



WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEWS

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

July/August 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

Summer Conference looks at the future of family farms

Hundreds of farmers set to attend Farmers Union Fly-In

The effect of trade wars on the American farmer

WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEWS

117 W. Spring St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
715-723-5561 • 800-272-5531
www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com

WFU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darin Von Ruden President District 5 608-634-4695	Linda Ceylor District 1 715-567-1010
Craig Myhre Vice President District 4 715-983-2167	Lauren Langworthy District 2 715-503-0096
Rick Adamski Treasurer District 8 920-373-7105	Ed Gorell District 3 715-287-3383
Chris Holman Secretary District 6 715-498-3276	Tina Hinchley District 7 608-764-5090
	Mark Liebaert At-Large 715-398-5234

WFU STATE OFFICE STAFF

Julie Bomar

Executive Director

715-723-5561 • jbomar@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Diane Tiry

Administrative Assistant

715-723-5561 • dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Lynn Kiefer-Bowe

Office Assistant

715-723-5561 • lbowe@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Cathy Statz

Education Director

715-723-5561 • cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Sean Evjen

Accounting Manager

715-723-5561 • sevjens@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Danielle Endvick

Communications Director

715-471-0398 • dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Tommy Enright

Communications Associate

715-563-2169 • tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Sarah Lloyd

Special Projects Director

608-844-3758 • slloyd@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Deb Jakubek

Membership Director

715-590-2130 • djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Kirsten Slaughter

Membership & Education Organizer

608-514-2031 • kslaughter@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Kara O'Connor

Government Relations Director

608-514-4541 • koconnor@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Bobbi Wilson

Government Relations Associate

608-234-3741 • bwilson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Brad Henderson

Facilities Manager, WFU Kamp Kenwood

715-214-7244 • bhenderson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

FROM THE EDITOR

The battles waged before us

I spent a few grueling weekends in June restoring the hardwood floors in the old family farmhouse.

The old boards were pretty worn and here and there you could find evidence of a board being replaced through the years. But by and large, the craftsmanship endured the decades of life within these old walls.

A wave of nostalgia hit me as I thought about the chapters of my life spent here. I played Barbies and built Ertl farmsteads on the old chipped up floors. Now, atop the old grooved boards is where my kids race Hot Wheels and battle their dinosaurs.

A lot of life has happened here, just in my 30 years. I like to think of the hardy souls who came here when the land was still wild and settled just west of the lumber town of Little Falls (now Holcombe). I wonder at the work – and maybe even camaraderie – that went into buiding this humble little house and our stone barn. A lot has changed since then. The town's namesake rapids, Little Falls, was long ago dammed up to create the recreational destination of man-made Lake Holcombe. Several families have come and gone from the farmhouse – one of this summer's projects is hopefully to make it down to our town's little historic center and try to dig up a bit more about these folks



Danielle Endvick
*Communications
Director*

and their time stew-
arding this land that
I love.

Likewise, I catch myself wanting to dig in more on Farmers Union's history, as you'll see in this issue. A new highlight of the magazine will be a regular history

section (page 24). Already to me, this section is a reminder that the issues we face today on our family farms and in our rural communities are nothing new. The battles for fair prices and against greed have been waged before. We have much we could learn from them.

And like old farmhouse floorboards, as the years pass, there is a wearing down of policies and measures that were put in place to protect farm country. It seems to me it's time to get to work on some of these policies again.

I hope you'll be able to join us at the WFU Summer Conference Aug. 15 in Chippewa Falls for a special focus on antitrust in agriculture and a vision for the future of family farms.

Or if you'd prefer to dig in on dairy, don't miss your chance to attend the National Farmers Union Fly-In Sept. 8-11. Learn more about scholarships on page 3.

After all, whether you're grinding down an old floorboard or waging battles that may shape the very future of our rural places, many hands make light work!

On this month's cover: Wisconsin Farmers Union Membership Director Deb Jakubek snapped this lovely summer scene on the farm of Chippewa County Farmers Union member Tom Moos.



SUMMER CONFERENCE

American Agriculture: Where Are We Headed?

*A look at the future of our family farms,
food systems, watersheds and rural towns –
and why we must address antitrust in agriculture*

Thursday, August 15, 2019

10am to 2pm

**WFU Kamp Kenwood
19161 79th Ave., Chippewa Falls, WI**

FEATURED SPEAKER

Bill Baer, former head of the Department of
Justice Antitrust Division and past director
of the Bureau of Competition at the
Federal Trade Commission

CALLING ALL PIE BAKERS!

Calling all bakers! Don't forget to bring your best
pie(s) for the Summer Conference pie contest. With
categories like Most Like Grandma's, Best Crust,
Fruitiest, Dairy Best, and more, there are plenty of
chances to earn some well-deserved recognition!

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Acorn Day Camp is offered for youth ages 7+
during the Summer Conference for \$15/child.
www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/youth-camp

**RSVP to the State Office at 715-723-5561
or www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events**



Don't miss the NFU Fly-In! Scholarships due July 25th

Do you care about the issues impacting
our family farms? Then consider attend-
ing the 2019 National Farmers Union Fly-
In to Washington, D.C. Wisconsin Farmers
Union is organizing a group of members
who will attend. Plans are also underway
for a special focus on our Dairy Together
work – potentially with legislative hear-
ings where you could urgency and value
of working together for meaningful dairy
reform that would bring fair prices to fam-
ily farmers.

WFU is offering scholarships for first-
time attendees to the fly-in, which will be
Sept. 8-11. The scholarship application
can be found at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com and is due July 25th.

During their time in Washington, Farm-
ers Union members will hear from U.S.
Department of Agriculture officials about
current events and work the department
is doing on behalf of farmers. They will re-
ceive briefings from other administration
officials and the leadership and staff of
the U.S. Senate and House of Representa-
tives Committees on Agriculture.

We will also meet with members of Con-
gress to highlight key priorities for the or-
ganization and goals for future legislation.

To apply for a WFU scholarship, visit
www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com or con-
tact WFU Government Relations Direc-
tor Kara O'Connor at 608-514-4541 or
koconnor@wisconsinfarmersunion.com
for more details.



Fly-In



Farmers Union work remains rooted in values



Julie Bomar
Executive
Director

Farmers
in the
United
States are

confronted by an economic crisis that is more severe than any since the 1980s. Now the weather and continuing trade wars are causing even more concern as we look toward another distressing year in farm country. As readers know, Wisconsin Farmers Union is doing what it can legislatively, educationally and cooperatively to get fair prices for farmers.

Dairy Together, our national campaign for fair prices for family dairy farms, is continuing to garner support. Our goal is to persuade Congress to pass federal supply management policy as soon as possible to address overproduction. We are also calling on the Senate Ag Committee to authorize emergency aid payments to compensate dairy farmers for lost revenue. Do you know friends and neighbors who want to get involved because they are concerned about the loss of dairy farms? Please recommend they contact the office for details and get involved in coalition building with us this summer. You can also follow #dairytogether on social media and find more resources at dairytogether.com.



Photo by Lauren
Langworthy

Left:
This photo, taken by WFU board member Lauren Langworthy at her Blue Ox Farm in Wheeler as part of the #BreakUpBigAg movement, went viral in June. The photo of Rosie reached 14,000 people in just a few days.

The fight continues with anti-trust work. WFU is pressing on all fronts by working with like-minded groups like the Organization for Competitive Markets to help raise awareness and support the Agribusiness Merger Moratorium Act. Some of our members' postings about the farmer's share of the food dollar went viral on social media and thousands of people paid attention. It's not too late to participate. Just seek out #BreakUpBigAg on social media, share a fact about the monopolization of our food system and post it to social media. You can also sign a petition and call your legislators in support of the Food and Agribusiness Merger Moratorium and Antitrust Review Act. This legislation would

establish a commission to review mergers, concentration and market power in these sectors and develop recommendations to establish a fair marketplace for family farmers.

We've also worked to provide timely education to those who want to take things into their own hands. In a series of three educational events, Farmers Union and partners (UW-Extension, DATCP, MOSES, Global Cow and Global Dairy Outreach) brought together farmers, state specialists and business development consultants to share expertise and resources with aspiring processors. Our members – Theresa Depies, Josh Bryceson, Rama Hoffpauir and Meg Wittenmyer shared their expertise

with participants at a River Falls value-added workshop in March and later in May, Rama and Josh also hosted a field day for MOSES with over 75 people visiting and learning from their on-farm dairy and cheese making operations. WFU members also benefited from a generous Milwaukee anonymous donor who contributed funds to help support dairy farmers in Wisconsin. Her gift provided WFU members with scholarships to attend a multiple day training, "Making More From Milk," this April in Madison.

Heading into the summer months, our focus is on conservation and linking consumers and farmers together with Women Caring for the Land workshops and pasture walks. We'll also be taking a hard look at the future of family farm agriculture with programs highlighting groundwater conservation and antitrust enforcement at our annual Summer Conference Aug. 15 in Chippewa Falls.

I assure you that Wisconsin Farmers Union is doing everything possible to wake people up to the deep-seated problems in our food system and empower individuals and cooperatives in this period of crisis, just as we have done since our inception. I find hopefulness in our unrelenting drive for fair policy that protects our farms, land, water and communities.



Making More From Milk



Training offers farmers new look at enterprise options

A small but inspiring crew of farmers took part in Making More From Milk, a three-day course on value-added dairy opportunities. Participants, including WFU members Jenny Briggs, Stratford; Duane, Tina and Anna Hinchley, Cambridge; and Mariann Holm, Elk Mound; explored various diversification options, and had a chance to think about the future of their businesses and their families. WFU – and a gracious anonymous donor – offered scholarships to help cover the cost of attending.

"The course came out of a desire to provide real, solid information that leads towards some definite action for dairy producers—be they cow, goat or sheep milk producers," said one of the course organizers, Jill Stahl Tyler from

Global Cow. "The speakers who talk to our group don't sugar coat their own experiences. They are very specific and blunt about the work they've put in—and they are relentlessly passionate about their commitment to dairying."

Participants were able to engage behind-the-scenes in cheesemaking and retail enterprises that found unique ways to bring their dairy products to market or bring tourists to their farm.

The group also tackled tough talks about unique marketing positions, equipment and supplies, financial resources, grants, food safety and regulations, business planning and resources to consult as the course participants move forward with their plans.

WFU FOUNDATION

Grant recipients announced

The Wisconsin Farmers Union Foundation has announced quarterly grant recipients. Grant requests must meet the foundation mission to "support projects and programs for all ages that foster family farming, rural life and public education on the important role of cooperatives and agriculture in society."

The WFU Foundation maintains a modest small grant program to provide support to a variety of farm and rural organizations and projects. Grants are generally under \$2,000 and typically \$200 to \$500. Proposals are considered quarterly. Deadlines are: Feb. 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15.

This quarter's recipients include:

- Chippewa Valley Farm-City Day, Sept. 6-7
- MOSES-Conference 2020
- GrassWorks Annual Picnic, July 18, Bouressa Family Farm
- GrassWorks Grazing Conference, January 23-25, 2020
- Sauk County Ag. Society - Ag Education at the county fair
- Langlade County Sustainable Farm Tour
- Industrial Hemp Research Trial in Western Wisconsin
- Co-op Connections, Madison, October 5
- Ashland-Bayfield Farmers Union Summer Youth Program
- Local Initiative Grant

Visit www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com or call the WFU State Office at 715-723-5561 for more information.



Paying farmers fairly could curb climate change & hunger

Editor's Note: This article has been reprinted with permission from the Institute for Food and Development Policy, Inc./Food First, as WFU strongly agrees with its premise that parity is at the core of agriculture's potential to address over-production.

**By Eric Holt-Giménez
& Heidi Kleiner**

During a recent campaign stump through the Midwest, Bernie Sanders walked the fields in Iowa, posed on a tractor, and galvanized the rural crowd with a word not spoken by a presidential candidate in many decades: parity.

Though foreign to most of the voting public, parity is at the core of agriculture's potential to address the farm, food, and climate crises.

Parity is the notion that family farmers should be paid a fair price for their product — one that covers their costs and provides them with a decent livelihood. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, "The idea of parity stemmed from a continuous search for a concrete measure of economic justice for the farmer."

Farmers had parity in 1914, just before the United States entered World War I. It was the "Golden Age" of U.S. agriculture, when a bushel of corn bought five

gallons of gasoline. (No one suspected that seven years later it would take two bushels just to buy one gallon.) At the beginning of the war, U.S. farmers profited as Europeans relied more and more on food from the United States. But when German U-boats sank U.S. supply ships going to Europe, the United States entered the "War to End All Wars." High wartime grain prices, plentiful credit, and new Ford tractors led to an agricultural boom. Land values rose dramatically. Farmers took out second, third, and fourth mortgages and bought more land. Financing flowed, and land speculation was rampant. Fortunes were made on Wall Street and in the North American heartland.

Then the war ended.

After the Armistice of 1918, European farmers began growing food again, leading to a global oversupply and a crash in international grain and cotton prices. Capital investment abandoned agriculture, bursting the speculative land bubble. Overextended on their loans, with crop prices now hopelessly below the costs of production, farmers began going broke at the height of the "Roaring Twenties," when Wall Street was getting rich.

The boom-bust cycle of the "Agricultural Depression" turned out to be a



prelude to the 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression.

Trying desperately to farm their way out of debt, farmers produced even more food, which only drove prices further downward. But no matter how much cheap food they produced, the unemployed millions (up to 1 worker in 4 by 1932) still could not afford to buy it. Long breadlines of hungry, destitute people wound through the nation's cities even as grain rotted in silos across country. The U.S. had "breadlines knee-deep in wheat."

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt implemented the New Deal. He began with the Agricultural Adjustment Act. The act returned to parity prices that gave farmers the same purchasing power they had before the First World War. According to Iowa farm leader George Naylor:

"New Deal farm programs involved conservation-supply management to avoid wasteful, polluting over-production; a price support that actually set a floor under the market prices rather than sending out government payments; grain reserves to

avoid food shortages and food price spikes; and a quota system that was fair to all farmers and changed the incentives of production. 'Parity' was the name associated with these programs because it meant the farmer would be treated with economic equality and prices would be adjusted for inflation to remove the destructive cost-price squeeze and the need for farmers to over-produce their way out of poverty and debt. It was understood that the farmer's individual 'freedom' to do whatever he or she wished with the land would be tempered for the good of all farmers and society. A social contract was established."

Parity's importance today

Why is parity important today? Because without parity it is impossible to control overproduction — one of the main drivers of agricultural GHG emissions, agricultural pollution, food waste, family farm bankruptcies, and yes, hunger, malnutrition, and diet-related disease.

We are taught by agro-industry that the cause of hunger and malnutrition is food scarcity. The solution is

See page 7 ► PARITY

From page 6 ► PARITY

always the same: double food production with their new technologies. But the world has been producing 1 ½ times more than enough food for everyone for a half-century. People go hungry – and suffer from diet-related diseases – because they are poor and can't afford good food, not because there isn't enough of it.

So why do we hear the same mantra about doubling food production over and over? Because the best way to sell more agricultural inputs is to ramp up production. This leads to overproduction – the best way to keep basic grain prices low for cheap, processed food. Because low prices paid to farmers don't cover their costs of production, they have to produce more and more, just to try to stay in business. Farmers overproduce to survive. Taxpayers have to come along behind industry to subsidize farmers just to hold the system together. But farm subsidies aren't driving overproduction: low prices drive overproduction (which drive prices lower, repeating the cycle).

Parity policies would stop the low-price/overproduction cycle that wastes resources, pollutes the environment, and sends farmers into debt. They would also save taxpayers the money spent on farm subsidies. Dairy farmer Jim Goodman, board president of the National Family Farmer Coalition, asserts:

"We need to think about the parity model and getting farmers a fair wage for what they produce. If farmers got paid a fair price, they wouldn't need to continuously overproduce just to make more profit per unit of production, because they'd be getting a fair wage for whatever they did produce. We'd eliminate a lot of the surplus we have in dairy, beef, and commodity crops, and we could grow a lot less, and we wouldn't need to be looking for alternative uses for the things we grow and trying to get people to eat more meat and more dairy products. People could make the choice to have a healthier diet that is grown locally, and we wouldn't be flooding the world market with really cheap commodities that are breaking farmers who are just trying to stay in business."

Of course, then agro-industry would not be able to sell so many farm inputs and the food and feed processors would have to pay farmers more.

Eighty years ago, when we were an agrarian nation, parity was a powerful concept for social and environmental justice. We no longer are an agrarian society, but agriculture—and family farmers—are still central to our economy, and parity is still essential for a just, transformative food system.

Farm Aid offers funding to farmers impacted by weather

Farm Aid is offering assistance to farm families impacted by the harsh winter and devastating spring floods. In these very difficult economic times for farm families, many may be experience another blow due to the harsh winter we had with heavy snows and winter kill in crops and/or flooding this spring. Farm Aid's program offers small grants (\$500) to families to help with household expenses in the wake of tough farming conditions.

If you or someone you know has been impacted and is struggling, please visit farmaid.org/disaster and fill out the application form to be considered for assistance from the Farm Aid Family Farm Disaster Fund. Or contact Farm Aid at 1-800-FARM-AID.

National Farmers Union is working with Wisconsin Farmers Union to get these funds distributed to farm families in need in our state.

A Celebration of Wisconsin Family Farms & Rural Life

SOIL SISTERS

3 Days • 5 Unique Components • 20+ Farms
Create Your Own Farm and Culinary Adventure

Bus Tour of Farms

Friday, August 2 & Sunday, August 4

Enjoy a guided bus tour showcasing a diversity of women-owned farms. Ticketed event.

Green Acres Workshops

Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4

Learn how to launch your own farm, make cheese, spin fiber, preserve the harvest and much more! Ticketed events on various farms.

Taste of Place

Friday, August 2

A local food & drink celebration.

Farm-to-Table Dinner

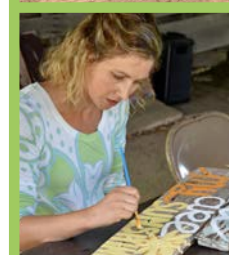
Saturday, August 3

Farm-to-table dinner at Dorothy's Range featuring heritage meats. Ticketed event.

Dine Fine at Restaurants

Friday, August 2 to Sunday, August 4

Sample "locavore" specials throughout the weekend.



August 2 - 4, 2019



www.soilsisterswi.org





Photos by Ali Andruszkiewicz

Left: Farmers Union campers and summer staff jump for joy at the kickoff of the camp season. Below: Campers learn about cooperatives and take part in a co-op store.



Farmers Union Camps

focus on fun, conservation & cooperation

Danielle Endvick
Communications Director

With it's waves lapping up against the shores of Wisconsin Farmers Union's Kamp Kenwood, Lake Wissota is very much like the pulse of the youth camp. This summer, curriculum at the camp has been geared at helping campers learn more about the lake – and their role in keeping their own local watersheds healthy.

"Wisconsin Farmers Union is no stranger to water quality work – we've long been a supporter of farmer-led watershed efforts and educational programming that helps farmers improve their conservation practices," said WFU Executive Director Julie Bomar. "This year's special focus out at camp will help educate the next generation."

The water resources curriculum will also be shared at Farmers Union Day Camps being held across the state this summer and will be highlighted during a session at the WFU Summer Conference August 15 at Kamp Kenwood. Fundraising dollars from our convention and a grant from the Chippewa County Department of Land Conservation and Forestry Management helped cover costs for staffing and supplies for the water quality programming.

Helping to shape the important curriculum is WFU Water Intern Grace Pierstorff. A Madison native, Pier-



Photos by Danielle Endvick
At a June session, campers (above) saw how different stakeholders' can impact a watershed. They also learned (at right) how to test the clarity of Lake Wissota using a Secchi disc.



storff is entering her final year at UW-Eau Claire, where she is majoring in Ecology and Environmental Biology.

"For the camps, we have created a lesson plan that walks the kids through what a watershed is, a look at water quantity around the world, and impacts on the Lake Wissota watershed," Pierstorff said. "We'll do some water testing for nitrates, phosphate, and ammonia, so the kids can see it's a quite simple process – that they don't have to be scientist to learn about water. They could get a kit and do it at home if they wanted."

The youth are also able to explore a model watershed and see how different stakeholders' pollutants can impact the lake – as well as how certain farming practices like buffer strips or the restoration of wetlands can improve watersheds.

"We'll be helping them understand that what you pour down the drain or in your grass will end up somewhere – it doesn't just stay on your property," Pierstorff said.

The curriculum concludes with management strategies like curbing fertilizer use, using cover crops, no-till and other conservation-focused ag practices, as well as easy steps youth can take to engage in better water conservation with their family or in their community.

The water work hits close to home for WFU Membership and Education Organizer Kirsten Slaughter, who has worked on the camp staff for a number of years and in that time has seen Lake Wissota's deterioration.

"We have problems with the lake here and times, especially in August, when campers can't swim because the algae bloom is so bad," Slaughter said. "It's been really interesting to work with the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project and see how they've been collaborating with lake home owners and other stakeholders. The watershed is one big, connected system and it really is going to take

everybody working together to improve our water for our land, our kids and our food."

Protecting the lake

The youth curriculum dovetails nicely with work already being done at the camp to try and curtail growing water quality concerns.

Brad Henderson has made reducing runoff from the camp property a priority since signing on as WFU Facilities Manager in 2015. Evidence of his efforts are clearly seen at the camp beach. Once a trajectory for eroding sand to wash into the lake, the beach now is looked to as an example of how a well-placed berm and vegetation can protect the shoreline and the lake alike.

"The design has proven to be real effective," Henderson said. "We've managed to keep the water that falls on the property from eroding away shoreline."

Henderson has also developed relationships with the Lake Wissota Stewardship Project and the Lake Wissota Improvement and Protection Association. This past winter, he worked with the lake groups and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to place "fish sticks" – structures that use whole trees grouped together and anchored to shore to create wildlife habitat – into the bay along the camp's shoreline.

"We also have been involved with work Lake Wissota has been doing to monitor water quality with sampling and dock observations," Henderson said.

All in all, the efforts are aimed at preserving the legacy of the camp.

"Like the generations before us, it's a desire to have a camp that kids can use fully, and that means getting in the water," Henderson said. "If we can make that happen more days out of the year, that's more enjoyment for them and for those of us who enjoy making sure the camp is the best experience it can be for all."

Farmers Union Day Camps coming up

Youth are invited to learn about cooperatives and leadership at upcoming Farmers Union Day Camps. All youth are welcome; those enrolled in the Farmers Union Youth Program can fulfill a program requirement. These events are supported by county/local Farmers Union organizations and are free to attend. Pre-registration preferred: www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events.

Day camp locations include:

AUBURNDALE – July 8, Noon-3pm, Auburndale Park, 10654 Park Ave.

MONDOVI – July 8, 1-3pm, Tourist Park, S. Eau Claire/Highway H.

STEVENS POINT – July 9, 9:30am-Noon, Iverson Park, 4201 U.S. Hwy. 10

BARRON – July 9, 9:30am-Noon, Anderson Park, N. Mill St.

AMHERST – July 10, 9:30am-Noon, Nelson Park, 151 Mill St.

MEDFORD – July 10, 10am-2pm, Pam Gebert Home, N4165 Castle Rd.

OGEA – July 11, 10am-Noon, Ogea Public Library, W5005 State Rd. 86

HAWKINS – July 11, 1-2:30pm, Hawkins Library, 709 Main St.

WASHBURN – July 12, 9:30am-Noon, Memorial Campground, 106 6th Ave. E.

OSSEO – Mon., July 15, 10:30am-2pm, Stoddard Park, 13907 Pine St. Parents and WFU members welcome to join for lunch and watershed activity/conversation at 12:30 PM.

AMERY – July 15, 1-3:30pm, North Park Large Pavilion, 100 Arlington Drive.

EAU CLAIRE – July 16, 9am-1pm, Royal Credit Union, 200 Riverfront Terrace.

WAUSAU – July 17, 1-3:30pm, Marathon Park, 1201 Stewart Ave.

MERRILL – July 17, 1-3:30pm, Riverside Park, 1700 O'Day St.

ONEIDA – July 18, 9:30am-1:00pm, Turtle School, N7125 Seminary Rd.

ALBANY – July 22, 9am-Noon, Roth's Windy Hill Farm, W898 Bump Rd.

FORT ATKINSON – July 23, in collaboration with BASE Fort Atkinson.





Chapter Chatter

Submit chatter to Danielle at 715-471-0398
or dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

We Grow to host chapter potluck

Taylor-Price Farmers Union invites you to Dinner on the Farm on Sunday, July 14. Join us for a potluck hosted by the Zuleger family at We Grow, N7975 Zimmerman Rd., Westboro. We Grow is a produce farm in northern Taylor County providing organic vegetables and pasture-raised chickens and heritage hogs in a community supported agricultural (CSA) system.

Things will kick off at 12:30pm with a tour of the farm. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck meal at 2pm (hamburgers supplied). RSVP to ericzuleger@frontier.com or his cell at 715-905-0551.



Photos by Danielle Endvick

Above: WFU Education Director Cathy Statz and the camp summer staff offered facepainting at dozens of dairy breakfasts across the state in June. Right: Chippewa County Farmers Union members Jeff Peck and Stefanie Beighley and their family enjoy the June Dairy Days Dinner hosted by the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by WFU.

Out and about for *June Dairy Month!*

Farmers Union members from across the state represented WFU at dairy breakfast events throughout the month of June. Thanks to all who spoke up about the importance of WFU's efforts in cooperation, legislation and education!



Submitted photo

Above: Lauren Langworthy, WFU District 2 Director, shared about Farmers Union at the Dunn County Dairy Breakfast.



Visit Farmers Union at Farm Tech Days

If you're headed to Wisconsin Farm Technology Days July 23-25 at Walters Grain Farm in Jefferson County, pop by and spin the Wheel of Farming at the WFU booth 679 in the educational space! Farmers Union members interested in volunteering at the booth should contact WFU Membership Director Deb Jakubek at 715-590-2130 or djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

Wegmuellers earn entrepreneurial honor

Congratulations to South Central Farmers Union members Dan and Ashley Wegmueller, who have been awarded the "Entrepreneurial Spirit Award" from the Green County Development Corporation for The Dairy at the Wegmueller Farm, a



"farmstay" destination on their 50-head Brown Swiss dairy farm just outside Monroe. The award honors an entrepreneur with a hunger for opportunity, a growth mindset, a willingness to find solutions to challenges, and a strong work ethic. Opening last September, the Wegmuellers have already hosted guests from as far away as Rwanda and Great Britain. In nominating the couple, fellow WFU member Lisa Kivirist said the duo "authentically demonstrate the positive, forward-thinking visionary mindset that brings not only success to their business but stimulates economic opportunity for all of Green County."

St. Croix County chapter selling curds

St. Croix County Farmers Union is again planning to sell deep fried cheese curds and fresh-cut potato fries at the Music on the River Series in Amery the third Friday of July and August and also at the Amery Fall Festival in September. If you're in the area, swing by and indulge!

Chapters urged to set Annual Meetings

Wisconsin Farmers Union is encouraging chapters to plan ahead for their Annual Meeting this year. Chapter leaders, if you let us know your annual meeting date, time, and location before or at the WFU Summer Conference on August 15th, you will receive a "Farmers Union Member" sign. (One sign per chapter.)



Auction win proves informative

Dunn County Farmers Union President Caleb Langworthy (left in picture at right) recently joined WFU District 3 Director Ed Gorell on a milk hauling adventure. Gorell offered the experience of riding along on his Chippewa Valley milk route as a silent auction item at the WFU Convention. Langworthy notes that he enjoyed learning more about the hauling process and seeing the diversity in operations, management and farmers along the route.

Two Wisconsinites selected for BFI

Two Wisconsin farmers have been chosen to take part in the National Farmers Union Beginning Farmer Institute (BFI). Congratulations to Joseph Ploeckelman of Athens (Marathon County) and Renee May Richards of Belleville (South Central)! BFI is a free training program for new producers of all ages. Participants attend three in-person learning sessions over the course of the year, one in Washington, D.C., Northern California, and Savannah, Georgia. Details: <https://nfu.org/education/beginning-farmer-institute/>.

Bouressa Family Farm hosting picnic

The Wisconsin Meadows and GrassWorks Annual Picnic & Pasture Walk will be hosted by Farmers Union member Rachel Bouressa at Bouressa Family Farm, N3775 Ritchie Rd., New London



on Thurs., July 18. Things kick off at 11am with a walk highlighting the small but growing direct-market, grass-fed beef farm. At 12:30pm, we'll enjoy lunch by Wisconsin Meadows and Organic Valley. Stick around from 2-4pm for live music and networking. Bring your own lawnchairs and the whole family. RSVP by July 14 to Rachel at 608-228-6617 or bouressafamilyfarm@gmail.com



Trade wars, tariffs and their effects on U.S. farmers



W. Michael Slattery
WFU Grain
Committee

The U.S. is now embarking on the second year of devastating trade wars initiated by a U.S. Administration that seems to lack the ability to devise a comprehensive and winning strategy and relies instead on uncompromising and bullying posture.

The Administration, after terminating U.S. involvement in the 12 Pacific nations' Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on Trump's third day in office, forced a renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement that effectively resulted in NAFTA2, with little perceivable gain for U.S. citizens. As of mid-June, not one of the three signatories has ratified the agreement. Even the U.S. may delay ratification for another year either because of Democratic concerns about environmental and labor issues in Mexico or treaty partners' reaction to Trump's unpredictable provocations.

What began as a series of minor trade issues with the People's Republic of China (PRC) has escalated into a trade war with no end in sight. Initially, the U.S. imposed tariffs on imported Chinese solar panels and then steel and aluminum, even though imported steel from the PRC constituted less than three percent of total U.S. steel imports and 24 percent of

imported aluminum. Like our NAFTA partners, the PRC skillfully responded with retaliatory tariffs, emphasizing U.S. agricultural products.

The Trump Administration has now imposed a 25 percent tariff on import items comprising more than \$250 billion of goods from the PRC and has threatened a 25 percent tariff on remaining uncovered Chinese exports to the U.S., amounting to \$300 billion. The PRC in response raised its tariff to 25 percent on more than \$60 billion of imports from the U.S.

As of late May, the U.S. removed tariffs on imports of Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum, which had been a stumbling block for ratifying NAFTA2.

Bilateral trade negotiations with the European Union (EU), our fourth largest trade partner, are inching along at a snail's pace. All 28 EU member countries are adamantly opposed to changes in import of U.S. agricultural products. As of 2018, the EU had a \$10.4 billion trade surplus in agricultural product with the United States. U.S.-threatened tariffs on auto imports from the EU is another major sticking point in advancing these trade relations.

U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer and the Trump Administration are engaged in bilateral trade negotiations with Japan, the United State's fifth largest trade partner. Their approach mistakenly implies that the U.S. can get a better trade relationship bilaterally than it could have

obtained in the TPP. Even though Japan is our fourth most important export market for agricultural products, the U.S. will be hard-pressed to achieve a better deal than under the TPP.

U.S. agricultural trade

Over the past 20 years, the U.S. has maintained a surplus in trade of agricultural products. In 2013, the U.S. had a positive balance of about \$40 billion, but the surplus has since been erratically declining. While the U.S. surplus was about \$16.9 billion in 2017 on \$140 billion in ag exports, it dropped to \$10.9 billion in 2018, largely because of the retaliatory tariffs, especially those of the PRC.

Agricultural imports continue to rise significantly and more rapidly than U.S. exports, largely because of increasing consumer demand (47 percent of all ag imports) for processed food and for horticultural fresh vegetables and fruit that are out of season as well as lower-cost production elsewhere. Even more concerning is the slowing demand for U.S. ag-

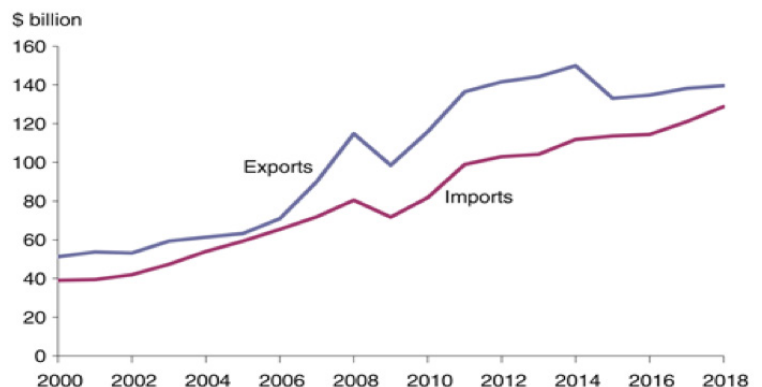
ricultural exports because of increased international competition, lower non-U.S. currency costs for importers, and development of new production areas.

Five countries over the past decade have imported 55 percent of U.S. agricultural exports. With Trump's trade war with the PRC, though, this is shifting. Threatening these main export markets for agricultural products undermines the 20 percent of overall U.S. farm income derived from exports.

Grains and oilseed (soybeans, canola, sunflower, etc.) produced mostly in the Midwest constitute about 43 percent of the U.S. total agricultural exports. Horticultural products account for another 24 percent. As a single item, soybean exports are the U.S.' principal agricultural export at \$21.6 billion in 2018 alone.

The Trump trade wars have impacted grain markets adversely, especially soybeans. As of June 6, U.S. total soybean exports for the marketing year (Sept. 1 through Aug. 31) year-on-year were

U.S. agricultural trade, 2000-18



Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Database.

down 26 percent to 35.7 million MT, with exports to the PRC down from 27.2 million MT to 7.3 million MT. Despite USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue's pledge in 2018 to find new markets for non-exported soybeans, the U.S. could only export a miniscule fraction of the lost PRC market to South Korea, Egypt, Netherlands, etc. It will take years, if not decades to re-develop reliable markets.

Underlying problems

The trade policy of the Trump Administration is based on economic nationalism, as clearly advocated by Trump advisor Steve Bannon. In a global community, "U.S. first" is the antithesis of communal sharing and global consciousness. It is a dangerous form of populism akin to that seen in Nazi Germany and elsewhere. It is the political economy of fascism. Economic nationalism often reverts to protectionism through use of tariffs, quotas, etc. effectively to support domestic monopolies and undermine competition. U.S. xenophobia, exacerbated by the nostalgia of citizens for the global dominance of the U.S. in the 1950s, dangerously augments this nationalism.

Structurally, the U.S. has hollowed out its manufacturing industry. Japan followed the same model in the 1990s. Tariffs will not induce U.S. multinationals to return because these companies have more benefits abroad: cheaper labor costs and often with more disciplined labor, less environmental restrictions, and closer proximity to larger and under-developed markets where they earn a greater return.

Our nation also fails to confront its problem of over-consumption and unfettered domestic demand, the profit motives of U.S. multinationals, and the uncontrolled amount of waste.

Overlooking farmers' overproduction of agricultural commodities of almost all types, the (retaliatory) tariffs imposed by key trade partners on U.S. agriculture exports have undermined the American farming industry and become the straw that is breaking the camel's back. Bankruptcies have risen, assets have fallen in value reducing collateral for further borrowing, incomes

are squeezed to the point that many farmers are facing net losses for several consecutive years, and farmer suicides have become an epidemic. Where partner countries have viable alternatives for supply and unfettered non-competitive relationships, U.S. farmers have lost market share that they probably will not regain—e.g., soybean sales to the PRC.

As the WFU Grain Committee correctly noted in July 2018, the PRC will not back down from its core objectives of becoming a major market player. In the past 10 years, the PRC has clearly identified its objectives with world-class competitiveness in robotics, aircraft, telecommunications, etc., and rapid militarization to secure these interests. The U.S. will have to accommodate these objectives. As advocated by Kissinger, the U.S. must find a conciliatory modus

“
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”

- Michael Slattery

Wisconsin Farmers Union
Grain Committee Chair

operandi to work together rather than for both countries to misuse scarce resources. The only foreseeable gain for U.S. farmers will probably occur in pork exports, because of at least 30 percent elimination of the PRC's hog herd due to African Swine Fever.

Compensation for Tariffs

As farmers, we are grateful for compensation of our losses caused by tariffs and these ill-conceived trade wars. Farmers prefer, however, markets where we can compete on a level playing field with other producers for quality products. The \$12 billion allocated from the Commodity Credit Corporation of 2018 probably compensated soybean growers adequately, but failed misera-

bly to address lost revenue in corn and dairy products. The roughly \$15 billion announced for 2019 payments, similar to the 2018 program, lacks necessary detail. Farmers as potential beneficiaries are merely played the dupes in a political struggle. Some farmers are now attempting to game the system to count on undeclared payments to ratchet up their projected profits. Both these programs are non-sensical – they seek to make payments on production or plantings for the current year of payment, when it was actually the previous year's harvest that faced the risk and loss. They set a dangerous precedent and, under Congressional paralysis and focus on fiscal reduction, are unsustainable hereafter.

An unsustainable path

Farmers as a group, comprising less than one percent of the U.S. population, are bearing the concentration of the losses accruing from these trade wars, along with consumers who are paying for most of the US-applied tariffs. Trade wars are no-win games. The Administration is employing myopic objectives for commercial interests that eventually weaken international relations, stimulate animosity and national antagonism, and promote economic nationalism to the detriment of consumers and producers worldwide. NAFTA2 demonstrates, if it is eventually ratified, that little will be gained by any of the parties that had not existed under NAFTA. U.S. farmers cannot be expected to accrue greater income from not only NAFTA2, but also with respect to future potential agreements with the PRC, Japan, or the EU. The Market Facilitation Program, while satisfying political bases of the Administration and minimally supplementing lost farm income, is an unsustainable remedy for groups adversely affected by misguided trade policy.

Slattery has a PhD in international relations and finance. For more than a decade in New York he annually underwrote billions of dollars of inter-bank and direct trade finance for one of the largest international banks. He also financed CCC-backed exports of U.S. ag produce for years.



Restore local control for livestock siting

STEVENS POINT – On June 18, the Portage County Board of Supervisors passed an advisory resolution supporting Local Control for Livestock Siting. The resolution specifically addressed ATPC 51, the regulation that oversees livestock siting in the state. Current state law regarding livestock siting preempts local control, meaning that even if the local community has reason to oppose the placement of a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), it's incredibly difficult for a county, town, or municipality to contest it.

The resolution states that it "recognizes the authority of ATPC 51 to set statewide, minimum standards and procedures for CAFOs but supports lifting the preemption of local control in ATPC 51 and allowing local governments to pass more stringent standards and procedures that are based on reasonable and scientifically defensible findings of fact that clearly show that the standards are needed to protect surface water and groundwater and air quality and public health or safety without seeking DATCP or DNR approval."

The second part of the resolution addresses recommendations for updates to ATPC 51 by a state technical committee. The committee has met every 4 years since 2010, but so far none of its recommendations have been considered. Their most recent recommendations were made two months ago, and the resolution aims to help them see the light of day.

From 2011-2016, Wisconsin lawmakers passed more than 162 measures that represent unfunded mandates and restrictions on the decision-making power of local governments, according to a May 16, 2016 memo released by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

The resolution was brought forward by Tommy Enright, Amherst farmer and Wisconsin Farmers Union Communications Associate, who stated that due to Wisconsin's diverse geology and hydrology, a "one size fits all" approach like ATPC 51 does not ade-



Enright

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National momentum builds behind Dairy Together efforts



Bobbi Wilson
Government
Relations Associate

Dairy Together is a grassroots movement to rebuild a

viable dairy economy for family farmers and rural communities. At the core of that vision is a fair, stable, and predictable pay price. This movement emerged in response to the current dairy crisis – we are in the fifth year of low prices and for many farmers that means taking on more debt year after year. In 2018 alone, over 2,000 U.S dairy farms went out of business.

The downward trend of dairy herds is nothing new, and neither is the phenomenon of below cost-of-production prices. This crisis is the latest iteration of a persistent problem in agriculture – boom and bust price cycles. What is new about this crisis is the inability for the market to stabilize despite a loss of 16% of dairy farms since the price bottomed out in 2014. Milk supply continues to outpace demand.

The other thing that is new about this crisis is the growing acceptance of supply management, a system that was once deemed "Soviet-style agriculture" but is now regarded as a simple and direly needed tool for coordinating supply with demand. It is a way to pay farmers a fair price without relying on taxpayer subsidies, maintain a resilient food supply in the face of climate change and global

uncertainty, and breathe new life back into rural communities that are dying off as the farms disappear.

It is on this foundation of knowledge and recognition of the unique role that family farms play in our society that Dairy Together was built. What started as a handful of tired dairy farmers in rural Wisconsin has grown into a movement of farmers and family farm allies from across the country pushing for long-term stability in the dairy economy.

We have toured the country presenting sound economic research that makes a compelling case for supply management. We've seen media coverage shift from focusing solely on the loss of farms to frequently citing supply management as the only solution that challenges the status-quo cry for more exports. We're seeing farmers and organizations that would have written off supply management now on board or seriously considering it.

Dairy Together is rooted in the premise that fair prices paid to farmers could help revitalize our rural Main Streets while also curbing the cycle of overproduction that is linked to many of the climate and conservation concerns associated with modern-day agriculture.

There is still a lot of work to do, but we are encouraged by the momentum building in the countryside, and the recognition that we need to base farm policy on profitability for family farmers. See www.dairytogether.com for resources and ways to get involved.

The fight is on to ban gerrymandering in Wisconsin

Matt Rothschild

WI Democracy Campaign

The fight to ban gerrymandering is taking place on a lot of fronts – and most successfully, at the grassroots.

Gerrymandering – the practice of cynically drawing political district maps to entrench the party in power – is anti-democratic. It deprives people of equal representation and an equal voice. It leads to uncompetitive districts, so that elected officials can ignore a huge chunk of their constituents. And it leads to hyper-partisanship, which corrodes civility and impedes decent compromises.

The people of Wisconsin are sick and tired of this practice.

In May, Washburn County became the 47th county (out of 72) in Wisconsin to pass a board resolution urging our legislators to ban gerrymandering and to adopt independent, non-partisan redistricting.

Just a month before that, four other county boards passed the resolution: Buffalo County, Iowa County, Fond du Lac County, and Waupaca County.

What's more, on April 2, county-wide referendums passed by overwhelming margins in La Crosse County and Vernon County. (Also that day, the Town of Newbold, near Rhinelander, held a referendum on the issue, and it passed with 69

percent approval.)

As you can tell, many of these places are hardly progressive strongholds: All told, 35 of the 47 Wisconsin counties that have passed this resolution went for Donald Trump in 2016.

And that tells you that the issue of banning gerrymandering crosses ideological lines. A Marquette Law School poll earlier this year bears this out. It showed that 72 percent of Wisconsinites want to ban gerrymandering, including 63 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of Independents.

This is one of the most underreported stories about successful grassroots activism in Wisconsin.

This powerful effort is the result of great coordinated organizing by Citizen Action Cooperatives, Common Cause in Wisconsin, the Fair Elections Project, Grassroots North Shore, Indivisible, the

League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Our Wisconsin Revolution, the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Wisconsin Farmers Union, Wisconsin Voices, and a few other groups.

It's also the result of inspired leadership by Lincoln County board member and Farmers Union member Hans Breitenmoser,

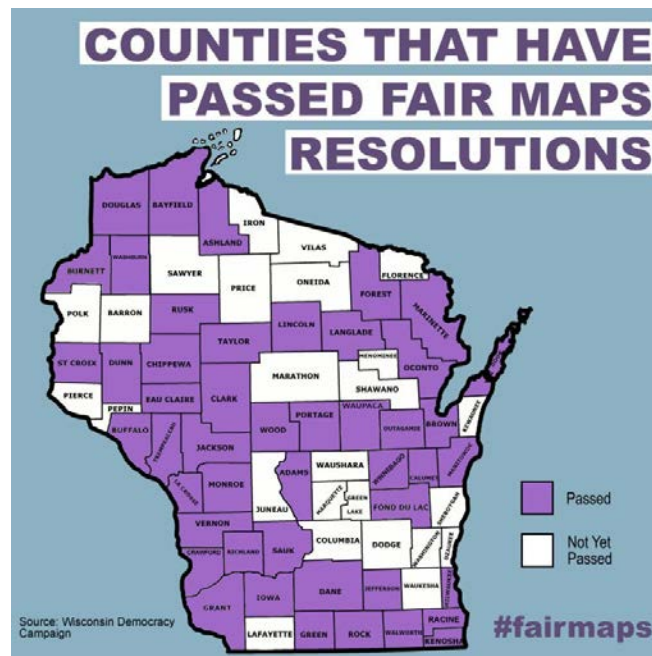
who galvanized the county-by-county effort. And it's the result of years of talks, all around the state, by former State Senators Tim Cullen and Dale Schultz (Cullen was Majority Leader for the Democrats at one point, and Schultz was Majority Leader for the Republicans).

Last, but by no means least, it's the result of spontaneous organizing by local citizens who just won't tolerate the rigging of our political system any longer.

Now the pressure is on the Wisconsin legislature to enact this much-needed reform. Sen. Dave Hansen and Rep. Robyn Vining have introduced bills that would give us independent, non-partisan redistricting in Wisconsin, finally.

Please urge your legislators to back these bills.

Matt Rothschild is the executive director of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.



Wisconsin Farmers Union
KAMP KENWOOD
CHIPPewa FALLS, WI

Can you help us raise the flag?

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Help us reach \$2,500 to remove and replace the old flagpole. Your donation helps us continue the decades-long tradition of the morning flag raising at Wisconsin Farmers Union Kamp Kenwood!

Donations can be made at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com or by check to WFU Foundation, 117 W. Spring St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.



Legislators should accept Federal Medicaid Funds

Kara O'Connor
Government Relations Director

Farmers Union applauds the Joint Finance Committee's recent vote to fund the University of Wisconsin Dairy Innovation Hub. This important investment in our land-grant universities is essential for Wisconsin to remain a dairy leader.

Meanwhile, in Minnesota, the state legislature has not only fully funded its universities and colleges, but also provided \$8 million directly to dairy farmers to pay their Dairy Margin Coverage premiums. Why is it that Minnesota can manage to fund research and provide direct help to struggling dairy farmers, while the Wisconsin legislature struggled to find money for just one of these worthwhile initiatives?

Maybe it's because Minnesota has taken advantage of available federal dollars to cover big-ticket items in the state budget like health care,



Photo by Danielle Endvick
Barron County Farmers Union member Jim Hare shared Farmers Union's stance on health care at a June 24 rally in Eau Claire.

while the Wisconsin state legislature has stubbornly refused to accept those same funds. The result is that Wisconsin is missing out on a \$324 Million boost to our state budget, and everything else in the budget suffers.

Just think of what even a fraction of \$324 Million could do to help farmers. Wisconsin farmers compete in the same marketplace with farmers all over the country, but they're doing so with one hand tied

behind their backs. Wisconsin is one of only 14 states that has failed to accept federal Medicaid funds to help defray the cost of state health insurance programs. That hole in Wisconsin's budget means there is less money for rural roads, rural broadband, and for BadgerCare, which helps thousands of farmers per year get health care for their families when times are tough, like they are now.

To date, Wisconsin has

missed out on \$1.1 billion in federal money for Medicaid expansion since 2014. That's money Wisconsin taxpayers are paying in through their federal taxes, but that is not coming back to the state because of the Republican legislature's stubborn refusal to take it. The result? Wisconsin farmers have dutifully paid their federal taxes, so that state legislatures in other states like Minnesota can take that money and put it to good use.

How much longer are Wisconsin taxpayers willing to fund other states' budgets? And how much longer is the legislature going to ignore this straightforward way to help struggling farmers? Tell your legislators: "Take the darn federal money for healthcare." It's long overdue. Some of those tax dollars came from Wisconsin in the first place. We might as well get our portion back and do something useful with them here in the Dairy State.

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quately address vulnerable areas.

Despite the loss of thousands of farms in Wisconsin and across the U.S., farms have been trending toward more and more animal units per farm. From 2000-2017, the only dairy farm types that saw a rise in numbers were those over 1000 cows. Dairies over 2000 cows saw an over-250 percent increase.

In a 2000 study of 1,106 rural communities, economic growth rates in communities with traditional-sized farms were 55 percent higher than

in those with large animal feeding operations. This is because smaller farms make nearly 95 percent of their expenditures locally, while larger operations spend less than 20 percent locally. Having many farms of various sizes has a huge impact on the local economy and provides a livelihood for many people – it's not just the farmers who will be out of work if we continue down the path of farm consolidation and corporate-owned farms.

"This not an anti-farming resolution," Enright stated. "As a farmer myself, I view farmers as stewards of the land, and ac-

knowledge that there are responsible and conservation-minded farmers at all scales of production. What I'd like to reiterate, is that as citizens of Portage County, we know what's best for our communities. Wisconsin towns and counties should have control over what's happening in their own backyards."

Wisconsin Farmers Union members voted in support of Local Control for Livestock Siting as a Special Order of Business in 2019. Anyone interested in passing this resolution in their own county should contact Tommy Enright at tenright@wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

Wisconsin State Budget negotiations underway



Kara O'Connor
Government Relations Director

Every odd-numbered year is a state budget year in Wisconsin. The state biennial budget process started this year with Gov. Evers presenting his proposed budget to the legislature in February. Then the legislature takes over, either editing the Governor's proposal or, as they did this year, reverting back to the previous budget as a baseline and making edits from there. The legislative committee responsible for deliberating on the budget is the Joint Finance Committee (JFC). The JFC is expected to wrap up its work in late June. After that, the budget package will be voted on in the Senate and Assembly before heading to the governor's desk, where it will receive either a signature or a veto (or selective line-item vetoes of particular items.)

The chart to the right is a quick recap of agriculture-related items that Wisconsin Farmers Union supported in the state budget.

Another significant question for budget-writers this biennium is whether Wisconsin take advantage of available federal funds to offset the cost of our state Medicaid (BadgerCare) program. Doing so would allow the state of Wisconsin to expand the BadgerCare program to cover more people in Wisconsin. Accepting federal Medicaid funds would also free up General Purpose Revenue that we're currently spending on BadgerCare, so those funds could be used for other priorities.

Wisconsin is currently one of only 14 states that has not accepted federal Medicaid funds to offset the cost of the state's Medicaid program. Gov. Evers' budget opted to accept the federal funds, which provided an additional \$324 Million for him to work with in his version of the budget. The Republican legislature, on the other hand, has steadfastly refused to accept Medicaid expansion funds, resulting in a tighter budget all around, including with regard to roads, schools, and high-speed internet. WFU recommended accepting federal Medicaid expansion funds, not least because doing so would allow Wisconsin to offer health insurance to more families through BadgerCare.

Has your family benefited from the BadgerCare program? Please contact me at 608-514-4541 or koconnor@wisconsinfarmersunion.com if you would be willing to share your health care story.

	Previous funding level	WFU's stance	Governor's Proposal	Joint Finance Committee
UW Dairy Innovation Hub	n/a	\$8.8 million	This was proposed after the Evers Budget	\$8.8 million
County Conservation Staffing Grants	\$9.4 million	\$12.4 million	\$10.4 million	\$9.4 million
Groundwater Testing & Mapping	ongoing	Add 1 additional groundwater mapping position at the WI Geological and Natural History Survey. Provide \$2.5 million in grants to counties for updating groundwater maps.	maintains previous funding	\$0
Organics & Grazing	Prior to 2017: 1 position at DATCP. Prior to 2013 budget: \$375,500 for grazing and farmer technical assistance	Restore Grazing & Organics Specialist position at DATCP. \$2.2 million for grazing research, education and farmer technical assistance	Restore Grazing and Organics Specialist position at DATCP. \$200,000 for grazing education and farmer technical assistance	\$0
Farmer-Led Watershed Grant Program	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$500,000
Industrial Hemp	n/a	3 new positions at DATCP and \$378,900 (for 2 years) for lab equipment	Same as WFU	Same as WFU
Farm to School Grant Program	\$0	\$350,000	\$200,000	\$0
Buy Local, Buy WI Grant Program	\$200,000	\$350,000	\$300,000	\$200,000
Ag Development & Diversification Grant Program	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0
Support to Dairy Farm Families	Dairy 30x20, which exacerbated oversupply	Need emergency disaster assistance	\$0	\$8.8 million for Dairy Innovation Hub



For the birds ...

Biologist sees grazing perks for wildlife

This article originally ran in The Country Today newspaper and has been reprinted with permission.

Nathan Jackson
Regional Editor

ELK MOUND – Fifty years ago, meadowlarks were as common as robins on the Wisconsin landscape.

But, like most species of grassland birds, meadowlark numbers are in decline. So when Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Biologist Bill Hogseth asks for a show of hands for who has seen a meadowlark recently, he doesn't expect to see many hands go up.

That wasn't the case when he asked a room full of graziers June 8 during Graze River Country's "Birdsong on the Farm: How Grazing Provides Wildlife Habitat" pasture walk at Doran and Marianne Holm's organic farm in Dunn County.

"When I ask that question of people who don't spend a lot of time in grasslands, very few people raise their hands," Hogseth said. "Meadowlarks were an iconic bird member of the agricultural landscape in the '60s."

Hogseth said breeding-bird survey routes in the state in the 1960 would return results of 25 to 35 meadowlarks in a single morning. That number declined significantly to the single digits by the 21st century.

"A lot of that decline has to do with habitat," Hogseth said. "Prairies were a big part of Wisconsin's landscape pre-settlement. This landscape was frequently disturbed, whether it was by herbivores or by fire, and kept forests and woody vegetation at bay.

"You can lose these habitats really quickly just by not disturbing them."

Hogseth said changes in farming have directly correlated with changes in grassland bird populations, as the classic family farm model of rotations of hay, oats and corn provided good surrogate habitat for grassland birds.

"There's been a whole-scale shift in agriculture over the decades," said Kevin Mahalko of the River Country Resource Conservation and Development Council. "It's gone from everybody having at least half their fields as haygrounds to row crops."

"These birds were able to coexist where there was pasture or where there was hay," he said. "Those were structurally what they wanted, tall and short grasses, versus the more industrial model of a rotation of more corn and beans."

"These birds tell the story of how our land use has changed since the 1960s."

Grassland birds need grasslands during the breeding season to get the next generation of the species out into the world. Wisconsin is home to more than 20 species of grassland birds for part of the year.

"We're not just talking about one bird that's a conservation priority, we're talking about an entire community of birds that's a conservation priority,"

Hogseth said.

Hogseth said grassland birds are the fastest declining group of birds in the U.S. According to federal breeding bird surveys taken between 1966 and 2004, grassland bird populations have declined dramatically in Wisconsin and 77 percent of grassland species showed a significant decline.

Grassland birds' migration from South America to North America has about a 50 percent survival rate, Hogseth said, as they are contending with predators and storms on the flight covering thousands of miles, sometimes over open water for hundreds of miles.

After arriving in Wisconsin, Hogseth said bobolinks can make 25 to 30 trips from their nest to foraging grounds and back every hour to feed their nestlings. That is after about the same amount of work building their nests over the course of three days and after migrating from Argentina.

"We see birds with their beautiful plumages singing beautiful songs, and we can trick ourselves into thinking they're gentle, peaceful creatures," Hogseth said. "But they actually live tough, hardscrabble lives that have a lot of danger and risk involved."

"I try to remind myself when we're doing conservation that their lives are already hard before you throw on top of that habitat loss and other challenges we throw at them as human beings."

The Holms have owned their farm since 1997. They started a dairy farm with 40 milking cows in 2001 and were certified organic in 2004. The milking herd was sold in 2013, but dairy cattle remain on the farm as custom-raised organic heifers. Cattle are rotated on a new section of pasture each day during the grazing season.

The farm includes 20 acres of woodlands and 85 acres of grassy pastures that can provide grassland bird habitat.

"As a grazier, I think, 'Well, if we have this grass, maybe we should be allowing some of these interior fields to go a little longer and not be in a hurry to hay them all,'" Marianne Holm said. "It gives you

See page 22 ► BIRDS



Photo by Julie Bomar

Above: Attendees sought out pasture land birds at a June 8 walk co-hosted by Wisconsin Farmers Union.

GRAZE RIVER COUNTRY

PASTURE WALK SERIES

2019 EVENT SCHEDULE

RIVER COUNTRY RC&D

Thursday, July 11, 11am, John Richmond & Chuck Flodquist, 12454 20th St, Colfax. Conventional dairy & Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program.

Friday, August 2, Grazing with Jim Gerrish: Managing for wildlife, prairies and grazing public land, WI Indianhead Technical College, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond.

Wednesday, August 7, 6 pm, Sedge Wood Farm, 30101 190th Ave, Cornell. Beef cow-calf operation, direct marketing, and River Country RC&D Annual Picnic.

Saturday, August 19, 10am-12pm, Middlings' Townside Jerseys, 2891 Hwy. 12, Wilson. Lane Improvements and organic dairy.

Tuesday, August 27, 1 pm, Sam & Brittany Olson, 1814 3rd Ave, Chetek. Dairy transitioning to grazing.

Saturday, September 14, 1 pm, Dale and Sherri Goss, N1799 Sawdust Rd, Bruce. Farm transition to grazing, grassfed beef, grazing chickens and building partnerships

September, TBA, Nathan Kling, W15503 Kelly Road, Taylor. Operating an organic dairy and new startup with robots

September/October, TBA, Brad and Melissa Larson, N10688 County Rd M, Colfax. Management of warm season annuals after grain harvest of winter rye as cover crop, and more.

RSVP to Kevin Mahalko at 715-314-0338 or at www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events

GLACIERLAND RC&D

Wednesday, July 10, 1-3:30pm, Saxon Homestead Farm, 15621 S. Union Road, Cleveland. Dairy Grazing Pasture Walk & Conservation Farming Discussion.

Thursday, July 18, 6-8pm, Little Red Farms, 11902 N County Road KK, Whitewater. Twilight Beef Grazing Pasture Walk.

Tuesday, July 30, 8am – 4pm, Advanced Grazing Training with Jim Gerrish. Morning: DNR Customer Service Center, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg. Afternoon: Pasture walks at Highland Springs Farms. Grazing Locations: Grazing Cover Crops, Fitchburg & Grazing to manage wildlife habitat that the WNR Hook Lake Wildlife Area, Oregon. This Workshop is limited to the first 60 registered attendees! Register on-line at www.glacierlandrcd.org/upcoming-events

RSVP to Kirsten Jurcek at 920-342-9504 or kjurcek1@centurytel.net

Find more details & upcoming events at:

www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events

www.glacierlandrcd.org

www.rivercountryrcd.org





Cultivating community

Regional CSA farmer meetings planned



Sarah Lloyd
Director of Special Projects

A core aspect of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is

right there in its name – community. Community between farmers and eaters but also community among the farmers themselves. Back in 2012 Wisconsin Farmers Union worked with a group of CSA farmer members and allied organizations to convene the Midwest CSA Conference, held in January 2013 in Eau Claire. This was a chance for farmers who were engaging the CSA model on their farms to come together for peer-to-peer learning and networking to build the community of the Community Supported Agriculture farms. That first conference featured workshops on vegetable production issues, member relationship management, hosting events on your farm, covering legal agreements and liability on the farm, and more. It also brought together farmers from around the region, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri to get to know each other and share what they were learning and experiencing on their farms and in their communities.

In case you are not familiar with the CSA model, CSA farmers connect directly with consumers, who

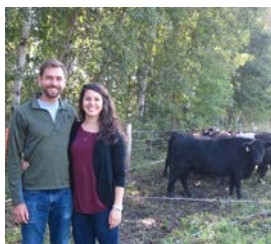
invest in their farms and take the relationship beyond a simple consumer-producer link. Members pay in advance of the season to receive a weekly or bi-weekly box of fresh fruit and vegetables and possibly other produce from the farm (eggs, maple syrup, meat, cheese, etc.). Farmers and members share the risk in this relationship. If floods or blight wipe out a crop, members may get less of that vegetable during the season. On the flip side if a bumper crop of tomatoes plumps out, members may get extra tomatoes for their BLTs and salsa recipes. In some CSA farms members may be required to provide a certain number of work hours on the farm or even participate in a core group that makes decisions with the farmer(s) on business and financial management. A main purpose with CSA is to break through the standard commodity producer-consumer relationships, which may have many middle-people in between and may be completely anonymous once the corn or milk leaves the farm gate.

The Midwest CSA Conference, hosted again in 2015 and 2017, helped foster this movement and inspire farmers. These gatherings were successful and provided great space for farmers to come together from across the multi-state region, learn together, share what they know, and build community. If you are tracking the sequence you'll see we'd be due for another gather-

ing this year. In consultation with a group of CSA farmer members we decided that we'd like to give some extra care and cultivation to CSA farmer community building by holding a set of more regional Wisconsin meetings. These are envisioned to be gatherings lasting 4-5 hours, including a meal, with a focus on farmers getting to know each other and building the local network, along with some programming around technical knowledge, such as production assistance, member relationships, business management, etc. Each regional group can pick the programming that they think is most relevant in their area.

WFU Communications Associate Tommy Enright and I are working on reaching out to CSA farmer members in different parts of the state to set up gatherings this winter. We're collaborating with other organizations to bring some of the program content for the meetings. The big focus will be on building community among the CSA farmers in the different parts of the state. These regional meetings can then build toward a state-wide CSA gathering in December 2020. If you are a CSA farmer or perhaps an aspiring CSA farmer and you'd like to be part of the planning team in your area, get in touch with me and we can start honing in on a date and place for the community-building gathering. – slloyd@wisconsinfarmersunion.com or 608-844-3758.

WOMEN CARING FOR THE LAND



JULY 8
4-8PM

PAPE FAMILY PASTURES **W5420 LESLIE ROAD, PESHTIGO**

Husband and wife team Aaron and Erin began Pape Family Pastures in 2016. With no farming experience, they were guided by the principles of soil health and Aldo Leopold's essay, The Good Oak. They raise pasture beef, pigs, and chickens.



JULY 10
4-8PM

PERENNIAL FARMS LLC **N3804 COUNTY ROAD E, WALDO**

Laura Grunwald and her family believe that the distance from the field to your fork should be a short one. The Grunwalds work with Mother Nature to raise organically grown and nutritious produce, free range/orchard grazed eggs, and cider.



JULY 15
9AM-3PM

EB RANCH **N13346 490TH STREET, RIDGELAND**

Erin Link is both a steward of the land and of a herd of critically endangered and rare San Clemente Island Goats. She rotationally grazes the goats as well as geese, ducks, chickens, and turkeys. Erin also markets goat milk soap and goat meat.



JULY 16
9AM-2PM

NORTH WIND ORGANIC FARM **86760 VALLEY ROAD, BAYFIELD**

At North Wind Organic Farm, Ann Rosenquist emphasizes ecological decision making, self-reliance and organic production of fruits and veggies, which are marketed through co-ops, farmers markets, CSA, restaurants and farm visitors. Child care offered at event.



AUG 8
9AM-3PM

FENN'S FOLLY **12041 SEVERSON ROAD, FERRYVILLE**

Amy Fenn left her Madison library job in favor of tromping around a 40-acre hilltop trying to turn a depleted hayfield and unmanaged woods into a savanna/silvopasture. This is her 3rd year of grazing, fencing and building an off-grid home.



SEPT 19
9AM-3PM

GREEN LEAF FIREMAN'S PARK **1588 FAIR ROAD, GREEN LEAF**

Maryann, Kurt Kohlmann and daughter Suzanne Wilson started grazing 3 years ago. They raise steers and chickens and have converted cropland to pasture land, improving water quality on the land. For this event, meet at Green Leaf Fireman's Park to start our day and have lunch before a tour of local farms' cover crop and no-till practices.

Women Caring for the Land was created by the Women Food & Agriculture Network to serve women farmland landowners interested in learning more about conservation. The events provide women landowners an opportunity to network with peers and learn from resource professionals. Men are welcome to join for the farm tour portion, however we do request that the learning circle space is for women only.



Potluck - please bring a dish to pass! RSVP
wisconsinfarmersunion.com/events or 715-723-5561



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Household Type:

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Type of Farm: *Check all that apply.*

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☐ Beef ☐ Crops ☐ Organic

☐ Hogs ☐ Horses ☐ Other _____

Membership: *Fee includes family unless student or organization is checked.*

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From page 18 ► BIRDS

another reason to consider leaving grass alone."

Hogseth said 80 percent of the land birds such as the eastern meadowlark could find as suitable nesting habitat is privately owned.

"Agencies have been doing all this conservation work to keep birds like this from declining," Hogseth said. "We can do all the work we want on publicly owned lands, but if 80 percent of the habitat is on private lands, we're not really moving the needle.

"That's why what's happening with grazing projects in the state, I think, is the most critical thing keeping these birds alive."

Caleb Langworthy, who farms in northern Dunn County, said there are U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service programs available to allow farmers to use practices like delayed haying or cutting hay from the middle out to allow for wildlife escape routes.

"NRCS actively works on private lands, and a big goal of theirs is providing habitat for these birds," Langworthy said.

Hogseth said another way farmers could make hayfields more hospitable for birds would be to forgo a second cutting of hay. Based on the arrival time of birds like the bobolink to the state, which he said started showing up in the past several weeks, that would allow farmers to get a first crop off before allowing the birds to raise their young.

"I know the first crop is the most important and there's more nutrition in there," he said, "but if you could forgo your second crop, it gives birds like the bobolink time to re-nest."

A walk through the Holms' pastures showed grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, dickcissils and savanna sparrows had taken up residence in the farm's fields, which offers him hope for the birds' future, Hogseth said.

"We're trying to encourage this type of agriculture," Mahalko said. "It takes people valuing how food is grown and what it takes to get food to consumers."

Hogseth said grass-based farmers usually practice grazing because they've heard about the benefits it can provide to soil and water quality, but he hopes they also consider the benefits it can offer to wildlife.

"We've poured tens of millions of dollars into this conservation work in the Midwest, but these trends keep continuing," Hogseth said. "It's because of what's happening on private lands and the shift in agriculture.

"But I think the future of these birds is in working lands. The hope is that rotational grazing can be helpful as a way to reverse the trends we are seeing with our breeding bird surveys."

Nathan Jackson writes for *The Country Today*, a statewide agricultural publication. Learn more at www.thecountrytoday.com.

'A lick and a promise' aren't enough



Alan Guebert
Farm & Food File

Most American farmers spent the last week of May and the first week of June either driving through mud or stuck in it. Their two farming partners, Mother Nature and Uncle Sam, were little help; one brought threats of more rain and mud, the other threats of more tariffs and bailouts.

Farmers in my neighborhood, however, spent part of the time pulling their wide 16- and 24-row planters through narrow 24- and 48-hour planting windows to, literally, jam their 2019 corn crops into far-from-ideal ground with what my father often described as “a lick and a promise.”

Should the window stay open long enough, they'll also slam in their soybeans until the stomach-churning, never-to-be-forgotten 2019 planting season ends in either a fast flourish or a waterlogged flop.

Then the really hard part starts.

Will all that mud, too-fast planting speeds, and washed out fields hamper germination, cut plant populations, and hammer yield? It's a good question with only one bad answer: it doesn't matter because for most farmers it's already too late to replant any corn, soybeans, or hope.

The powerless waiting – for tasseling and pollination of corn, blooming and pod-setting for beans – comes next. This year's delayed planting means both crops will experience critical make-or-break weeks in the frying-pan heat of July and August.

Again, yields hang in the balance.

And harvest? Like planting, it will be beyond late. In corn, late means wet and wet means grain drying and grain drying means more costs, more delays, more problems. It's little better for beans; unlike corn, mature soybeans re-absorb moisture to hamper harvest and clip yield.

For all of this to go well—a couple of dry weeks in June to finish planting, no steamy July, no hot skillet of an August, no frost in September, and no mud in October—will be the farm equivalent of a moon shot.

Compounding those already awful odds, however, is your other partner, Uncle Sam; while you've been planting crops, he's been sowing confusion.

It began May 23, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a second China tariff bailout package. This one, explained Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, would give up to \$14.5 billion to farmers. Unlike the 2018 tariff bailout, however, the 2019 payout would be based on a formula that no one, including USDA, could explain.

Perdue's timing hit like another rainstorm; it compounded farmers' late-planting decisions. As was pointed out in this space last week, should farmers continue to plant corn or switch to beans? When their crop insurance “prevent planting” date arrives, should they file a claim or “mud in” something? Most of the answers depended on who qualifies for the new bailout money.

USDA, however, said little even as planting windows across farm country began to close.

Then, under pressure from farm groups to do something, Secretary Sonny allowed that some of the bailout money just might go to enhance prevented-planting insurance claims to help rain-soaked farmers.

How much and to whom? Again, no one could say.

Incredibly, President Donald J. Trump then found another wrench to throw into ag's already slipping gears. Beginning June 10, he announced, he would impose an increasing scale of import tariffs against Mexico, U.S. ag's third largest export market, until it acted to stem the tide of illegal immigrants flooding across the U.S.-Mexican border.

Wait, more tariffs even as USDA is trying to figure out how to administer a tariff bailout program announced only a week before?

Just when the muddy, murky mess couldn't get any muddier and murkier, rumors began to float that some of the long-awaited, just-passed \$19 billion hurricane relief package—that includes \$3 billion for Perdue to dole out to rural America as he sees fit—might be added to prevented-planting payouts for farmers still facing plant-no plant choices.

Really? Well, sure. Wait, maybe. Ah, we'll let you know.

Which begs the question: What else could possibly happen to make an already difficult farming year into an even bigger mess?

On second thought, I don't want to know.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and more are posted at www.farmandfoodfile.com.



Remembering Our Roots



FARMERS UNION
THROUGH THE YEARS

Which are you?

There are two kinds of people on earth today;
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.
Not the sinner and saint, for it's well understood,
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.

Not the rich and the poor, for to rate a man's wealth,
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.
Not the humble and proud, for in life's little span,
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.

Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.
No! The two kinds of people on earth I mean,
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go you will find the earth's masses
Are always divided in just two classes.
And oddly enough, you will find, too, I we'en
There's only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters, who toil down the road?
Or are you a leaner, who lets others share
Your portion of labor and worry and care?

— Reprinted from *The Kansas Union Farmer*, 1937
Shared by National Farmers Union Historian Tom Giessel

"We must educate ourselves as farmers, to think; in the past we have allowed the other fellow to do our thinking for us and he was perfectly satisfied with the arrangement. We were more valuable to the other fellow, he can stay in the saddle with less trouble if we allow him to do our thinking for us.

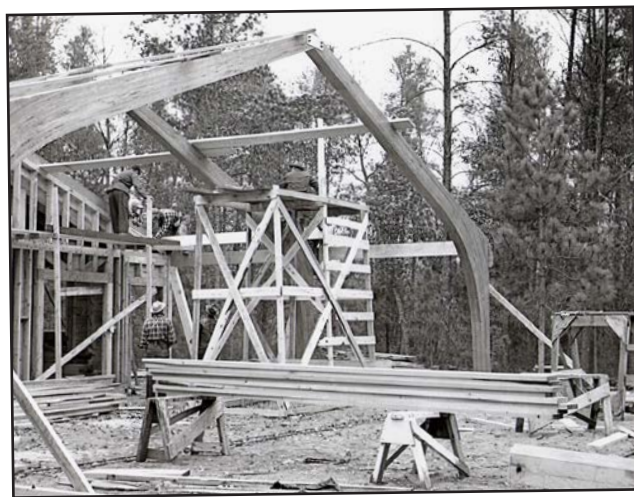
I have an old mule up in Iowa and he and I are the best of friends, yet if old Jack should ever arrive at the place where he would commence to think, he would be of no value to me. God didn't intend you for mules, if he had, he would have given you four legs instead of two and fewer brains."

— Milo Reno, Farmers Union Pioneer
Speech at Missouri Farmers Union Convention
October 1921



WFU Archival Photo

A trio, presumably pausing from their day's work, pose beside a Farmers Union Co-op truck, circa 1930s.



WFU Archival Photo

In the late 1940s, Farmers Union members helped build the lodge that still stands today at Wisconsin Farmers Union Kamp Kenwood, on the shores of Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls.

Have Farmers Union history or photos you would like to share? Send them to WFU Communications Director Danielle Endvick at dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com or 117 W. Spring St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

NFU, FFA commit to partnership on youth education, leadership



Photo by National Farmers Union

National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson signs the agreement with the National FFA Organization.

As the average age of the American farmer approaches 60, National Farmers Union (NFU) and the National FFA Organization are working together to cultivate the next generation of American agricultural professionals.

At a ceremony in Minneapolis in June, NFU President Roger Johnson and National FFA Organization CEO Mark Poeschl formalized their joint commitment to agricultural education and cemented a longstanding partnership by signing a memorandum of understanding summarizing ways the two groups will continue to encourage youth engagement and leadership, share resources, and elevate each other's roles within farming communities.

"Many generations of Farmers Union members have grown up in their local FFA chapters," said Johnson. "This MOU is a logical next step in what has long been a mutually beneficial friendship between our two organizations."

NFU and FFA both have long histories of supporting youth in agriculture, though the two address the issue in different ways. FFA, which is primarily an intra-curricular student organization, helps prepare thousands of young people for more than 240 careers in agriculture, including farming, education, science, and business. Although Farmers Union, a grassroots organization representing family farmers and ranchers, offers youth scholarship and leadership programs as well, the organization also advocates local, state, and federal policies that strengthen rural and agricultural education and help young Americans successfully enter the field of agriculture.

"It's clear that NFU and FFA have similar goals and values when it comes to youth education," said Poeschl. "We are excited to be working hand in hand with NFU as we both continue to foster youth engagement and leadership in agriculture."

DATCP advises caution with farm financing

MADISON – While farmers rush to get the seeds in the ground, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) cautions farmers not to make hasty decisions concerning financing.

"During these challenging economic times, farmers are seeking operating loans to cover needed expenses. If conventional lending options are no longer available, farmers may seek an alternative," said DATCP Secretary-designee Brad Pfaff. "Unfortunately, some alternatives may not be legitimate and often target those in need of funds quickly."

"There are various opportunities for farmers in Wisconsin to seek financial help. Wisconsin has many safe and sound financial institutions that know their communities and want to help their farming customers thrive," said Secretary-designee Kathy Blumenfeld of the Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions (DFI).

DFI encourages borrowers who are seeking a nontraditional lender to confirm that the lender is registered with the state. Lists of registered payday lenders are available at http://www.wdfi.org/fi/lfs/licensee_lists/.

DATCP's Farm Center staff have seen offers from unregulated lenders to extend a significant line of credit to farmers as quickly as the next business day. While these lenders may offer to bridge a gap with financing, often unregistered lenders create additional hardships for farmers long-term.

All Wisconsin Farm Center services are confidential and offered free of charge. Other services include succession planning, mediation services, and assistance accessing counseling vouchers.

Contact the Wisconsin Farm Center at 1-800-942-2474 between 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays or email farmcenter@wisconsin.gov at any time. Learn more about the Wisconsin Farm Center at farmcenter.wi.gov.



What's On Your Table?

Dairy Good Summer Delights



Diane Tiry

Administrative Assistant

The Dairy Good Cookbook was given to me by a fellow staff member, Sarah Lloyd, and it has some dairy good recipe ideas for summer. The cookbook can be purchased on Amazon for about \$10-15. Remember, July is "National Ice Cream Month" and the fruit sauce for the Fresh Berry-Stuffed French Toast can also be used to put on that great homemade ice cream.

FRESH BERRY-STUFFED FRENCH TOAST & VANILLA YOGURT SAUCE

Source: The Dairy Good Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

2 c. mixed fresh berries
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
1/3 c. sweet condensed milk
6 oz. vanilla yogurt
1 loaf French bread
1 large egg
1 large egg white
1/3 c. milk
1 tsp. granulated sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter



Photo: The Dairy Good Cookbook

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine the berries and powdered sugar in a medium bowl and stir gently. For the sauce, combine 1/2 cup of the sweetened berries, the sweetened condensed milk, and the yogurt in a blender. Blend until smooth; set aside.
2. Preheat the oven to 225° F. Cut the bread into eight 1 1/2 -inch slices. Cut into each piece almost all the way through to create a pocket. Stuff each pocket with 3 Tbsp. of the remaining sweetened berries; press lightly to close; set aside.
3. Whisk the egg, egg white, milk, granulated sugar, vanilla and cinnamon in medium bowl. Melt 1 Tbsp. butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Dip the stuffed bread slices in the egg mixture to coat. Cook in the skillet until lightly browned on each side, about 2 minutes, turning once. Add butter to pan as needed. Place cooked slices on a platter and keep warm in the oven while you cook the remainder.
4. Place slices on serving plates. Top with mixed berries and serve with the yogurt-berry sauce and fresh berries.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM IN A BAG

Source: <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipe-ideas/recipes/a54721/ice-cream-in-a-bag-recipe/>

INGREDIENTS

1 c. half-and-half
2 Tbsp. granulated sugar
1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
3 c. ice
1/3 c. kosher salt
Toppings of your choice



Photo: Parker Feierbach

DIRECTIONS

1. In a small resealable plastic bag, combine half-and-half, sugar, and vanilla. Push out excess air and seal.
2. Into a large resealable plastic bag, combine ice and salt. Place small bag inside the bigger bag and shake vigorously, 7 to 10 minutes, until ice cream has hardened.
3. Remove from bag and enjoy with your favorite ice cream toppings.

This next recipe can be used for camping, tailgating at baseball games, or simply eating at home. It is a one-dish meal that can be made ahead of time. These packets can be refrigerated up to eight hours before cooking.

OVEN BBQ CHICKEN & CHEDDAR VEGGIE PACKETS

Source: The Dairy Good Cookbook

INGREDIENTS

4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1/4 cup barbecue sauce
4 small red potatoes, thinly sliced
1 green or red bell pepper, seeded and sliced in 8 rings
1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions, white and green parts
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
2 c. shredded Cheddar cheese



Photo: The Dairy Good Cookbook

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven or grill to 375°F. For each packet, place a sheet of Heavy-Duty Aluminum foil, about 12 by 12 inches, on a work surface. Place one chicken breast half in the

WELCOME NEW FARMERS UNION MEMBERS!

New Member

Alexander Engel, Colby
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 Amy Halopka, Dorchester
 Amy Kalkbrenner & Rodney Cain, Viroqua
 Angela & Larry Jenson Family, Elk Mound
 Anne & Jeffrey Woolever Family, Elk Mound
 Benjamin Streich, Orfordville
 Brandon Timlin & Bobbi Stanton, Chippewa Falls
 Brent Lepple, Beaver Dam
 Brett Bullock Family, Eau Claire
 Elizabeth Darby & Lucas McElroy, Eau Claire
 Jack Geerts, Athens
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From page 26 ► RECIPES

center of the foil. Brush 1 Tablespoon of the barbecue sauce over the chicken. Top with one sliced potato, two bell pepper rings, and 2 tablespoons sliced green onion. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.

2. Bring the two opposite sides of the foil together and fold down, sealing tightly. Roll up the short ends of the packet to seal tightly. Place the packet on a large rimmed baking sheet. Repeat with the remaining ingredients.

NOTE: If taking camping or tailgating, refrigerate for up to 8 hours.

3. Bake for 35 minutes. Carefully open each packet with scissors and peel back the foil. Sprinkle ½ cup of the cheese on each serving. Return to the oven for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the cheese has melted.

4. Place one packet on each serving plate (or carefully slide the contents onto the serving plate).

5. Serve with additional barbecue sauce on the side, if desired.

Enjoy these dairy good recipes.
 Happy and healthy eating to all,

Diane Tiry



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If your photo is chosen for the cover of the next *Wisconsin Farmers Union News*, you could win a Farmers Union hat! Email your photo to WFU Communications Director Danielle Endvick at dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com for a chance to win!

On the cover this month:

Wisconsin Farmers Union Membership Director Deb Jakubek snapped this lovely summer scene on the farm of Chippewa County Farmers Union member Tom Moos.



Win a Farmers Union trucker hat!