CAFES students learn in and out of the classroom

There are many ways our students are engaged in learning and service outside of the classroom. We’re featuring five of them in this issue—internships, judging teams, international experiences, undergraduate research and youth career development activities. In all likelihood you participated in one or more of these activities yourself! The student or student team we feature for each activity is representative of many more. We have 14 different judging or evaluation teams in the college, approximately 150 students take advantage of our internship program each year, and in the Animal and Food Science Department alone, nearly 100 students have collaborated with a faculty member on a research project in the last five years. Enjoy their stories!

Dairy Judging Team
Cole Mark, Eryn Orth, Emily Pieper and Jacob Pintens

The team placed second out of the 15 teams in the collegiate division at the 52nd All-American Contest in Harrisburg, Penn., in September.

All four members of the team have been involved in dairy judging activities since they were young, some as early as 3rd grade! Passionate aptly describes how they feel about dairy judging and it’s a passion they want to share with others. Once they leave UWRF, they all plan to continue to be involved in dairy judging by coaching youth groups and serving as judges at county fairs and shows.

Being part of the team is a huge commitment. During the season, team members practice every weekend and one evening a week. With the time spent traveling to and from the various competitions, they estimated they missed one day of class each week during the first five weeks of the semester. But they were quick to point out that they felt the time commitment was well worth it. Emily and Eryn are interested in returning to their home farms one day, but chose to major in ag business with a minor in dairy science to expand their options. Jacob did not grow up on a farm, but has dreams of owning one some day. Cole is interested in a career in animal health. Whether they want to improve the profitability of their own farms or are working in the industry helping other producers improve their herds and operations, the time spent visiting a host of diverse dairy farms, networking with others in the industry, and improving their ability to evaluate dairy cattle will pay off.

Internship
Brooke Dreshek

Brooke spent last summer on a paid internship at Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary in Green Bay.

Brooke is a conservation and environmental planning major who grew up near Green Bay which piqued her interest in an internship at Bay Beach, a 700-acre urban wildlife refuge in the Green Bay Park System. Her internship position focused on vegetation and refuge management that tied nicely to her interest in restoration management.

She liked that the position offered something different every day. A large part of her role was overseeing work groups – groups of adult or youth volunteers – who were assisting with plant identification, management of invasive species and land restoration projects. Her favorite day was with a group of 8 to 12 year olds where she had them running some relay races centered around plant identification and engaged the kids in a creating costumes from plants.
Greetings from the CAFES Dean's Office!

It’s been another good year for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The Fall 2015 undergraduate student total in the college was up for the second year in a row as we hit both our new freshmen and transfer student enrollment targets. Preliminary indications point to an increase yet again in Fall 2016. This past year saw CAFES faculty receive numerous recognitions of performance including UWRF’s awards for Distinguished Teacher (Gary Onan), Adviser of the Year (Ian Williams), and Keith Wurtz Award for Teaching Excellence (Dennis Cooper). Faculty and staff were very active and successful in receiving grants. And our student clubs, organizations, judging teams and intercollegiate competition teams continued their tradition of excellence.

But not all was good news. Many of you are aware of the budget cuts we had to absorb beginning with the current biennium. Along with each of the other colleges, CAFES was asked to reduce its GPR budget by 10 percent. Unfortunately we could not absorb that level of reduction without elimination of some positions. Combined with the growth in CAFES undergraduate enrollment, these were difficult decisions but necessary given the university’s budget situation.

In visiting with my colleagues at UW-Madison (CALS) and UW-Platteville (School of Agriculture) regarding what’s happening on their campuses, for a variety of reasons each are still finalizing and implementing their budget cuts. The impacts on academic programs are not yet fully determined. If there is a silver lining in what CAFES has agreed to communicate with each other and coordinate any changes in academic programs to the fullest extent possible so as to maximize opportunities for students as well best serve the agricultural industries in Wisconsin. It is a challenging time right now in higher education in Wisconsin. But along with the challenges are some real opportunities. We remain committed to our goal of serving students and in that, we will succeed.

As always, it is good to see many of you throughout the year at our CAFES alumni events as well as the various educational meetings and industry shows we attend. And if we missed you there, please feel free to stop by next time you’re in River Falls, or send a note or e-mail. We love to hear you tell us about the good things we’re doing or the times you had as a CAFES student. More importantly though we want to hear any concerns you might have or ideas for maintaining our programs and moving ahead with opportunities for students.

Thanks again for being part of what helps make CAFES the special place it is. And to each of you, I hope 2016 is a great year!

Dean of CAFES

Hear from our Mann Valley Farm student workers

Between 40-50 student workers are employed across the Mann Valley Farm and the Campus Farm during the course of a year. We quizzed a few of our Mann Valley Farm student workers about why they wanted to work on the farm and what they enjoy most about it.

...because the management staff is willing to work with us to become better herdsmen. They are willing to teach us whatever we need to succeed and are willing to help us in the future.

Brandi T.

...I want to be a large animal veterinarian someday and as the beef herd manager, I get a lot of hands on experience with large animals...

Jasmine H.

...we got out of dairy farming when I was very young. I wanted to get back to my roots and figure out why my dad missed it so much.

Kyle K.

...It helps me relax and take a break from my school work. While I am working at the farm, I can temporarily forget about school work and enjoy working with animals and in the outdoors.

Justin A.

...I want to work as a lab farm manager and do something different, helping them to improve.

Samantha R.

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Samantha R.
Changes have been made to the conservation curriculum and the program has been renamed conservation and environmental planning. It’s a comprehensive field-based natural resources management program covering both the management of the natural world, as well as the human or ‘built’ environment, and the complex interactions between the natural and built systems. An optional emphasis in restoration management is planned starting Fall 2016, incorporating the growing field of restoring degraded, damaged or destroyed ecosystems.

With the official 2015-16 campus enrollment report, the animal science major became the largest major on the UWRF campus, with a total of 536 students. The program grew just over 18 percent in the past five years.

Ball Horticultural Company was honored with the 2015 UWRF Outstanding Service Award. The company has had a relationship with the horticulture program for more than 25 years and makes several valuable contributions to the program each year, including providing representatives for guest lectures, hosting student groups, and supporting internships. You may not know Ball Horticultural, but you might know one of their varieties, the Wave spreading petunia. Accepting the award on behalf of Ball Horticultural was their Director of Human Resources Mike Williams.

With the start of the new fiscal year last July 1, the college had to absorb a 10 percent reduction to its base GPR budget. The magnitude of this reduction required us to make actual cuts in positions, one of which was the part-time administrative support position assigned to the CAFES Internship Office. Overall support for the Internship Program was not reduced but rather responsibilities for that position were adjusted to allow that workload to be assumed by staff in the Dean’s Office (Wendy Riester). At the same time, Eric Sanden, professor of Conservation and Environmental Planning, took on the role of internship program director, following the retirement of Terry Ferriss who had been director for a number of years. The CAFES Internship Program is nearly 50 years old and remains as strong and vibrant as ever. If you or your employer are interested in offering an internship opportunity for a CAFES student, please contact us at cafes.intern@uwrf.edu.

By the time you read this, it’s likely some walls will be down in the Ag Engineering Annex. In support of the new professional agricultural engineering major, some of the laboratory spaces are being renovated. The first phase will create a Design and Innovation Center. Small offices and storage areas are being eliminated in order to expand the footprint of the existing Electricity Lab. Technology is also being added, which will allow the space to serve as both a laboratory and active learning classroom. The CAD Lab will be reoriented and outfitted with new workstations to increase the capacity of the room. Space between the two rooms will house 3D printers and rapid prototyping services. A multimedia collaboration space for project teams will also be created. New doors and more windows will brighten the space and generally increase visibility.

Slow but steady progress is being made on various farm improvement projects following the completion of the Farm Master Plan.

- A new beef cattle handling facility is under construction at the Mann Valley Farm.
- A new portable beef calving shed containing three maternity pens has been installed.
- The floor in the indoor riding arena at the Campus Farm was completely redone.
- Select dairy curtains on buildings in the Dairy Learning Center Complex were replaced.
- Some much needed electrical and plumbing updates were made in the student residence on the Mann Valley Farm.

Faculty in the Plant and Earth Science Department are the recipients of three recent grants:

- Brian Smith, professor of horticulture/commercial small fruit extension specialist received a grant to support development of new cold-hardy, seedless table, juice and raisin grape cultivars.
- A need in the crops and soils program for forage/soil quality and grazing management field instrumentation will be filled. Yoana Newman, assistant professor of crop science/forage extension specialist and Natasha Macnack, assistant professor of soil science, collaborated on this proposal.
- Jill Coleman-Wasik, assistant professor of environmental science, Jarod Blades, assistant professor of conservation, and Veronica Justen, assistant professor of crop science, are building upon a previous grant that established the Kinni Watershed Consortium. The new initiative will foster a broad community land use discussion around meaningful incorporation of ecological services into agricultural landscapes within the Kinnickinnic River watershed, seeking to protect environmental quality while maintaining economic productivity and strengthening social institutions. A youth component will be developed by partners at the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Gary Onan, professor and chair of Animal and Food Science left for Romania at the end of January. He was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholars grant and will spend six months at Banat University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine in Timisoara. He will teach two animal production courses, collaborate with Banat faculty to incorporate hands on laboratory exercises into their curriculum and assist their graduate students in developing effective extension and outreach programming. Onan has a personal connection with Ioan Hutu at Banat University going back to 2004 when Hutu visited UWRF as part of an international young scholars program.
Undergraduate Research
Aaron Timm, Melissa Nelson and Landon Laher

The team presented their work on the Vertical Hydroponic Tower System at the UWRF Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (URSCA) Fall Gala.

Aaron, Melissa and Landon are all agricultural engineering technology majors and were enrolled in AGEN 285/485 Professional Development Seminar course for sophomores and seniors last fall. The ag engineering technology program focuses on project-based learning. Most classes have a hands-on laboratory component but in the annual seminar course students work as part of a team on a specific design engineering project. Students have a variety of projects from which to choose, to align with their interests.

The project they chose was to research, design, build and optimize a hydroponic tower system from commercially available components. Because of his emphasis in environmental technology, Aaron liked the environmental aspect of this project. Landon was interested in building something from scratch and field testing it. Melissa too, has an environmental emphasis and liked the fact that the unit would be self-contained with the water being recirculated.

The team said the most difficult part was starting with a blank slate, where the design was totally up to them. At the same time they noted how that allowed them to be more creative and a bit more “artsy.” It also became more apparent that courses outside their program area have real value, when they used some of what they learned in the introductory plant science course to help guide decisions on the plant material for this project.

They displayed the tower system at the URSCA Fall Gala and for a select group of state legislators that visited campus in December. The experience is already paying off for Aaron. He compiled a portfolio on the project for an internship interview and impressed the interviewer.

The vertical tower will continue to be refined. With the start of the new semester, the project was handed off to a team of freshmen and junior ag engineering technology students in their annual seminar course. One of the next steps will be adding and optimizing LED lighting for the tower unit.

Youth Career Development Service Activities
Tyler Foote

Tyler is the lead student coordinator for the 55th Annual Agricultural Technology contest in April, which will bring nearly 1000 high school students to campus.

As a high school student, Tyler participated in FFA dairy products judging contests. He loved being a participant in the contests and now that he’ll be on the other side, organizing a host of FFA qualifying contests at UWRF this spring, he wants to make sure the participants have a good experience. As coordinator, Tyler said his role is to make sure the many students, faculty and staff involved in running the various contests are prepared to do their part. He’s had some experience with this. As is tradition with students coordinating the Ag Technology Contest, he served as the assistant student coordinator last year, before assuming the lead role this year. Tyler also credits his resident assistant position with preparing him for this role, noting that both positions involve a lot of work behind-the-scenes.

Tyler is the first in his immediate family, and the first among his cousins, to go to college. He came to UWRF because he was interested in the Wisconsin in Scotland program. He got connected to the agricultural education program when he started working in the department office. He ran for state FFA office but was ultimately not elected. Tyler never made it to Scotland either. But he’s not at all sad about these missed opportunities because he feels he had more extraordinary experiences. He didn’t go to Scotland, but he did spend a semester of his sophomore year in China at Zhejiang International University in Hangzhou. He was not elected to a state FFA office, but he was one of only 21 students from across the nation selected to attend the National Teach Ag Campaign Future Agriculture Teacher Symposium in Washington, D.C. last September.

Tyler is one busy student. In addition to his roles as ag technology coordinator and resident assistant, he also works in the International Education Office. He enjoys responsibility, loves getting things done and is passionate about agricultural education, FFA and career development activities. Tyler is still unsure about where he will take his agricultural education degree. He is considering using it as a stepping stone to a master’s degree in international agriculture. He will be student teaching next fall and will let that experience help him decide.
International Experience

Allison Nohre

Allison spent 12 days of her semester break in the 5th largest country in the world – Brazil!

Allison came to UW-River Falls with an interest in agriculture, but no specific major in mind. Just for something to do, she took a job in the Dairy Pilot Plant and the rest is history! The connections Allison made there led to her first trip outside of the Midwest, and helped her secure a position after she graduates this spring.

The group study-tour to Brazil was organized by Dairy Pilot Plant Manager Michelle Farner and was an ambitious program encompassing six different cities, focusing on the food industry. They visited several cheese plants, one of which used goat’s milk, several farms, a winery, and the Cooperative Resources International (CRI) facility in Brazil. Some time was set aside to explore the history and culture of Brazil.

Beyond taking her first trip outside of the Midwest, and gaining insight into the food industry in another part of the world, Allison had even more incentive to join the trip - to see old friends. For the past two years, UWRF, and CAFES in particular, played host to students from Brazil as part of a Brazilian government sponsored program. Two Brazilian students, Mariana and Ana, worked in the Dairy Pilot Plant during their time at UWRF. The group had a true Brazilian experience, spending several evenings with Ana and Mariana, at their homes where they enjoyed dinner together and met their friends and family.

After graduation in May, Allison will be starting her new position with Hydrite Chemical Company in their food sanitation division, and so particularly noted the difference in sanitation concern in food processing facilities in Brazil as compared to the U.S. Some of her most enjoyable experiences were the unplanned ones, checking out a waterfall and farmers market that happened to be nearby when traveling with Ana and Mariana. An experience Allison found a bit disconcerting was riding a horse that only knew Portuguese!

Allison will be traveling outside of the Midwest again before she graduates. This time she is heading to North Carolina in April to participate in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), where she will present the results of her research project which investigated the use of emulsifying salts in processed cheese manufacturing.

Dairy Judging Team - Continued from pg. 1

They went on to say that the value of participating on the team extends far beyond learning how to identify an exceptional dairy cow. Team members compete individually and so quickly get comfortable speaking in front of a group when all eyes are on them! They have learned how to think on their feet, be a better decision-maker and a better problem-solver, and generally gained more confidence in their abilities. And of course, they had some fun along the way. They really enjoyed the family-like camaraderie on the road trips to and from competitions...which included some lively games of euchre with their coach, Steve Kelm.

Internship - Continued from pg. 1

A requirement of the College internship program is that each student intern must complete a special project, developed in conjunction with their faculty coordinator and the employer. For Brooke’s project, she established a transect and quadrats to identify and quantify the plant species in a more remote section of the refuge.

Brooke had nothing but good things to say about her internship experience. She gained some life-long friends from among the staff and other interns. The staff at Bay Beach even went so far as to help Brooke and the other interns by reviewing their resumes and offering suggestions on how they could be improved. She’s excited to do another internship this summer and this time is looking for a park ranger position.

Happy Anniversary!

This spring will mark the 40th year for the Colts in Training Sale. The Colts in Training course was begun in 1972, but it wasn’t until 1976 when the university opened its doors to the public for the Colts in Training sale. Join us for the 40th anniversary sale on Saturday, May 7! The preview begins at 11 a.m. with the sale following at 2 p.m. To mark this special occasion, all Colts in Training alumni are invited to an informal gathering at Junior’s Bar and Restaurant at 6 p.m. following the sale. For details visit: http://bit.ly/40thColtSale.

The Class of 1966 will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee this year! Members of the class are invited to join us May 13-14 to celebrate this special occasion. As has become our custom, for the Aggies in the Jubilee class, we offer a special visit within the College on Friday. We’ll visit the greenhouse and the food pilot plants, where you can try some of our cheese and ice cream. We’ll head out to the Mann Valley Farm for lunch followed by a tour of the dairy operation and a chance to drive one of the big Case IH tractors. On Saturday, the entire group from the Class of 1966 will tour the new Falcon Center currently under construction, have lunch with the Chancellor and receive their class medallion. The final schedule is being worked out. Watch for your invitation – they’ll be mailed out in March!

Finally, 50 years ago this fall, on Sept. 1, 1966, the Agriculture Science Hall welcomed its first students. When opened the $2.1 million structure housed the College of Agriculture and the departments of biology, economics, geography and mathematics. A small birthday celebration is being planned for September 2016.
It has been a pleasure serving as your board president the last year. I’ve had the opportunity to meet fellow alumni and reconnect with others. The primary goal of your Alumni Association is to act as your voice and avenue for staying connected to the college, fellow alumni, current students, faculty and friends. We do this by hosting alumni receptions at events such as World Dairy Expo, WI Crop Management Conference, Wisconsin Farm Technology Days, and the Steele County Fair, just to name a few. If you plan on attending one of these events, please stop by our alumni reception for a visit. I bet you’ll see some familiar people and meet new ones as well. Not to mention, we usually serve refreshments and CHEESE! We are always interested in new networking opportunities. If you have an idea for an occasion or location, contact the CAFES Dean's Office, myself or one of my fellow board members. We look forward to hearing from you!

In addition to hosting these alumni receptions, the board has also hosted our second annual on-farm alumni gathering in central Wisconsin at fellow alums Jake and Tolea Peissig’s dairy. Jake and Tolea guided the group on several tours of their robotic dairy operation and hosted a wonderful cookout. We would like to thank the Peissig’s again for their warm hospitality. The board plans on hosting another on-the-farm event in the state this summer. Stay tuned!

For more information and up-to-date happenings, check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/uwrf.cafes.alumni) or the CAFES website (www.uwrf.edu/CAFES/CAFESAlumni).

Ashley (Sollman) Gausman, 2009

A Meaningful Life

As the 2015 UWRF Distinguished Teacher, Gary Onan, professor and chair of Animal and Food Science, gave the commencement address at the December ceremony. He started by giving a shout-out to the agriculture graduates, noting that some view the industry as “rather mundane and ordinary.” He went on to say, “I would like to remind you that agriculture is the primary industry of civilized society. Without agriculture, all other careers couldn’t exist. Government, business, arts, entertainment, religion all depend on a substantial portion of the populace being freed from the daily necessity of finding or producing food for themselves. Agriculture provides that freedom.”

The teacher in Onan was compelled to give the graduates one last lesson that he hoped would help them along their way. He offered several different definitions of success but chose to focus on one - making a difference in someone else’s life or lives and the sense of satisfaction that comes with that kind of success. He offered five main precepts that he had discovered in his own life that would help the graduates achieve that success. Here are excerpts from his address:

Do good work
People really appreciate a “can-do” attitude...They appreciate those who recognize the problems and difficulties and then develop solutions to move ahead. They appreciate those who are willing to do the “dirty job,” who are willing to clean up the mess.

In my animal laboratory classes, I am always impressed by those students who “step-up” and get the job done, such as when we are weighing pigs. Hogs don’t like to walk onto scales, especially the first time. It is a tight confined space and it looks pretty scary to them. There is really only one good way to get a recalcitrant hog onto a scale and that’s get behind it, put your knees in its back quarters, grab the frame of the scale and push—well you know what’s usually smeared across the back of a hog’s hind quarters—and pretty soon all over you as well. Enough said.

Be pragmatic
A successful person gets things done. It’s as simple as that. In order for that to happen, compromise is an absolute necessity... It seems to me that in the United States today, we are so hung up on our strongly held positions, that we often fail to do anything, and that results in all kinds of lost opportunity where at least some good could be accomplished.

Have empathy
This doesn’t mean you necessarily agree with their positions or can fully understand their situations, but it does allow you to “see their side” and to realize that there are valid, legitimate alternative views and situations to your own. I fully believe that having empathy goes a long way in creating a more civil discourse—something clearly lacking in society and politics today. I am very supportive and proud of UWRF’s commitment to international study because I firmly believe it builds empathy in those students who experience the culture and conditions of other nations, particularly those nations of the developing world... If one can develop a sense of empathy, my final two precepts come naturally.

Be generous
In my personal and professional life, I can dare say that I have never felt bad about being “too generous” or letting someone get off “too easy.” Quite the opposite, I am often haunted by those times when I was not generous, not understanding and too strict. Be generous and be happy!

Stand up for others
There is so much injustice in today’s world. We can each do our little part to mitigate it. Don’t pass up those opportunities. Rarely will the person you are defending be a model citizen or a saint. They will all have faults. They will likely have some characteristics or habits that you find disagreeable, but they deserve to be defended in the face of inappropriate treatment. Some of the greatest regrets of my life are two particular instances when I failed to stand up for someone.

As you leave here today... I hope you will take a bit of this to heart. ..If you do, I am quite sure you will have a meaningful life.

Gary Onan
Two CAFES alumni were included among the UW Extension Agents who received awards for their leadership and innovation. **Adam Hady** (2001, Animal Science) the UW-Extension Richland County agricultural educator received the Agriculture and Natural Resources program area Outstanding Agent Award. **Lyssa Seefeldt** (2009, Animal Science) was one of two who received the Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Innovation Award for their work on the interactive display Agriculture Literacy Game at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days.

**Brian Preder** (2006, Dairy Science) is one of the newest members of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Agriculturist Committee. Brian developed his passion for dairy farming on his family’s 60-cow farm. He is a herd manager for Pine Breeze Dairy, a 2,500-cow dairy located in Poy Sippi.

**Lee Schulz** (2006, Agricultural Business) is an assistant professor and extension livestock economist at Iowa State University. In 2015 he was honored with the ISU Extension and Outreach, Excellence in Research Based Programming Award (Iowa Center Beef Team).

**Jason Hovell** (2004) was featured in the article “Wisconsin Garlic Farmers Take in the Smell of Success” published in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram in November. Jason, along with Dan Lilla, own Tamarack Garlic Farm in Trempealeau. They started the farm in 2014 and just harvested their first crop.

**Joshua Rusk** (2001, Agricultural Education) was recently named executive director of the National FFA Alumni Association. He was most recently a development specialist for the National FFA Alumni Association. He is a former agriculture teacher and Wisconsin state FFA officer.

**Rachel Sauvola** (1999, Agricultural Education) is an agricultural educator at New Richmond High School. Rachel’s enthusiasm, dedication to her program, teaching methods and hands-on opportunities offered to her students were some of the factors that contributed to her latest award, the 2014 Region III Agriscience Teacher of the Year by the National Association of Agricultural Educators.

**Gary Edelburg** (1996, Agricultural Business) and **Patricia (Caldwell) Edelburg** (1998, Animal Science) were profiled by the Wisconsin Holstein Association in “Front Page Holsteins a family affair.” While both grew up on dairy farms, they didn’t take over a family farm. Instead they started their own operation, Front Page Holsteins, from the ground up. They bought their herd in 2003 and their farm in 2008, and passionately work on the farm with help from their twin son and daughter.


**Don Dipprey** (1977, Agricultural Education) was named the new interim agricultural agent with UW-Extension in Polk County. Previously he served Turtle Lake High School for 30 years as the Agri-Science Instructor and FFA Advisor.

**James Ertl** (1977, Agricultural Education) received the 2015 VIP citation. This award honors individuals who have dedicated many years of service to FFA and agricultural education. Jim has served as the Minnesota FFA Executive Secretary for the last 35 years.

Dairy farmer **Arnie Johnsrud** (1977, Agricultural Education) was featured in the article “New Dairy Farmers Find Tough Road, Johnsrud says” in the Green Bay Press Gazette about his life starting out as a young farmer and the challenges and successes throughout his career.

**Clara Hedrich** (1976, Agricultural Education), received the 2015 Honorary American FFA Degree—Teacher Recipients award. This award honors teachers who have created high-quality agricultural education programs that inspire and motivate their students to strive for success.

**Jim Holte** (1975, Agricultural Business) was recently reelected as President of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. He was also re-elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors for a two-year term.

**Nettie (Newell) Rosenow** (1972, Animal Science) is featured in a new book by a Minnesota author—“The Promise in ‘Plan B’” by Mary L. Farr with Noah Vail. The stories in the book focus on people who have let go of the concept of living Plan A—life’s smooth, predictable path---and found fulfillment in Plan B. Nettie, in particular, never expected to get into politics, but because of frac sand mining in her area, she became a Buffalo County supervisor working on environmental issues.

**Loren Wolfe** (1964, Agricultural Education) received the highest honor granted by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation—the Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau award. A retired dairy farmer, he has served the WFBF for nearly 50 years as an active member and in several key leadership positions. He was also named a UWRF Distinguished Agriculturalist in 1997.
We leave you with an award-winning photo. This photo of Harry Larsen walking cattle to pasture at the Mann Valley Farm was taken by Jenny Kuffel, a senior from Oostburg in ag marketing communications. Jenny entered it in the Love My Land Photo Contest sponsored by Badgerland Financial, where it was voted one of two grand prize winners from the nearly 500 entries. Congratulations, Jenny!