



SUMMER 2026

Grassroots

District 9 News

Connections and Collaborations



Brad Olson

WFBF President and District 9 Director

When we look back on how any of us arrived where we are today, regardless of our age or stage in life, somewhere along the journey there was a parent, mentor, friend, teacher, neighbor or community leader who made a difference.

None of us truly succeeds alone. The guidance, encouragement and support we receive from others help shape our decisions and create opportunities that may not have existed otherwise.

We should never forget those individuals, groups and organizations that helped us along the way. Their investment often came in the form of time, advice, encouragement or simply believing in us. In many cases, those connections opened doors that changed the course of our lives.

Over time in agriculture, as our numbers have diminished, many of the traditional support systems have also become less common. Fewer farm families and changing rural demographics have altered the landscape of our communities. The informal networks that once connected neighbors and farm families are not as strong or widespread as they once were.

Fortunately, agriculture has always been built on resilience and

resourcefulness. As the saying goes, "When one door closes, another one opens." Farmers and agricultural leaders have never been afraid to adapt, innovate and find new ways to overcome challenges. Thinking outside the box is nothing new for our members.

That same mindset should guide us when it comes to building connections. Seeking new relationships and collaborating with groups outside our traditional circles holds tremendous potential. Partnerships with businesses, local governments and community groups can create opportunities that benefit everyone involved. These collaborations can help tell agriculture's story, develop future leaders and strengthen rural communities.

Whether as individuals or organizations, finding new connections can create lasting opportunities. Strong relationships lead to stronger communities, stronger agriculture and a stronger future. By investing in connections and embracing collaboration, we can continue building a vibrant agricultural industry and ensure its success for generations to come.

Brad Olson

District 9 Director

brad_vickyolson@yahoo.com | 715.566.2249

DISTRICT 9 **DISCUSSION MEET &** **POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING**

Thursday, July 30

5:30PM - REGISTRATION

6:00PM - YFA DISCUSSION MEET

6:30PM - DINNER

7:00PM - POLICY DISCUSSION

SAWMILL PIZZA & BREW SHED

805 30TH AVENUE - CLEAR LAKE, WI

PLEASE RSVP AND DIRECT QUESTIONS TO:

DISTRICT 9 YFA Chair- Kellie Kjeseth-Schulz

715.928.2474 | kjesethk@gmail.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 9 News

Your Involvement Matters



Katie Richartz

District 9 Coordinator

Summer is in full swing. The days are long, schedules are packed, and it's easy to only focus on what's happening right in front of us. But while we're busy with making hay, preparing for county fairs and all the demands of the season, it's important not to lose sight of the issues shaping the future of agriculture.

Too often, people don't get involved until something is on "fire." By then, we're playing defense, reacting to decisions that have already been made instead of helping shape them from the beginning. The strongest advocacy happens when people stay engaged before issues become crises.

Every policy begins with members in our county Farm Bureaus, that's what makes Farm Bureau truly grassroots. Every policy in the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Policy Book started as an idea from a member who saw an issue, identified an opportunity or wanted to make a difference. Whether local, statewide, federal or internal, it is you – the member – that drives Farm Bureau forward.

The best time to become involved is before a challenge reaches your doorstep. Staying engaged helps ensure your voice is heard, keeps you informed about issues affecting agriculture, and allows Farm Bureau to be proactive rather than reactive.

As summer continues, consider taking time to learn more about the policy development process, attend county Farm Bureau events, and participate in discussions about the future of agriculture. The policies that guide Farm Bureau and influence agriculture in Wisconsin and beyond begin with members who choose to get involved.

Your involvement doesn't have to start big. It starts by showing up, asking questions, and sharing perspective. That's how policy is built, and that's how agriculture moves forward.

DISTRICT 9

POLICY

THURSDAY, JULY 30
7:00 PM

**SAWMILL PIZZA &
BREW SHED**

805 30TH AVENUE
CLEAR LAKE, WI



What's Grinding Your Gears in Agriculture?

Every season brings new challenges, and no one knows them better than you. That's why Wisconsin Farm Bureau's grassroots policy starts with a simple question:

What's making it harder for you to farm, raise livestock, or run your ag business?

Your ideas are the first step toward real change at the county, state, or national level.



Speak up. Be heard.

Let's shape the future of agriculture, together.

Submit your thoughts today!

➔ [**bit.ly/2026FBPD**](https://bit.ly/2026FBPD)



District 9 News

What is the Farm Bureau Policy Development Process?

Wisconsin Farm Bureau's policy development process is a true example of grassroots in action. It is a multiple month, member-led effort that starts locally and can make an influence all the way to the national level during American Farm Bureau Federation's annual meeting.

How does Farm Bureau policy start?

WFBF membership is comprised of members representing farms of all sizes, commodities and operating styles. Policy resolutions are not only developed by the members of our grassroots organization, but are shaped by them. Members take an active role in initiating, debating, refining and voting on policy proposals. This process ensures that member priorities are being advocated for in Madison and Washington D.C.

Lawmakers and regulatory agencies view the organization as a key stakeholder, and its policy positions carry significant influence when important legislative or regulatory decisions are being made. This trust and recognition exemplify the strength of WFBF's grassroots model and the power of member-led policy development.

Any Farm Bureau members may submit a policy resolution to their county Farm Bureau. These resolutions are voted on by the county and approved resolutions are submitted to the state policy development committee and voted upon by the voting delegates at WFBF's Annual Meeting annually in December.

Farm Bureau policy is comprised of member approved guidelines that direct WFBF's advocacy. These policies are not laws but are the guiding principles the government relations staff team uses to drive legislation and regulations for our organization.

Types of Farm Bureau Policy

There are four types of policy that are submitted and voted on in Farm Bureau's policy development process.

- County Policy is the local perspective of an issue. A county policy could be the objection of a local ordinance that causes infringement on agricultural production in the area.
- State Policy is statewide relevance of an issue. For example, this could be funding for things like the Agricultural Road Improvement Program or the support of preservation of land for agricultural production.
- Federal Policy includes national issues and must get approval of

the delegate body at the AFBF annual meeting. This is what guides our advocacy efforts at the federal level. Issues like the Farm Bill and Commodity Exchange Act are under this bucket.

- Internal Policy addresses internal operations of WFBF. These are resolutions submitted to the WFBF Board of Directors but not debated by the delegate body at the WFBF Annual Meeting.

WFBF's State Policy Development Committee

The policy development committee is comprised of 14 members:

- One representative from the nine board districts of WFBF
- The WFBF Vice President (Committee Chair)
- Chairs of the Young Farmers and Agriculturists, Promotion & Education, Dairy and Volunteers for Agriculture committees

This committee reviews every submitted policy that comes from the counties and determines which ones move forward for delegate approval at the WFBF Annual Meeting. How many delegates a county receives is determined by how many voting members there are in the county.

The WFBF bylaws allow delegates to bring forward resolutions from the floor at the Annual Meeting. These do not need the approval of the policy development committee, if they were approved at the county level.

Federal Resolution Process

Federal resolutions that pass at the WFBF Annual Meeting go to the national level, where an AFBF committee comprised of all 50 state presidents and Puerto Rico evaluates them. The resolutions that are passed through the committee are then voted on at AFBF annual meeting. If they are adopted, they then are added into the national policy book. These then become a guide for Farm Bureaus federal advocacy efforts.

The Farm Bureau policy development process is a structured, democratic process grounded in local input and potential national influence. The process is a strong testament to grassroots advocacy in action. It empowers members to lead discussions and vote on priorities, ensuring that Farm Bureau's policy positions reflect the needs and voices of its membership. This policy development plays a direct role in influencing agriculture not only in Wisconsin but beyond the state borders.



District 9 News

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 FOR MORE DETAILS:



APPLY BY AUGUST 15

Rural Mutual
Insurance Company

Young Farmer and Agriculturist
Conference



HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Visits Gilbertson Farms in Elk Mound

Gilbertson Farms in Elk Mound hosted U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on June 1 for a roundtable discussion focused on dairy, nutrition and rural health.



Secretary Kennedy joined Congressman Derrick Van Orden, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President Brad Olson, dairy farmer Kevin Gilbertson and other farmers and agricultural leaders for a conversation about truth in dairy labeling, school nutrition programs and other topics related to health, nutrition and agriculture.

During the discussion, farmers shared their perspectives on the importance of dairy in a healthy diet, challenges facing the agriculture industry and opportunities to strengthen connections between food production and public health. The conversation also highlighted mental health and addiction recovery, emphasizing the importance of strong rural communities and support systems.

The event provided an opportunity for Wisconsin farmers to share their experiences directly with federal policymakers while showcasing the state's dairy industry. Discussions focused on issues impacting agriculture, nutrition and rural health, while fostering conversation between farmers and government leaders.



The Gilbertson Family (from left): Bailey, Kaleb, Kay, Kevin and Brandon took advantage of a photo op with Secretary Kennedy when he visited their farm on June 1.

Farm Bureau Celebrates Farmers and Ranchers Who Helped America Reach 250 Years

The American Farm Bureau Federation recently launched a photo contest to celebrate the contributions of America's farmers in growing America into the nation it is today. The contest is part of Farm Bureau's FARM 250 initiative, marking the nation's 250th anniversary.

The winner of the contest will receive a trip to the 2027 American Farm Bureau Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, courtesy of AFBF, and an iPhone 17, provided by T-Mobile.

"The history of the United States is rooted in every crop, pasture and dairy barn from coast to coast," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "America's ability to grow enough food, fuel and fiber helped shape our nation and continues to ensure its security. Add to that generations of innovation and the commitment of farmers, and the United States has become a leader in agriculture around the world."

"Our photo contest is a great opportunity for farmers to share the images of what means the most to them on their own farms and ranches and will showcase the beauty of agriculture across all 50 states and Puerto Rico."

The photo contest runs through Sept. 9, 2026. The winner must be a Farm Bureau member.

FARM 250 is a year-long initiative focusing on four pillars in agriculture.

F is for Feeding Families

A is for Advancing Innovation

R is for Rural Resilience

M is for Mindful Stewardship

Visit www.fb.org/initiative/farm250 for more information and to submit your photo.



American Farm Bureau Federation®



District 9 News

Why Forestry Matters to Farm Bureau

Ty Tutland

WFBF WisGO Team Member and Superior Shores Farm Bureau Vice President

Why is Farm Bureau involved with forestry? That's something I'm asked all the time.

From the outside, farming and forestry can look like two completely different animals. But when you take a closer look, the similarities are staggering. Many of us remember, me included, working on the farm in the summer and heading to the woods with Dad in the winter.

We also face many of the same challenges. Input costs continue to rise, equipment prices are through the roof, the infrastructure we depend on is crumbling causing transportation costs to rise, markets are extremely volatile, lack of employees and increasing pressure from people who often don't understand what it takes to make a living from the land.

Most importantly, we both depend on the land to feed our families. Farmers harvest an annual crop; loggers harvest a 30-year crop. Both require stewardship, patience, investment and a long-term commitment.

That's also why opportunities like the proposed Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) facility in Hayward are so important. While many people view it as a forestry project, the economic benefits extend far beyond the woods. A new market for low-value timber and forest residuals means more activity throughout the rural economy. More jobs, more trucking, more equipment sales, more local spending and a stronger tax base benefit entire communities, not just loggers and landowners.

Ag stands to benefit as well. Strong rural economies support local businesses, increase opportunities for young people to stay in our communities and create more demand for the products and services that farmers rely on every day. The proposed SAF facility could also create new value for families who own woodland by providing a market for low-value and undesirable wood that has extremely limited use today. That means healthier forests with proper management, reduced fuel load on the forests; decreasing the risk of wildfire, and another source of income to help keep our land productive and in family ownership. When forestry succeeds, agriculture often succeeds alongside it.

At the end of the day, farmers and loggers aren't as different as they may appear. We share the same values, many of the same challenges and a common goal: keeping our land productive, our rural communities strong, and creating opportunities for the next generation.



Asian Longhorned Tick and Beef Cattle

Wisconsin Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Asian Longhorned Tick is an emerging invasive species. While not yet confirmed in Wisconsin, its presence has been identified as close as Iowa. The Asian Longhorned Tick can carry and transmit the protozoa *Theileria orientalis* Ikeda. *Theileria* infections can lead to lethargy, anemia, difficulty breathing and even death.

Recently, Dr. Cassandra Olds, Kansas State Entomologist, shared information about the Asian Longhorned Tick and Theileriosis, their potential impact on cattle in Wisconsin, prevention and treatment options, what Wisconsin beef producers can do now, and what to expect next. A recording is available at go.wisc.edu/gqu344



Save the Date: Upcoming Livestock and Crop Workshops

Mark your calendars for several upcoming educational opportunities hosted by UW-Madison Extension and local agricultural partners:

July (Date to be Announced) – Beef Cow-Calf Field Day

A beef cow-calf field day is being planned at a host farm near Cadott. The event is tentatively scheduled for the week of July 27, with the final date to be announced once speaker schedules are confirmed.

August 4 – Cattle Feeders Workshop

Join the Jensen family, south of Menomonie, for an evening workshop focused on cattle feeding and management practices.

August 18 – High Oleic Soybean Workshop and Field Day

This daytime program for dairy producers and nutritionists will begin at CVTC in Eau Claire and conclude with a field component at Five Star Dairy near Elk Mound. Participants will learn about the benefits and applications of high oleic soybeans in dairy nutrition.

Watch for additional details and registration information as these events approach or contact Ryan Sterry at ryan.sterry@wisc.edu.

District 9 News



FARM BUREAU MEMBER BENEFITS

MEMBER BENEFITS APP NOW AVAILABLE!

Access Farm Bureau member benefits anytime, anywhere with the FB Benefits app.

Available for both Apple and Android. Search 'FB Benefits' in your app store or scan a QR code below.

QR codes for Apple and Android app stores.



THE Rural VIEW

LISTEN ON:



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

Join us for Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's 5th Annual Giving Day! Throughout the day, we'll celebrate our Foundation-supported programs and YOU, our valued donors and sponsors. Giving Day is an important fundraiser for the Foundation, raising over \$180,000 since 2022.

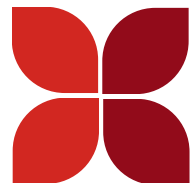
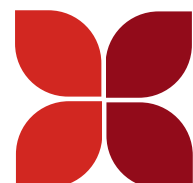
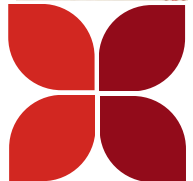
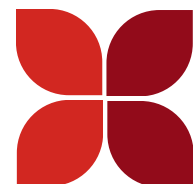
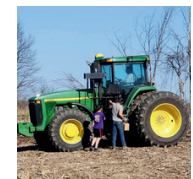
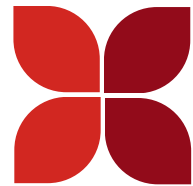
Follow along and join in on Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation's website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

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 Program
- Promotion and Engagement Program
- Leadership Institute
- Gather Wisconsin
- Collegiate Farm Bureaus
- Farm Neighbors Care



The Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation focuses on agricultural literacy, leadership development and supporting farmers. Through donations and other contributions, the Foundation fuels opportunities for Wisconsin Farm Bureau members, Wisconsin classrooms and consumers and the agricultural community. As a 501(c)3 organization, donations are tax-deductible.



Three Local Students Receive Barron County Farm Bureau Scholarships



Lyle Prusak

Barron County Farm Bureau is proud to announce the recipients of our three \$300 scholarships: Lyle Prusak, Samuel Wallace and Emily Zemke.

Lyle Prusak is the son of Tim Prusak of Clear Lake (in Barron County). He will be attending Northwood Technical College for agricultural power and equipment technician.



Samuel Wallace

Samuel Wallace is the son of Kurt & Stacy Wallace of Rice Lake. He will be pursuing ag engineering at UW-River Falls.



Emily Zemke

Emily Zemke is the daughter of Adam and Rebecca Zemke of Clayton (in Barron County). She will be a double major in ag business and pre-veterinary science at UW-River Falls

Supplied Photos

Join Us at the Barron County Fair by Volunteering at the Fair Food Stand

Calling all Barron County Farm Bureau Members, we need your help! Please consider volunteering at our Barron County Fair Food stand coming up this July 15-19.

Come work alongside your Farm Bureau neighbors and friends as we serve our community and promote Barron County Agriculture. Whether you sign up solo or rally a group of your friends and family to work with, please consider joining us at the fair! Use the link or scan the QR code to sign up: <https://bit.ly/2026BCFBBFoodStand>

Reach out to Ryan Erickson at 715.205.8670 with any questions.



Scan QR code to sign up!

Volunteers Needed for Agriculture in the Classroom Coordinator and Board Member

Barron County Farm Bureau is looking for a volunteer to coordinate our Agriculture in the Classroom program. AITC grows student learning through hands-on resources, educator training and classroom grants — all using the engaging and relevant lens of food, farming and agriculture. This person will make connections with teachers and classrooms across Barron County, particularly fourth and fifth grade, where students can enter the annual essay contest. The coordinator could also create an event for all teachers to learn about agriculture. The AITC coordinator is not a board position and monthly board meeting attendance is not necessary.

Barron County Farm Bureau is also seeking an individual to fill a vacant position on the board of directors. This position is available immediately and ends at the 2028 county annual meeting. Responsibilities include attending monthly board meetings and facilitating Barron County Farm Bureau activities throughout the year. People interested in the AITC coordinator role are welcome to also fill this position.

Interested people can contact county president Sam Olson or any other board member with interest or questions. Sam Olson 715.977.1060 barroncountyfarmbureau@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!

Barron County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

August 18, 2026

Need Recipe Inspiration?

Scan here to visit Gather Wisconsin



www.gatherwisconsin.com

SAVE THE DATE!

Chippewa County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

September 15, 2026

Harvest Market & Chili Cook-Off

October 10, 2026

Chippewa County Farm Bureau Scholarship Awarded

The Chippewa County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce **Ryan Schutte** of Chippewa Falls High School, this year's recipient of a \$500 scholarship.

Each year, the Chippewa County Farm Bureau is proud to invest in the next generation of agricultural leaders by supporting local students as they pursue higher education and careers in the agriculture industry. Ryan represents the dedication, hard work and passion for agriculture that we are honored to recognize through this award.

Please join us in congratulating Ryan. We are proud to support outstanding local students headed into the agricultural industry!



Nikki Strojny, Chippewa County Farm Bureau board member presented Ryan with his scholarship at the Chippewa Falls High School senior award night.

Dunn County

wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn
DunnCountyFarmBureau

INTERESTED IN ROTATIONAL GRAZING BUT DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?



Has grazing equipment that can be borrowed at no cost

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE SETUP?

- step-in posts
- polywire on reels
- water tanks with floats
- hoses

REQUIREMENTS FOR USE:

- must be located in Dunn County
- must have sturdy, electrified exterior fence
- must have cattle that respect electric fence



TRY IT OUT TODAY!

WHY IS THIS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE?

LWCD purchased this setup with funds provided by The Nature Conservancy to help cattle owners try managed grazing at no cost. It's a simple way to move animals across pasture to improve the health and productivity of your land.



WANT TO LEARN MORE? CONTACT

TINA BARONE
715-619-7149
TBARONE@DUNNCOUNTYWI.GOV

Dunn County Farm Bureau Announces 2026 Scholarship Recipients

The Dunn County Farm Bureau is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 higher education scholarships. This year, four graduating seniors from Boyceville High School: **Jacob Schlough, William Engel, Bradley Maes and Chelsi Holden** have each been awarded a \$500 scholarship in recognition of their academic achievement, community involvement and commitment to furthering their education.

The Dunn County Farm Bureau extends congratulations to the 2026 scholarship winners and wishes them the very best in their future endeavors.



Bradley Maes



Jacob Schlough



Chelsi Holden



William Engel

Supplied Photos



Spring Planting Workshop at Season's Harvest

Dunn County Farm Bureau partnered with Season's Harvest Greenhouse on May 6 to host a hands-on spring planter workshop.

Participants toured the greenhouses and learned about the regulations, equipment, and day-to-day operations that go into running a greenhouse business. After the tour, attendees had the opportunity to design and plant their own containers to take home.

A special thank you to Josh for sharing his expertise and generously hosting us!



Farm Bureau Represented at USDA Roundtable with Secretary Rollins

Ben Sand

Dunn County Farm Bureau President

On April 27, Haily and I were invited to attend a roundtable discussion with Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins and Congressman Derrick Van Orden at Morning Star Dairy in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

The event brought together agricultural leaders and producers to discuss important issues impacting farmers and rural communities. One of our own Dunn County Farm Bureau board members, Kevin Gilbertson, served on the panel and emphasized the importance of "making farming fun again" to encourage the next generation to become excited about agriculture and return to the farm.

Secretary Rollins provided updates on current USDA initiatives, including efforts to streamline agricultural enrollment programs and acreage reporting by creating a single system for government agencies to use. Congressman Van Orden highlighted the importance of advancing the Farm Bill and continuing to advocate for policies that support agriculture and rural America.



Kevin Gilbertson, Dunn County Farm Bureau vice president, and Brad Olson, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President, served on a panel with Secretary Rollins and Congressman Van Orden.

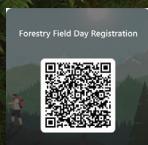


Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation President Brad Olson joined Dunn County Farm Bureau members Haily and Ben Sand for a visit with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.

Join Us for a Forestry Field Day

Forest Regeneration
Management Techniques
Prairie Restoration
Pollinator Habitat
Conservation Programs

RSVP Appreciated
QR Code



or Call/Text
715-619-7149

Hosted by



July 15, 2026
Eat at 5:30 pm
Tour at 6:30 pm

N11471 765th St
Colfax, WI
Meet at Red Shed

With support from



Dunn County

wfbf.com/about/counties/dunn
f DunnCountyFarmBureau

'Shaking' Things Up at the Dunn County Fair

Save the date for the 2026 Dunn County Fair, July 22-26.

Dunn County Farm Bureau is 'shaking' up the menu for this year's fair. New this year at the Dunn County Farm Bureau Food Stand... MILKSHAKES!

Along with our normal menu of hot beef sandwiches and hot dog meals throughout the fair weekend, we will have milkshakes available Thursday, July 23 and Friday, July 24 evenings, while supplies last!

If anyone would be willing to volunteer to work in the food stand, please contact Haily Sand at 608.397.0046 for time slots.

Can't wait to see you at the Fair!

SAVE THE DATE!

Dunn County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

September 22, 2026 | Kyote's Bar & Grill, Menomonie

Pierce County

wfbf.com/about/counties/pierce
f PierceCountyFarmBureau

Milk, Cookies and Cheese Curds at the Fair

Pierce County Farm Bureau will again operate their Little Red Barn at the Pierce County fair in Ellsworth August 13-16.

Volunteers are needed for shifts Thursday through Sunday to help serve milk and cookies. Please contact Dave Bechel at 715.505.4174 if you are interested in helping with a shift.



Ellsworth Students Receive Farm Safety Kits

Katie Christenson

Ellsworth Area Schools Agriculture Teacher

Each June, the Ellsworth Agricultural Education Department teaches farm and tractor safety. Looking over the records, over the past 13 years I have been teaching it, we have easily had over 150 students go through the course. We look at basic tractor operation and safety, but we also discuss other hazards and ways to stay safe on the farm.

One thing that I have always wanted to do is send something home with students to carry that safety message, help them learn more and impact the greater community as a whole.

Even this year, at the start of June, there have been farm injuries and deaths in the north-west corner of Wisconsin. If this course and kit can save or help even one person think twice, it will be well worth it.

I am very grateful to the Pierce County Farm Bureau and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau for sponsoring this grant. I will be making and handing out kits that will include: first aid kits, sunscreen, safety vests, safety checklists, earplugs, work gloves and more.

Some of these items may seem obvious, but if we can make it in one more location and create a culture of safety as a habitat, we will be working to help everyone.

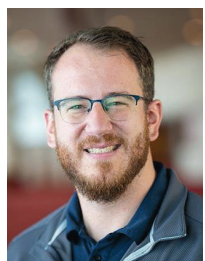
Dunn County Student Named Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Top Ten Essay Finalist

Dunn County Farm Bureau is proud to recognize Mazie Beyrer, a fifth-grade student at Colfax Elementary, for being selected as a statewide Top Ten Essay Winner and finalist in the 2026 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest.

As a Top Ten Essay Winner, Mazie received a medal, \$50, and an Agriculture in the Classroom swag pack. Her teacher, Suzanne Blomberg of Colfax Elementary, was also recognized for incorporating agricultural education into the classroom with an Agriculture in the Classroom Store gift certificate.



The Founding Fathers



Travis Senn

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau President

If you haven't yet watched Ken Burns's latest documentary *The American Revolution*, I'd encourage you to find it on PBS. I've watched it several times since it came out last November, and

with the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding upon us, there's never been a better time. Burns has a way of making history feel immersive — less like something that happened to others a long time ago, and more like something happening right now. Watching it, I couldn't help but see the founders in a different light. Not just as statesmen and generals debating liberty in grand halls or figures on currency and memorials, but as working men with their hands in the soil.

Because that's what many of them were: farmers.

Thomas Jefferson earned much of his vast fortune from agriculture on his Monticello estate. He was far from alone — many of the men who built this country worked the land. In addition to Jefferson, George Washington, John Adams, James Madison and James Monroe were all farmers, and that shaped how they understood freedom.

Farming was symbolic of the movement, in a way. To work your own ground meant you answered to no one — no landlord, no king, no distant government telling you what to grow or where you could grow it. That kind of independence wasn't just something they valued personally. They believed it was the bedrock of a free society.

Two hundred and fifty years later, that belief is still getting up before dawn.

It's out there on dairy farms, grain operations, orchards and cattle ranches in northwest Wisconsin. It's in the people who manage their land as if it belongs to the next generation — because it does. And it's in organizations like Farm Bureau, built on the same conviction the founders held: that the people who feed a nation deserve a voice in how it's run.

The founders didn't just sign a document. They signed to pledge to each other their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. They set an example of leadership grounded in the land, guided by long-term thinking and anchored by a deep sense of responsibility to the community.

Those qualities didn't disappear with the powdered wigs. They're alive in the farmers of Polk and Burnett counties, doing the quiet, essential work that has kept this country fed and free for two hundred and fifty years.

So, this Fourth of July, as the fireworks go up over the fields and the lakes and the small towns, take a moment to recognize what you're a part of. The story of American agriculture didn't start with us — but it continues because of us.

Happy 250th, America.

Congratulations to the 2026 Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Scholarship Awardees



Jayden Thaemert

Polk Burnett Farm Bureau is proud to recognize three outstanding graduating seniors as recipients of a 2026 Polk Burnett Farm Bureau Scholarship.

Jayden Thaemert, a graduate of Unity High School, was awarded a \$300 scholarship. Jayden plans to attend the University of Wisconsin–River Falls, where she will pursue a degree in agricultural education.

Launa Daniels, also a graduate of Unity High School, received a \$200 scholarship. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin–River Falls and plans to major in agricultural education.

June Belle Lightner, a graduate of Siren High School, was awarded a \$100 scholarship. June Belle plans to attend Winona State University, where she will pursue a degree in nursing.

The Polk Burnett Farm Bureau is happy to support these students as they continue their education and work toward their future career goals. We congratulate Jayden, Launa and June Belle on their achievements and wish them continued success in the years ahead.



Launa Daniels

Supplied Photos

Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest

Congratulations to Isaac Billings, a fifth grade student at Frederic Elementary School, for being named the Polk Burnett Farm Bureau winner in the 2026 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest!

The 2026 contest saw strong participation from across Wisconsin, demonstrating the continued interest in agricultural education among students and teachers.

2026 Wisconsin Agriculture in the Classroom Essay Contest Fast Facts:

- 33 counties participated
- 79 schools submitted entries
- 376 essays were submitted by fifth grade students
- 648 essays were submitted by fourth grade students
- 1,024 total student essays were entered statewide

Congratulations again to Isaac on this outstanding achievement, and thank you to all the students, teachers and volunteers who help make agricultural literacy a priority in our communities.



Isaac Billings

AgNewswire

Subscribe to Ag Newswire for the latest news from Wisconsin Farm Bureau.

SUBSCRIBE AT WFBF.COM

Young Farmers and Agriculturists Tour Glenna Farms Maple Operation

On April 18, Young Farmers and Agriculturists enjoyed a visit to Glenna Farms, where owner Rick Glenna led a tour of the maple syrup production process.

Attendees had the opportunity to see firsthand how one of Wisconsin's signature agricultural products is made, from tree tapping to finished syrup, while also sampling fresh syrup along the way.

Here are some of the things we learned about one of Wisconsin's top ag products:

- Wisconsin is number three when it comes to syrup production! Behind Vermont and New York.
- Syrup made at the beginning of the production season will be lighter in color and sweeter. As the season progresses, it gets darker and richer in maple flavor.
- Syrup can be stored in large barrels after it's made. As long as it stays sealed, it will be safe to eat forever! Once it's opened, it must be refrigerated.

Special thanks to Glenna Farms and Rick Glenna for hosting and sharing their expertise.



Rusk County

wfbf.com/about/counties/rusk
RuskCountyFarmBureau

SAVE THE DATE!

Rusk County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

September 2, 2026 | Senior Center, Ladysmith

Rusk County Farm Bureau Seeking New Board Members

The Rusk County Farm Bureau is currently seeking individuals to join the board of directors. This is a great opportunity for members who are interested in taking a more active role in shaping local agriculture and strengthening the voice of agriculture in our community.

If you are interested in learning more about the board or would like to nominate someone, please reach out to the District Coordinator, Katie Richartz at 715.418.0975 or krichartz@wfbf.com.





**LEOPOLD
CONSERVATION
AWARD®**
PRESENTED BY SAND COUNTY FOUNDATION

**WISCONSIN LEOPOLD CONSERVATION AWARD
SEEKING NOMINATIONS**

APPLY TODAY AT [SANDCOUNTYFOUNDATION.ORG](https://sandcountyfoundation.org)

DUE AUGUST 1, 2026

Sawyer County

wfbf.com/about/counties/sawyer
SawyerCountyFarmBureau

Hidden Acres Dairy LLC Welcomes Bruce Elementary Students

On May 11, Hidden Acres Dairy LLC (Dan and Morgan Robers, Mike and Elaine Robers) hosted a farm tour for 72 fourth and fifth grade students and teachers from Bruce Elementary School. The kids got hands-on experiences with calves, heifers and cows and even some kittens, which were the biggest hit.

The kids learned what cows are fed, how they're cared for and milked, how much they eat and how much milk they give.

They were also informed on how we protect the environment through soil conservation, cover crops and minimal tillage.

At the end of the tour students were treated to milk, ice cream and string cheese along with a goodie bag.



St. Croix County

wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix
StCroixCountyFarmBureau

St. Croix County Farm Bureau Launches Youth Grant Program

The St. Croix County Farm Bureau is excited to introduce the Agricultural Youth Organization Grant Program. Grants of up to \$250 are available to support special projects, leadership development opportunities, agricultural education programs, community service projects and other initiatives led by agricultural youth organizations in St. Croix County.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed. Local 4-H clubs, FFA chapters, and other agriculture-related youth organizations are encouraged to apply. Learn more and access the application by visiting wfbf.com/about/counties/st-croix/



Celebrating Our 2026 Scholarship Award Winners

Congratulations to the three St Croix County Farm Bureau scholarship recipients for 2026. Each of these recipients has been awarded a \$500 scholarship.

All three of these individuals have bright futures in the ag industry and are more than deserving of these scholarships.

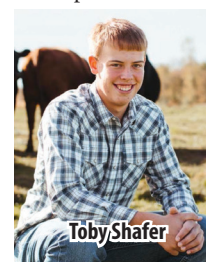
Congratulations to **Lilly Peterson**, **Makayla Weyer** and **Toby Shafer**!



Lilly Peterson



Makayla Weyer



Toby Shafer

Supplied Photos

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Croix County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

September 24, 2026



St. Croix County Farm Bureau Connects with Community at Baldwin Windmill Days

St. Croix County Farm Bureau had a busy and successful evening at Family Night during Baldwin Windmill Days on June 4.

The crowds were steady all evening as families stopped by the Farm Bureau booth to visit, learn a little more about agriculture and pick up some fun dairy-themed giveaways. Volunteers handed out milk, flavored milk straws, squishy cows and other items, and by the end of the night, it was clear there was plenty of interest in what Farm Bureau had to offer.

One of the biggest hits was the corn box, which Farm Bureau provided for families to enjoy throughout the weekend. Similar to a sandbox, the corn box was filled with corn and toys, giving kids a chance to dig, play and experience agriculture in a hands-on way.

The event was a great opportunity to connect with community members, answer questions about farming and share the story of agriculture with people of all ages. With a constant flow of visitors throughout the evening, volunteers stayed busy from start to finish, making it a successful event for St. Croix County Farm Bureau and a fun experience for everyone involved.



Melanie Peterson helped at the St Croix County Ask a Farmer booth, answering questions about agriculture and handing out dairy-themed goodies.



St. Croix County Farm Bureau set up a corn pit for children to enjoy for the weekend at Baldwin Windmill Days.

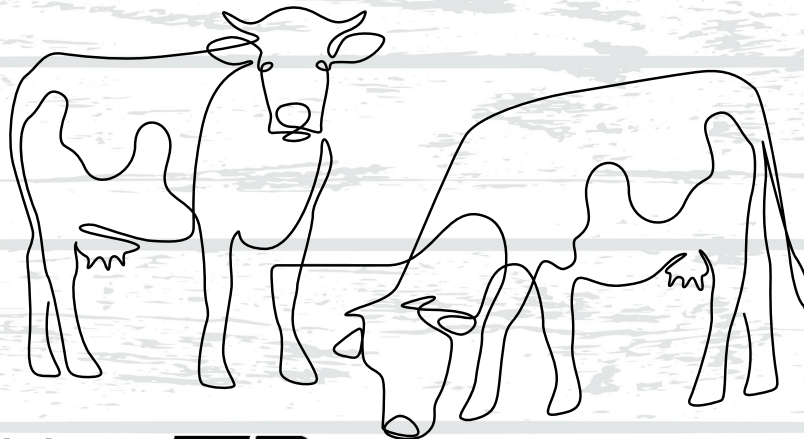
Join us for

Taste of Farm Bureau

AUGUST 18 | THUR | 6 PM

GLENWOOD APPLE ORCHARD

2909 CO RD D, GLENWOOD CITY



Hosted by:



St. Croix County Farm Bureau®

SAVE THE DATE!

Superior Shores Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

September 11, 2026 | Sand Bar, Ashland

Members Presented to WFBF Staff



Ty Tutland, Superior Shores Farm Bureau vice president, and Josh Huray, Rural Mutual Insurance agent, spoke with Farm Bureau employees in Ashland on May 28 about agriculture and logging in northern Wisconsin.



Food and farming straight to your inbox.

Subscribe Now at gatherwisconsin.com

Grow Gree: The Giving Garden Project

Lissa Radke

Community Development Educator Extension Ashland County

The Giving Garden Project is a three-year project to expand access to locally grown food in Ashland and Bayfield counties. It is open to anyone — households, public places, libraries, churches, town halls and more — who want to plant rhubarb roots and share freely with those who need food. In its first year, free rhubarb roots will be available and each year, a new plant will be offered to growers.

Sandy Naas, advisor for the Ashland High School FFA club and an agriculture and natural resources instructor, brought five of her high school club members to a community event where local volunteers planted 350 bare-root rhubarb plants in degradable pots in May. Volunteers distributed the potted rhubarb plants to about 180 adopters in 18 communities in Ashland and Bayfield counties as part of a new, three-year food-sharing program. The goal is to give away free edible perennial plants to adopters over three years who grow them in their own gardens and landscapes with the intent of sharing the food at harvest.

For more information, contact Ashland County's UW Extension office at 715.682.7017 and check out the website at ashland.extension.wisc.edu/grow-free



Carleigh, Abby, Danny, Olivia and Luke of the Ashland High School FFA helped plant rhubarb.

 **County Farm Bureaus**
PO Box 5550 Madison, WI 53705

Address Service Requested

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI 53818
Permit No. 124

This Issue Contains Highlights for:

Barron County
Chippewa County
Dunn County
Pierce County
Polk Burnett
Rusk County
Sawyer County
St. Croix County
Superior Shores

**PROTECTING
WISCONSIN
SINCE 1934**

WE HAVEN'T LEFT YOUR SIDE SINCE.

 **Rural Mutual**
Insurance Company

**BOOTH
#670**

**PROUD
2026 ELITE
SUSTAINING
SPONSOR**



Visit us at **BOOTH #670** to meet local agents, win prizes, and explore coverage designed specifically for farm and rural needs. And don't miss the **Rural Mutual Event Center**—your hub for entertainment and connection throughout the show!

SCAN: **FIND YOUR
LOCAL AGENT**



RuralMutual.com

