

E-NEWS SUMMER 2025

REMINDERS

****Update Contact****

Please update your contacts & let your school know of the change!

WAAE

1724 Bobby Jones Drive

De Pere, WI 54115

715-821-2432

executivedirector@waae.com

Ag Teacher Photo Directory

WAAE has created a photo directory of the ag ed family. Please update your info using the link above, as needed or if your school is missing, please add a slide and edit is accordingly.



MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Beth Babcock, Mauston

2025-26 President



Welcome Back to School!

I hope your summer was filled with more than just fairs, SAE visits, and officer retreats. Hopefully, you also made time for family, friends, fishing, reading, and those much-needed naps.

As we shift from summer mode to school mode, remember the Ag Teachers Creed: "I am an agricultural educator by choice and not by chance." During the year, there will be moments when you ask, "Why do I teach?" That's when it's important to look for the reasons that make you say, "This is why I teach."

Last spring, in the middle of plant sales, banquet planning, and national chapter proofing, a paraprofessional told me, "You must love your job." At that moment, I felt only the stress, long hours, and weekend greenhouse watering. Looking back, though, I realized how lucky I am to work in this career—growing plants with students, bringing in animals to care for, and taking them on field trips that spark real-world learning.

My challenge to you this year: when stress weighs you down, pause and remember how fortunate we are to do this work—even if it makes us a little crazy at times. Take care of yourself, laugh, and lean on your fellow teachers, or reach out to your WAAE family. No one understands an ag teacher better than another ag teacher.

And if you need an extra boost, here's a little ChatGPT motivation:

- 1.The Work is Hard — But It's Holy: You give more than lessons — you give your time, energy, weekends, and heart. What you plant in students today will grow for years, even if you don't always see the harvest.
- 2.Teaching Ag is a Calling, Not Just a Career: Anyone can teach content. You build confidence, shape values, and prepare students to lead and serve. That's extraordinary.
- 3.The Hours Are Long — But the Impact Lasts Longer: Ag teachers are up early, home late, and always doing extra. Why? Because you know the power of a hands-on experience or a student finally saying, "I get it now."
- 4.You're Teaching More Than Agriculture — You're Teaching Life: Your classroom is where grit, grace, and growth take root. You give students more than education — you give them a future.
- 5.It's Worth It — Every Single Time: The quiet student who found their voice. The graduate working in ag because of your influence. These are your legacy. The late nights and early mornings? Worth it.
- 6.You're Not Just Preparing Students for a Test — You're Preparing Them for Life: Ag education is where hands-on meets heart-deep. You don't just teach agriculture — you teach how to live with purpose.

Wishing you an outstanding year ahead! If you need anything, please reach out...or just ask ChatGPT. 😊

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAAE is pleased to announce that Mary Handrich is their new Executive Director. She brings a strong background in ag education, leadership, and advocacy, along with a deep commitment to supporting educators and advancing ag literacy across Wisconsin.



In her new role, Handrich will lead WAAE's efforts to provide professional development, resources, and support for agricultural educators, while strengthening partnerships with stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels.

REGION 3 SECRETARY

Are you interested in taking on a new leadership role? Region 3 is now accepting MOUs for the secretary position. **Forms are due September 15, 2025.** Click on the link above.

Questions can be directed to Paul Aarsvold, Region 3 Vice President.
paarsvold@isd2899.k12.mn.us



ONLINE WAAE APPAREL STORE

Looking for WAAE Apparel? Check out the online store! Help promote our organization with some new apparel. Click the link above. Orders are due **September 28th**.



OUR MISSION:

WAAE is dedicated to leading agricultural education professionals in the development of knowledge throughout our ever-evolving global community.

REMINDERS

DPI Fall In-services

The DPI Fall In-service Dates are posted on the WAAE website. Sally Ladsten will be sending out more details. If you plan to attend, please sign up on the link above.

- Wednesday, Sept 24th - Sec. 2 CVTC
- Thursday, Sept 25th - Sec. 8 & 9 FVTC
- Thursday, October 2nd - Sec. 6 Alsum Farm
- Friday, October 3rd - Sec. 4 SWTC
- Monday, October 6th - Sec. 5 UW Dairy Research
- Tuesday, October 7th - Sec. 10 Clover Hill Dairy
- Thursday, October 9th - Sec. 1 Northern Great Lakes
- Monday, October 13th - Sec. 3 Western Tech
- Section 7 - TBD

NAAE Opportunities

NAAE prides itself in being a grassroots organization and needs members like you to volunteer to be regional representatives on committees. Check out the link for more information!

REMINDERS

NAAE Convention

Join us in Nashville, this year and experience the premier aged professional development event of the year. There is no better way to invest in yourself as a professional! If you plan to attend please include your name on the link above.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, Nov 13th - WAAE Award Application Workshop
- Nov. 13th & 14th - FFA Mission/Impact Conf. Various Committee Mtgs. - Check Advisor Schedule
- Friday, November 14th - WAAE Board Meeting
- December 8th-12th - NAAE Convention
- Friday, December 19th - Award Applications Due
- Friday, December 19th - PDC Workshop Proposals Due

WAAE Website

We are in the process of updating the WAAE website. If you have any suggestions, find incorrect information listed, or links that are not working, please pass those on to Mary. We appreciate all your help!

executivedirector@waae.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2025 WAAE AWARD WINNERS!

IDEAS UNLIMITED

State Winner - Nathaniel Nolden

Whitney Rathke
Shalynn Domke
Glen Schaufnager
Kayla Loewenhagen



TEACHER TURN THE KEY

State Winner - Kathryn Lampi

Jess Nehs

OUTSTANDING MIDDLE/SECONDARY AG PROGRAM

State Winner - Kally Koch, Riverdale

New Auburn
Ellsworth
Tomah
Waunakee
Wisconsin Dells
Pittsville
New London
Plymouth
Elkhorn



OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL EDUCATOR

State Winner - Brenda Scheil, New Auburn

Ryan Pechacek
Steve Schauf
Jessica Schaefer
Tjark Sattler
Kessa LaBlanc
Travis Engel
Jim Melby
Whitney Barnes
David Kruse



OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER EDUCATOR

State Winner – Mackenzie Person, Durand

Emily Johnson
Greta Monson
Tiffany Henry
Abbey Meffert
Abby Daane
Kathryn Lampi
Jacob Timm
Makayla Malone
Paige Petersen



OUTSTANDING POST-SECONDARY AG PROGRAM

State Winner:

Blackhawk Technical College

Chippewa Valley Technical College
Northcentral Technical College



OUTSTANDING POST-SECONDARY AG EDUCATOR

State Winner – Paul Cutting, Southwest Technical College

OUTSTANDING TEACHER MENTOR

State Winner – Amanda Seichter, Pardeeville

Cera Eberhardt
Jodi Meyer
Jillian Malkow
Brittany Marquard
Candice Franks
Sammy Jurczykowski



REMINDERS

Committees

WAAE has committees to focus on specific areas of agriculture by providing expertise, recommendations, and insights to guide the organization and advocate for the profession. These groups help address key issues like CDE, SAE, wellness, recruitment & retention, finance, and influencing policy, etc., allowing more members to get involved and contribute to our goals. Minutes of meetings can be found in the folder linked above. Click **HERE** to learn more about the committees!

Curriculum Drive

Are you looking for some new curriculum resources? Please click on the link above to request access to the WAAE Curriculum Drive!

Do you have resources you want to share? If so, please share those with Pam or Danielle!

daniellepernot@monroe.k12.wi.us

allenpam@mhasd.k12.wi.us

WAAE Vision:

To be the collective agricultural education leadership voice in Wisconsin.

TENTURE AWARDS

Five Year

Abigail Daane	Valerie Dantoin
Rachel Haas	Sarah Heezen
Gail Holdt	Emily Johnson
Kelsey Kueter	Sally Ladsten
Jessica Nehs	Makayla Malone
Allison Parsons	Alicia Schultz
Andrew Simon	Mary Smith
Jacob Timm	Samantha White
Meagan Vujnovich	

Ten Year

Kori Blank	Zeth Engel
Lisa Kopp	Darren Nyhus
Tjark Sattler	Cindi Troche

Fifteen Year

Amie Dienger	Justin Doyle
Tracy Heinbuch	Cedric Pettis
Hannah Wolsdorf	

Twenty Year

Jillian Beaty	Jason Hovel
Gwen Boettcher	Janet Meister
Rhonda Knapp	Dustin Williams
Lindsay Meissner	Bobbie Windus
Melissa Leonard-Flannery	

Twenty-Five Year

Aaron Kilsdonk
Mike Robinson
Kristin Hanson
Lori Rowe

Thirty Year

Glenda Crook
David Kruse

Thirty-Five Year

Jeff Ostheimer

Retirement

Paul Cutting
Bradley Markhardt
Thomas Sebranek
Steven Schauf

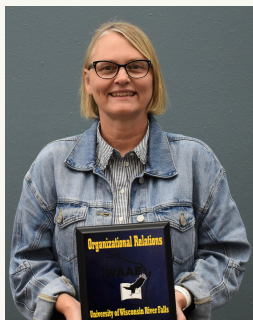


OUTSTANDING SERVICE & COOPERATION

Linda Sattler

HONORED SECONDARY EDUCATOR

*Glenda Crook
Tari Costello*



ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS

*UW-River Falls College of Agriculture,
Food, and Environmental Sciences*

STATE SPECIAL CITATION

*Pete Hoffman
Kathy Hartmann-Breunig*

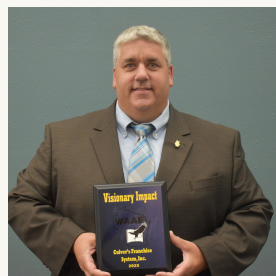


NAAE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Rene' Lehman

NAAE VISIONARY IMPACT

Culvers Franchise Systems, Inc.



PLATINUM SERVICE AWARD

Keith Gundlach (post posthumously)

30 Minute Club

Sponsored by Wisconsin Farm Bureau Foundation

Brenna Babcock
Shari Graffunder
Jessica Magdanz
Jamie Rupp

Tracy Brunton
Emma Huber
Katie Reider



Teacher of Teachers

Shannon Lyon – Silver

Bronze

Susie Olson-Rosenbush
Hillary Bark

SAE FOR ALL

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Becky Grabarski
Danielle Hennan
Rachel Ziegler
Jamie Propson
Crystal Retzlaff
Emma Huber
Jeremiah Ihm
Travis Sprague
Nathaniel Nolden
Sammy Jurczykowski

Noah Bestul
Jacob Timm
Brooke Lueck
Katie Koepfel
Brenna Babcock
Sierra Hanley
Troy Talford
Alexis Nolden
Kim Houser



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

WISCONSIN FFA FOUNDATION

GREEN BAY PACKERS WATCH PARTY



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

FAT JOE'S - FOND DU LAC

11 AM - 3 PM

Purchase your tickets online
by following this QR Code:



Or visit: WisconsinAgEd.org/Foundation-Events

Tickets: \$60 all you can eat (ending after the
3rd quarter) or \$75 all you can eat and drink.

Fun Games, Prizes, and Auction Items To Win!

**Tickets: \$20 each
- or -
6 for \$100**

For tickets or information
contact your Sectional FFA
Alumni Council
Members

100% of profits will be used
for statewide agriculture
education and FFA
leadership development

PRIZES

1st - \$10,000 • 2nd - \$5,000 • 3rd - \$2,500 • 4th - \$1,000 • 5th - \$500
6th - \$250 • 7th - \$250 • 8th - \$100 • 9th - \$100 • 10th - \$100

Checks should be made payable to Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters
License #R0014139-A-30576 • License Owner Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters • P.O. Box 5 • Waupun, WI 53963

**Wisconsin FFA Alumni & Supporters
RAFFLE**

Raffle Drawing: February 21, 2026
7:00 p.m. at Madison Marriott West
1313 John Q Hammons Drive
Middleton, WI 53562

Do not need to be present to win

WAAE PDC 2026

June 29th - July 2nd, 2026
Ingleside Hotel
Pewaukee, WI

THANK YOU SPONSORS!



PLATINUM SPONSORS



COMPEER
FINANCIAL®



SILVER SPONSORS



WISCONSIN FFA
ALUMNI AND SUPPORTERS



MinnTex



Edward Jones Investments | James Grasee

BRONZE SPONSORS

BJ Chrisler | Carlin Horticultural Supplies | Cutting Edge Curriculum, Inc.

Denmark FFA Alumni | GreenStone Farm Credit | Oakfield FFA Alumni

Professional Dairy Producers of WI | WI Pork Association

UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

CHROME SPONSORS

4 Seasons Fund Raising | Alcivia

Land O'Lakes Foundation | Luck FFA Alumni

Sassy Cow Creamery LLC

COPPER SPONSORS

Farm & Fleet | Lomira FFA Alumni

Premier Cooperative | Seneca Foods

UW-Platteville | UW-River Falls Alpha Tau Alpha

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



2025-26 WAAE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Past President: Aaron Kilsdonk, Seymour

President: Beth Babcock, Mauston

President-Elect: Gwen Boettcher, De Forest

Section 1 Vice President: Kelly Hubert, Turtle Lake

Alternate: Darren Nyhus, Northwestern

Section 2 Vice President: Jeanna Burgan, Chippewa Falls

Alternate: Rachel Sauvola, New Richmond

Section 3 Vice President: Hillary Bark, De Soto

Alternate: Kori Blank, Cashton

Section 4 Vice President – Jamie Rupp, Dodgeville

Alternate: Jessica Nehs, Black Hawk

Section 5 Vice President: Karsen Vance, Evansville

Alternate: Samantha White, Stoughton

Section 6 Vice President: Connor Anderson, Lodi

Alternate: Becky Grabarski, Adams Friendship

Section 7 Vice President: Kathryn Lampi, Rosholt

Alternate: Jillian Lebal, Greenwood

Section 8 Vice President: Bobbi Windus, Lena

Alternate: Wally Taylor, Oconto Falls

Section 9 Vice President: Clayton Vader, Green Bay Preble

Alternate: Ryan Weed, Bay Port

Section 10 Vice President: Shawna Henke, Campbellsport

Alternate: Bailey Hart, Elkhorn

Post-Secondary Vice President: Dona Goede, WTC

Alternate: Megan Kulow, LTC

Post-Secondary (FBPM) VP: Jeremy Hanson, FVTC

Alternate: Mark Denk, CVTC

Executive Director: Mary Handrich, WAAE

Ex-Officio/FFA: Cheryl Zimmerman, FFA Executive Director

Ex-Officio/FFA: Glenda Crook, FFA Managing Director of Chapter & Member Programming

Ex-Officio/DPI: Sally Ladsten, AFNR Education Consultant & WI FFA Advisor

Ex-Officio/WTCS: Betsy Leonard, Director – Agriculture & Natural Resources

Legislative Liaisons – Linda Sattler (Laconia) & Troy Talford (Sauk Prairie)

WI FFA Alumni & Supporters: Tari Costello, Executive Director

WI FFA Foundation: Ellen Schutt, Executive Director