

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

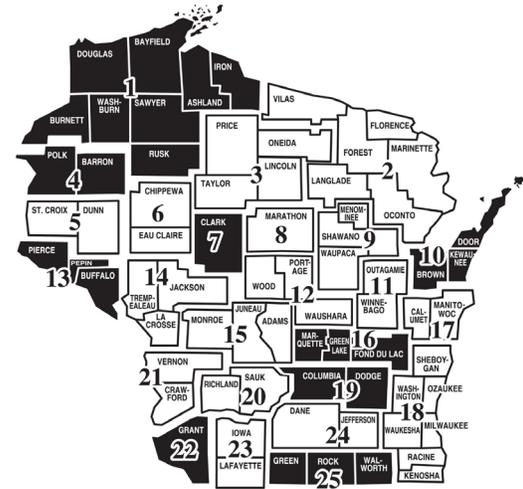
2023 Director Elections

Winning Board Biographies

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced the following elected board members from the 2023 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin director elections which was held on May 1-22 in nine of the state's 25 districts.

Please reach out to Debbie Gegare, DATCP, with any questions about elections: Debbie.Gegare@wisconsin.gov; 608-224-5116

Click the name below to view the biography of each district's board member.



District 1 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn)

- [Brenda Schloneger](#) – Shell Lake

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

- [Andrew Christenson](#) - Amery

District 7 (Clark)

- [David Bangart](#) - Greenwood

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)

- [Tasha Schleis](#) - Kewaunee

District 13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

- [Jonathon Hallock](#) - Mondovi

District 16 (Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette)

- [Janet Clark](#) - Eldorado

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)

- [Mark Crave](#) - Watertown

District 22 (Grant)

- [Ann Kieler](#) - Platteville

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

- [Kristen Metcalf](#) - Milton

Candidate Biography

District 1 (Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn)



Brenda Schloneger
Legacy Farms
W8735 Pine Lake
Shell Lake, WI 54871
Residence: Washburn County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Rodney Children – We have 12 children by birth and adoption (Reuben, John and Noah are owners)
When did you begin dairy farming?	1976
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1,500 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Co-op Grantsburg
Others actively involved in operation:	Husband – Rodney Sons: Reuben, John, Noah and other family members and non-family members
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,060 acres farmed, 200 cash crops and 1,100 other livestock
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	I’m active in Tri-County Dairy Promoters. We are part of PDPW, DBA and ADC.
Community involvement	Chairman of Missions Committee at Cornerstone Church, Shell Lake Public Library Board of Directors
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Since I’m partially retired now, I have more time to get off the farm and serve a worthwhile endeavor.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	This will be my second term. I would like someone else from our district to run the next time.

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Candidate Biography

District 4 (Barron and Polk)



Andrew Christenson
Lakecrest Farms, Inc.
459 105th Street
Amery, WI 54001
Residence: Polk County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Katie Children – Justin (8), Kaleb (6)
When did you begin dairy farming?	Officially went back to the farm in April 2015
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	300 milking Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Coop – Grantsburg, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	David & Connie Christenson, Thomas Christenson, Colin & Bobbi Langan, and Leah Christenson
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	800 acres farmed, no true cash crops; all acres are used for feed, and when extra, then sold, 250 young stock animals, 30 cow-calf pairs for beef cattle, 100 dairy bucklings
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	AgSource Delegate
Community involvement	Ellsworth FFA Alumni Amery FFA Alumni Amery Youth Baseball – T-Ball Coach Deronda Lutheran Church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board to strengthen agriculture and the dairy industry in my home region and around the state. My wife (Katie) and I have always been partners in educating others about agriculture and its importance. She and I both grew up milking cows and working with dairy. Our love for the dairy industry has led us to return to the family farm to keep the legacy going and to educate others about dairy, Wisconsin agriculture, and where their food comes from.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Through my two years of service as a Wisconsin FFA State Officer, I learned the importance of staying informed on current trends and issues within the dairy and agricultural industry. I know I can make a positive impact in helping dairy producers, consumers, and the community. I am excited to take a new step in advocating for Wisconsin Dairy Producers and the Agriculture Industry.

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David Bangart
 Viaduct Holsteins LLC
 N7155 Cardinal Ave
 Greenwood WI 54437
 Residence: Clark County

Candidate Biography

District 7 (Clark)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Amber Children – Adalyn Jo, Cole, Danika
When did you begin dairy farming?	I've been involved with dairy farming my entire life.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	460 Registered Holsteins and a few Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	Land O Lakes
Others actively involved in operation:	Don (dad), Dennis (brother), Amber (spouse)
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,350 acres farmed and 395 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land O Lakes-delegate 2011-2022 ▪ -leadership council chair 2020 ▪ -leadership council vice chair 2016-2019 ▪ -leadership council secretary 2012, 2014 ▪ -policy and resolution committee ▪ Clark County Dairy Promotion ▪ WI Farm Bureau ▪ PDPW ▪ Holstein Assoc. USA and WI Holstein Assoc.
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Town of York Board..second term ▪ Trinity Lutheran Church ▪ Loyal FFA Alumni ▪ Clark County Holstein Association ▪ Wisconsin Independent Business (WIB)
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin has evolved to be one of our main pathways to connect the farm to the consumer. Today, more than ever, there are many different types of consumers we need to reach: from traditional grocery buyers to tech savvy millennials; most are unclear of where their food comes from and what is involved to produce it. Clarifying the farm to fork connection is a large task, and DFW programs help tremendously to accomplish it. I feel it is important for dairy farmers such as myself to be involved in guiding the direction DFW takes in our industry's marketing efforts to continue to grow demand for Wisconsin dairy both domestically and in the international marketplace.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	My wife Amber and I are partners in Viaduct Holsteins LLC. The partnership also includes my father Don and my brother Dennis. We currently milk about 460 cows and have 395 heifers on our farm southwest of Loyal. We take great pride in our family, farm and employees, and focus dedication to the care of our cattle, stewardship of the land and quality of our milk every day. I am also proud to be a part of Clark County's diverse dairy landscape and will continue to represent all dairy farmers who call this home.

Candidate Biography

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)



Tasha Schleis
 Schleis Farms LLC
 N1199 State Hwy 42
 Kewaunee, WI 54216
 Residence: Kewaunee County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Ryan Children – Candence (11), Killian (8), Ainsley (6) Odellia (2), Drayden (newborn)
When did you begin dairy farming?	2010
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	375 Fleckvieh and Jersey cows
Where do you ship your milk?	Agropur Luxemburg, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Steve and Denise Schleis and Marvin and Julie Schleis
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,100 acres farmed; 100 acres cash crops; 375 young stock, beef cattle ect; 40 other livestock (pigs)
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Edge, DBA, Peninsula Pride
Community involvement	Kewaunee County Dairy Promotion and dairy ambassador for the Kewaunee school district, Bridge Point Church Childrens Ministries
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I was approached by other members of our county board about it.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	My family and I are on a 4th generation dairy at our current location in southern Kewaunee County along the shores of Lake Michigan. We milk a herd of Fleckvieh cattle and also direct market beef and market hogs to customers through local butcher shops. In January 2019 we lost our calf barn due to a fire. In October 2019 we were able to move into our new calf facility. Through the pain of losing all cattle in the barn, we were able to move forward and change what needed to be and do what was best for our cattle and our farm. Dealing with the tragedy has better taught me how to handle difficult situations. Unfortunately, those of us in the agricultural industry find ourselves in a difficult situation. I look forward to being able to serve our industry through these difficult times.

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Jonathon Hallock
Mar-Bec Dairy, LLC
W962 County Road NN
Mondovi, WI 54755
Residence: Buffalo County

Candidate Biography

13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Robin
When did you begin dairy farming?	Full time starting in 2013
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1300 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery (Ellsworth, WI)
Others actively involved in operation:	Marty (Dad) & 18 other teammates
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2700 acres farmed; 1150 young stock, beef cattle, etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	PDPW Calf Care Committee, CVTC Ag Advisory Board, Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board Member
Community involvement	Gilmanton Community Club
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	As a young farmer, I want to ask questions and actively help make sure that WI dairy stays sustainable and grows for generations to come. I want to give back to a community that has given so much to my family and myself. Farming is an important piece of our sense of home, and I want to honor that heritage.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I am 32 and active in my role on the dairy but new to serving on a leadership board. I look forward to the chance to learn and work as a team to create something better.

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Candidate Biography

District 16 (Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette)



Janet Clark
Vision Aire Farms, LLC
303 Oak Drive
Eldorado, WI 54932
Residence: Fond du Lac
County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Travis Children – Grace, Eve and Levi
When did you begin dairy farming?	2010
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	150 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	BelGioioso Cheese Inc, Denmark, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Parents: Roger & Sandy Grade / Husband: Travis Clark and Brother David Grade
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,150 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 2016-2019 FarmFirst: Young Cooperators Committee▪ 2018-present PDPW Board member, currently Vice President▪ 2019-2022 Vice Chair of Dairy Farmers of WI▪ 2022-present Chair of Dairy Farmers of WI & UDIA representative▪ 2011-present Farm Bureau Member & Delegate
Community involvement	Fond du Lac County Agribusiness Council, River Valley Community church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	Serving on the DFW board has ignited a passion for dairy promotion I didn't know I had. I love having conversations with fellow dairy producers about DFW programs. Most importantly, I love giving them a voice to the DFW staff. I would be honored to serve on the DFW board again.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I will work with tireless persistence for my faith, my family and my farming community.

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Candidate Biography

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)



Mark Crave
Crave Brothers Farm, LLC
537 Sweetbriar Ln
Watertown, WI 53098
Residence: Dodge County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Tina Children – Jacob, Claire
When did you begin dairy farming?	1988
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	2200
Where do you ship your milk?	Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, Family Dairies Madison
Others actively involved in operation:	Charles, George, Tom, Jordan, Andy, Patrick, Debbie, Brian, Roseanne, Beth, Leah
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,000 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	DBA ,PDPW, Wisconsin Holstein Assn., Holstein USA
Community involvement	St. Bernard’s Parish - Watertown
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	DFW board position allows me to gain insight and have input on strategy for leveraging producers’ investment into increased consumption of Wisconsin’s wonderful dairy products.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	DFW extremely focused on core strategies to promote WI dairy. This revolves around the 90:90 rule. 90% of WI milk is made into cheese, and 90% of that cheese is sold outside the state. That’s the main focus.

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Candidate Biography

District 22 (Grant)



Ann Kieler
Kieler Farms, Inc
4851 Church Rd
Platteville, WI 53818
Residence: Grant County

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Louis Children – Eric, Ryan, Douglas and Renee
When did you begin dairy farming?	1980
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	2000 Holstein
Where do you ship your milk?	Foremost Farms, Lancaster, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Eric & Renee w/spouses; Brothers-in-law; nephew
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,000 acres farmed and 1,000 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Farm Bureau▪ PDPW▪ DBA
Community involvement	
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I am committed to promoting dairy. I want it to thrive and grow stronger. The last 6 years make me better prepared to do that.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I believe in Wisconsin dairy farmers and will do my best to help the future of the industry.

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Kristen Metcalf
 Glacier Edge Dairy
 1010 Parkview Lane #5
 Milton, WI 53563
 Residence: Rock County

Candidate Biography

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Corey
When did you begin dairy farming?	Glacier Edge Dairy was established in 2017, but both my husband and I grew up on our family’s cash crop and dairy farms.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	350 Jerseys, a few Holsteins Expansion happening in 2023
Where do you ship your milk?	Rolling Hills Dairy Producers Cooperative, Monroe, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Terry & Jane Metcalf (in-laws), Lauren Metcalf (Sister-in-law), 3 full-time employees, 2 part-time employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,200 acres farmed, 1,000 young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rock County Dairy Promotion Board ▪ Rock County Holstein Breeders Board, Junior Advisor ▪ Rock County Dairy Judging coach ▪ Rock County Dairy Quiz Bowl coach ▪ Wisconsin Holstein Association member
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Milton FFA Alumni member ▪ Church parishioner, reader and volunteer ▪ Parkview Condominium Association President
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board because I care about the future of dairy in Wisconsin. I want to provide ideas and opinions that will help drive dairy promotions and campaigns in the state. Additionally, I want to learn more about how checkoff dollars are spent and be a resource for other farmers that have the same question. I’m excited to learn about the media tactics used to promote the Wisconsin dairy story. And – who wouldn’t want to help promote delicious Wisconsin cheese?
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I grew up on my family’s dairy farm and my love for dairy has flourished since. I’ve built a career in marketing in the dairy industry, currently working as the Events Manager for GENEX Cooperative. Outside of my role there and at our farm, I enjoy showing Registered Holsteins, traveling, and volunteering my time with youth.

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