

Farmers

Moriah Brey, Brey Cycle Farm LLC, Sturgeon Bay



Moriah Brey grew up on a small registered Holstein dairy farm in Northwestern Wisconsin. Growing up, she was heavily involved in her family's businesses, The Cattle Connection, a dairy publication with nationwide circulation, and their dairy cattle auction business. After graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Moriah worked for the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board (now Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin), where she worked closely with the board of directors, was involved in dairy marketing and worked with farmers from across the state.

For the last decade Moriah has been part of her husband's family dairy farm located in Sturgeon Bay, Wis. Over that period, the farm has grown substantially. In 2007, the farm was home to 100 milking cows, corresponding young stock and 600 acres. Moriah and her husband, Tony, farm with Tony's brother Jacob and his wife, Lauren. The four formally purchased the dairy from Tony's parents in 2016. Today, Brey Cycle Farm consists of 500 milking cows and 500 young stock. They also crop 1200 acres and custom raise heifers for four outside clients. The team focuses on environmental stewardship and is very involved in Peninsula Pride Farms, a farmer-led watershed group covering Door and Kewaunee counties. Tony and Moriah are active members of the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin (PDPW) and the Dairy Business Association (DBA). As a college student, Moriah interned for both organizations. Additionally, Moriah is an assistant vice president of credit at GreenStone Farm Credit Services, where she has worked for over ten years. In her role, Moriah works with dairy, cash crop, fruit and timber customers throughout Northeast Wisconsin and the northern half of Michigan including the Upper Peninsula. Tony and Moriah have two children, Evan (6) and Alexa (1).

Andy Buttles, Stone-Front Farm, Lancaster



Andy Buttles owns and manages Stone-Front Farm with his wife Lyn. They have two daughters, Christina who is 11 and Kayla who is 8. The farm is located in the rolling hills just outside of Lancaster. Together Andy and Lyn successfully own and manage the dairy as equal partners. An outstanding group of dedicated employees is the key to the dairy's high level of performance. Milk from the farm is marketed through Rolling Hills Dairy Producers Cooperative.

Janet Clark, Vision Aire Farms, LLC, Rosendale



Janet Clark and her husband Travis of Eldorado, WI, joined her family's farm, Vision Aire Farms, LLC in 2010. Her parents Roger and Sandy Grade are now transitioning ownership to Janet, Travis, and her brother David Grade. Janet manages the financials and calves. The dairy consists of 140 registered milking Holsteins and 1,000 acres of owned and rented land.

Janet received her bachelor's degree in Agri Business Management from the UW-Platteville. She serves on the Board of Directors for Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin and Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin. Travis and Janet have 3 children: Grace (13), Eve (10) and Levi (6). Any of their free time is spent watching softball games and dance recitals.

Tom Crosby, Crosby's River Valley Dairy, Shell Lake



Tom Crosby is a fourth generation dairy farmer who was born and raised on the farm he now runs with his brother, Garry Jr. Tom graduated from UW Madison Farm and Industry Short Course in 1997, and married his wife Sunshine in 2004. Together they have 3 children. The family milks 120 cows and finishes 250 head of steers annually. In addition they farm 1300 acres, and do custom planting, baling and combining.

Dave Daniels, Mighty Grand Dairy, Union Grove



Dave Daniels was elected to the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Board of Directors in 2003 to represent District 1 which includes Kenosha, Racine, Walworth, Jefferson, Waukesha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee and Washington counties. Dave Daniels is part owner of Mighty Grand Dairy LLC, a multi-family dairy farm in Union Grove that has 550 cows and raises 500 replacement heifers. To feed the animals they grow 1,200 acres of alfalfa, corn, soybeans, winter forage and winter wheat. The LLC was formed in 1997 to optimize the three families' working capital and to have a better work schedule.

Dave earned a bachelor's degree from UW-Madison in dairy science. After college he returned to the family farm, which was purchased by his grandfather in 1933 and maintained farming with his father until the merge in 1997. Dave is a graduate of Group II of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program. He serves on the American Farm Bureau Federation's Farm Policy Committee and Dairy Committee, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Ag Producer Security Council and is a member of the Board of Visitors for UW-Madison's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and WFBF's Dairy Committee. He serves on the Kenosha County Land and Water Resource Committee and was previously a director of Conserv FS Cooperative for more than 20 years. He is a former member of the Wisconsin 4-H Foundation Board. Dave and his wife, Kim, live on the farm and are members of St. Francis Xavier Parish and have two adult children: Tara and Maxx (Erin).

Patty Edelburg, Front-Page Holsteins, Scandinavia



Patty Edelburg and her husband Gary own and operated Front-Page Holsteins. They bought the farm in Amherst Junction in 2010. The farm consists of 120 registered Holsteins, again that many young stock and 350 acres of corn and alfalfa cropped mainly for feed. Edelburg is currently serving as the Vice President for the National Farmers Union, a position she was elected to in March. Prior to that position, she headed the Farm Service Agency in Wisconsin as the State Executive Director in 2016, and also served on the FSA State committee from 2010-2016. She served 12 years as a member on the board of directors for the Wisconsin Farmers Union. She has served as the Vice President of the Wisconsin Farmers Union Board of Directors, the Secretary/Treasurer of the Wisconsin District 4 Holstein Association Board of Directors, and President of the Portage County Holstein Board of Directors. For the last year Edelburg has been serving as Vice President of Farmers For Tomorrow, a local group of farmers that are working to control nitrates in the Tomorrow River watershed as part of a DATCP Farmer Led Watershed Grant. She is also on the local fair board. Edelburg is a 1998 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science with a dairy emphasis and business option. When they aren't busy on the farm, Patty and Gary are involved in school, 4-H, community, and county and state fair activities with their 17 year old twins, Angela and Lucas.

Don Hamm, Sandy Loam Farm, Fredonia



Don is a sixth generation dairy farmer, and he and his family currently operate a 320 cow dairy that his family homesteaded in 1852. He has been married to Diane for 26 years and they have a daughter Heather, who is active on the farm.

Don is currently co-owner of Sandy Loam Dairy, and serves in multiple capacities in a number of organizations, including the Wisconsin National Farmers Organization as its current president, various positions in the Divine Savior Parish, and as Chair of the Town of Saukville. Don also serves as treasurer of Ozaukee County Dairy Promotion, as a member of the CWT board, and on the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Producer Security Board. Previously, Don served on the National Farmers Organization's National Board, as well as the NFO Midwest Dairy Director and the NFO Wisconsin State Treasurer. He also served on the CMPC Board, which prices fluid milk sold in the Chicago federal order, and on the Rosemary School Education Committee.

Ryan Klussendorf, Broadland Grass Farm, Medford



Ryan is a 2002 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Farm and Industry Short Course with a specialty in Grass Based Dairy and Meat Animal Production. Upon completion of the Short Course, Ryan chose dairy farming as his career path and in 2003 Ryan and his wife Cheri purchased 50 cows and rented a farm. In 2007, they out grew the rented farm and purchased a farm in Medford, WI.

The Klussendorf's, with their three sons, milk 120 cows and crop 356 acres. Ryan is an active Wisconsin Farm Bureau member, a 2011 Farm Bureau Achievement Award Winner, a 2015 final four Discussion Meet participant and a Wisconsin Farm Bureau Leadership Class X graduate. He currently serves as the Taylor County Farm Bureau as President and Co-chairs the Market Animal Show and Sale at the county fair. Ryan also serves on the town and country dairy breakfast committee. He is a member of the Edge Dairy Farmer cooperative and the Medford curling club.

Shelly Mayer, Mayer Farm, Slinger



Shelly (Keller) Mayer grew up on a dairy farm in Southwestern Wisconsin and she graduated from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural journalism and dairy science. She also received CALS outstanding senior award and the national Dairy Shrine's Outstanding Student Recognition award.

She married Dwight Mayer (also a UW-Madison graduate). They have three children: Devin, 29; Cassandra, 26 and Dylan, 22. The Mayers dairy near Slinger, WI and manage a herd of Holsteins and Brown Swiss with a herd averages over 29,000 pounds of milk. Their farm is located in a very urbanized portion of southeastern WI, just 30 miles northwest of Milwaukee. They also sell genetics – breeding-age bulls and young stock.

Presently, Shelly is the executive director of the Professional Dairy Producers of WI – the largest dairy producer-led, educational based organization in the country. Previously, Shelly served on the Board of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. In addition to her work with the dairy industry and being an active partner in the family business, Shelly is an avid gardener.

Dan Pearson, Pearson Farm, River Falls



Dan grew up on a diversified farm (4th generation). He graduated from UW-River Falls in 1978 with an Agriculture Education degree. He taught high school Vocational Agriculture for one year before returning to our family farm. Dan farmed in partnership with his parents, until he married in 1982. He and his wife Terri raised three children who are now married and have blessed them with nine grandchildren. They incorporated intensive grazing practices in the early 1990's, became certified organic in 1995, and were accepted as CROPP Cooperative (Organic Valley) members in February 1996. In 2016, they developed a joint venture with their herdsman. They are currently milking 125 cows (Milking Shorthorn and crosses) in a milk-share agreement. Dan is currently serving on the CROPP Cooperative Board of Directors (2009-present).

Dan's past participation in agriculture includes:
Local and regional boards for Land O Lakes (1983-1995)
National Milk Producers Federation Young Farmer Council (1990 – 91)
St. Croix County DHIA Board, Holstein Association Board (mid 80's)
CROPP Coop Dairy Executive Committee; CROPP Farmers Advocating for Organic Committee Chair. 1996-2009

Dan was involved in developing the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program in Troy Township to help permanently protect farmland without taxpayer funding.

Amy Penterman, Dutch Dairy, Thorp



Amy Penterman and her husband, Sander, and children dairy farm in Thorp, Wis. Amy has also worked as a crop insurance agent for over 20 years. Sander grew up in the Netherlands on a 60-cow dairy farm and immigrated to the United States in 1999.

Today, the Penterman family milks 850 cows and farms 1,275 acres with the help of 12 full-time and two part-time employees. Amy is involved with the daily management and human resources. The Pentermans plant cover crops to reduce soil erosion and inject manure when feasible to reduce runoff. They work closely with an agronomist to ensure they are maintaining and improving soil health and growing quality crops. In addition, they recycle and reuse as much water as possible. For example, the water that is used to cool their milk is then recycled as drinking water for the cows. All animals on the farm have sensors to monitor health. The most rewarding part of farming to Amy is raising her five children on the farm where they are learning the values of hard work, dedication, teamwork and pride. The farm is proud to support the community and agricultural programs at the local school

Brody Stapel, Double Dutch Dairy, Cedar Grove



Brody Stapel is from Cedar Grove, WI, where he dairy farms with his brother, Jory, and father, Rudy. Having left the family farm after high school, when Brody and his wife Carolyn were expecting their first child in 2009, they realized they wanted to raise their family on the farm. After exploring various transition plans, in 2012 the decision was made to start a new entity at a different location.

Today, Double Dutch Dairy is milking around 220 cows and runs 830 acres with two full-time and two part-time employees. They continue to adapt to the changes that have come to the industry through technology, implementing sustainable practices, improving cow comfort, and employing great people while maintaining their commitment to their faith, their families and the farm. Raising his family on the farm is the most rewarding part of Brody's career. His initial goal of teaching his children the value of hard work, the benefits of living out their faith, and the importance of sharing their story is daily being realized. Brody enjoys knowing that taking risks can bring rewards.

He is currently serving as the board president of Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative as well as president of a local school board. He also serves on the Sheboygan County Dairy promotion board and will be joining the US Farmers and Ranchers Board in the fall of 2018.

Charles Untz, Untz Farm, Lake Mills



Charles and his son Jason operate a 150 cow herd of reg. Holsteins and raise all of their own replacements. They farm about 850 acres of which they own 600 acres. Corn, Beans, wheat and alfalfa are the crops they plant and harvest. They hire a high school student to milk at night when she is not out for sports, and her goal is to be a veterinarian after high school.

Charles has served on many local boards, including the school board, and as town chairman. He has also chaired three school expansions and many local functions. Currently, he is serving on the Corp. Board for Dairy Farmers of America (DFA). He is serving on the public relations and political action committee as well as the DFA audit committee.

Jason and Charles are the owners of Chason Acres Inc., and are in the process of passing on his shares via stock buyback by the Corp. Having received a degree from UW-River Falls, Charles taught Ag. Ed. for 1 year before buying his first farm. He has been married to his wife Sonja for 47 years and raised 6 children, 2 girls and 4 boys, and he and Sonja have 17 grandchildren whom they love deeply.

Darin Von Ruden, Von Ruden Farm, Westby



Darin Von Ruden is the third generation to steward his family's 60-cow organic dairy farm near Westby in Vernon County. He has served as Wisconsin Farmers Union President for eight years, treasurer of the National Farmers Union for four years, and is also on the Board of Farmers Union Enterprises. Darin has traveled and represented Wisconsin Farmers Union at five international meetings of the World Farmers Organization. He has been a long-time advocate of strengthening the dairy pricing system to ensure fair prices for family farmers.

Milk Processors and Marketers

Steve Bechel, Eau Galle Cheese Factory, Durand



Steve's background in dairy started as a youngster on his grand-fathers dairy farm, assisting with chores, fieldwork, and other duties. This led to milking and farm jobs through high school to earn money. His dad owned and operated a milk route so as soon as he turned 18, Steve hauled milk after school and on weekends. At the end of his senior year, his father sold the route and Steve attended technical college and went to work for a medical implant company.

In 2000 Steve entered the cheese industry when he married a cheesemakers daughter, and went to work for the family business, Eau Galle Cheese. Steve worked his way through each position in the plant and ultimately was made the plant manager. In 2014, Steve left Eau Galle Cheese for a job in sales with Hydrite Chemical, it was a short stint as he was offered a job at Burnett Dairy Cooperative as the operations manager. It was evident that his heart was in the cheese industry, so Steve gladly accepted the position. Steve eventually worked up to the SVP of Dairy Foods at Burnett and was responsible for the entire dairy division, which included both the Grantsburg, WI and Wilson, WI (Cady Cheese) plants.

Steve split time between Eau Galle Cheese and Burnett Dairy starting at the beginning of 2017. In June of 2017, Steve returned to Eau Galle Cheese to focus 100% of his energy there, where Steve is currently the VP of operations.

Steve currently serves on the board of directors for the Central Wisconsin Cheese and Butter Makers Association. He is also on the Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association Board, where he currently serves as the Secretary on the Executive Committee. He has recently enrolled in the Master Cheesemaker Program.

Dave Buholzer, Klondike Cheese Company, Monroe



Dave Buholzer is a Wisconsin Master Cheesemaker and one of the senior managing partners at Klondike Cheese Co. Dave is part of the third generation at Klondike Cheese, which has been owned and operated by the Buholzer family since 1925. Klondike has grown from a tiny co-op to currently having over 200 employees. Dave grew up at the plant, and has been involved in all aspects of manufacturing and management. Dave currently holds the position of Vice President of Finance and also works closely with logistics and production scheduling.

Klondike Cheese is a leading manufacturer of specialty cheeses including Feta, Havarti, Muenster and Brick. The Havarti, Muenster and Brick production was recently moved to a state of the art facility attached to the existing Feta plant. Klondike also produces Greek style and high protein yogurt for retail, foodservice and the ingredient industry.

Dave currently serves as Second Vice President for the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association. He is also a member of the US and World Championship Cheese Contest Committee and Policy Committee for the WCMA. Dave is also a member of the DBA Public Policy Committee. Closer to home, Dave is President of the National Historic Cheesemaking Center in Monroe and is on the Green County Fair Cheese Contest Committee.

Rob Byrne, Schreiber Foods, Green Bay



Dr. Rob Byrne is responsible for regulatory compliance and serves as the liaison to industry groups for Schreiber Foods, Inc. In this position, Rob has the responsibility for providing strategic and operational regulatory guidance and expertise to the company, representing the organization's position on legislation and regulatory affairs to elected representatives, their staffs as well as officials and staffs in other regulatory, trade, industry or professional organizations at the International, Federal, State and Local levels.

Prior to joining Schreiber Foods in 2009, Rob worked for the National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association.

Byrne holds a Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology, a Master of Science in Food Science and Technology, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology with Minor in Chemistry from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Rob represents Schreiber Foods on the Boards of the National Cheese Institute, the WI Dairy Products Association, the Greater Green Bay Chamber, and the Boys and Girls Club of Green Bay.

Rob and his wife Kathy live in Green Bay, WI with their 3 children. Outside of work, they enjoy attending kid's sporting events and any outdoor activity.

Ted Galloway, Galloway Company, Neenah

Ted is the Vice President for Galloway Company and General Manager of their solely owned subsidiary Classic Mix Partners. He is proud to be part of the third generation of Galloway's to lead the family business for the past 39 years. Ted along with his brothers Tim and Pat and our cousin Tod are active daily with the management of the business. Galloway Company and their subsidiary Classic Mix Partners are diverse processors of complex dairy ingredients. They are the largest manufacturer of sweetened condensed milk and a leading processor of beverage bases and dairy dessert mixes/bases which are marketed nationally. These ingredients are part of formulas used to manufacture some of the most famous food brands consumed in our country.

Ted graduated from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls majoring in Business Administration with a minor in Food Science. He is a past President of the National Ice Cream Mix Association, Wisconsin Dairy Products Association and the Trade Association of Proprietary Plants.

The Galloway Family follows the philosophy that they are participants for change in the dairy industry. In support of this belief Ted annually attends the IDFA Ice Cream Technology Conference, NICMA Convention and WDPA Dairy Symposium also being the Symposium Program Chairman. Previously Ted was a Committee Member of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection – Raw Milk Policy Working Group. Ted continues his commitment to the industry by presenting at Penn State – Ice Cream 101, and the Frozen Dessert Institute. He has also made presentations to other University, Trade Association, Customer, Frozen Dessert Machine Manufacturer and Food Ingredient Manufacturer conferences, symposia, classes, annual meetings and conventions.

Paul Scharfman, Specialty Cheese Company, Reeseville



Paul grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts. While a senior in high school, Paul founded N&N Enterprises, Inc., a wilderness camp which took 12-17 year olds on hiking, canoeing, biking, and skiing trips. The company grew to have 30 staff and over 250 participants.

Paul received his Bachelor's degree in mathematics from Harvard College in 1977 and he went on to receive an M.B.A from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration in 1979.

From 1979-1991, Paul worked at General Foods, Oscar Mayer Foods, and the Louis Kemp Seafood Company. Rising through Sales and Marketing, Paul served as Marketing Manager for the Oscar Mayer brand and as Sales and Marketing Manager for the Louis Kemp Seafood Company.

Since 1991, Paul has served as President of the Specialty Cheese Company, which produces a variety of specialty cheeses with 225 employees in one manufacturing plant. Paul is also President of Getting Better, LLC, a company whose protocols for teaching people who suffer from obesity and chronic illness skills to enjoy getting better are in clinical trials.

Paul holds multiple cheese patents and is affiliated with the Wisconsin Specialty Cheese Institute as a current member and founding President, the Program on Agricultural Technology Studies as an Advisor, and the UW Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Regional Foodsystems Group. He also serves as a Board Member of the International Chamber of Agriculture Entrepreneurial Council and is a former chair of Dairy 2020.

Jerrold Schroeder, Schroeder Milk Transit, Oconto Falls



Jerrold Schroeder is an experienced business owner and employer who brings a wealth of knowledge and background working in the dairy and transportation profession for over 40 years. He has worked directly with a spectrum of dairy farms spanning from the farmer with herds of 30 up to 600+ cows. In addition to working with the producers, he has worked jointly with numerous milk cooperatives and processors throughout the state.

He is actively involved and a spokesperson for the industry as the President and long-time member of the Wisconsin Milk Haulers Association (WMHA) and a Director on the Wisconsin Motor Carriers Association. He has been involved in Legislative Days and working jointly with other members of the association in making long-term reforms to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Jerrold comes from a family whose history is deeply entrenched in the dairy industry which includes his grandfather who was a cheese maker and started his own cheese factory. Being raised on a farm and owning a small farm in Pulaski, WI, he is vested in the success and growth of the industry. He believes in giving back. In addition to his business endeavors, involvement in the community, and in the WMHA, he also serves on the Advisory Board for the Diesel Technology program at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and is a graduate of the Diesel Mechanics program. Furthermore, he is a member of the Brown County Farm Bureau. Jerrold is cognizant of the various facets facing the profession and industry. He is honored to be representing the transportation aspect and working jointly in moving the industry forward to meet the ever increasing economic demands.

Jeff Schwager, Sartori Cheese, Plymouth



Jeff Schwager is currently the President of Sartori Company and has served in this role since July of 2009. Sartori is a specialty cheese company selling in 49 different countries for the Retail, Food Service and Ingredient markets.

Sartori Company is a 79 year old family business with all operations in Wisconsin. We purchase all the milk from 130 Wisconsin Family Dairy Farms. The high quality milk and the talents of our cheesemakers have earned us over 400 awards from major national and international competitions. Prior to joining Sartori, Jeff was with Rite Hite Corporation for almost 20 years serving in a number of roles leading their Industrial Door, Loading Dock and International businesses. Rite Hite is a world leader in the material handling solutions to improve productivity and safety.

Jeff started his career after completing his BS in Business from Miami University and the Square D Company as part of a management training program with assignments in Business Systems Development, M&A, Operations Management, Distribution Strategy and Plant/Business Consolidation. Jeff and his wife Marcia have two adult daughters. The family enjoys and active and healthy lifestyle with interests in skiing, golfing, hiking, exercise and healthy eating.

David Ward, Cooperative Network, Madison



David is the government relations and member services representative for Cooperative Network's dairy, mutual insurance, and telecommunications cooperatives. Before joining the association, he represented the 37th Assembly District in the Wisconsin State Legislature from 1992 to 2006. David was appointed in 1999 to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance, which establishes and oversees the state budget. While in the Assembly, David led the rewrite of Wisconsin's adoption laws and authored Wisconsin's Livestock Siting Law.

David has been active in agriculture and cooperatives nearly his entire life. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville with a degree in agricultural economics, he became vice president and herdsman for Wardland Inc., a corporation that has been in his family since 1844. David has served in leadership roles with the Jefferson County Farm Bureau, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, and Jefferson County Farmco Cooperative. He teaches agricultural policy at UW-Platteville every spring semester. David is based in Cooperative Network's Madison office.

Elizabeth Wells, Organic Valley, La Farge



Beth Wells is the Director of Farm Milk Management for Organic Valley in La Farge, Wisconsin. Beth began her career in 2005 as an agricultural economist for BEST Energies. She joined Organic Valley in 2007 as a production data and supply supervisor, and served as a demand manager from 2010 to 2015. She received her bachelor degree in agribusiness and animal science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in 2002. Beth earned her master degree in agricultural economics from Kansas State University in 2004. Beth enjoys reading, attending fairs and livestock shows, playing volleyball, and volunteering for youth organizations including 4-H and FFA.

Allied Organizations

Jon Accola, Premier Cooperative, Prairie du Sac



Jon grew up and was raised on a Registered Brown Swiss farm in Prairie du Sac, WI. He was involved in 4-H and FFA. Showing cattle at fairs and Swiss shows for many years. He attended UW Madison receiving a degree in Dairy Science. Jon was in AGR and also on the UW Dairy Cattle Judging team for 3 years under Dave Dickson. After college Jon farmed for several years and then entered the feed business. Jon has been with Premier Cooperative for over 25 years as Feed Division Manager. He also has been the grain merchandiser for over 15 years. Jon has seen tremendous growth in the feed industry at Premier Cooperative going from 2 million in sales to close to 60 million today. He was involved with the team in overseeing and building 2 new modern feed manufacturing facilities. Premier moves a large volume of conventional, organic and soon non-gmo feeds to customers in Western Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Eastern Iowa and Minnesota. Premier's modern facilities have allowed them to be a leader in the feed industry. Jon has a son Marty who is currently attending UW Madison majoring in Dairy Science.

Dennis Bangart, AgCountry Farm Credit Services, Marshfield



Dennis Bangart is an AVP Loan Officer with AgCountry Farm Credit Services in Marshfield, WI and is graduate of UW-River Falls. He appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Dairy Task Force and hopes to bring years of lending and dairy business experience to the table, as well as a knowledge base from other areas of Agriculture that he has had the opportunity to work with. Dennis is also actively involved in his Family Farm located in central Clark County, and is excited to have the unique opportunity to present an open view from both sides of the table with the experience that is involved with operating a 400 Cow Registered Holstein herd. Lastly, Dennis has recently completed being chairman of the 2018 WI Farm Technology Days Show near Marshfield. The event utilized every avenue they found to grow a theme of public awareness and education about farming and the agricultural industry and a he compliments the entire community and team of volunteers that rallied around Farm Tech Days to pull off a successful event.

Michael DeLong, First Bank of Baldwin, Baldwin



Mike grew up on a small dairy farm in Baldwin, WI. He graduated College with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Agriculture Economics from UW-River Falls. After college he spent four years working as a Farm Consultant in central WI and then moved back to his home town where for the last 18 years he has been working as an Agriculture Loan Officer in Western WI. He is currently working as the Vice President Commercial/Agricultural Loan Officer for First Bank of Baldwin. Mike severed on the WBA (WI Bankers Association) Ag Section for 9 years serving two terms as the Section Chair where he helped with the annual Ag Bankers Conference along with working on Ag related banking issues. He also served three years on the ABA's (American Bankers Association) Ag and Rural Bankers Committee working on national ag banking related issues and he served one year on the ABA's National Ag Conference planning committee helping plan the Minneapolis National Ag Conference. Mike currently resides in Woodville with his wife Sherry and three daughters. 16 year old twins Amber and Abbie and 10 year old Sophia. In his "Free" time Mike is heavily involved with the local hockey program where he coaches, officiates and serves on the hockey board. Mike is also involved with the 4-H program where he serves on the St Croix County Meat Animal Committee and coach's softball.

Bradley Guse, BMO Harris Bank, Arpin



Senior Vice President, Agribusiness Banking
BMO Harris Bank N.A., Marshfield

As an agricultural banking officer for BMO Harris Bank N A - Marshfield, Brad Guse manages a portfolio of diverse production agricultural relationships made up of primarily dairy farm accounts. Guse has ten years of experience in the dairy nutrition field and 21 years of experience in agricultural banking, the past 17 years with BMO Harris Bank. Brad also currently serves on the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Board, as Vice Chairman of the board and Loan Committee Chairman, continuing his commitment to rural development in the state of Wisconsin. He remains an active member of several professional and community organizations including the Wisconsin Bankers Association, Agriculture Section; Marshfield Area Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee; National Farm Medicine Auction of Champions committee and the Central Wisconsin 4-H Shooting sports program. Guse served 21 years in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, retiring in 2004 after his unit's successful deployment to Afghanistan. Guse holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Dr. Melissa Haag, Lodi Veterinary Hospital, Lodi



Melissa Haag grew up in a small town northeast of Fond du Lac, WI and studied Animal Science and Dairy Science at the University of Wisconsin—Madison. Following her undergraduate studies, she went on to attend veterinary school, graduating in 2012 with her DVM degree. Melissa immediately started working for Lodi Veterinary Care in Lodi, WI as a Livestock Veterinarian. She is one of eight livestock veterinarians at the practice and is privileged to work with dairies who milk as few as 20 cows to dairies that milk thousands of cows. Dairy cattle herd health, medicine, and surgery are her main focuses and Melissa specializes in advanced reproductive techniques including in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer.

Together, with her husband, Josh, and his parents, they co-own and operate a 120 cow dairy farm in Northwest Dane County. They milk primarily Holsteins and have a few Guernseys. Their newest addition to the dairy are two DeLaval VMS robots. They are currently in a transitional time on their farm as they try to navigate the future with a robotic milking system.

Josh and Melissa have two young daughters, Kayleigh (4) and Kelsey (2). They spend a great deal of time on the farm together as a family. Melissa's hobbies include horseback riding, attending sporting activities with her kids, showing at a few dairy shows in the summer, and participating in local, community events.

Rene Johnson, Union Bank and Trust Co., Evansville



Rene grew up on her family's dairy farm, Templeton Farms, LLC, near Evansville, Wisconsin. She graduated from UW-Madison with an Agricultural Journalism degree in 1995. Rene was an active member of the Badger Dairy Club and the UW Dairy Judging team while on campus.

Today, Rene is the Vice President of Agricultural Lending at Union Bank & Trust Company in Evansville, Wisconsin. For twenty years Rene has worked as an Ag Banker. She works closely with farmers and ag businesses in Southern Wisconsin to help them identify and achieve their goals. Rene is the past chair of the Wisconsin Bankers Association Agricultural Bankers Section, and an active member of the Evansville FFA Alumni.

Rene and her husband David live near Evansville and have three children; Otis, Malcolm and Quincee. David is a general contractor and Rene continues to play an active role on her family's farm. In addition, Rene enjoys watching her children participate in sports and exhibit their dairy animals through 4-H.

John Schmidt, Landmark Services Cooperative, Appleton



John attended UW-River Falls majoring in Agri-Business with minors in Ag Economics and Animal Science.

After graduating in 1989, John worked for Land O'Lakes. He was a nutritionist for 10 years and then moved into a role in the Dairy Business Services department. Duties included feasibility studies for dairy expansions, completing a full business plan for expansion, and post expansion business planning and monitoring. In 2003, John accepted a position with Cargill, where he was a large herd dairy nutritionist in Northeastern Wisconsin for about 9 years. He accepted a new challenge as a sales manager leading a team of 6 dairy nutritionist. In August of 2017, John accepted a role with Landmark Services Cooperative. He has a strong desire to spend more time in the field, calling on dairies, working with other feed mills and exploring ways to help with efficiency and profitability of our customers.

John lives in Appleton, WI with his wife Lisa and their two children- Amanda and Brady. They really enjoy being involved in the community and supporting their kids in their activities. Many weekends the family can be found up north in Elcho, WI enjoying the great outdoors fishing, canoeing, kayaking or other water sports.

Being involved in the dairy business in WI has been very rewarding to John and he looks forward to his participation on this Task Force as a way to give back to this community.

Chad Vincent, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin, Madison



Chad is an experienced Consumer Products Goods executive, currently CEO of the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (formerly known as Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board) – leading the efforts to build demand and awareness for Wisconsin's \$45B dairy agriculture business.

Chad has an extensive marketing and general management and international background, driving growth at companies ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to privately-held family owned and operated ventures. In his 10 years at Miller Brewing Company, Chad spent 5 years in Brand Management, leading a \$2B portfolio of brands and a marketing budget in excess of \$900 million. As president of Miller's Asia Pacific region Chad launched Miller into China, Korea, Japan, and Indonesia among others. As a Managing Director at Heinz, Chad ran a frozen foods portfolio including Boston Market which was the fastest brand to achieve \$100M in sales in Heinz history. At Fiskars, Chad held multiple division president roles (Gerber Outdoor, Fiskars School, Office and Craft) and was the global chief branding officer. Most recently, Chad spent 7 years in the artisan cheese category as the CMO/head of strategy at Sartori cheese where he led brand building efforts and the introduction of Sartori into retail and

global markets.