After 29 years of service as an account executive with *The Country Today*, Marshall Behling, 1974 has retired. Earlier in his career Marshall was the agriculture instructor at Wonewoc-Center and New Auburn. He and his wife, Bonnie, have moved to a retirement village in Appleton and will enjoy spending time with their seven grandchildren.

Clara Hedrich, 1976, Anna (Hedrich) Zastrow, 2002, and Jessica Hedrich, 2010 along with their other family members of LaClare Farms expanded their operation by purchasing Sunshine Farms fluid goat milk operation. They are also currently building a new dairy processing plant north of Pipe in Fond du Lac county. The plant will be home to 600 dairy goats, a cheese making facility, a retail store, and a café. There are also plans for an educational center that will be open to the public.

Jan Shepel, 1977 won first place in the Investigative Reporting category in the Better Newspaper and Advertising Contest sponsored by the Wisconsin Newspaper Association Foundation. Jan is the associate editor of the *Wisconsin State Farmer*. Her series on the Farm Bill earned her the award.

Pat Baier, 1984 is the Chief Operating Officer of AgSource, a subsidiary of CRI. Pat has a 26 year history with CRI. For the past 9 years he was Vice President of AgSource DHI Operations. He resides with his family in Mount Horeb.

Following a national search, Paul McGraw, 1984 was promoted to the state veterinarian position at DATCP. He worked in private veterinary practices for 16 years before joining DATCP. Paul is a past president of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association.

Mark Leder, 1986 of Gleason was elected to a 3 year term on the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. Mark represents District 3 (Lincoln, Oneida, Price and Taylor counties). Over the years he slowly bought out his dad; he now farms 250 acres and milks 50 cows, Registered Holsteins. Mark also works with the apprentice program at the local high school, helping kids who have never been on the farm learn about the industry.

Marty Hallock, 1989 of Mondovi, was elected to the board of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. Marty is a first generation dairy producer. Currently, his MarBec operation has 800 cows. Marty is president of the local school board and the CESA Board of Control which coordinates state and federal funding for schools and has served on the Ellsworth Creamery Board.

Shelly (Helming), 1993 and Dan, 1991 Smerchek were recently honored by the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association. The Smercheks have been involved in various aspects of the industry but are most active with their sheep flock, considered one of the most competitive Southdown flocks in the country. Dan coaches several quiz bowl and livestock judging teams, and took one of the teams to the national competition in Louisville last year.
**Brian Forrest, 1994** of Stratford, was elected to the board of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. Brian took ownership of his family farm in 2002. In 2012 he entered into a partnership with Maple Ridge Dairy, and now they have 1300 cows and 25 employees. Brian manages the dairy operations and the majority of the employee administrative duties. Brian has also been a youth wrestling coach for the past 15 years.

**Konnie Jerabek, 1996** works for the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection as a plant pest and disease specialist for 19 northwestern Wisconsin counties. Konnie says “It’s like CSI for plants.” She inspects nursery growers and dealers, tree farms, lumber and log operations, and any agricultural commodity heading to international markets. Her certification that no pests or diseases are present makes it possible for businesses to sell their products across state and national borders.

**John 1998 and Deb (Meyer) 2000 Ihm,** were 4th runners up for the Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmers Award. They run a 70 cow organic dairy and also manage 3,500 organic laying hens in Lancaster, WI.

**David Jauquet, 1999** and his wife Stacy were the recipients of the 2013 Wisconsin Outstanding Young Farmers award. They also received the Speak Out for Agriculture award from *The Country Today.* The Jauquets operate a dairy partnership with one of David’s brothers and milk 650 Holsteins in a cross ventilated free-stall barn with double-16 parlor. They’re active with the Kewaunee County Dairy Promotion Association and have previously hosted the Kewaunee County Breakfast on the Farm.

**Fredrick Schwenck, 2000** has joined in a partnership with other dairy producers to form Breeze Dairy Group, LLC. Breeze Dairy Group, LLC currently owns and operates Lake Breeze Dairy, LLC in Malone; Pine Breeze Dairy, LLC in Poy Sippi (nearing completion); and in coming years, North Breeze Dairy, LLC near Dorchester. The partnership currently milks 3,900 Holsteins and employs 60 full-time employees.

**Amber Jakes, 2004** is the regional sales manager for AgSource’s Northwest Region, serving 25 counties in east central Minnesota and 16 counties in northwest Wisconsin. She joined AgSource in 2010 as a technician and was quickly promoted to a specialist role. She resides in Woodville.

**Steffani Koch, 2012** was crowned Wisconsin’s 2013 Fairest of the Fair. Steffani is a Mayville native and is in her first year of veterinary school at UW-Madison with plans to become large animal veterinarian.

**Josh Nielsen, 2008** is starting his 4th full season as proprietor of Nielsen Grain Farms at Granton. He had been pursuing a Master’s degree at Michigan State when the unexpected death of his father brought him back to the farm. He’ll be operating around 1900 acres this year. Josh is also this year’s Agri-View “From the Fields” reporter for Clark County.

**Ryan Hansen, 2010** is an Agronomy Production Specialist with Countryside Co-op in Milltown. Ryan had previously worked for Winfield Solutions and St. Croix Tree Service.

**Taliah Scheibinger, 2012** has joined Countryside Co-op as a Livestock Production Salesperson within the Feed Division.