



Wisconsin communities fighting corporate personhood

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**Wisconsin
Farmers Union
Summer Conference**

**Saturday, August 9
9:30am – 3:00pm
Kamp Kenwood • Lake Wissota •
Chippewa Falls**

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Crop Insurance and the Farm Bills

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WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION NEWS

July/August 2014

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

Volume 71 | No. 6

State's Newest Emerging Leader Couple Grows with the Farm They 'Planted' Nine Years Ago



Monica M. Walk
Walk the Talk
Communications

While growing food for others, farmers cultivate a wide skill set. As Nicole and Joe Schauer felt their roles expanding beyond Good Earth Farm near Oak Center, WI,

they identified a need to develop leadership skills. The Schauers applied to the Wisconsin Farmers Union Emerging Leaders Program, and were selected as the state's Leadership Couple for 2014-15.

"We are proud to have them represent our Farmers Union," said Wisconsin Farmers Union Executive Director Tom Quinn. "Their joy in farming is wonderful, and we are more than happy to provide resources for their growth."

The Emerging Leaders Program is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU) and Farmers Union Enterprises Inc. (FUE), with facilitation by the National Farmers Union. WFU (<http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com/>) is an advocate for all aspects of rural living, agriculture, and horticulture, emphasizing legislation, education and cooperation for farmers. FUE is a farm supply and manufacturing business partnership co-owned by the Farmers Unions in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana.

Annually since 1997, each of the FUE states selects a farming



Nicole and Joe Schauer

Leadership Couple, and brings the five couples together throughout the year for training, trips, and meetings focused on building leadership skills and deeper familiarity with the regional and national Farmers Union organizations. The Leadership Couples represent diverse farming experiences, including grain, cattle, sheep, and CSA farms of widely carrying sizes.

The Schauers are only a year-and-a-half into their Wisconsin Farmers Union membership, but their quickly deepening appreciation of the organization's grass-roots advocacy for rural living drove their decision to apply to the Emerging Leaders Program. Even before submitting the application,

Joe Schauer stepped into the vice president role for his local Fond du Lac-Dodge County WFU chapter, and the couple participated in the March Lobby Day in Madison, where they spoke with state representatives about top concerns for Wisconsin farmers.

"That was great," said Nicole of joining with nearly 80 other farmers at the Wisconsin capitol. "We want to learn more about policy and how to make changes for farmers. Our rural way of life has important effects for urban life. When we farmers make decisions, we figure the effects on others."

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Waters of The United States: An Update on the Status of Rulemaking



By **Darin Von Ruden**
 WFU President

As you may have heard, the “Waters of the U.S.” rules proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been generating quite a few questions. The proposed rule was published on April 21, 2014, as a result of confusion about the scope of the Clean Water Act following two Supreme Court rulings in 2001 and 2006. Specifically, there is a need for a more clear definition of which bodies of water are considered “Waters of the U.S.” that are regulated by the Clean Water Act. There is a public comment period for the rule of 182 days, which ends on October 20, 2014.

On July 15th 2014, NFU board members had a conference call with EPA administrator Gina McCarthy. During the call we raised many questions. For example, how will the agencies determine whether prairie potholes are considered “Waters of the U.S.”? Is one of these features the same in North Dakota as in Minnesota or South Dakota, 700 or 800 miles away? We feel that these features are different in different areas of the country and they need to be defined so that land owners know how they are going to be affected.

Another question that was raised is who has jurisdiction to decide what is and is not a covered under the Clean Water Act -- EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)? We would like a better understanding of how these three agencies will communicate, and what happens if the agencies are using different criteria and definitions for a question like what qualifies as a “wetland.”

Despite these questions, the EPA has made several statements that should give farmers some peace of mind. For one, groundwater is not covered under this rule, only surface water. Also, normal farming practices which have always been exempt from regulation under the Clean Water Act will continue to be exempt under the new rule. In March 2014, the USDA, EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers entered into a Memo-

randum of Understanding that puts this assurance in writing.

Even though the proposed rules raise a lot of questions, Wisconsin Farmers Union is not calling for the agencies to “ditch the rules” entirely, as some other groups have. Just how would scrapping the rules move us forward? We would still have the confusion caused by the 2001 and 2006 Supreme Court rulings, but without any process for getting to the clarification that we all need.

Instead, Farmers Union will use the open comment period to ask the EPA to clarify some of the items mentioned above. We would also welcome information from EPA such as maps of water bodies that will be covered under the Clean Water Act, and new areas that will be affected by the rule so that we can make an informed decision on how it is going to affect farmers in the country.

If you would like more information, you can search “WOTUS” on the internet or go to www.epa.gov/uswaters

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Emerging Leaders Continued from p.1

“Learning how to talk to politicians is already my favorite part,” Joe said. “I can’t wait to go to Washington in September.”

From Garden Plot to Family Farm

The Schauers established Good Earth Farm CSA, 14 miles southwest of Fond du Lac, in 2006. Prior to that, they were outdoorsy people who chose rural living on 20 acres of marsh, pond, and fields for peace and self-sufficiency. Their garden grew each year, to the point where friends began asking to purchase produce.

When Nicole, who was home full-time with their three children, learned about Community Supported Agriculture, she felt it was a venture she could begin while homeschooling. She

started the farm with 13 paying members. Nine years later, membership has grown to 275. Shares are available in three sizes, both weekly and every other week, with an option for a late season share and a “food for others” share

which lets members give money to support farm produce donations to area food pantries. The Schauers also partner with other local food producers to provide shares of bread, mushrooms, and seasonal fruit.

Good Earth Farm has grown into a family farm. Joe left his corporate position to farm full-time in 2009. Nicole’s father makes the bulk of the deliveries, which includes members as far north as Appleton, as far south as Sussex, and as far west as Beaver Dam. Joe’s father has previously delivered shares, and continues to provide building maintenance and advice. The Schauer children—Neve, 15; Niah, 14; and John, 11—help transplant, harvest, and pack the crops. Hired staff rounds out the crew—three full-time and three part-time women, including two who have returned to work at the farm for



four seasons. And, as a CSA, members have an opportunity to work for their food: ten adults currently choose to spend four hours per week in the fields.

The Schauers launched a weekly stall at the Oshkosh Saturday Farmers Market this year, and are the market’s only certified organic vendor. They achieved organic certification in June 2013, having never used synthetic chemicals and always treating the soil and crops with environmentally responsible methods.

That recent sales expansion—taking them off the farm and into increased contact with the public—was a push toward applying for the FUE program. “Our role in our community is expanding and we want to know how to be more effective leaders,” Nicole said.

The first gathering of FUE Leadership Couples was held July 23-26 in Bayfield, WI, and featured time for the families to network, as well as sessions on work-life balance, attitude, and

self-care. The couples will gather again in Montana, Kansas and Washington, D.C., for training in public speaking, policy development, public relations, and Farmers Union values.

“I am so glad we are doing this,” Joe said after the Bayfield meeting. “Our farm sizes are so diverse—I joked that we have 20 acres and some of the other farmers need 20 acres just to turn their tractors around—but we are still on the same page, despite our farm sizes. We’re not so different when we talk.”

“We all have working the land in common,” Nicole said. “We can make a difference even as a small farm. It makes me proud to be a farmer.”

For more about the Schauers, visit <http://goodearthfarm.net/>

WFU Plans Non-GMO Soybean Marketing in 2015



WFU members who are interested in growing non-GMO soybeans for export will have access to a premium market for the 2015 crop year. Over the past six months, a WFU producer committee, chaired by Michael Slattery, has been developing a business plan for marketing non-GMO soybeans in Japan.

Planning has benefited from Michael’s years of business experience and contacts in Japan and his fluency in the language. The project has developed partnerships with a trading company in Japan to develop and manage markets, and with the Dakota Pride Co-op for processing and shipping.

WFU will be securing commitments in the next few months for an initial production base for the 2015 season, with an emphasis on the general Chippewa Falls area of the state.

Growers will need to purchase designated seed varieties through WFU by about November 1st.

All growers will follow required protocols for growing, processing, and shipping beans, and will have a share in the organization that manages the business.

Growers will need to have segregated storage by variety. WFU anticipates paying CBOT + \$1.75 premium, plus a share in dividends and profits from the project.

For more information on grower options, contact Craig Myhre at 715-983-2167.

Movement to End Corporate Personhood Advances in Wisconsin



Kara O'Connor
Government Relations Director

On April 1st of this year, 13 communities across Wisconsin voted by resounding majorities to approve ballot referenda stating that money is not equivalent to speech, and that only human beings, not unions or corporations, are entitled to free speech rights under the U.S. Constitution. This November 4th, voters in 13 more Wisconsin communities will have their chance to do the same!

What is the problem with corporate personhood? “Persons” enjoy certain fundamental rights under the U.S. Constitution. These include the right to liberty, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech. There is ample evidence that the framers of the Constitution only intended those rights to apply to human persons. But in a 2010 case that shocked many observers, the U.S. Supreme Court declared in *Citizens United v. FEC* that corporations are “people” entitled to all of the rights and liberties enjoyed by natural human persons under the Constitution.

The Court went on in *Citizens United* to drop another bombshell. The second part of the Court’s ruling was that money, in the form of campaign contributions, equals “speech” that is protected by the Constitution. Since corporations are “people,” the Court reasoned, and money equals “speech,” the Court concluded that Congress is prohibited from placing limits on donations to candidates by corporations.

To most of us, the problem of out of control campaign spending is obvious: few wealthy donors will have outsized influence on government. As my father would say, “He who pays the piper calls the tune.” Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court sees it differently, and has interpreted the words “person” and “speech” in the Constitution in such a way as to prohibit meaningful campaign donation limits. Therefore, it is up to us as citizens to call for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that clarifies that corporations are not people, and money is not speech.

If you live in one of the communities shown on the map, you are in luck! You will have the chance on election day –

Tuesday, November 4th – to vote in favor of a local ballot initiative striking down corporate personhood and money as speech. Voter turnout and education is critical in these communities! Tell your friends and neighbors to “Vote Yes” to end corporate personhood. If you would like to volunteer to help with voter education efforts, visit the Move to Amend website at www.movetoamend.org/wisconsin to find the closest MTA chapter.

Even if your community will not have a referendum this November, you are probably hearing from gubernatorial candidates and those running for Wisconsin Senate and Assembly in your area. Ask them whether they support a statewide referendum allowing voters to weigh in on the question of whether corporations and unions are “people” under the Constitution, whether money is equal to speech. **Let them know that in our democracy, it should be the peoples’ voices – not corporate dollars – that matter most.**



Wisconsin Farmers Union is pleased to introduce two new employees – David Wright-Racette and Zachary Herrnstadt



David Wright-Racette (in cowboy hat) with his family.

David Wright-Racette joins the WFU staff as the Policy Organizer. This is a newly created position within the organization, and David will work closely with Government Relations Director Kara O'Connor, the Government Relations Associate Zachary Herrnstadt, and Membership Coordinator Deb Jakubek.

David will coordinate the development and implementation of WFU outreach and organizing efforts on key projects and issues while working closely with WFU members and county chapters to support engagement at the local level.

David was born and raised in Prairie Farm, Wisconsin. For the past 22 years, his parents have owned and operated Spring Hill Community Farm. Spring Hill is a CSA and his parents grow over 40 types of organic vegetables throughout the spring, summer, and fall. At the beginning of each growing season, people sign up to receive a weekly bag of vegetables and over the course of about 20 weeks they will receive everything from arugula to zucchini.

David worked on the farm during the summers helping to plant, cultivate, irrigate and harvest the crops that are then delivered to local members in the Prairie Farm area as well as people from Minneapolis and St. Paul. David still returns to the farm to help out on occasion and reaps the benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables.

After graduating from Prairie Farm High School, David chose to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he majored in political science and had the opportunity to intern for State Senator Bob Jauch for two years. While in that office, David gained an understanding of how policy moves through the legislature and the impact that it can have on farmers and rural residents.

His interest in farm policy and rural issues prompted him to apply for a position with Wisconsin Farmers Union, and he is excited to learn from WFU members and to help them organize around issues important to them. David graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May and currently resides in Madison, where the Policy Organizer position will be based.

Zachary Herrnstadt will be joining the WFU staff as the Government Relations Associate, the position previously held by Scott Karel. Zachary will be based in Madison. Working closely with Government Relations Director Kara O'Connor and Policy Organizer David Wright-Racette, Zachary will be communicating WFU policy positions and priorities to legislators and agency officials while keeping WFU members up to speed on state and federal legislative developments.



Zachary Herrnstadt

Zachary grew up in Ames, Iowa where tending a backyard vegetable garden with his father sparked his lifelong interest in how food makes

its way from the farm to the table. After graduating from Iowa State University with degrees in English and Environmental Studies, Zachary spent six years working at natural food cooperatives in Iowa and Minnesota.

During his time as grocery manager at Mississippi Market Natural Foods Cooperative in Saint Paul, he had the opportunity to strengthen his understanding of all aspects of food value chains as well as the pleasure of building rewarding relationships with many local and regional producers.

This summer, Zachary completed a master's degree in Community Food and Agricultural Systems from Michigan State University where he focused on sustainable food and agricultural policy and regional food systems. During his time in graduate school, he also collaborated on research that examined consumer perceptions of and willingness to pay for sustainable agricultural methods.

Zachary is excited to work for an organization that shares his interest in advancing agricultural policies crafted to help family farms and rural communities thrive. He looks forward to meeting and learning from WFU members and to promoting the issues that they find central to building a more resilient food system.

Please join us in welcoming these two excellent new staff members to our organization! Both of them will be at the WFU Summer Conference on August 9th – be sure to stop by and say hello.

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David Wright-Racette
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Summer Fairs and Summer Fun!



Maddie Rosen, Kate Rosen, and Juliana Rosen show their beef at the St. Croix County Fair.



State Senator Bob Jauch, State Senate Candidate Janet Bewley, and State Assembly Rep. Stephen Smith visit the "WFU Farmers Café Booth" at the Barron County Fair.



Taylor Price County Juniors, Rebecca and Samantha Held, show their lambs



Taylor Price County Junior, Gracie Skabroud, with her beef project, she placed Grand Champion.



On July 16th, Kamp Kenwood camp counselors presented day camps in Nelsonville and Amherst. Between the two sessions, a total of about 35 kids were able to learn about Wisconsin Farmers Union through cooperative games, songs and activities.



WI 71st District State Assembly Rep. Katrina Shankland visiting Angela and Lucas Edelburg's heifers with Deb Jakubek at the Amherst Fair July 19th.

County Farmers Union Meetings

Sauk County Farmers Union Picnic

(and surrounding counties)

Sunday, August 10 • 12:00 Noon

Hwy 23 Scenic Wayside • South of Reedsburg

Potluck! Bring a dish to pass along with anything you'd like to grill. Lemonade, plates, grill, and utensils will be provided.

Open discussion: Bring any ideas, thoughts, or concerns you want to discuss!
Questions? Contact Pat Skogen at 608-393-6109

Vernon County Farmers Union Meeting

Sunday, August 10 • 1:00 pm

Becky & Roland Hoff Farm

S 2029A Hegge Rd. • Westby (Unseth Rd. out of Westby will take you to Hegge Rd.)

Bring a dish to pass!
Brats, hotdogs, hamburgers, beverages, and table settings will be provided.

We'll be planning for the Vernon County Fair and will have a state update from Darin.
Questions? Contact Jim Servais at 608-483-2800

State Senate Races to Watch this Fall



By David Wright-Racette
WFU Policy Organizer

A total of 17 State Senate seats are up for grabs in the fast approaching fall election. The retirement and departures of several prominent, long serving Senators has made for some very interesting races. The summaries below give a brief overview.

9th Senate District Race - Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Plymouth, and Sheboygan Falls.

The Republican hopeful is Devin LeMahieu, who is the son of retiring state Representative Dan LeMahieu of Cascade. Lemahieu has served on the Sheboygan County Board for 8 years.

Democrat Martha Laning of Sheboygan will face off against LeMahieu in the general election. Laning has worked for Target and helped found the Plymouth Intergenerational Center. She has brought this district into contention now that it is an open seat, and she has ability to fundraise.

17th Senate District Race: Reedsville, Richland Center, Platteville, Monroe, and Mauston.

This race is a toss-up. Senator Dale Schultz, R-Richland Center, has held the seat since 1991, but choose to retire rather than run with the prospect of a primary challenge from the right, and a growing distaste for the partisan nature of politics in Wisconsin. Schultz is popular in a district that many would expect to be represented by a Democrat, considering it went 57%-42% for Obama in 2012.

On the Democratic side, Pat Bomhack will face off against Ernie Wittwer in the August 12th primary. Wittwer worked for the Department of Transportation for a number of years and is endorsed by Senator Kathleen Vinehout. Bomhack only entered the race in April of 2014, but has the endorsement of State Senator Chris Larson. Bomhack previously worked as a legislative aide to Senator Russ Feingold and Governor Jim Doyle.

The winner will take on Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, who was elected an Assembly seat in 2010. Marklein previously worked as a certified public accountant and has said he hopes to bring that perspective to the Senate.

19th Senate District Race : Appleton, Menasha, Neenah, and Winneconne.

This seat is held by Senator Mike Ellis, R-Neenah, who announced his retirement in April 2014 amidst some scandal after he was caught on microphone discussing creating an illegal political action committee.

Roger Roth, R-Appleton, will look to replace Ellis. Roth served in the Wisconsin Air National Guard and served four tours in the Middle East. He also represented the 56th Assembly District from 2007-2011 and has decided to get back into politics.

Roth will take on Representative Penny Bernard-Schaber, a Democrat from Appleton. Bernard-Schaber has served in the State Assembly for the past six years and has been in the race since July of 2013. Obama won the district by a handful of votes in 2012 but the district has historically leaned Republican..

21st Senate District Race: Burlington, parts of Racine, and Twin lakes.

The 21st Senate seat is currently held by John Lehman, D-Racine, who has announced he will not seek re-election but rather is running for Lieutenant Governor.

Van Wanggaard and Jonathan Steitz will face off in the Republican primary. Van Wanggaard served briefly in the Senate before being recalled and this will be a hard fought primary. Steitz works for a think tank based out of Chicago.

Randy Bryce will run on the Democratic side. Bryce served in the Army and is employed an ironworker, and has promised to focus on veterans and job creation. Bryce also sits on the board of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

23rd Senate District Race: Chippewa Falls, Bloomer, Abbotsford, and parts of Eau Claire, Altoona and Marshfield.

Incumbent Terry Moulton, R-Chippewa Falls, was elected to the Assembly in 2004, but lost his seat in 2008. He then ran for Senate and won in 2010, where he has served since.

He will take on Phil Swanhorst, a Democrat from Chippewa Falls. Swanhorst has been active in the transportation field, driving bus in Eau Claire for 12 years and also helping to found the Chippewa Valley Transit Alliance. The seat was held by Democrat Pat Kreitlow before Moulton defeated him in 2010, and while Moulton is the favorite, Swanhorst could provide a stout challenge to him.

25th Senate District Race: Ashland, Rice Lake, Superior, Spooner, and Park Falls.

The 25th Senate seat, held by long time State Senator Bob Jauch, D-Poplar, who announced his retirement in October of 2013, citing the extreme partisanship in the capitol..

The 25th Senate District has been historically Democratic, but in 2010 Jauch faced a strong challenge from Dane Deutsch of Rice Lake. Deutsch has announced he is running for the seat again. He owns three small businesses in Rice Lake and has served in the military.

On the Democratic side, Representative Janet Bewley, D-Ashland, will face off against Tom Ratzlaff, mayor of Park Falls for the past ten years, and Gary Kauther of Poplar in three-way primary. Kauther has never served in office. Janet Bewley was elected to the Assembly in 2010 and has the endorsement of Senator Jauch and appears to be the favorite to win the primary. Representative Bewley also seems the favorite to win the general election with strong Democratic bases in the northern counties, but Deutsch is no newcomer to campaigning.

If you want to learn more about the candidates, visit their websites and keep an eye out in your local newspapers for candidate appearances and debates. If you live in a district that is on the ballot this fall and are interested in hosting a candidate forum, please contact me at 608-514-2031 or at dwrightracette@wisconsinfarmersunion.com.

Camp season in full swing this year!



Cathy Statz
Education Director

We have had an outstanding summer so far this year, with camp sessions, dairy breakfasts and outreach events in June and July, and are looking forward to the rest of the season.

As this issue went to press, we had just a handful of spaces open in the remaining Junior camp sessions, with registrations up over 10% from last summer.

The Farmers Union camp program features lessons on Farmers Union and cooperatives as well as traditional camp activities of swimming, sports, nature hikes, skits and campfires. Campers set up their own co-op store at camp to serve themselves treats and camp merchandise.

All campers learned about the structure of Farmers Union, with high school and middle school youth learning about farm and rural policy issues and organizing.

Water conservation and local water systems are the topic of the afternoon lessons for campers at all sessions this summer. Wisconsin Poet Laureate Max Garland, a professor at UW Eau Claire, was the featured speaker for the Senior Camp banquet, and read selections of his poetry dealing with water and nature.



Summer staff Kirsten Slaughter explains the local hydrology systems and how contaminants travel in groundwater during the Junior 2 camp session, July 20-23, 2014 at WFU Kamp Kenwood.

At Senior Camp, we said farewell to the 2014 Senior Youth Advisory Council (SYAC), who had started planning for camp this winter and also assisted with the 2014 WFU Convention in Wisconsin Rapids last January. Kate Buche Pattison of Westby, Andrew Cotter of Fitchburg, Liana McClintock of Madison, and Miriam Valley of Sun Prairie finished their term of service on the SYAC. The 2015 SYAC elected at the Senior Camp Banquet on Wednesday, June 18 at Kamp Kenwood includ-

ed Seamus Cox of Sun Prairie, Anna Hinchley of Cambridge, Brad Johnson of Madison and Ali Slaughter of Urbana, IL. The new Senior Youth Advisory Council members will assist with next year's WFU Convention in late January 2015.

Every other year, Senior Campers can participate in an additional day of Farmers Union fun by staying on for a Camp Volunteering Day. Many hands made light work as we completed season tasks at WFU Kamp Kenwood, including stacking firewood, spreading gravel and redistributing sand on the volleyball court.

National Farmers Union All-States Leadership Camp following the close on the heels of Senior Camp, departing on Friday morning, June 20. Several Senior Camp attendees extended their Farmers Union experience for an extra week, including WFU Education Director Cathy Statz and campers Alyssa Gorell of Eau Claire, Rebecca James of Ridgeway, and Liana McClintock and Kaia Rubin of Madison. They met campers from Minnesota and South Dakota on a coach bus ride to and from the NFU Education Center near Bailey, Colorado, where they enjoyed a great week of education and fun in the Rocky Mountains.

Between camp sessions, the WFU summer staff have been busy at outreach events around the state, including the staffing the WFU booth, face painting, childcare, and event volunteering at Northern Wisconsin State Fair, the Midwest Renewable Energy Association's Energy Fair and the Farmers Union Enterprises Leadership Couples weekend in Bayfield. Day Camps were held around the state in Wood-Portage, Taylor-Price, Buffalo-Pepin and Dane Counties. Members of the staff provided childcare

We look forward to seeing many of you in August for camp sessions, or at Summer Conference at Kamp Kenwood on Saturday, August 9. Hope you are having a great summer!



Members of the WFU summer staff provided childcare for the families participating in the Farmers Union Enterprises (FUE) Leadership Couples event in Bayfield on July 24-26, 2014. The families of Joe & Nicole Schauer and Jim & Lisa Soyring, WFU members, were in attendance.

Wisconsin Farmers Union Summer Conference

Saturday, August 9 – 9:30am – 3:00pm
Kamp Kenwood • Lake Wissota • Chippewa Falls

Please RSVP to Diane Tiry at 715-723-5561 or email: dtiry@wisconsinfarmersunion.com

Agenda:

- 9:30-10:45am** - Registration (Members and non-members welcome!)
- 9:30am-3:00pm** - Acorn Day Camp (children 7 and up)
- 9:30am-11:00am** - County Presidents' Meeting
- 10:30am-Noon** - Workshop: Land, Water, People – the connection between healthy lakes and watershed stewardship.
- *Understanding the Watershed* (Dan Zerr, Lower Chippewa Basin Educator, DNR, Univ. of WI)
- *Lake Wissota Water Quality Project at Summer Camp* (presented by camp staff)
- Noon-1:00pm** - Lunch
- 1:00pm** - Afternoon Program – Special Guests; Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program by Joe Tomandl; WFU Updates

Afternoon Program – Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program, Joe Tomandl, Director

Wisconsin is losing over 500 dairy farms each year. How do we turn this around and put more farmers on the land, and do so in a way that builds conservation and improves water quality? The Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program offers one innovative and practical solution. Joe will talk about how this unique program is linking new farmers with established mentors, and using grass-based dairying as practical strategy for getting a new generation into dairy farming in a financially viable way.

Joe and his wife, Christy, own and operate a seasonal grass-based dairy in north central Wisconsin. The current farm consists of 170 seasonal milking cows and young stock on 320 acres of pasture. In 2010 a second 200 acre, 170 cow farm was added and is being operated by recent graduate of the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship. Joe is a past President of Grassworks.

Morning Program - Land, Water, People – the connection between healthy lakes and watershed stewardship

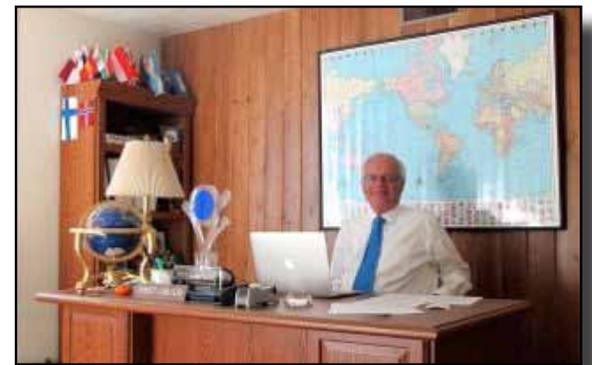
Featured Speaker – Dan Zerr

Dan is the DNR coordinator for the Lower Chippewa River Basin, and works to help farmers, lake residents and other citizens understand the interconnections that affect the health of the watershed. As a DNR educator, he is based at UW-EC and speaks to special audiences and the general public, as well as school programs. Dan is also on the planning committee for the annual Red Cedar Watershed Conference in Menomonie, and an advisor to the Farmer-led Watershed Project that WFU is a partner in.

Join us for a day at the lake!
Food, Friends and Lively Discussion.

Day Camp – Our Camp staff is organizing a day of fun activities for kids ages 7 and up. Please RSVP to register. Family Camp participants are welcome to join in the conference activities as well. Conference cost is \$10/person. Bring your kids for Day Camp activities (\$15). Stay overnight for Family Camp! Please RSVP and direct questions to Diane at 800-272-5531.

Robert Carlson appointed United Nations Special Ambassador of the International Year of Family Farming



Robert Carlson, former president of the World Farmers' Organisation, a North Dakota farmer, and Wisconsin Farmers Union member, has been appointed United Nations Special Ambassador of the International Year of Family Farming.

WFU President, Darin Von Ruden commented, "We are proud to have Robert represent family farmers around the world. Advocating for farmers and ranchers is truly his passion and Wisconsin Farmers Union supports his work whole heartedly."

Carlson served as president of North Dakota Farmers Union from 1997-2012 and president of the World Farmers' Organisation from 2011-2014.



An Overview of Crop Insurance and the New Farm Bill



By W. Michael Slattery

Manitowoc County, WFU Board Member,
WFU Grain Commodity Committee

Earlier this year the WFU Grain Commodity

Committee undertook a review of the Crop Insurance Program in the new Farm Bill. We wanted to understand both how the crop insurance business operates and the impact of the revised insurance program on farmers.

One of our concerns is that while the publicly expressed purpose of the 2014 Act is to provide a safety net for farmers in the form of insurance coverage (whether for grain, vegetable, fruit, dairy, etc.), the program also operates in a manner that puts farmers out front in the public eye as the beneficiaries, while the financial industry is actually pocketing much of the benefit from the subsidies. This is not unlike the Troubled Asset Relief Program of 2007!

Basic Tenets of the Crop Insurance Business

In the 1938 Agricultural Adjustment Act, the Roosevelt administration implemented the first multi-peril crop insurance as a means to further secure farmers from the vagaries of markets and weather and aid in protecting them from the vicissitudes of the Great Depression. Since then, it has changed greatly, especially under a 1994 Reform Act and a 2000 Risk Protection Act.

In today's insurance program, the government subsidizes the premium costs for the benefit of the farmer by paying as many as 19 authorized private crop insurers for as many as 100 different commodities.

While the government subsidizes roughly 64% of a farmer's premium, the farmer bears no tax liability for this benefit. The farmer then pays the balance of the premium cost. In 2012 farmers paid about \$4.1 billion (37%) of the premium and the federal government paid \$6.95 billion.

Among the 19 authorized insurers who market the various products and service the policies, major financial and non-financial corporations are involved. One of the biggest insurers, RCIS, is owned by Wells Fargo Bank. Other insurers include John Deere, Cargill, ADM, QBE, and American Farm Bureau.

Besides the direct subsidy, the federal government reimburses the insurers for their administrative and operating costs, reinsures their policies to assume the higher risk, and covers a certain portion of the loss ratio. These companies have been historically guaranteed about a 14% return as determined by the Risk Management Agency (RMA).

How it is Working?

In 2012, Wisconsin farmers paid premiums of 93.5 million. Between 1995 and 2012, farmer premiums were paid for corn (\$517 MM), soybean (\$158 MM), forage (\$28 MM), potatoes (\$17 MM), wheat (\$16 MM), and cranberries (\$16 MM). A range of other crops are also covered.

As the number of farms decreases, and production is more concentrated, the number of policyholders follows suit. In 1995, there were roughly 74,000 policyholders; these numbers hit a trough of about 36,000 in 2003 and have risen thereafter to about 48,000 in 2012. Total premium cost subsidies, however, have risen in almost a straight line from \$23 million in 1995 to about \$175 million today because of the rise in input costs and rise in commodity prices.

Let us consider, for the period between 1995 and 2012, the cost to the federal government for subsidizing crop insurance (policy subsidy, indemnity, reimbursement for admin/operating costs, and private insurer profit level acceptable to RMA.) We will compare this federal cost for Wisconsin.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENSE FOR SUBSIDIZING CROP INSURANCE			
	1995-2012 (US\$1 MM)		
	Nationally	Wisconsin	
Expense			
Indemnities	76,898	1,450	
Admin & Operating expense reimbursement	16,617	360	
Other Federal Expense	2,904	56	
Total Government Expense	96,419	1,866	
Income			
Farmer Premium	36,320	780	
Federal Government Earned Interest	796	17	
Total Government Income	37,116	797	
Cost to Government	59,303	1,069	
N.B.: Fed. Gov't paid \$12 BB in underwriting gain for all US underwriting. Number of Wisconsin policies: 781,965, but US policies numbered 35.8MM			

While Wisconsin may rank in the top ten agricultural producing states (largely because of dairy production), it ranks only 19th in terms of federal expenditure for crop insurance.

The leading beneficiaries are Texas, North Dakota, Kansas, South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, etc. in that order. It would be interesting to analyze whether Wisconsin is effectively subsidizing risk in these other states.

10,000 U.S. farmers received between \$100,000 and \$1 million in subsidies.

26 farmers received more than \$1 million.

Concentration of Federal Insurance Subsidy

In 2011, federal crop insurance subsidies for premium alone showed significant concentration of underwriting risk and benefits between groups of farmers.

<u>Average Premium Subsidy Concentration in 2011</u>			
	Average per Policyholder	Total Subsidies (\$1MM)	Number of Policyholders
Top 1%	\$226,611	\$1,103	4,868
Top 5%	\$115,826	\$2,820	24,343
Top 10%	\$82,223	\$4,003	48,686
Top 15%	\$65,686	\$4,797	73,030
Top 20%	\$55,224	\$5,377	97,373
Bottom 80%	\$5,066	\$1,973	389,494
Total	\$15,097	\$7,350	486,867

In summary, we observe that 10,000 farmers in the US received between \$100,000 and \$1 MM in premium subsidy, of which 26 farmers received more than \$1 MM. Ten percent of insured farmers (i.e., 3.8% of all US farmers with gross farm income greater than \$10,000) received 54% of all crop insurance subsidies. Interestingly, among the top 100 insured farmers, 49 had indemnities exceeding their premium subsidy in 2011. While the farmer share of the premium may cover the difference, the federal government still must pay for admin/operating costs and meet its agreement for private insurer return.

2014 Act Title I (commodities & policy) and Title XI (crop insurance)

Payment yields remain the same as under the 2008 act, effective Sept. 2013, but can be updated to 90 percent of a farm’s average yield for 2008 to 2012.

In 2014, a one-time election may be made to reallocate base acres of covered commodities, inclusive of prevent plant, effective until 2014. This will probably result in higher government expenditure in the face of dropping commodities prices, particularly coarse grains and oilseeds.

Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) are

effectively to insure as counter-cyclical protection until 2018. ARC insures up to 86 percent of benchmark revenue for covered commodity in an average year. The benchmark for county coverage is determined by multiplying the most recent five-year Olympic average times the most recent five-year Olympic national average for market prices of the commodity. ARC is based on 85 percent of a farm’s base acres.

When the season average price for a covered crop is less than the reference price, farmers get the DIFFERENCE between (a) reference price for the crop and (b) the national season average prices times the farm’s payment yield times 85 percent of base acres.

Conservation Compliance

Farmers applying for participation in the government program and crop insurance must absolutely comply with conservation guidelines. Without such, farmers may not benefit from government subsidies. Further, RMA affixes a conservation penalty for planting on native sod.

While the WFU policy calls for a cap of \$75,000 on Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for subsidies, the Act mandates no cap, and eliminated a 15 percent reduction of insurance subsidy for producers with AGI greater than \$750,000. How can government concerned about fiscal deficits subsidize households with AGI greater than \$750,000?

Beginning and Organic Farmers

The program provides coverage options.

Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO)

Farmers can generally purchase expanded SCO coverage for risk that exceeds generally underwritten in revenue or yield protection. This will only be triggered if losses in an area exceed 14 percent of normal levels. In general, the coverage limit may not exceed 85 percent of individual farm yield or 95 percent of the area (county) yield.

Summary

Crop insurance is the only risk management tool and subsidy available to crop farmers. Other than CAT coverage, farmers cannot expect the federal government hereafter to provide disaster relief. While it is disappointing to see that, not unlike in the previous case of direct subsidies, most crop insurance benefits go to a comparatively small number of farmers, contrary to our WFU policy, this is the best risk protection that RMA and the federal government is offering to farmers.

The WFU Grain Commodity Committee, therefore, is recommending that our members and farmers, in general, positively consider participation in these crop insurance schemes as the best way to manage their risk. The rising input costs, especially for grain, and the declining commodity market prices are squeezing us farmers. Given the droughts and exceptionally troublesome weather patterns that are expected only to increasingly with effects of global warming, crop insurance is a tool we should employ.



Court Decision Upholds Country of Origin Labeling Rules- Again

President Roger Johnson issued the following statement after receiving news of the District Court of Appeals' en banc decision on a challenge to enforcement of Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) by the multinational meatpackers and our foreign competitors. By a 9-2 majority, the panel upheld an earlier 3-judge panel decision to deny an appeal to halt the enforcement of the popular labeling law, passed in 2008.

“NFU, and our broad coalition of consumer and producer organizations, have achieved yet another victory in our long battle to uphold the enforcement of the COOL regulation as modified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA). This marks the third time that COOL has won in court. There is no need for this case to proceed.

“The Court ruled that the government may require factual, uncontroversial information to be included on a label. American consumers want to know basic information about where their meat comes from, and livestock producers across this great nation are very proud of what they produce and happy to let consumers know where their meat comes from. USDA’s new COOL rules will significantly improve the information available to consumers by reducing confusion about the origins of meat products. It will also provide U.S. livestock producers the opportunity to differentiate their products, which they are proud to claim as theirs.”

Coalition Demands Full Review of Tyson, Hillshire Farms Merger

This week National Farmers Union, and a coalition of 82 farm, ranch, consumer, rural and faith-based groups sent a letter demanding

that the U.S. Department of Justice extend its review of the proposed Tyson Foods (Tyson) takeover of Hillshire Brands, Co. (Hillshire). The proposed merger would join the largest U.S. meat and poultry company, Tyson, with the 11th largest meat company, Hillshire, and would substantially undermine competition in the pork processing and hog purchasing sectors, disadvantaging farmers and consumers and undermining rural communities.

“Fewer buyers of hogs and sows result in a less competitive market for family farmers,” said Roger Johnson, president of National Farmers Union. “The rapid consolidation of market power in the hands of just a few pork processors resulted in the loss of more than 90 percent of all hog farms since 1980. Tyson’s takeover of Hillshire certainly warrants further investigation by the Department of Justice and should be stopped. It’s time for the Justice Department to enforce our anti-trust laws.”



Tyson won a protracted and expensive bidding war to initiate the hostile takeover of Hillshire. The Justice Department reviews hostile takeovers on an accelerated 14-day timeline, rather than the typical 30-days to consider a more thorough merger review.

The letter notes that the complexity of the proposed merger warrants a much more comprehensive review because of Tyson’s significant hog and sow purchasing and marketing and be-

cause the proposed merger would enable Tyson to undermine Hillshire’s sausage and lunchmeat rivals by disrupting their access to pork supplies. Tyson’s substantial and largely opaque role in private label processed pork production is another aspect of this deal that warrants further scrutiny from regulators.

“Consumers have witnessed an onslaught of food company mergers over the past few years that reduced consumer choices and contributed to higher grocery store prices,” said Food & Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter. “The Justice Department should not rubber stamp a \$9 billion hostile takeover by America’s biggest meat company that is not in the best interests of consumers or farmers.”

The proposed merger strengthens Tyson’s grip on all livestock producers. It would give the company broader control of the entire hog production sector by combining Tyson’s breeding operations, its hog and sow marketing business, and its slaughter capacity with Hillshire’s sow and boar packing plants, which would give it greater leverage over hog farmers to push down the prices they receive for their market hogs and cull sows and boars. The proposed merger also would improve Tyson’s ability to pit all livestock producers against one another by manipulating the supply of chicken to undermine the consumer demand for beef or pork and thus lower the prices cattle and hog producers receive.

“Studies confirm that beef and pork are protein substitutes and when dominant meatpackers like Tyson have control over each, they can readily pit one commodity against another to maximize their shareholder profits at the expense of U.S. livestock producers,” said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard.

The letter concludes, “The proposed merger would significantly impair competition throughout the hog and processed pork marketplace, harming farmers, consumers, rival processors and rural communities. The Department of Justice must not grant an early termination of the merger review.”

WFU remembers past President, Richard Dierauer



Former Wisconsin Farmers Union President Richard Frederick Dierauer, age 87, of Alma, passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at St. Elizabeth Health Care Center, Wabasha.

Dierauer became the seventh president of the state farm organization in 1994 when he was elected to succeed Dennis Rosen of Emerald, St. Croix County. He had served previously as vice president from 1990-1993. Commenting on his selection as president, Dierauer said it would be “business as usual.”

“I plan to stay on the course that Dennis Rosen has so ably set. Our philosophies are similar and the commitment to work on behalf of family farmers remains as strong as ever.”

He was born on May 8, 1927 on the family homestead farm in Mill Creek Valley, rural Alma, a son of Walter and Leona (Jost) Dierauer. He was united in marriage to Geneva, to which they have shared nearly 61 years of marriage together.

Richard attended and graduated from Alma High School with the class of 1944. He then went on to two terms of the University of Wisconsin Farm Short Course in Madison.

Richard was a farmer for his entire life. He was a lifetime member of Wisconsin Farmers Union joining in 1954.

While president, Richard spoke strongly for WFU’s policy against artificial BGH and asked DATCP to adopt rules favoring Wisconsin’s family farmers and consumers, not the self interest of the corporate bio-tech lobby. During Richard’s presidency a farmer’s union hotline was set up for dairy producers and veterinarians with problems relating to BGH use around the country.

Richard also fought hard working with the Department of Agriculture to enforce controls on illegally high premiums being paid to the state’s

largest dairy farmers.

Richard was not reelected president in 1996 after telling the WFU board previously that he would not seek another term on the board in 1997 and had no objections if they wanted to make a change in presidency. He graciously announced his reason to the membership for not wanting to serve on the board after February, 1997: “On May 8, 1997, I will be 70 years of age. At age 70, I feel that I want to decide where I should go and what I will do. As president of Wisconsin Farmers Union, a person has many obligations to meet. Now, I no longer have those obligations, and it comes as a relief to me to be free to make my own choices.”

Dennis Rosen, (WFU President, 1988-1994), spoke of Richard Dierauer, “He was a special friend and served the organization well. Richard represented and participated in many different organizations during his lifetime and was very dedicated to Wisconsin Farmers Union and National Farmers Union. There were some very challenging financial times during his tenure and Richard’s service was very much appreciated.”

In addition to his role in Farmers Union, Richard was an active Buffalo County FU member, a longtime and faithful member of St. Paul & St. Luke United Church of Christ where he served for 20 years as the church treasurer, and a 65 year member of the Free and Accepted Masons, Buffalo River Lodge #252 in Mondovi Wisconsin and served as lodge master for three terms.

Funeral services were held June 24 at St. Paul & St. Luke United Church of Christ, Alma.

The Wisconsin Farmers Union Board of Directors has established a memorial, in Richard’s name, for the Kamp Kenwood Improvement Fund. Richard had a passion for the youth of this organization and many times can be seen in historical photos participating in youth events. If you would like to make a memorial to the fund in Richard Dierauer’s memory, please send to Wisconsin Farmers Union, 117 W. Spring Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.

*Please direct any future notices to
info@wisconsinfarmersunion.com.*

WFU Foundation Awards \$46,000 in Local Grants

The Wisconsin Farmers Union Foundation has awarded grants totaling almost \$46,000 to Wisconsin farm and food projects thus far in 2014. The WFU grants program supports projects that promote family farming and rural life. The Foundation provides both small grants each quarter to local projects and several larger grants each year to statewide or regional projects.

Funding for the grant program is provided primarily through our business partnership in Farmers Union Industries (FUI) and Farmers Union Enterprises (FUE).

Three larger awards were approved in July through FUI/FUE: \$10,000 to the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program, \$10,000 to the Vernon Economic Development Association (for the Viroqua Food Enterprise Business Center), and \$10,000 to help sponsor the “Around the Farm Table” program on Wisconsin Public Television.

Thus far in 2014, smaller grant awards have totaled almost \$16,000, and have gone to 24 organizations and events, including:

WI FFA Foundation, St. Joseph Hospital Farm Family Celebration, WI 4-H Foundation, Bike the Barns (Fair Share Coalition), School for Beginning Dairy Farmers Barn Dance, Thorp Farmers Share Breakfast, Eau Claire County Farmers Union (Eau Claire Schools - Kids on the Farm Day), Deerfield Co-op Grocery Fund, Chippewa Valley Farm City Days, MOSES, Fermentation Fest, WI Local Foods Network, Connections in Conservation (Yahara Pride), and more.

The Farmers Union Foundation reviews small grant requests each quarter. Grant amounts are between \$100 and \$1,000. More information can be found on the WFU website, or call the office.

What's on the Table?

with Diane Tiry



Featuring Austin's Rush Creek Farm's Jams and Jellies

I have wanted to share recipes from our members around Wisconsin for a long while and thought the best way to do that is to just ask.

This month I am featuring Austin's Rush Creek Farm, owned by Brian and Carolyn Austin. They are sixth generation

farmers working the beautiful soil near Ferryville, WI. They use natural growing methods for their produce without the use of chemical herbicides or pesticides, growing in open fields, low tunnels, and in a high tunnel (hoop house). They offer fresh produce and preserved foods.

After leaving their jobs in the manufacturing sector in 2009, and moving back to their farm, they began offering fresh produce at local farmers markets. Eventually they began adding preserved foods to their offerings and found the response to be so wonderful that they have not been able to keep up with demand.

Brian and Carolyn have worked hard to perfect their preserving processes and have found their true passion lies not only in growing the produce but in preserving it. In the fall of 2013 they began construction of a processing kitchen on their farm, have recently completed construction and received their state license.

Their feature food is Dilly Beans, pickled green beans with garlic and a touch of hot pepper. Austin's Rush Creek Farm preserved foods can be found in several local retail stores and from their farm. You can follow them on facebook at Austin's Rush Creek Farm or on the web at austinsrushcreekfarm.com to see what they are up to.



When WFU convention time rolls around, you may find a basket of their wonderful jams and jellies on the silent auction table to bid on. For those who would like to try their recipes please find Strawberry Rhubarb Jelly and Peach Jam below for your delectable taste buds to enjoy.

Strawberry Rhubarb Jelly

(with liquid pectin)

Yield: 7 half-pints

Ingredients:

3 ½ C juice (1 ½ qts ripe strawberries, 1 ½ lbs red rhubarb stalks)
6 C sugar
1 pouch liquid pectin

Directions:

- Wash, trim and cut rhubarb into 1 inch pieces, and blend
- Wash, stem and crush berries
- Place both fruits into damp jelly bag and strain out juice
- Wash jars in warm soapy water, sterilize by boiling 10 minutes, keep hot
- Pre-heat 2 piece lids
- Measure juice and sugar into large kettle
- Bring to a full rolling boil on high heat, stirring constantly
- Add liquid pectin
- Return to full rolling boil
- Boil hard exactly 1 minute, stirring constantly
- Remove from heat, quickly remove foam with a metal spoon and place in a separate bowl (can be used for personal toast, but has a slightly different taste)
- Quickly pour into hot jars
- Leave ¼ inch headspace
- Remove bubbles by running a spatula between jelly and side of jar
- Wipe rims and threads clean
- Cap with hot pretreated lids. Screw firmly tight but not too tight
- Process in boiling water canner 5 minutes
- Remove from canner and cool on cookie type rack.
- Label and store in a cool, dry place.

Peach Jam

(with powdered pectin)

Yield: 6 to 7 half-pints

Ingredients:

4 C crushed fruit (about 3 lbs whole)
2 tablespoons bottled lemon juice
5 C sugar
1 box powdered pectin

Directions:

Wash jars in warm soapy water, sterilize by boiling 10 minutes, keep hot. Pre-heat 2 piece lids.

- Measure sugar and set aside
- Measure crushed berries, and mix with pectin
- Add lemon juice



- Bring to a full rolling boil
- Add sugar all at once
- Return to full rolling boil
- Boil hard exactly 1 minute, stirring constantly
- Remove from heat, remove foam
- Stir gently 5 minutes to prevent fruit from floating
- Quickly ladle into hot jars
- Leave ¼ inch headspace
- Remove bubbles by running a spatula between jam and side of jar
- Wipe rims and threads clean
- Cap with hot pretreated lids. Screw firmly tight but not too tight
- Process in boiling water canner 5 minutes
- Remove from canner and cool.
- Label and store in a cool, dry place.

Thank you Brian and Carolyn for sharing about your farm, your recipes and the delicious products you have available.

Happy and Healthy Eating to All!
Diane Tiry



Eliminates litter box odors so well, you'll think you lost your cat!

Naturally effective.

Swheat Scoop litter's natural wheat enzymes work to eliminate rather than mask litter box odors, no matter how many cats you own. Plus, natural wheat starches form solid clumps fast to make cleanups easy.

No clay, chemicals or fragrances.

Swheat Scoop litter doesn't contain any silica, sodium bentonite, chemicals or flowery fragrances. It's so safe, it's vet-recommended for use with kittens. Wheat litter also tracks less and doesn't raise clay dust clouds when poured.

Good for the Earth.

Unlike clay litters that are mined and never decompose, Swheat Scoop litter is made from wheat, a renewable resource, and is completely biodegradable. It's also certified flushable and sewer/septic safe.

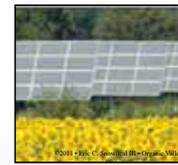
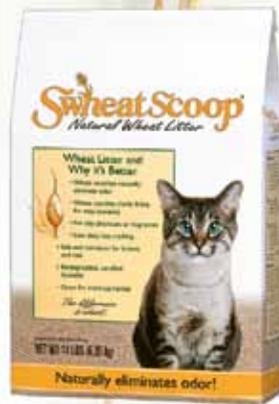
Multi cat formula.

Swheat Scoop makes an excellent multi cat formula, no ammonia odors, firm clumps which don't break and you'll use 10 lbs. per cat per month so it is economical as well.

You'll find Swheat Scoop litter at local grocery and neighborhood pet stores, national pet chains and natural food stores. To learn more, visit www.swheatscoop.com or call 1-800-SWHEATS (794-3287).



Make a natural change for the better.



**Give a Stronger Voice to Rural America
 Join Wisconsin Farmers Union and
 help preserve the economic health and
 sustainability of our rural communities.**

Membership Application

Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

of Children under 21: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Household Type:

- Farm Rural Small Town Urban

Type of Farm: Check all that apply.

- Dairy Poultry Vegetables or Fruit
 Beef Crops Organic
 Hogs Horses Other _____

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

- New Member Renewing Member

- 1 Year (\$30) 2 Years (\$55)

- 4 Years (\$100) Lifetime (\$2000)

- Student (\$15) Organization (\$50)

Join us today!

Mail this card to:

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 117 W. Spring St. • Chippewa Falls, WI • 54729

Or sign up online:

www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com

For more information, call 800-272-5531

Right on?



Alan Guebert

You'd think that a state constitution eight times longer than the U.S. Constitution might cover every right, act or

idea any of its citizens might need, do or ponder.

Not so in the Show Me State, Missouri, where on Tues., Aug. 5, voters will decide if they should add a "right to farm" amendment to its constitution which is, in fact, already eight times more wordy than the U.S. Constitution.

At first blush, a "right to farm" law might be no-brainer in a state whose diverse farms and ranches compose the backbone of its beefy economy.

Again, not so in Missouri. The amendment push has split its farm and food citizens into well-financed, media-commanding supporters and well-spoken, media-outgunned opponents.

In support of Amendment 1 are 40 or so of Big Ag's biggest such as the state's Farm Bureau, pork association, corn growers, soybean association, cattlemen's group, and dairy group as well as global Agbiz Bigs like Cargill, Monsanto, Farm Credit and Rabo AgriFinance.

All have combined to form Missouri Farmers Care, a well-oiled advocacy group whose "vision" is that "All Missourians will understand the truth about modern agriculture, food production and farm life and their connection to Missouri's food security, economy and social well-being." (Links to all documents are posted at <http://farmandfoodfile.com/in-the-news/>.)

Opponents of Amendment 1, like Darvin Bentlage, a Barton County, MO farmer, note the "truth" of Missouri's "modern agriculture," must include facts such as "farmers are sued by Monsanto," "China's biggest meatpacker owns 50,000 acres of Missouri farmland" and "Brazilian-owned JBS"—the world's largest meatpack-

er— "controls a huge share of our beef, poultry and hog industries."

The "vaguely worded" amendment, Bentlage suggested in a July 7 guest column published by the Joplin (MO) Globe, provides "an almost impenetrable wall of protection for corporate agri-business to do whatever it wants, however it wants, wherever it wants."

Missouri Farmers Care doesn't wade into that deep pool because, after all, it dug the pool: pushed the amendment through the statehouse. Instead, it prefers to sell the law as the best defense to "protect Missouri from out-of-state special interests."

The group doesn't say who those out-of-state bad boys might be—publicly, at least. The roaring whispers enveloping its effort, however, point to two of the biggest bogeymen in U.S. agriculture today: the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) and PETA, the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

When challenged to put up or shut up in a public debate on Amendment 1 with Joe Maxwell, Missouri's former lieutenant governor and currently a vice president of HSUS and a hog farmer, State Rep. Bill Reiboldt, the sponsor of the legislation that put the amendment on the ballot, "withdrew at the request of Missouri Farmers Care," reported the Joplin Globe July 3.

The excuse was all too chicken-livered for the Globe that, on July 8, publicly asked Reiboldt, "Since when does an advocacy group tell a state representative who he should and shouldn't debate?"

It's an appropriate question. Not only was the public denied any public discussion of a very public law, the public official most responsible for it bowed out because private interests—by his own admission—"asked me to..."

Five days later, the Globe, like the Kansas City Star two weeks before, came out against Amendment 1.

In doing so, the Globe quoted the

"The amendment push has split its farm and food citizens into well-financed, media-commanding supporters and well-spoken, media-outgunned opponents."

proposed amendment in its entirety: "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to ensure the right of Missouri citizens to engage in agricultural production and ranging practices shall not be infringed?"

Well, the newspaper wondered, "Infringed by whom? What practices? And who qualifies as a farmer in Missouri?"

No one from Missouri Farmers Care cared enough to offer honest answers to any those honest questions. Until some Show Me State supporters of Amendment 1 show some guts and do, the simple answer to the pig-in-a-poke, amendment query should be a loud "No."

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly in more than 70 newspapers in North America. Contact Alan Guebert at <http://www.farmandfoodfile.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.

Bacon 1 Pound  Retail: \$6.06 Farmer: \$1.11	Top Sirloin Steak 1 Pound  Retail: \$7.99 Farmer: \$2.33	Bread 2 Pounds  Retail: \$2.19 Farmer: \$0.16	Fresh Carrots 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$1.31	Beer 6-Pack Cans  Retail: \$6.49 Farmer: \$0.05
Cereal 18 Ounce Box  Retail: \$4.69 Farmer: \$0.06	Tomatoes 1 Pound  Retail: \$4.39 Farmer: \$0.62	Eggs 1 Dozen  Retail: \$2.49 Farmer: \$1.24	Flour 5 Pounds  Retail: \$2.39 Farmer: \$0.79	Boneless Ham Price per Pound  Retail: \$4.09 Farmer: \$1.11
Lettuce 1 Head (2 Pounds)  Retail: \$2.19 Farmer: \$0.64	Milk 1 Gallon, Fat Free  Retail: \$4.09 Farmer: \$2.00	Potato Chips Lays Classic, 10.5 oz  Retail: \$4.79 Farmer: \$0.23**	Fresh Potatoes Russet, 5 Pounds  Retail: \$4.69 Farmer: \$0.55**	Soda Two Liter Bottle  Retail: \$1.19 Farmer: \$0.07

Farmer's share derived from USDA, NASS "Agricultural Prices," 2014.
Retail based on Safeway (SE) brand except where noted.
*Figure according to U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service
**Reflects May 2014 price.

www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com
June 27, 2014