

CUSTOMNews

Representing Custom Farming in Wisconsin | WINTER 2015



Tom Wall a.k.a "The Dairy Coach" spoke about managing and empowering employees at the 2015 Forage Symposium.

2015 Symposium Event a Success!

This past January, WCO along with the Midwest Forage Association (MFA) and the Professional Nutrients Applicators Association of Wisconsin (PNAAW) hosted the annual Forage Symposium at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year's event was a huge success - thank you to all the members who attended and sponsors and exhibitors who made the event possible.

The Symposium continues to be the premier forage and nutrient management event in the Midwest. Education remains the focus of meeting and topics are presented by nationally recognized experts. The event also serves as an opportunity to socialize with fellow custom operators in a relaxing and fun environment.

As part of the Symposium, WCO held its annual meeting and elections. Kathy Vander Kinter has been reelected to serve as president. Now serving her second year in the role,

she is the first female president in the history of the organization. Vander Kinter is employed by Vander Kinter Farms, LLC, a custom harvesting and manure hauling business in Green Bay owned by her husband Luke and extended family members.

"I am honored to serve another year as president because we have big things planned for members and sponsors. We just unveiled our Safety Certification Program and have our first training planned for March 20. WCO remains committed to adding value to our members' businesses," said Vander Kinter.

In addition to serving as president, Vander Kinter represents the North Region on the Board of Directors. She was first elected to the WCO board in 2011. A graduate of Fox Valley Technical College, Kathy and her husband Luke have three children.

Cole Olson, co-owner of Diversified Farms, LTD from Alma was reelected

IN THIS ISSUE:

Symposium	1
President's Cab.....	2
Meet Bryce O'Leary.....	2
USCHI Convention.....	3
Why Become Certified?.....	4
Membership Incentive.....	5
Scholarship Winners.....	6
Event Info.....	8
Permit Reminder.....	8

UPCOMING EVENTS:

WCO Safety Certification Program
Friday, March 20, 2015
Appleton, Wisconsin

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From the President's Cab

By Kathy Vander Kinter



Hopefully this edition of the WCO newsletter finds you enjoying the winter season! I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the WCO annual meeting at the winter symposium in Wisconsin Dells. It means a lot as a board member to be able to meet face to face with

you, our members, and hear your ideas and share in your excitement, concerns and frustrations of what is happening in the industry. It is with great honor that I will be serving you again this year as WCO president. I thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and look forward to working with you on different issues facing our industry.

I want to make you aware of a few things coming up in the next couple of months. Please join us as we roll out our safety certification program on March 20th at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton. We have an impressive lineup of speakers and guests including Michael Klingenberg with WI DoT and Cheryl Skjolaas from UW-Madison to name a few. An inspector will be presenting us with an onsite DOT inspection of a straight truck with a forage box and WCO member Bill Arneson will give us some insight on things that should not be overlooked on a Forage Harvester before hitting the fields. At the end of the program you will be able to take away a new, safer perspective of harvesting and a certificate to present to your insurance company for a possible discounted insurance rate! Plus, we will have coffee, snacks, and lunch free for all who attend. Check the website for more details and to register.

Please be aware that the IOH Act 377 is in effect and has been for some time now. There are some things in the law that are not 100% advantageous for us at this point in time. In order to do anything about it we need you to fill out your permits and send them to the proper place. This will prove to the people in Madison and our town leaders that there is a need for revision or a second look at the permitting process. If anyone has questions or needs assistance please feel free to contact me and I will gladly do my best to help or direct you to someone that can help.

Again I would like to thank Fae Holin for all the years of service to the WCO in preparing, organizing, writing and printing our newsletter. We wish Fae all the best in her future undertakings! A big thank you to Maria for designing the "new" and updated newsletter. We hope you enjoy the new look and would like to hear your feedback.

Thank you again for making the WCO organization as strong as it is! I look forward to seeing you at the March Safety Meeting.

-Kathy

2015 Symposium, Cont. from p. 1

to the Board of Directors and as vice president. Troy Meyer, from Meyer Manufacturing in Dorchester was reelected as Secretary/Treasurer. Bryce O'Leary, Janesville was elected to his first term on the board.

Retiring board member Daryll Manthe, DeForest was honored for his service to WCO.

To view the board of directors roster and to contact WCO go to www.wiscustomoperators.com.

New Board Member: Bryce O'Leary



Bryce O'Leary of Janesville was elected to his first term on the WCO board.

Bryce owns a custom harvesting business with his nephew. His primary focus is overseeing clients and managing business aspects and his nephew focuses on equipment.

When he's not busy in the field, Bryce enjoys reading and working on his model railroad.

He also enjoys traveling and his favorite trip is to the Agritechnica show in Germany which he has attended twice.

Bryce is looking forward to using his time on the board to help get the WCO name and mission in front of the public.

"I would like to see WCO involved with more public service announcements on radio and even TV," he said. "I think we need to work even harder to help build relationships with the public about farm equipment."

Bryce brings valuable experiences to the board. He currently serves on his town board and has served as the town board supervisor for six years. He also served on the Rock County FSA board for nine years including seven years as chairman.

Welcome Bryce!



WCO Attends USCHI Convention

By Maria McGinnis, Executive Director

In late January, I had the opportunity to attend the U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc. Convention in Grand Island, Nebraska. Although not formally connected, WCO and USCHI have many similar interests and are working to increase communication and idea exchange. You may have noticed at the Symposium that there were three representatives from the USCHI board of directors – Jon Orr, Glen Jantzen and Mark Anderson, who attended.

In the spirit of supporting the event and representing the interests of WCO members – several of whom are also USCHI members, I suggested to the board this summer that I attend the convention.

I arrived in Grand Island and it was obvious from the start that WCO is held in high regard. Everyone was very friendly and seemed to know who I was – which was a good feeling. One

of the first sessions I attended was the State’s Meeting where issues unique to specific regions were discussed. Some of the states with a large custom harvesting contingency hosted their own meetings such as Texas and Kansas. Wisconsin was grouped with a few other states and everyone was interested in loH legislation. Ground water was also a topic of discussion. It goes to show that Wisconsin is being watched by other states that may fear similar legislation is headed their way.

A special thank you goes out to Troy Meyer of Meyer Manufacturing and Taylor Weisensel of AgBag for taking me under their wing at the convention.

These two are quite the farm show duo! It was also great to catch up with Roy and Lori Lemmenes who attend the USCHI convention every year – and have made many friends along the way.

Overall, attending the meeting on behalf of WCO was time well-spent and I look forward to future opportunities to create synergies and grow support for custom farming!



Photo from VisitGrandIsland.com



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Attend the WCO Safety Certification Program

By Matt Digman, Chair - Special Projects Committee

If you attended the Symposium event in the Dells this past January, there is a chance you heard about the new WCO Safety Certification Program. Attendees at the WCO annual meeting portion of the event got a chance to listen to the full sales pitch.

In the coming weeks, you are going to hear even more about this exciting event. The “special projects” committee has worked hard for the last year to develop a program that will both grow your safety skills and help add value to your business. Members who complete the program are eligible for insurance discounts from at least one pre-determined company. Participants are also encouraged to present the program materials to their current insurance companies for potential discounts.

Our kick-off event is planned for Friday, March 20 at Fox Valley Technical College in the Agricultural Center from 8 am - 2 pm. Lunch is free thanks to our sponsor Dave Anderson and Vincent, Urban, Walker & Associates. Dave has been a critical partner and helped WCO create a program that was attractive to insurance companies and members alike.

For those of you who were not at the Symposium event, the purpose of the WCO's safety certificate program is to train WCO members and their employees in occupational safety and health in order to reduce incident rates. Participants have the opportunity to earn a certificate upon completion. The certification program curricula is based upon industry topic areas that will vary from year to year but will remain focused on safety in real world situations operators encounter while on the job.

There are three steps to achieve certification:



1) At least one key employee from each operation attends a face-to-face training every other year. All are encouraged to attend.

2) Key employee trains colleagues and returns signatures to WCO (form and educational materials provided at training event.)

3) Key employee attends safety seminar at the symposium every other year.

The training session on March 20 will consist of the following topic areas:

Pre-field and road safety checks and maintenance - presented by Jeff Simon from DOT Safety Plus, a transportation consulting firm.

Safety on the road - presented by Lt. Michael Klingenberg from Wisconsin State Patrol, Motor Carrier Enforcement and Cheryl

Skjolaas from the Center for Agricultural Safety and Health at UW-Madison.

Safety during field operations - presented by WCO member Bill Arneson of Arneson Custom Harvesting

How to handle emergencies - presented by Jeff Nelson from the Department of Biological Systems Engineering at UW-Madison.

To register for the event, go to www.wiscustomoperators.org and click on the “Events” tab on the top right of the page. On the Events page you will find details of the program along with a link to register. The program is free for WCO members. Non-members are welcome to attend (for a fee). Thank you in advance for supporting the program.

Membership Incentive Program

Don't forget - WCO has a membership incentive program! If you sign up a new member and they list your name on the paper application or online, you receive \$25 towards your 2016 membership. Sponsors can participate also. Simply list your company name on the "referred by" line and earn money towards your 2016 sponsorship.

Incentive not to exceed cost of membership or sponsorship. We already have members and sponsors taking advantage of the program. Help WCO grow our membership base!

Welcome to WCO

General Members (\$50/year) derive their income (whole or part) from custom farming. Receive full voting rights and featured on website with business information.

Associate Members (\$50/year) support the custom farming industry, but do not engage in custom farming themselves.

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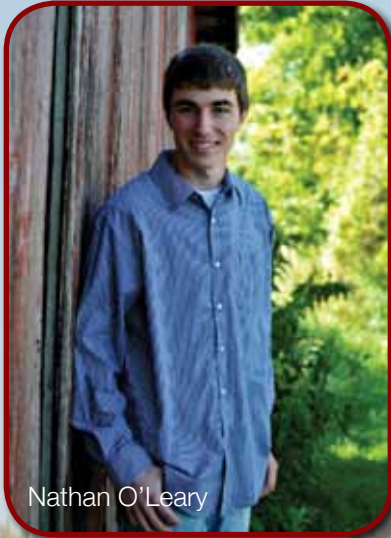
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Nathan O'Leary



Joseph Tauchen

WCO Announces Scholarship Winners

Dr. Kevin Shinnars, Chair - Scholarship Committee

The WCO Board understands that the foundation for the continued success of Wisconsin's agricultural economy depends on a well-educated workforce. Technological advances and globalization are occurring rapidly and a well-rounded post-secondary education is essential for our economic future. The Board also recognizes the high-cost of additional education, so we offer three annual scholarships to support and develop the next generation of Wisconsin's agriculture.

Students are selected based on leadership, civic engagement, academics and volunteer activities related to agriculture. Students also submit essays detailing their educational and career plans for the future. Scholarship winners are required to have ties to the WCO – either as a member, relative of a member or employee of a member.

This year, our committee was impressed by the quality of applicants.

Winners of the 2014 \$750 WCO Scholarships include: Nathan O'Leary of Brandon, Joseph Tauchen of Bonduel and Kelsey Woldt of Brillion.

Applications for the 2015 WCO scholarships are currently being accepted and are due May 1, 2015. This year, three (3) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. Go to www.wiscustomperators.org for more information including eligibility, criteria and application. Awards are open to members, children of members and employees of members and are applied to any post-secondary educational pursuit.

Meet the winners

Nathan O'Leary, is a junior at University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he is majoring in soil science. He is a member of the UW-River Falls Student Senate where he holds the position of At-Large Senator and serves on the External Relations Committee. He is also active in the

Crops and Soils Club and Dairy Club.

Nathan grew up on a dairy farm near Brandon and was active in 4-H and FFA. He graduated from Laconia High School in Rosendale in 2012. For two summers, he worked in Janesville for his uncle Bryce O'Leary to gain experience in his custom harvesting business and earn some money to help pay for college. After he graduates, Nathan plans to work as an agronomist in Wisconsin.

Joseph Tauchen is currently enrolled in the dairy science program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. He grew up on his family's farm, Tauchen Harmony Valley, Inc., owned by his father, three uncles and grandfather. For the past four years, Joseph has worked for Milk-n-More Harvesting, LLC, in various capacities but focuses mainly on merging hay in front of the chopper. Through working at the different farms, he has been able to see the unique ways of doing things and gained valuable insight into



Kelsey Woldt

all aspects of the dairy industry.

By earning a degree in dairy science, Joseph hopes to run his own dairy farm in the future. By receiving the WCO Scholarship, he will be able to finish his college education with less of a financial burden which will help him in the future when he decides to purchase his own dairy operation.

Kelsey Woldt is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where she is studying agricultural business with an emphasis in dairy science and crops and soils. When she completes her degree, Kelsey plans to pursue her dream of returning to the family farm, where she currently assists with field work and office work.

Woldt Farms has been in her family for three generations, and she someday hopes to be the fourth. While at college, Kelsey is working hard to gain knowledge and practical tools to contribute to the future success of the farm.

On campus, Kelsey is active in the Dairy Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau and the Ag Business and Marketing Society. This past summer she completed an internship with the animal health supply company Animart, Inc. in hopes of gaining practical experience that will benefit her career. In her free time, Kelsey enjoys showing cattle and is a member of the Wisconsin Holstein Association.

Please join WCO in congratulating these outstanding young professionals!



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-Kathy Vander Kinter, WCO President

To complete your no fee loH/Ag CMV permit applications
(Required as of January 1, 2015), go to
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/ag

Questions about loH definitions and rules? Go to
<http://wiscustomoperators.org/resources>

**Save the Date!
WCO Safety Certification
Training Session**

**Friday, March 20, 2015
Fox Valley Technical
College Agricultural Center
1825 N. Bluemound Drive, Appleton**

8 a.m. Registration, coffee
8:30 a.m. Welcome
11:45 a.m. Lunch
2 p.m. Program concludes

**WCO Members: Free
Non-Members: \$50**
(includes WCO Membership)

**REGISTER online at
www.wiscustomoperators.org
RSVP Deadline - March 13**
Contact WCO at (608) 577-4345 or
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