFA for volunteering as group leaders! And lastly, a huge thanks to the Falk family for hosting the tours! Your farm is beautiful and we are so proud to be able to show the dairy industry through your farm!



Washington County

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

Fair Food Stand Volunteers Needed

Tyler Hetebrueg, Fair Food Stand Co-Chair

Want a free pass to get into the fair? Everyone who volunteers in the fair food stand receives a free fair pass to get into the fair, along with a complimentary food voucher. You do not have to be a Farm Bureau member to work in the food stand, all are welcome and all will be invited to our fair appreciation dinner in October.

It takes over 200 volunteers to successfully run the food stand at the Washington County Fair that takes place Tuesday, July 21 until Sunday, July 26. The food stand is the biggest fundraiser for the Washington County Farm Bureau. Money raised is used for our programs including scholarships.

Confirmation letters and volunteer passes will be mailed in June to those who volunteered in the past. If you know anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Samantha Krueger at 920.948.3715. Samantha has also created an online sign up link that can be found on our county webpage.

Thank you in advance for helping in the Farm Bureau food stand at the Washington County Fair.

VOLUNTEER TIMES

Tuesday, July 21

2:30 PM - 6:30 PM, 6:30 PM - close

Wednesday, July 22 | Thursday, July 23 | Friday, July 24 | Saturday, July 25

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM, 8:30 PM - close

Sunday, July 26

9:30 AM - 1:30 PM, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM, 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM, cleanup crew starting at 6:30 PM



Waukesha County

wfbf.com/about/counties/waukesha
WaukeshaCountyFarmBureau

Farm Chat Event Held

Tom Oberhaus

The Waukesha County Farm Bureau was awarded a Farm Neighbors Care grant to host an event promoting mental health. On March 5, we held our first Farm Chat at Marty's Pizza in Delafield. We had over 30 attendees who talked about farming while enjoying pizza. Those who attended were happy to be at a non-competitive event to talk with their friends and neighbors – no agenda, just pizza and conversation.

The Farm Neighbors Care campaign is to support our farmers who are facing stress due to low market prices, poor weather and crop conditions, etc. Farming can be an isolating career, so it is important to check in on your friends, neighbors and family members to offer your support and a listening ear. The Farm Neighbors Care grant is made possible because of McCade's Joyride.



Mark Your Calendar

County Policy Development Meeting: Thursday, July 30

Raise your voice and help develop policies that will be voted on at the county annual meeting. Resolutions are then passed on to the state level for potential consideration into the WFBF policy book. National resolutions are passed on to the American Farm Bureau level.

County Annual Meeting: Thursday, September 3

Elect the new county board members, vote on resolutions and hear from WFBF CAO Bradley Uken. Watch your mailbox for a postcard invite with the final details and new location. We will be meeting at the Wales-Genesee Lions Club.

Contact any county Farm Bureau board member for additional information on meetings.

Waukesha County Scholarship News

Ken Rosenow

As spring is winding down and summer is beginning, the Waukesha County Farm Bureau Scholarship Committee is gathering together all the scholarship applications that have been submitted and preparing to evaluate every one closely. If you did not get one this year, please try to remember next year and remind everyone who might be eligible. Each year, we continue to be amazed by the high quality of applications we receive from the outstanding students we have in our county! The outstanding grades these students are earning and the many activities and experiences they have are really impressive. This makes the job the judges have quite interesting and enjoyable, knowing that we have this caliber of people coming up. Please stay tuned to hear about this year's winners! They will be announced at our county annual meeting in September.



Farm Chat

Summer Farm Chat

HOSTED BY WAUKESHA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

July 2, 2026 6:30 - 8:30 PM

FAMILY FUN

BRING YOUR FAMILY FOR FOOD, DRINKS, CONVERSATION AND DOOR PRIZES

Town of Delafield Park

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DELAFIELD, WI 53018

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SKATEPARK AND TOWN HALL
PARKING AREAS

RSVP REQUESTED TO CHRIS MOMMAERTS AT 262.470.5844 OR QTPOCOHAWK@YAHOO.COM

100 Students Made Butter

Brittany Renn Gerrits

Wales Elementary School Science Day was held on March 26 and I had the opportunity to read a dairy book and STEM activity. Students got to read Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chucks Ice Cream Wish and then made their own butter. Students from Kindergarten through fifth grade enjoyed shaking heavy whipping cream to create butter and sampling the product on a cracker. About 100 students participated in the activity in four different groups.



 **County Farm Bureaus**
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Racine County

Walworth County

Washington County

Waukesha County



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