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# WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEWS

January 2016

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Volume 73 | No. 1

## Remembering Our Roots

### *Wisconsin Farmers Union to celebrate 85th Convention in Appleton*

Wisconsin Farmers Union will celebrate its 85th State Convention Jan. 29-31 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Farmers and family farm advocates are invited to attend the event, with a theme of "Remembering Our Roots."

Workshop sessions will delve into some of the big issues faced by family farmers and rural communities

today and will look at ways to build a more vibrant future for the next generation.

The weekend will kick off at noon Friday afternoon with a workshop on how agritourism can play a role in building community on the farm.

On Saturday, workshops will be held on groundwater issues, money in politics, narratives of modern agriculture, investing in soil health, developing agricultural infrastructure, building allies, and celebrating the gift of laughter.

WFU President Darin Von Ruden will update attendees on the past year's accomplishments, ongoing projects and a vision for 2016.

National Farmers Union Honorary Historian Tom Giessel will present the afternoon keynote, sharing some of the rich history of Farmers Union. Giessel is a farmer in Pawnee County near Larned, Kansas. He raises wheat, corn, milo and alfalfa. Tom has been active in Farmers Union all of his life, serving as vice president of the Kansas Farmers Union for nearly two decades. He currently serves as president of the Pawnee County Farmers Union.

During the banquet on Saturday evening, award-winning illusionist and comic magician Jared Sherlock will present his modern magic act.



Photo by Jim Richardson, courtesy of National Geographic

**Above:** *Kansas farmer and National Farmers Union Honorary Historian Tom Giessel will present the keynote, "Remembering Our Roots," at the Wisconsin Farmers Union 85th Annual Convention Jan. 29-31 in Appleton.*

Throughout the weekend, the grassroots membership will be at work shaping the bylaws and policy that guide the organizational work of Wisconsin Farmers Union. Other activities throughout convention include a concurrent Youth Co-op Convention (details on page 8), the Torchbearer's Award Presentation for youth program graduates, and a WFU Foundation Fundraiser on Friday evening for WFU Kamp Kenwood.

The convention is open to the public but only member delegates may vote on policy issues. On the final day of convention, delegates will elect directors from District 3 (Eau

Claire, Chippewa and Clark counties), District 5 (Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk and Vernon counties), and District 8 (Brown, Calumet, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Forest, Florence, Kewaunee, Langlade, Marinette, Manitowoc, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Winnebago counties.) A delegate will also be elected to represent WFU at the National Farmers Union Convention March 5-8 in Minneapolis, Minn.

See the convention registration form on page 16. Or register today at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)!

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# Bill threatens local control and farmland preservation



**Darin Von Ruden**  
*President*

Wisconsin Farmers Union has a strong tradition of fighting for local control. We certainly aren't alone.

There are many people that, regardless of political leanings, believe local units of government are often better-equipped than state or federal government to tailor policies to fit local conditions and preferences. That's why two identical bills recently introduced in the Wisconsin State Senate and Assembly have raised the alarm bells for advocates of local control across the state.

Assembly Bill 582 and its companion bill (Senate Bill 464) would make a variety of changes to how the state regulates property rights and shoreland zoning. WFU holds deep concerns regarding two provisions within the bill. The first would limit local regulation of land use by expanding the vested rights provisions within Wisconsin State Statutes. The second would modify the property tax treatment of undeveloped land in Wisconsin in a way that would negatively impact farmland preservation.

### Expanding vested rights would limit local control

When an individual's rights to develop or change a property are vested, it means the individual is subject to local zoning laws and ordinances as they were at that time. Any zoning ordinances created or modified after the property owner's rights are vested do not apply to that property. Currently, there are a limited number of situations in which vested rights apply. AB 582 would expand the definition of vested rights, creating more situations in which vested rights could be used. This could curtail the ability of local governments to respond to the development or expansion of frac sand mines, other industrial sites, or CAFOs.

Currently, vested rights are triggered when a property owner applies for certain local permits (such as a building permit). AB 582 would also allow a state permit to trigger a freeze on local zoning and land use ordinances for the permit holder. This would limit a local government's flexibility in responding to changing conditions and, in extension, in protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens. Due to the fact that a period of

public notice to affected local governments or property owners is not required prior to the approval of state permits, situations undoubtedly will arise in which affected localities and property owners will be unaware of the permit application during the 10-day window provided for objections.

Additionally, AB 582 would eliminate the current requirement that lands of a project be adjacent in order to trigger vested rights. This means that if one entity owns multiple parcels of land throughout the state and applies for a single driveway permit on a single land parcel, zoning for all the parcels owned by that entity (regardless of their proximity to the original land parcel with the driveway permit) would be frozen at the time of the permit approval. The bill also allows for retroactive application, meaning that the vested rights portion of AB 582 would apply to any project yet to receive final approval at the time the bill was passed.

### Negative implications for farmland preservation

WFU also has concerns that AB 582 would negatively impact farmland preservation. This is because the bill would reduce the tax burden (and thus the disincentive) of converting agricultural land to other uses by creating a lower-tax category for the interim period after agricultural use has ended, but before building actually commences on the land. As a result, certain parcels of land that are currently classified as agricultural would be reclassified as undeveloped under AB 582.

This would provide developers with an avenue to avoid the conversion fee which accompanies agricultural land development. By creating this separate taxation benchmark for certain types of undeveloped lands, the bill undermines the farmland preservation purpose of use value taxation, essentially allowing farmland to be developed without penalty.

### What can you do?

Contact your State Senators and Assembly Representatives and let them know that you are concerned about this bill. Tell them that the changes this bill makes to vested rights would significantly damage local land use oversight and local control. Also share with them why farmland preservation is important to you. Ask them to eliminate the developer's discount within the bill, and to preserve the farmland preservation aspects of use value taxation. Most importantly, ask that they not support AB 582/SB 464 in its current form.

## Farmers Union Emerging Leaders Retreat planned for February in Tomah

Wisconsin Farmers Union is hosting our annual Emerging Leaders Retreat Feb. 12-14 at Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah. Join us for this family-friendly retreat and learn more about Farmers Union and how you can be an advocate for issues in your community. Young or beginning farmers and/or new Wisconsin Farmers Union members are encouraged to attend.

Youth activities and daycare for younger children will be available. Bring the whole family and network with other farm families from across the state while learning valuable leadership skills. There will also be ample time for visiting and enjoying the pool.

There is a small fee to attend and space is limited. For more details please contact WFU Membership Coordinator Deb Jakubek at 715-590-2130 or [djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com).



## 2016 Summer Camp Information

For generations, Wisconsin Farmers Union Kamp Kenwood, located on beautiful Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls, has been a place where lasting friendships and summer memories are made. Young people from rural and urban areas alike will enjoy this summer camp program, focused on cooperation and leadership.



- hiking • campfires
- swimming • sports
- singing • drama
- speakers • workshops
- co-op games
- theme nights
- arts & crafts

## 2016 Camp Dates Announced!

### Junior Camps

June 7-10 • June 28-July 1  
Aug. 9-12 • Aug. 14-17 • Aug. 21-24

### For younger children & families:

**Acorn Day Camp** (Ages 7 & up)  
Aug. 6 • \$15 per child

### Jr. High Camps

June 7-10 • July 31-Aug. 4

### Family Camp

(All ages)  
July 29-30  
\$65 for 1 adult and up to 2 children  
\$25 per extra adult, \$15 per extra child

### Senior Camp

June 12-16

Not a member of Wisconsin Farmers Union?  
Include \$30 for a WFU family membership.

Registration opens in mid-January at [www.WisconsinFarmersUnion.com](http://www.WisconsinFarmersUnion.com)!



For more information:

800.272.5531 • [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)  
[cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)



## Farmer's Share of Retail Food Dollar

Did you know that farmers and ranchers receive only 15.8\* cents of every food dollar that consumers spend on food at home and away from home?

According to USDA, off farm costs including marketing, processing, wholesaling, distribution and retailing account for more than 80 cents of every food dollar spent in the United States.

<b>Bacon</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$4.76 Farmer: \$0.75	<b>Top Sirloin Steak</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$9.89 Farmer: \$2.06	<b>Bread</b> 2 Pounds  Retail: \$2.49 Farmer: \$0.58	<b>Fresh Carrots</b> 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$1.57	<b>Wheat Bagel</b> 1 - 4 oz. bagel  Retail: \$0.96 Farmer: \$0.01
<b>Cereal</b> 18 Ounce Box  Retail: \$4.69 Farmer: \$0.05	<b>Tomatoes</b> 1 Pound  Retail: \$2.79 Farmer: \$0.42	<b>Eggs</b> 1 Dozen  Retail: \$3.29 Farmer: \$1.44	<b>Flour</b> 5 Pounds  Retail: \$2.49 Farmer: \$0.58	<b>Boneless Ham</b> Price per Pound  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$0.75
<b>Lettuce</b> 1 Head (2 Pounds)  Retail: \$2.79 Farmer: \$0.69	<b>Milk</b> 1 Gallon, Fat Free  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$1.52	<b>Potato Chips</b> Lays Classic, 10.5 oz  Retail: \$2.50 Farmer: \$0.18	<b>Fresh Potatoes</b> Russet, 5 Pounds  Retail: \$3.89 Farmer: \$0.44	<b>Soda</b> Two Liter Bottle  Retail: \$0.88 Farmer: \$0.06

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2015.  
\*Prices based on October 2015 data  
Retail based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted.  
\*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service



# Top Moments of 2015



## *January State Convention Draws a Crowd to Eau Claire*

In January, Wisconsin Farmers Union members from throughout the state converged on Eau Claire for the 84th annual Wisconsin Farmers Union Convention, where highlights included a solar energy workshop, the grassworks debating of WFU's annual policy, a fundraiser for the WFU Foundation, workshops and more! Join us for our milestone 85th Anniversary Convention Jan. 29-31, 2016 in Appleton! (Details on page 1.)



## *Solar Shines as a Hot Topic Year-Round!*

More than 200 people from around the state turned out for a Moving Solar Forward workshop hosted by Wisconsin Farmers Union in Eau Claire in conjunction with our state convention. The workshop inspired a number of families to submit grants for solar projects, four of which have already been installed. Among them was this project at Barron County Farmers Union members Mike Racette and Patty Wright's Spring Hill Community Farm. WFU was also proud to partner with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association on solar-themed Power Hours around the state.

## *Engaging Emerging Leaders*

Wisconsin Farmers Union welcomed Emerging Leaders to Eau Claire in February, where the group enjoyed a weekend retreat with their families and discussed the importance of civic engagement and WFU's roles in policy, education and legislation. Interested in taking part in Emerging Leaders activities? This program is open to beginning farmers and new WFU members. See page 3 for details on the 2016 Retreat.





### *Behind-the-Scenes Policy Work*

The Wisconsin Farmers Union policy staff was hard at work in 2015, looking out for family farmers and rural communities. The team includes Governments Relations Director Kara O'Connor, Government Relations Associate Zach Herrstadt, and Policy Organizer David Wright-Racette. These three fought hard on a slew of topics this year, not the least of which was the grueling State Budget.

### *Grassroots Action*

WFU members took to the halls of the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. in September for the National Farmers Union Fly-In. Thanks to all who took time away from their farms to speak up for Farmers Union!



### *The Big Share Success*

In March, the WFU Foundation took part in The Big Share, a 24-hour online fundraiser dedicated to 70 Wisconsin non-profit groups. Thanks to more than 100 donors, including many camp alumni and past counselors, we crushed our goal, raising a whopping \$6,520 and earning some Big Share cash prizes. Combined with a generous matching grant, we raised over \$12,000 for our beloved camp!



### *A Rockin' Youth Year!*

WFU was honored to have two members, Andrew Cotter and Ali Slaughter, elected to National Youth Advisory Council this year during National Farmers Union All-States Camp in Bailey, Colo. Attendance also increased for the fifth straight year this summer at WFU Kamp Kenwood near Chippewa Falls, Wis., with nearly 400 campers registered at seven camp sessions (up from 351 campers in 2014 and the highest camp attendance since the 1980s).



### *Women Caring for the Land*

Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Women Food and Agriculture Network joined forces in summer 2015 to organize a Women Caring for the Land series around the state. These events are designed for female landowners who are interested in learning more about conservation. The Farmers Union staff is already looking forward to more specialized programming opportunities in the coming year!

*Wishing you a Happy 2016!*



**From top left, clockwise:** Wisconsin Farmers Union Executive Director Tom Quinn caught a laugh with longtime friend and WFU member Dan Guenthner during the Midwest CSA Conference; the event drew 200-plus CSA farmers and advocates to Eau Claire Dec. 3-4; attendees enjoyed tasty, locally-sourced fare; a panel of farmers discussed The Changing Landscape of CSA; sweet Iris was among the youngest CSA advocates at the conference, having attended with her parents, Tenzin and Stacey Botsford of Red Door Family Farm.



## *Midwest CSA Conference* Dec. 3-4, 2015 • Eau Claire, WI



**Above:** Participants in The Changing Landscape of CSA panel were from left, Lauren and Caleb Longworthy of Blue Ox Organics, Wheeler; Mike Jacobs of Easy Bean Farm, Milan, Minn.; Sarah Woutat of Uproot Farm, Princeton, Minn.; and Josh Bryceson of Turnip Rock Farm, Clear Lake. The panel, which reflected on opportunities and challenges for CSA farmers, was facilitated by Dan Guenthner of Common Harvest Farm near Osceola.

# Wisconsin Farmers Union Foundation Friday Night Fundraiser

*Proceeds go toward facility upgrades to:*



**Wisconsin  
Farmers Union  
KAMP KENWOOD**

**6-9 p.m., Friday, Jan. 29, 2016**  
**Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton**  
**\$35 per person**

**Live Auction • Raffles • Buffet Dinner**

**Register at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com) today!**

## National Farmers Union heading to Minnesota

The National Farmers Union Convention will be close to home this year. Our neighbors across the river will host the 115th Anniversary Convention March 5-8 at the Radisson Blu in Minneapolis.

Breakout sessions will feature Minnesota Cooks, Farm Safety, Social Media & Marketing, Value-Added Grain: Transitioning to Organic, Food Safety Regulation on the Farm, NFU History, and Staying Engaged: Grassroots Advocacy.

There will be tour options available for \$25, which include a Minnesota Cooks lunch:

- The Co-op Tour will explore the rich tradition of cooperatives in Minnesota, with stops including CHS, Eastside Co-Op and Fair State Brewery.

- The Local Foods Tour will highlight the value-added proposition that Minnesota Cooks brings to the table. Stops will include Shepherd's Way Farm, The Food Building and Charcuterie.

Register for the tour of your choice when registering as a convention attendee. Information for self-guided tours of Minneapolis will be available. Find costs and more details at [www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org).

Please contact Diane at the Wisconsin Farmers Union office, [dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or 715-723-5561, if you plan to attend.

## *Kamp Kenwood Corner: Many hands make our work enjoyable*



**Brad Henderson**  
*Facilities Manager*

While walking about the 23 acres that comprise Kamp Kenwood, Wisconsin Farmers Union's youth camp on Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls, it has occurred to me that our camp has both the grandeur and upkeep of a vintage automobile or a turn-of-the-century home. Our 100-year-old trees are truly majestic but can cause a lot of damage when they fall on the lodge roof like one did in 2009. The roll in docks were acquired in 2006 and after 10 years they need some additional work to be stabilized. Also, the heavy rains during last summer have eroded our beach and the ground near the staff cabin necessitating regrading and landscaping.

These jobs require professional help but there are also many tasks that can be done by volunteers. There are things we need to do to keep the camp running, but in addition there are projects that we like to do to make the property more beautiful. If

you have a green thumb, flowers and shrubs can be planted to improve the aesthetics of our camp, and the benches and tables we use outside can be painted. If you enjoy the work of cutting trees and splitting firewood, our two fireplaces and four outdoor fire rings can use restocking.

When you spend time helping at Kamp Kenwood you will find your work meaningful and gratifying. And you can be sure you won't go away hungry!

We realize that somatic toil is not the only way to help our camp. In fact, without the generous financial contributions we received last spring during The Big Share drive, our new refrigerator and freezer for the lodge would not have been possible.

When we get donations, it is often helpful to know just what item or project a donor wants to support. So we have put together a list of things to consider for 2016:

- Resin cutting boards for lodge kitchen
- Gas fueled power washer
- Supports to stabilize piers
- Backboard and hoop for the basketball court
- Hi-efficiency washing machine for camp laundry

- Fans on a stand for the lodge
- Sound system for the lodge
- Volleyball net
- Water safety equipment for lifeguarding

Would you like to help us by volunteering at Kamp Kenwood in 2016? Would you be willing to contribute by making a donation to our wish list?

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer projects or if you are willing to donate to camp, give me a call 715-214-7244 or email [bhenderson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:bhenderson@wisconsinfarmersunion.com). Or you can plan to meet up with me at the 85th WFU State Convention, where I will have an opportunity to share more about the work we've completed at camp and some of the ideas we have for future improvements to the property at Kamp Kenwood.

Get your tickets now for the WFU Foundation Fundraiser on Friday, January 29. Registration is open at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com). For \$35 per person, enjoy the buffet and the entertainment of the live auction. Proceeds go toward improvements to the camp.

I look forward to working with you in 2016!

# Canadian guest to be featured speaker for Youth Co-op Convention



**Cathy Statz**  
Education Director

**Y**outh from across the state will be in eastern Wisconsin this winter for the Youth Co-op Convention at the Wisconsin

Farmers Union's 85th Annual Convention Jan. 29-31, 2016 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton.

The Youth Co-op Convention will begin at 9:15am Saturday morning. Wisconsin Farmers Union has a long tradition of inviting a Canadian speaker to the Youth Co-op Convention in even-numbered years. This year, the program will feature Céline Carrière, Executive Director for the Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario (CHASEO).

Céline has been at the helm of CHASEO as Executive Director since January 2012. She is a passionate and active member of the co-operative sector, particularly in the co-operative housing movement, where she has worked and volunteered for more than seven years. In 2012, CHASEO adopted a Young Member Engagement Strategy for housing co-ops, which is unsurprising, since Céline was a participant in the Ontario Co-operative Youth Leadership program, for which she also served as a facilitator.

Céline graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Bachelors degree in English Literature and Communications. She also completed the Co-operative Management Certificate through York University in 2012.



*Above: This 2016 Youth Co-op Convention program will feature Céline Carrière, Executive Director for the Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario (CHASEO).*

Céline has served on a number of boards, including the founding board of McLean Co-op, Coopérative Jeanneville, OnCo-op and Rooftops Canada. She is currently a member of Glenn Haddrell Housing Co-op and has served on the board at Your Credit Union since 2013. Céline represents housing co-operatives on a number of City of Ottawa working groups and has a positive

working relationship with the Agency for Co-operative Housing.

A member of a housing co-operative herself, Céline works hard to serve housing co-ops across Eastern Ontario. She believes in promoting good governance, strong management, effective planning and the co-operative principles.

We look forward to hearing from Céline during the youth program on Saturday and Sunday.

Youth will have free time for swimming and visiting with friends during the afternoon before the Saturday evening banquet, which will feature the Torchbearer Ceremony to honor graduating Farmers Union youth. A youth dance/social with pizza party will follow the banquet.

An interfaith worship service and breakfast will begin the Sunday morning program, followed by the continuation of the youth program. The convention and youth program will conclude after lunch on Sunday afternoon.

Youth volunteers are welcome to help with childcare and other convention duties while the Youth Co-op Convention is not in session. Please Contact Cathy Statz at 800-272-55531 or [cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:cstatz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) to volunteer. Also needed are collegiate-aged volunteers.

The WFU State Convention and Youth Co-op Convention are a great opportunity for families to get away and spend time together, especially as we celebrate our 85th anniversary. We look forward seeing you in Appleton!

**NOTE:** 2016 WFU Kamp Kenwood dates have been set, and we will soon open registration! See session dates in the ad on page 3 of this newsletter.

## Youth Co-op Convention Agenda

<b>Friday, January 29, 2016</b>		10:15am	WFU Presidential Address	9:00pm	Pizza & DJ for youth
4:30-9pm	Registration (Lobby)	10:30am	Break	<b>Sunday, January 31, 2016</b>	
4:30-10pm	Youth Room open (No scheduled activities)	11:00am	Céline Carrière continued	7:45am	Interfaith Worship Service
6:00pm	Friday Night Fundraiser (Tickets required)	12:00pm	Break	8:30am	Breakfast
<b>Saturday, January 30, 2016</b>		12:15pm	Lunch & Keynote "Remembering Our Roots" Award Presentations	9:15am	Céline Carrière continues
9:15am	Welcome & Introductions	2:15pm	Youth free for afternoon	10:45am	Break
9:30am	Youth Program begins – featuring Céline Carrière	2:30pm	Torchbearer rehearsal	11:00am	Céline Carrière continues
		6:00pm	Banquet & Entertainment Torchbearer Ceremony	11:30am	NYAC Updates: Fly-In
				11:45am	Evaluations
				12:00pm	Lunch
					Adjourn

# Farmer-led council looks to the next generation of farmers



**Above:** Chris Holman and Kriss Marion (right side, first and second) joined other young farmers from around the nation in North Dakota in last month for a meeting of the Next Generation Advisory Council.

**By Kriss Marion**

*Next Generation Advisory Council member*

This past year I've had the great pleasure, along with Chris Holman from Wisconsin, to serve with six other young or beginning farmers from around the country on the National Farmers Union Next Generation Advisory Council. Although we represent very different farms of widely varying sizes, as well as the diverse Farmers Union cultures of our states, we all share a strong commitment to the future of farming and the future of the Farmers Union.

Appointed by the NFU's Board to address the issues of shrinking participation in the farming profession and the challenges of maintaining membership and engagement in the Farmers Union due to that fact, the mission of the Next Generation Advisory Council is to be a focus group that conceptualizes new initiatives and develops recommendations to present to NFU leadership. Participants in the group are charged with being visionaries for NFU, creating ideas to drive membership, involvement and leadership development, and to advocate for Farmers Union to the next generation of farmers.

The Council's first meeting was held at NFU's National Convention last February in Wichita, KS, followed by monthly conference calls through the year and a meeting at the NFU Fly-In in Washington, D.C., in September. At our most recent meeting in Fargo, ND on Dec. 5, we mapped out the year's worth of research into three main initiatives:

- **Membership:** Increase membership and engagement of NFU's next generation, including young, new and beginning farmers and ranchers and sup-

porters of family agriculture.

- **Leadership:** Protect the future of Farmers Union by developing and implementing a clear succession plan for leadership at all levels, roles and positions.

- **Mentorship:** Support the growth of family farming through mentorship programs that connect people, promote land access and transfer knowledge.

While this small group of motivated NFU advocates recognizes that these are lofty goals, we also feel they are too important to not achieve. The very future of farming in America, national food security and each of our local rural communities is at stake.

Our next meeting will be just before NFU's National Convention this February in Minneapolis, at which time we plan to present our detailed plan for actions and programs to achieve these goals, including chapter-building Tool Kits for county and local presidents, strengthened and expanded leadership programs at state and national levels, a broadened offering of member benefits, and the development of non-traditional social events to build connections to the broader community.

Are these topics of interest to you? Please feel free to approach Chris or I with ideas along these lines, and stay tuned!

*Kriss Marion is a first-generation farmer from Blanchardville, population 825. She runs a farm-to-table dinner CSA and a bed and breakfast. In addition to growing vegetables, she raises Berkshire hogs, Jersey-cross beef, wool sheep and milk goats on rotational pasture. She is the president of WFU's South Central Chapter. Kriss is passionate about rural places, open spaces and family farms of all shapes and sizes.*

## FARMERS UNION HAPPENINGS

**South Central Farmers Union Lunch Meeting: The Next Generation of Livestock Farmers, Jan. 4,** 11am to 1pm, Sugar River Pizza, New Glarus. Robert Bauer of Southwest Badger RC&D, will talk about connecting landowners with graziers and about the Mentorship Program for Future Livestock Farmers.)

**Wassail at The Cider Farm, Jan. 12,** 1 to 3pm, Mineral Point. (WFU member Deirdre Birmingham will host a blessing of the orchard with a tour and tasting, followed by a talk on organic fruit production and grants advising opportunities available by the Farmers Union and Michael Fields Institute.)

**Grassworks Grazing Conference, Jan. 14-16,** Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells, [www.grassworks.org](http://www.grassworks.org)

**Wisconsin Local Food Summit, Jan. 14-15,** Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, <http://wilocalfood.wordpress.com/summit-2016/>

**National Farmers Union Women's Conference, Jan. 23-27,** Clearwater Beach, Florida, [www.nfu.org/education](http://www.nfu.org/education)

**85th annual WFU State Convention, Jan. 29-31,** Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton. Register at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**Agritourism Workshop, Jan. 29,** noon to 4pm, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, 303 W. College Ave., Appleton, [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**Greater Wisconsin Farm Expo, Feb. 2-3,** Central WI Convention Center, Rothschild

**Local Food Fair, Feb. 4,** 5:30-8:30pm, SPASH High School, Stevens Point, <http://www.farmshed.org/events/local-food-fair/>

**Emerging Leaders Annual Retreat, Feb. 12-14,** Cranberry Country Lodge, Tomah, contact WFU State Office at 715-723-5561 for details

**MOSES Organic Farming Conference, Feb. 25-27,** La Crosse Center, [www.mosesorganic.org](http://www.mosesorganic.org)

**National Farmers Union Convention, March 5-8,** Radisson Blu, Minneapolis, [www.nfu.org](http://www.nfu.org)

**Eau Claire Farm Show, March 8-9,** 9am-3:30pm, Menards Conference Center, Eau Claire

**WPS Farm Show, March 29-31,** EAA Grounds, Oshkosh

*Farmers Union members are welcome to submit chapter or farm events to Danielle at [dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:dendvick@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or 715-471-0398.*

# Frac Sand Mining Workshop gives valuable update on local control



**David Wright-Racette**  
Policy Organizer

Despite the wind, rain, and snow, over 150 farmers, town board members, and interested citizens flocked to Eau Claire Dec. 14 to hear how the frac sand mining industry has evolved over the past six years when its rapid expansion first started in Wisconsin. The workshop was sponsored by Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Wisconsin Towns Association as a follow-up to another conference held by the two organizations approximately four years ago. At the time, there were more questions than answers: What effect would the industry have on rural communities, what would the economic impacts be, how would reclamation occur, what would the effect on air quality be, would the industry experience the same booms and busts that have plagued other types of mining, and what tools did towns have to manage development?

Although many questions still remain, the workshop provided attendees an update on the state of the industry now that it has experienced its first boom and subsequent bust. With the market for frac sand increasingly tethered to the oil and natural gas industry, which buys 72 percent of the nation's industrial sand, the drop in oil prices from over \$100/barrel in mid-2014 to around \$35/barrel in December of 2015 caused demand for frac sand to plummet by 30 to 40 percent. Numerous frac sand companies in western Wisconsin have had to lay off workers and the number of inactive mines has grown. Oil prices are projected to remain low throughout 2016 and perhaps start



**Above:** More than 150 farmers, town officials and interested citizens took part in a Frac Sand Mining Workshop Dec. 14 in Eau Claire. The event was organized by Wisconsin Farmers Union and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

to recover in 2017, although some predict the recovery will take even longer. Perhaps the main takeaway from the workshop in Eau Claire was that the frac sand industry suffers from the same problems as other extractive industries but towns have the power to manage development in a thoughtful, balanced way:

- The industry will continue the boom and bust cycle predicted from the outset by groups such as WFU.
- Towns have a number of tools at their disposal including zoning, licensing ordinances, development agreements, moratoria, and impact fees to manage mining development, but must do so in a balanced way to not tempt the state to preempt their control.
- Some short-term economic benefits from sand mining do occur, but long-term economic benefits seem unlikely and initial predictions by the industry that mining would bring prosperity to rural communities were overstated.
- Reclamation of mining sites

can be done with varying degrees of success, but no matter how one feels about frac sand mining, we must work with the industry to ensure that reclamation is sustainable and provides economic or ecological value.

- Town board members and area residents have concerns about groundwater quality that need further study. Residents should test their wells to establish a baseline for water quality and towns should address water quality through ordinances.
- Towns dealing with annexation of mines have solid standing to challenge “balloon on a string” annexations but must understand the risks in entering into a lawsuit.
- Initial looks at small sand particles that can be hazardous to health have shown that, at times, the levels of small particles are above acceptable health standards, and further research must be conducted.

Workshop materials and PowerPoint documents will be available at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com) soon for those interested.

Perhaps the most discussed item of the workshop was an issue that was not even on the agenda: another attack on local control by the state legislature. Newly introduced legislation in Madison would restrict local control of frac sand mines. The bill, Assembly Bill 582, would significantly expand the vested rights provisions of the Wisconsin State Statutes. In essence, the bill would freeze local zoning and land use ordinances as soon as a permit holder submitted an application for something as simple as a driveway permit. This means that once a frac sand mine has applied for a permit, a town would have no opportunity to consider enacting zoning, an ordinance, or even a moratorium to allow the town time to study the issue. Even more egregiously, AB 582 would not require the lands of a project to be adjacent in order to trigger vested rights. This means that if one entity owns multiple parcels of land throughout the state and applies for a single driveway permit on a single land parcel, zoning for all the parcels owned by that entity (regardless of their proximity to the original land parcel with the driveway permit) would be frozen at the time of the permit approval.

Attendees were implored to contact their state legislators and ask them to oppose the bill, and WFU asks that you do the same. This bill has far-reaching impacts that will negatively affect farmland preservation, local control livestock siting, wetlands and others.

We cannot overstate how bad this bill is for local control, and the only way to fight this is with people power.

Contact your state senator and representative and ask them to oppose AB 582.

# FUE leadership program applications due March 31

The Farmers Union Enterprise (FUE) states of Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin have been involved in a leadership program over the past eight years to identify and empower future Farmers Union leaders in the five-state region. WFU has had eight couples participate in this program and is now accepting applicants for a 2016-2017 individual or couple.

Participants will experience activities throughout the region that will enhance knowledge of cooperatives and the role of Farmers Union. They will receive training and hands-on experiences enabling them to become greater leaders as well as the know-how to manage and coordinate meetings. They will also attend a fly-in to Washington, D.C., to observe and experience the lobbying process.

Participants will also build many relationships with local, state, and national Farmers Union leaders by attending the National Farmers Union Convention and a State Convention in one of the five FUE states.

This program offers a balance of hard work and good times, with the end vision being that participants take on leadership roles in their communities, farm organizations and local, regional and state Farmers Union affiliates.

The training will help participants become better communicators in order to share their experiences and encourage members and the general public to be involved in the Farmers Union policy process.

FUE's overall goal is for participants to become active members of Farmers Union and care about the future of the organization. This program requires a one-year commitment with attendance at five or six events.

Generally the first and last event is a group gathering in June or July, including immediate family members. The next is attending a State Convention anywhere from November to January depending upon the FUE host state.

Wisconsin Farmers Union expects the participant(s) to attend the WFU State Convention Jan. 27-29, 2017 to be introduced to our

members.

The next leg on this journey is to attend the annual National Farmers Union Convention in March of 2017 in San Diego, California.

Past participants can attest to the knowledge gained at the legislative fly-in, generally held during the second week in September in Washington, D.C.

Lastly, the participant(s) will be expected to give a brief final report to our membership at the 2018 WFU State Convention.

Applicants must write a one to two-page essay including the following information: a description of their farm, brief resume of each candidate and an explanation of why you would like to be considered for this leadership program.

Essays are being accepted until **March 31, 2016** via email at [info@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:info@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or by mail to the WFU State Office, 117 W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, WI. For more details please call 800-272-5531. A final decision will be made by the WFU Board of Directors in April 2016.



## BEYOND TRADITIONAL AGRITOURISM: Cultivating Community on Our Farms

Friday **January 29th** Noon - 4:30 pm

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel • Appleton

Includes lunch • \$35 WFU members

\$65 nonmembers (includes WFU membership)

Register at [www.WisconsinFarmersUnion.com](http://www.WisconsinFarmersUnion.com)!

Photo by Brad Henderson

**Below:** In October the students of Wildlands school in Augusta performed a survey of the grounds at WFU Kamp Kenwood to determine what tree species were present. Along with their teacher, Jeff Hadorn, the students presented their findings to the WFU Board of Directors at a Dec. 11 meeting in Eau Claire.



# New York City building tells New Food's story



Alan Guebert

Chelsea Market, a block-long, block-wide brick building in New York's lower west side, was built 120 years ago on the edge of the city's then-bustling meatpacking district to house a rising food powerhouse, the National Biscuit Company.

It was no accident that the state-of-the-art food factory was located near the city's slaughterhouses; the neighborhood was knee-deep in one key Nabisco input: lard.

Today, Nabisco's roaring ovens, bustling loading docks, and loud tin shop are long gone. The huge building still serves as a food palace, though; it now is home to dozens of restaurants and retailers selling everything from Sunday brunch to everyday kitchen knives. Six million shoppers visit it each year.

Walking through the old factory-turned-new market is a walk through the evolution of the American food system. A century ago, its nearness to inputs, an endless river of immigrant labor, and the nation's growing population combined to make this new-fangled concept—a food factory—an enormous success. Today, however, the building is all new-fangled food.

Even more striking is that today's "new" food looks a lot like yesterday's "old" food. Chelsea Market's bakery, butcher shop, and fishmonger look more like 1915 than 2015. But that yesterday, the yesterday of Big Food pioneer Nabisco, was all about scale, efficiency, and profitability. Today's New Food yesterday is more about quality, experience, and flavor.

As such, many of New Food's farmers, retailers and restaurants don't see themselves as competitors to Big Food. Instead, they see themselves more as an alternative to Big Food.

Growing evidence supports that view. Retail organic food sales alone this year will top \$40 billion. That's about 10 percent larger than estimated farm value of the 2015 American soybean crop, figures the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Even more surprising, players no one even knew existed a decade ago are expanding their New Food reach. In June, Costco passed Whole Foods as the nation's largest organic food seller,

moving about \$4 billion of retail organic food through its stores last year.

Other aspects of New Food are getting traction, too. The just-completed annual Young Farmers Conference at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, now in its eighth year, had twice as many applicants—500—than it could accommodate. The lucky 250 who were invited to attend listened to New/Old Food sessions like "Whole Animal Butchery" and "Edible Ecosystems."

Ten years ago, a young farmers conference like this would not have succeeded, let alone succeeded this wildly, on the East Coast. "In fact," confirms Dan Barber, executive chef and co-owner of Blue Hill at Stone Barns, "we tried it then and it didn't work as well. Now, though, it's just incredible."

Why?

Because the how and what this nation eats and drinks is changing and changing rapidly. A handy, if not heady, example is beer. A decade ago four American brewing giants—Miller, Anheuser-Busch, Coors, and Pabst—dominated the U.S. beer market.

Today, only one, Pabst, remains American-owned and all have lost market share to the nearly 3,300 or so U.S. regional breweries,

microbreweries, and brewpubs that didn't exist when your father punched two holes in a steel can of cold Budweiser 40 years ago.

It's the same with almost every aspect of food—from farm food to fast food. For example, McDonald's Corp., which uses 1.8 billion eggs per year, announced in September that it plans to switch to only eggs from "cage free" hens in its restaurants as "quickly" as possible.

The reason for the switch isn't that Mickey D's has gone all gushy over "happy" hens or, as some ag commenters have suggested, it's being pressured by animal welfare groups. It's far simpler than that: customers want the eggs and the fast food giant knows it has to deliver 'em or risk becoming a dead duck.

If farming and ranching is really about food, then farmers and ranchers should be on the forefront of New Food, not in the lead ranks of the Old Guard. Their new customers, after all, already are.

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## Women's Conference



### Women Making Moves: Managing Transitions on the Farm January 23-27, 2016

- Workshops on leadership development, generational transitions, finances and more
- Networking opportunities and inspiration
- Gain the tools to overcome any transition in your career for a more successful future

Please visit: [www.nfu.org/education](http://www.nfu.org/education)  
for more information

Clearwater Beach, FL

Holiday Inn Conference Center

# WFU cautions against Trans-Pacific Partnership

Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) has signed onto a joint letter urging U.S. Representatives and Senators to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

Authored by the Citizens Trade Campaign, a coalition of national stakeholders (including National Farmers Union), state affiliates, and over 340 local and state groups, the letter cautions lawmakers that, if enacted, the TPP “poses significant threats to American jobs and wages, the environment, food safety and public health, and falls far short of establishing the high standards the United States should require in a 21st Century trade agreement.”

The full text of the TPP was made available to the public Nov. 5 after years of negotiations in which members of the public and even members of Congress were kept in the dark about much of its content.

“Unfortunately, the TPP appears to be as bad for America’s family farmers and ranchers as we had feared,”



*Above: Countries anticipated to participate in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.*

said WFU President Darin Von Ruden. “As we’ve seen with other trade deals, any benefits that farmers see from an increase in agricultural exports are likely to be overshadowed by increased competition from abroad, the loss of U.S. jobs and a growing trade deficit.”

Von Ruden is also concerned by the fact that the agreement contains no enforceable

language to address currency manipulation. “A number of the countries that are pushing to ratify this agreement have recently manipulated their currencies, and there is nothing in this agreement to stop them from doing so again,” he said.

President Obama has indicated his intent to sign the TPP as early as February 2016, meaning congress could vote

on the trade agreement next spring.

“Given that this trade deal has been granted Fast Track authority, which forbids Congress from offering any amendments to the deal and limits them to only an up or down vote, we urge Congress to vote this down,” said Von Ruden.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF STATE CONVENTION

Farmers Educational and Cooperative Union of America — Wisconsin Division

Notice is hereby given that the regular annual convention of delegates and members of the Wisconsin Farmers Union will be convened at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016, at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin, for and in consideration of action upon any and all matters which may lawfully come before said meeting, and said meeting shall continue in session from day to day until the disposition of all proper business.

*Darin Von Ruden, President*  
*Dennis Rosen, Secretary*

# BITS N' PIECES

## Convention sponsors and exhibitors sought

Sponsor and exhibitor registration is open for the 85th WFU State Convention Jan. 29-31 at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton. Cooperatives, farm organizations, and agribusinesses are encouraged to take part in the trade show, which runs throughout the weekend. Submit an ad for our conference program or register as a sponsor online at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com). Booth space this year is limited. Please contact Deb Jakubek at [djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:djakubek@wisconsinfarmersunion.com) or 715-590-2130 for details.

Some local food items are still needed. Farms or businesses interested in selling or donating local food for the weekend's menu or snacks for break times are asked to contact Diane Tiry at 715-723-5561 or [dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com).

## Donations sought for convention fundraiser

Do you love Kamp Kenwood? Do you believe in teaching youth the value of cooperatives and civic engagement? Then consider taking part in the Wisconsin Farmers Union Foundation Fundraiser Fri., Jan. 29th, kicking off the annual convention in Appleton. Proceeds benefit Kamp Kenwood, Wisconsin Farmers Union's historic camp along the shores of Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls. For generations, the camp has offered summer fun and valuable life lessons — all at an affordable price.

Donations are being sought for items for a live auction and raffle. Donors can contact Amanda Kollwitz at 715-723-5561 or [akollwitz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:akollwitz@wisconsinfarmersunion.com). Items for this fundraiser need to be brought to one of the Wisconsin Farmers Union offices — 117 W. Spring Street in Chippewa Falls or 108 S. Webster Street, Suite 201 in Madison — by Wed., Jan. 27th. Or they can be brought to the convention at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel (By Fri., Jan. 29th for raffle items and Sat., Jan. 30th for the silent auction.)

## Members asked to help update WFU timeline

As we celebrate our 85th Anniversary Convention, Wisconsin Farmers Union is reflecting on our rich heritage. Do you have vintage Farmers Union items laying around? We'd love to see them! Do you have some Farmers Union memorabilia and don't know what to do with it? WFU archives items of interest and would cherish donations to our archive.

During the convention, we'll also be updating the Farmers Union timeline. What pivotal moments have you witnessed in Farmers Union history? Members will be able to add items to the timeline throughout convention.

## Farmers Union Lobby Day set for March 15

The Wisconsin Farmers Union's 2016 Farm & Rural Lobby Day has been set for Tuesday, March 15. Come to Madison with fellow farmers and rural residents to talk with your legislators about important issues in your community, including support for beginning farmers and small businesses, local control over land use, and protecting groundwater access for current and future generations. Join in and make your voice heard! Registration will open in mid-January. If there is sufficient interest, van transportation to Madison will be coordinated.



## Cabin on Lake Wissota

**Winter Fun**  
**Business Retreats**  
**Family Get-Togethers**  
**Friends' Night Out**  
**Poker Parties**  
**Youth Group Gatherings**  
**Birthday & Holiday Parties**



WFU Kamp Kenwood's cozy cabin is nestled on the shore of Lake Wissota, adjacent to the scenic trails of Lake Wissota State Park.

Available to rent from mid-October through the end of April, the cabin comfortably sleeps up to twelve guests and features a full kitchen and two bathrooms. This is a perfect destination for smaller retreats or for people who love outdoor recreation in all seasons.



- 4 bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- 2 bathrooms
- Stone fireplace
- Sleeps 10-12 people

Cabin comes equipped with bedding, dishes, towels, and firewood.

## WFU Kamp Kenwood

19161 79th Avenue • Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Contact Facilities Manager Brad Henderson at 715-214-7244 for rates and to reserve.

[www.kampkenwood.com](http://www.kampkenwood.com)  
[www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)



## Wisconsin Food Hub wraps up third season

The Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative (WFHC) is wrapping up sales from its third growing season and moving into the planning phases for the 2016 season. The Co-op is still shipping winter squash to grocery buyers and will sell this year's potatoes into next year. The farmer-led Co-op, owned by the farmers and the Wisconsin Farmers Union, has grown from its initial 11 farmers to 35 farmer members. In 2015 sales should reach close to \$2 million, up from \$900,000 last year.

The Co-op is building the infrastructure for fresh produce sales in Wisconsin and the region. Sales, marketing and logistics services help members to build sales. The WFHC also helps members to meet quality and packaging specifications and food safety requirements that the fresh market buyers demand. At this stage in the business, farmers who can produce and pack a minimum of 20-40 cases, 1 to 2

times a week, for multiple weeks, of any individual crop are the best fit for the WFHC's operational model.

Support from the Wisconsin Farmers Union in the form of equity and assistance with securing loans has been critical to the growth of the co-op in this start-up phase. In addition the WFHC has received grants from the USDA Value Added Producer Grant and Local Foods Promotion Program and the Wallace Center to support building the infrastructure so more interested Wisconsin farmers can sell into the wholesale markets.

**Above:** Wisconsin Farmers Union's Sarah Lloyd, who works as Wisconsin Food Hub cooperative development director, and founding farmer-member Tim Zander (far right) hosted (from left to right) Sam Ridders, acting administrator of USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service from Washington, D.C.; Jeff Hudson, Rural Business and Cooperative Programs Director; and Stan Gruszynski, WI State Director of Rural Development. The USDA representatives were visiting Tim's farm near Columbus as part of the recent award of a USDA Value Added Producer Grant to support additional marketing and sales of farmer-member vegetables.

**Left:** Wisconsin Food Hub Cooperative Board President and Business Manager Tara Turner loaded a pallet of farmer-member product into the truck for delivery.



### Farmers Union Members,

Now, with your Farmers Union membership, you will receive a 9% special group discount on your Hastings Mutual Farmowners policy premium!



# We'll Be There.

**Please note the following before mailing the registration form:**

Registration and payment must be mailed by Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 to receive the early bird rate.

All delegates and voting individuals are required to purchase the convention registration and meals, which include Saturday and Sunday meals. Delegates who are also youth/youth leaders must purchase a delegate registration and meal package. Individual meal tickets are available.

Indicate names with your package and/or individual meal orders so we can prepare tickets in advance for ease during registration. Registration table opens at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29 and will continue on Saturday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 a.m. Convention officially opens at 9 a.m. Saturday.

**LODGING**

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel  
333 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI  
starting at \$75 (plus tax) per night.  
Guaranteed block rate ends Jan. 14! To reserve, call 800-333-3333 and ask for the *Wisconsin Farmers Union* group block.

The agenda will be available at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com).

**AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP**

Arrive early to attend the special Friday afternoon workshop, Beyond Traditional Agritourism: Building Community on Our Farms. The cost is \$65 for nonmembers (includes WFU membership) and \$35 for members, including lunch. Please pre-register by Jan. 14 as seating is limited.

**WFU FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER**

The WFU Foundation Fundraiser will be Friday, Jan. 29 from 6 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased via the form at [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com).

**YOUTH OPTIONS**

There will be three registration options for youth this year. Child care (infant-K) will be available at select times. The Youth Co-op Convention runs concurrent to convention and is geared at middle school and high school youth. New this year, elementary age youth can take part in the Co-op Youth Zone. Please note names, ages and any special dietary needs or care considerations for your children and include with your registration. Youth registration for all ages is \$30, which includes meals.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

Any cancellations must be reported to the WFU State Office by Friday, Jan. 16 to receive a refund. Please call Diane at 800-272-5531.

**85th Annual State Convention**

January 29-31, 2016

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel

333 W. College Ave. • Appleton

[www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

**REGISTRATION FORM  
ATTENDEE INFORMATION**

Please PRINT CLEARLY all information as you would like it to appear on your name badge. Include a list of additional attendees and youth on a separate sheet.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County/Local \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE: Vegetarian Gluten-Free Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Organization (guests/sponsors/exhibitors) \_\_\_\_\_

Payment contact, other than attendee (where applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION OPTIONS**

**REGISTRATION & MEAL PACKAGE** PLEASE NOTE THAT PACKAGE RATES INCLUDE ALL MEALS: Saturday lunch and banquet, Sunday breakfast and lunch. Use Separate Meal Tickets area below for non-delegate guests who need an individual meal only.

Type of Registrant	Early Bird Price on or before 1/14/16	Regular Price after 1/14/16	# of Packages	Total
DELEGATE Member	\$60	\$80		\$
ADULT Member	\$60	\$80		\$
NON-Member	\$80	\$100		\$
YOUTH or YOUTH LEADER (Member) (Please note ages for youth)	\$30	\$50		\$
Annual Membership (I wish to join WFU)	\$30	\$30		\$

**PRE-CONVENTION AGRITOURISM WORKSHOP** — Friday afternoon, noon to 4:30pm

	Nonmember	Member	Total
Beyond Conventional Agritourism: Building Community on Our Farms (Fee includes lunch)	\$65 x # _____ (Includes WFU membership)	\$35 x # _____	\$

**SEPARATE MEAL TICKETS** Tickets available for non-delegate individuals who want to join us for meals only — includes programs.

Meal (List attendee name after each meal)	Early Bird Member Price on or before 1/14/16	Regular Member Price after 1/14/16	NON-MEMBER Rate ONLY	# of Tickets	Total
Saturday Lunch	\$15	\$20	\$25		\$
Saturday Banquet	\$30	\$35	\$40		\$
Sunday Breakfast	\$15	\$18	\$23		\$
Sunday Lunch	\$15	\$17	\$22		\$
<b>REGISTRATION TOTAL</b>					\$

**MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO:  
WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION, 117 W. Spring St., Chippewa Falls, WI 54729**