

Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

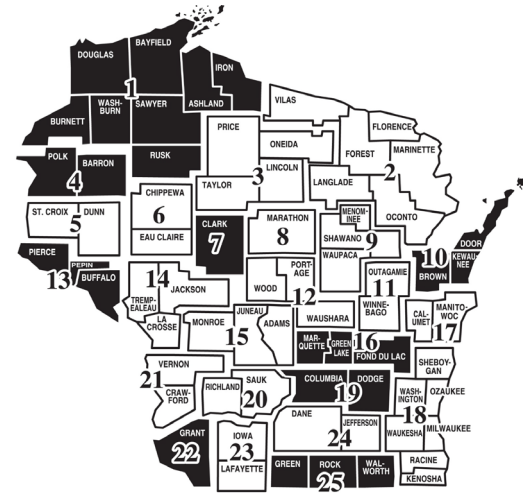
2020 Director Elections

Candidate Biographies

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced the following candidates for the 2020 Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin director elections to be held May 1-22 in nine of the state's 25 districts.

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

Click a name below to view the biography of each district's candidate(s) or scroll down to view all candidates:



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

- [Nathan Brandt](#)
- [Brenda Schloneger](#)

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

- [Audrey Kusilek](#)
- [Sara Bahgat-Eggert](#)

District 7 (Clark)

- [David Bangart](#)

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)

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District 13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

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

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- [Mark Crave](#)

District 22 (Grant)

- [Ann Kieler](#)

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

- [Stacy Eberle](#)

Candidate Biography



Nathan Brandt
Four Cubs Farm
23138 S Williams Rd
Grantsburg, WI, 54840
Residence: Burnett County

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

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Elisabeth Children – Tenley Sue
When did you begin dairy farming?	2014
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1,100 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Saputo – Almena, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Ben, Gary, Cris Peterson
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2,100 acres farmed and 700 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	N/A
Community involvement	N/A
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I'm wanting to get more involved in the industry and drive more consumer awareness.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Very positive and passionate about the dairy industry. Enjoy visiting with other producers and sharing ideas to improve different aspects of a dairy operation.

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Candidate Biography



Brenda Schloneger
 Legacy Farms
 W8659 Woodyard Rd
 Shell Lake, WI 54871
 Residence: Washburn County

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

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Rodney Children – We have 12 children by birth and adoption
When did you begin dairy farming?	1976
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1,285, Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Co-op Grantsburg
Others actively involved in operation:	Sons: Joshua, Reuben, John and Noah
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2,900 acres farmed, 300 cash crops and 1,100 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DBA ▪ PDPW ▪ American Dairy Coalition
Community involvement	I am very involved in the church and I am the chairman of the missions committee
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I might have a new perspective. I would not take this duty lightly.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Our farm's name is Legacy Farms. We can be seen on Facebook.

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Audrey Kusilek
Four Mile Creek Dairy, LLC
1531 22nd Ave
Rice Lake WI 54868
Residence: Barron County

Candidate Biography

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Jim Children – Alex, Vladimir, Nick, Maria
When did you begin dairy farming?	1998
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1,400, Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Coop, Grantsburg, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	N/A
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2,200 acres farmed and 1,200 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Barron County Dairy Breakfast▪ Dairy Business Association▪ PDPW▪ Harvest for the Club – Boys and Girls Club Barron County
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Bethany Lutheran Church▪ Feed Our Kids – Weekend Food Program
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to continue to represent Barron/Polk Counties to ensure that our checkoff dollars are used to promote the consumption of Wisconsin Cheese.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I consider myself an advocate for the dairy – ag industry. Past chair of Barron County Farm Tech Days, promote milk through Feed our Kids Backpack program.

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Sara Bahgat-Eggert
 455 7th Ave Hwy D
 Clayton, WI 54004
 Residence: Barron County

Candidate Biography

District 4 (Barron and Polk)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Mark Children – Stephen and Jonathan
When did you begin dairy farming?	Raised on a dairy farm, married Mark in 2018
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	50, Holstein, Brown Swiss, Jersey
Where do you ship your milk?	AMPI, Jim Falls, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Herd Health, Breeding program, Quality Control. Nutrition.
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	150 acres farmed; 25 other livestock and 25 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	AMPI, district sec. Resolutions Committee Farm Services Board Member, VP. Wisconsin Farmers Union, FUE Leadership Award winner for 2019-2020, Elections committee, Dairy Fly-in
Community involvement	Wisconsin Farmers Union, Barron county, 4-H leader, Barron Co. Moonlake Theasherman org. Cheesemaker National Honor Society of Leadership Small Business Owner, Dog Groomer Help on the Farm
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I believe that smaller producers need a voice, and knowledge to remain sustainable and competitive. Hopefully, gain insight as to how to have better pricing and keep Wisconsin milk and cheese #1
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	We (our farm) are smaller dairy producers. We are all challenged by poor prices. I hope that if elected that working with my husband and brother in law, that I can connect and help struggling farms. I am currently working on my dissertation on the sustainability of the smaller dairy producer through Walden University. I represent the State of Wisconsin for the FUE Leadership program. This is sponsored by the Wisconsin Farmers Union. This program teaches folks in agriculture leadership skills to apply at local levels and where ever else.

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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
When did you begin dairy farming?	I've been involved with dairy farming my entire life.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	410, Registered Holsteins and a few Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	Land O Lakes
Others actively involved in operation:	Don (dad), Dennis (brother), Michelle (sister), Amber (spouse)
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1,050 acres farmed and 320 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land O Lakes-delegate 2011-2020 -leadership council chair 2020 -leadership council vice chair 2016-2019 -leadership council secretary 2012, 2014 -policy committee ▪ Clark County Dairy Promotion ▪ Farm First Cooperative ▪ Wisconsin Farm Bureau ▪ PDPW ▪ Holstein Assoc. USA and WI Holstein Assoc.
Community involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trinity Lutheran Church; Loyal, WI Loyal FFA Alumni ▪ Clark County Holstein Association ▪ District 4 Holstein Summer Event Sale; financial mgr 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.
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, my brother Dennis, and my sister Mikki. We currently milk about 410 cows and have 320 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.



Tasha Schleis
 Schleis Farms LLC
 N4893 County Road C
 Kewaunee, WI 54216
 Residence: Kewaunee County

Candidate Biography

District 10 (Brown, Door and Kewaunee)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Ryan Children – Candence, Killian, Ainsley
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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Robert Sendelbach
 W 737 Hesch Valley Road
 Cochrane, WI 54622
 Residence: Buffalo County

Candidate Biography

13 (Buffalo, Pierce and Pepin)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Angela Children – Andrew, Mitchell, Bryan, Cody, Ashley
When did you begin dairy farming?	1984
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	110 Black and White and Red and White Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Grassland, Greenwood, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Andrew and Mitchell
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	250 acres farmed with 110 young stock, beef cattle etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local county dairy promotion group ▪ Farm Bureau
Community involvement	Active member of the Waumandee, Montana, Lincoln Fire Dept. for 30 years
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	The last 3 years I have learned a lot about promotion and how important it is. I would like to continue serving on the board and working hard to promote cheese and milk.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	I would like to thank everyone for past support and look forward to working hard at promotion in the future. Thanks again.

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Janet Clark, Rosendale
 Vision Aire Farms, LLC
 W8676 State Rd 23
 Eldorado, WI 54932
 Residence: Fond du Lac
 County

Candidate Biography

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

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Travis Children – Grace, Eve and Levi
When did you begin dairy farming?	2010
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	140, 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"> ▪ FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative; Young cooperative chair 2016-2019 ▪ Agribusiness Council Fond du Lac County, board member 2016 – present ▪ PDPW board member 2018 – present / current treasurer ▪ UDIA (United Dairy Industry Association) Advisor: 2017 – 2018 and 2020 to present ▪ Farm Bureau member, 2010 to present
Community involvement	Ripon Community Church, member
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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Becky L. Levzow
 Levzow Dairy
 N5074 State Rd. 22
 Rio, WI 53960
 Residence: Columbia County

Candidate Biography

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Ralph Children – Amanda Seichter and Kenneth Levzow
When did you begin dairy farming?	1978
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	160 Holstein & Jersey
Where do you ship your milk?	Foremost Farms USA, Baraboo, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Kenneth Levzow
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	900 acres farmed; 80 other livestock and 100 young stock, beef etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pardeeville FFA Alumni (Treasurer 2000 – present) ▪ PDPW – (Foundation Chrm 2005-07) member ▪ Wisconsin Farm Bureau member ▪ National & State Holstein & Jersey Assn. member ▪ National Dairy Board (2018 – present) (Secretary 2019-20)
Community involvement	Pardeeville School Board Pardeeville Methodist Church
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I would like to continue representing the dairy producers of District 19. We need to be constantly educating the consumers of today and in the future of the nutritional value of our products. Further, we need to tell our story as how dairy is a strong positive viable engine to the state's economic success. We need to continue supporting the valuable research at the UW-Madison Center for Dairy Research where more products can be created that utilize dairy, increasing domestic and export sale and ensuring food safety and quality. I would appreciate your support.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	Good listener, Honest, Hardworking, willing to contribute at meetings, not afraid to ask difficult questions, comes prepared to meetings

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

Candidate Biography

District 19 (Columbia and Dodge)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Tina Children – Jacob, Claire
When did you begin dairy farming?	1988
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	2100 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Crave Brothers Farmstead Cheese, Family Dairies Madison
Others actively involved in operation:	Charles, George, Tom, Jordan, Andy, Patrick Crave
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	3,000 acres farmed and 1300 young stock, beef etc.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	DBA ,PDPW, Wisconsin Holstein Assn., Holstein USA
Community involvement	St. Bernard’s Catholic Parish Portland Boosters 4-H Club
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to serve on DFW board to help promote and protect dairy’s brand of sustainably produced, nutritious, healthy, and delicious food.
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	With the perspective of owning and marketing our own farmstead cheese, my family and I make it a priority to stay engaged in modern consumer trends. I enjoy sharing the truth about Wisconsin agriculture’s role in supporting the environment, our local economy, and hungry consumers worldwide.

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

Candidate Biography

District 22 (Grant)

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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Stacy Eberle
 EbAcres Orchestrated Dreams
 W5521 County Road P
 Monroe, WI 53566
 Residence: Green County

Candidate Biography

District 25 (Green, Rock and Walworth)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Randy (deceased 2011) Children - Amanda Lichensteiger, Maria Eberle, Josephine Eberle, Carlita Eberle
When did you begin dairy farming?	1993
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	100+ mainly Holstein with a few Brown Swiss
Where do you ship your milk?	Maple Leaf Co-op, Juda Wisconsin
Others actively involved in operation:	
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	230 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1st term director with National Dairy Board ▪ I have served 3 years as Vice-chair of the Farmers Relations, Consumer Communication committee
Community involvement	<p>While our daughters while were actively involved I was too, Clarno 4H, Green County Adult Leaders, Monroe FFA/Alumni, and Clarno UMC. The youngest graduated from high school last spring.</p> <p>My attention is now mainly focused on our state DFW board and being a informed/involved director for Wisconsin on our National Dairy Board</p>
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	<p>I have enjoyed my time serving the direction of WMMB and now DFW. Over the past years the dairy industry has seen many changes as well as has DFW. There have been focus changes, program changes, advertising, and communication (mainly due to digital and social media) changes. Serving on the board of DFW one has a pulse on the association and how the funds from our dairy farmers are allocated. DFW is vital to us dairymen in creating awareness for WI dairy and keeps our products recognized, sought after moving.</p>
What else should dairy producers in your area know about you?	<p>I am no different than any other dairy person in my district. I have heart and soul for this industry and cant imagine any other life.</p>