



Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin

2024 Director Elections

Candidate Biographies

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced the following candidates for the 2024 Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board director elections to be held May 1 - 24, 2024 in eight of the state's 25 districts.

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

District 2 (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto and Vilas counties)

- [Monica Schwittay, Marinette](#)
- [Jamie L. Porior, Oconto](#)
- [Carolyn Alsteen, Marinette](#)

District 5 (Dunn and St. Croix counties)

- [Mark Mitchell, St. Croix](#)
- [Kay Zwald, St. Croix](#)

District 8 (Marathon County)

- [James Juedes, Marathon](#)
- [Jessica Pralle-Trimner, Marathon](#)

District 11 (Outagamie and Winnebago counties)

- [Daniel Hinz, Winnebago](#)

District 14 (Jackson, La Crosse and Trempealeau counties)

- [Annaliese Wegner, Trempealeau](#)

District 17 (Calumet and Manitowoc counties)

- [Mitch Kappelman, Manitowoc](#)

District 20 (Richland and Sauk counties)

- [Jessica M. Kelley, Sauk](#)
- [Randy Roecker, Sauk](#)

District 23 (Iowa and Lafayette counties)

- [Jody L. Miller, Iowa](#)



Monica Schwittay
 W5314 Town Hall Rd, Peshtigo
 WI, 54157
 Residence: Marinette

Director Biography

District 2 (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, and Vilas counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Jeremy Schwittay Children – Colton, Adalyn, Samuel (Deceased)
When did you begin dairy farming?	2011
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	550 (Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys, & Milking Shorthorn)
Where do you ship your milk?	Belgioioso Cheese Denmark, WI (plant Chase, WI)
Others actively involved in operation:	Jeremy & Jason Schwittay
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1680 acres farmed; also own & operate Heifer Solutions LLC (custom calf & heifer grower). We are a diversified facility with steers, hogs, laying hens, and sheep. Additionally, I own & operate a farm market store, Schwittay Harmony Market LLC in partnership which retails beef, pork, lamb, eggs, dairy products, bakery, canned goods, & much more that is locally or Wisconsin produced.
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Member of Wisconsin Ayrshire Breeders Association (former board member, shayr-a-heifer co-chair, show committee co-chair), Wisconsin Jersey Breeders Association, Wisconsin Milking Shorthorn Breeders Association, Wisconsin Agri-Tourism Association, Professional Dairy Producers, Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative, Dairy Business Association, Dairy Calf & Heifer Association, Alumni member of Association of Women in Agriculture, Marinette County Farm Bureau (current board member & membership chair & legislative chair & state VFA committee), Marinette County Holstein Breeders Association, National Ayrshire Breeders Association (classification & breed improvement committee member), American Jersey Cattle Association, American Milking Shorthorn Society, & Holstein Association USA.
Community involvement	Marinette County 4-H, Adopt-a-Highway, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Member of Peshtigo Area Chamber of Commerce, Chair for Ardis Schwittay Ayrshire Heifer Memorial, Peshtigo Area Food Pantry, Harvest Host
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I am a firm believer in being as active & involved as one can in things that you truly believe in and hold close to your heart...for me that is Wisconsin Agriculture & all the fantastic products we have to offer. Being a director on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board, is a privilege to represent such a dedicated, passionate group of producers who not only tend to their cows daily but are also business minded individuals who want accountability & knowledge of how their dollars are being used, understand that change may need to happen, and how can we maximize our market potential. I am open to

	the challenges ahead of asking & answering questions, looking for efficiencies, willing to discuss the issues at hand, be open to change, support research & development of higher value products, and simply continue to brand Wisconsin cheese as a safe, highly desirable, and nutritious product. As producers we need to tell others our story. We need to share our great heritage. We need to advocate for ourselves & the nutritious, phenomenal Wisconsin products we help produce.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	Not only am I a dairy producer of great Wisconsin products, but also a Mom, a consumer, a retail market owner, and a dairy consultant. I fully can encompass the understanding of feeding the beautiful cow a balanced, healthy, & yet cost efficient diet while producing a nutritious & wholesome end product that a consumer will desire. I have the ability to wear many different hats and yet be able to fairly understand multiple angles or perspectives while all trying to achieve the same end goal that will create success for all parties involved. At Schwittay Farms & Heifer Solutions LLC, I manage the accounting of the businesses, human resources, and the animal production & reproduction. I am extremely fortunate to have a great team around me to help get the day to day duties accomplished. Without our team, I would not have the ability to enjoy helping other producers on their facilities with trouble shooting, pencil sharpening, outside the box thinking, and nutrition work as a consultant for Cornette Farm Supply/Vitaplus. Moreover, I feel I can make a great impact as a well rounded, dairy product loving asset to the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board.

[<Return to top>](#)



Jamie L. Porior
8715 CCC Road, Oconto Falls
WI, 54154
Residence: Oconto

Director Biography

District 2 (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, and Vilas counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Joe Porior Children – Joseph (JJ) Age 3, Mason Age 1
When did you begin dairy farming?	2019
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1100 - Holstien
Where do you ship your milk?	Dairy Farmers of America
Others actively involved in operation:	Joe (Husband), Lee Roy and Diane Kruse (Partners), Joe Zeitler (Herdsman), 15 other full time employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1500 acres farmed 750 young stock raised on farm

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Oconto County Farm Bureau – Board Member Wisconsin Farm Bureau – Member and Leadership Development Institute Oconto Falls FFA Alumni Professional Dairy Producers
Community involvement	Oconto County Breakfast on the Farm Wisconsin Youth Livestock Quiz and Skillathon Contest St. Anthony Parish and School
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	<p>I would like to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin Board to gain more knowledge about the milk market order and have a better understanding of how and where our checkoff dollars are used to promote Wisconsin dairy products. This will allow me to come back to my district with the tools and information to have thoughtful and informative discussions about how to best promote milk and dairy to make a positive impact for Wisconsin dairy farmers. I want to see the consumption of Wisconsin dairy products increase so that Wisconsin dairy farmers can be successful and continue doing what they love. I believe in educating consumers about the superior nutrition of REAL dairy along with it's sustainability story, having milk readily available to children in school in forms and conditions that makes it most appealing, and proper labeling of dairy products and their inferior look-alikes.</p> <p>With my professional experience, I believe I can bring a unique perspective to the board being involved directly with both on farm production and further processing of dairy products. I would like to serve my district on the board because I care about the future of Wisconsin dairy farm families.</p>
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	<p>I grew up on a dairy and beef farm in central Marathon County, milking 60 Holstiens, with my parents, 3 brothers, and grandparents. Along with farming, I also spent 22 years in the food industry focusing on dairy and meat production while working for world class companies in various roles including operations, scheduling, sales, and quality management. I particularly enjoyed my time making soft and hard Italian cheeses. In 2021 I joined Triple C Dairy, LLC with my husband and his partners. In 2023 I left the corporate world to focus full-time on our family and the farm. I enjoy raising our 2 boys on the farm and watching their love of dairy farming grow.</p>

[<Return to top>](#)



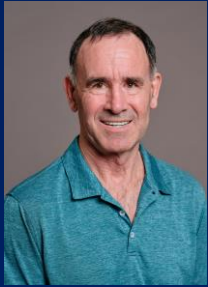


Carolyn Alsteen
 N2140 Belgium Rd Coleman,
 WI, 54112
 Residence: Marinette

Director Biography

District 2 (Florence, Forest, Langlade, Marinette, Oconto, and Vilas counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – N/A Children – N/A
When did you begin dairy farming?	2019
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	550 Mainly Holstein with some Jerseys
Where do you ship your milk?	DFA (Multiple locations)
Others actively involved in operation:	My Dad, brother and 11 other full-time Employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2000—Acres farmed Corn, Soybeans, Wheat—Cash crops 900—Young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	DFA Young Cooperative Program Genex for Generations Trailblazers
Community involvement	Neighborhood Dairy Distribution, I host on-farm events on our farm for our community including Carol’s Cow Camp, Fitness on the Farm and local school tours.
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 align with everything they stand for and it will allow me to contribute more to an industry I am passionate about. I believe it is important to connect our consumers with the dairy products they buy to a farmers story, legacy and face. Being on the board will allow me to have better resources to bring to my district to build stronger, more transparent relationships between the consumer and farmer. I understand the challenges our industry faces and believe that my dedication can help drive a positive change and support dairy farmers not only within my district but across our state.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I enjoy educating others on the importance of dairy as well as being transparent how we as farmers, care for the land and cattle to produce high quality milk. Food is a focal point for many gatherings, and the fact we are able to be a part of that around the world is pretty amazing. I am invested in the growth and success of our dairy community and look forward to working alongside fellow producers to address the needs in our industry.



Mark Mitchell
 616 Perch Lake Road, Hudson
 WI, 54016
 Residence: St. Croix

Director Biography

District 5 (Dunn and St. Croix counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Ann Mitchell Children – Dominic, Gwen, John, Jacob, Megan, Elizabeth
When did you begin dairy farming?	1969
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	600 Holstein (and a few Jerseys)
Where do you ship your milk?	Burnett Dairy Cooperative (Wilson, WI)
Others actively involved in operation:	Jim and Lynette Harsdorf, Justin Hardsdorf, Brian Lee
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	1500 acres farmed
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Farm City Day Worker
Community involvement	St. Patrick’s Parish Sacristan and Volunteer
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin (DFW) Board to help represent the dairy farmers in my district and the dairy industry and to give back time, expertise and commitment to both. By connecting to existing groups (Holstein Board, County Fair Boards, Farm Bureau, etc.), I will listen to dairy farmers, ask questions, and share information and ideas. The farmers who produce our quality dairy products are closest to the work of dairy production, making us a critical source of relevant input and feedback. If elected, I will go above and beyond to learn how DFW works, to understand how resources are invested, to listen to dairy farmers, to ask questions, and to share information in my district and with the DFW board. As a connector between the farmers I am representing and the DFW Board and staff, I will work hard to impact the way our check-off dollars are spent. I understand the importance of our dairy industry to our Wisconsin economy. Learning from all stakeholders and balancing what I learn with farmer feedback and staff and board direction is a goal I have set. To promote and advance our Wisconsin Dairy Industry, we are better when we work together as partners. If elected, I will do my best to represent our dairy farmers and exceed expectations for listening and partnering.

What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?

I have been involved in the dairy industry my entire life. I grew up on a dairy farm in New Richmond and dairying has been a part of my life ever since. After high school I traveled to the Netherlands and worked on two different dairy farms to gain different perspectives on dairy farming practices. When I returned home to Wisconsin, I managed my own small dairy farm until I was involved in a serious farm accident. Eventually, I had to sell the cows and seek off-farm employment. For several years I worked as an Artificial Insemination Technician and Relief Breeder for Accelerated Genetics, affording me the opportunity to meet and serve several dairy operators in St. Croix and Dunn Counties. During those same years, I also worked as a herdsman for the Schottler Family Dairy Farm. Currently, I manage herd reproductive health and genetics at Trim Bel Valley Dairy near Spring Valley.

[<Return to top>](#)



Kay Zwald
 1603 Cty Rd Z Hammond, WI
 54015
 Residence: St. Croix

Director Biography

District 5 (Dunn and St. Croix counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Bob Children – Nate (Angela)Zwald, Sarah (Justin) Jorgenson, Amy (Chris) Majeski, Annette (Steve) Schalla, Tom (Ashley) Zwald + 18 Grandkids
When did you begin dairy farming?	1975
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	1400 - Holstien
Where do you ship your milk?	AMPI Jim Falls, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	My husband and I farm with our 2 youngest children and their spouses Annette & Steve Schalla and Tom & Ashley Zwald
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	2300 acres farmed, 1400 dairy heifers

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	WI Discovery Farms-current Vice President PDPW board member 2011-2017 St. Croix County dairy promotion St. Croix County farm city day committee
Community involvement	I recently served on the leadership team at our church and volunteer annually with our Vacation Bible School at First Covenant Church in River Falls, WI
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	As a dairy farmer, my role has evolved and now I manage the calves on our family farm having between 225 and 250 on milk daily. Promoting the dairy industry, the health benefits of consuming dairy products, and educating consumers about those benefits are a priority of mine and have been for many years. I greatly enjoy having opportunities to help others better understand how farmers work to care for their animals, land, and also how essential agriculture is to our everyday lives. As a board member, I will continue to ensure our checkoff received funds continue to go to the proper places and drive consumer demand for Wisconsin dairy products. I'd be honored to serve as a representative on the DFW Board.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I've enjoyed serving on the board and have been a proponent of new partnerships growing the market and demand for Wisconsin dairy products. I go to meetings prepared, listen, ask questions and expect results. I'm not afraid of change and seeking new opportunities which further promote products and drive demand.



James Juedes
232534 Pleasant View Rd
Ringle, WI, 54471
Residence: Marathon

Director Biography

District 8 (Marathon County)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Joanne Juedes Children – Joseph, Jacob, Jonathon
When did you begin dairy farming?	Started milking cows in 1982, purchased the farm after my grandmother passed in 2001. Family farm since 1895.
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	50-65 cows, primarily Holstein with some cross
Where do you ship your milk?	Mullins Cheese in Knowlton, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	My wife Joanne, my son Jonathon (which we hope to pass the farm onto someday) and some neighbors here and there as needed. I do my best to take care of the cows and the land because in the end they will take care of you.
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	215 acres farmed, 40-50 young stock, beef cattle etc

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<p>Member of Marathon County Farm Bureau, past board member and Vice President of Marathon County Farm Bureau, past delegate to Wisconsin Farm Bureau annual meeting, delegate for local district of Farm First Dairy Cooperative.</p>
Community involvement	<p>Various churches and other local causes by helping/supporting their functions through donations of products and time, member of local snowmobile club (Nutterville Sno Nuts), actively involved in the Marathon County Republican party and in contact with our local political representatives on issues (especially agriculture ones). I also ran for a position on the DCE school board two years ago but was not successful.</p>
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	<p>I have always been a strong advocate for agriculture and farmers, especially on the dairy side and it is very concerning to me to see so many small family farms go out of business since I started 40 plus years ago. It has truly been hard to see so many of my friends and neighbors having to exit the profession for whatever reason. Over the last few years I have done many television interviews with our local networks about the issues that are concerning farmers that try to help the general public understand our way of life, how things affect us and how it affects them. Most recently I was able to do a spot on concerns of the newly discovered avian flu in cows and the effects that it has on cows and consequently on the farm. Many people, some that I have never met, have mentioned that they have seen me on the local television news and this shows my willingness to speak out publicly for agriculture.</p> <p>I also have been, and to an extent still are, somewhat critical of DFW and how it uses the funds that we are mandated to provide for it from our milk checks. I want to make sure that our money is truly beneficial to us and not someone else. The lack of direct contact to us farmers is also an area of concern as we should not have to directly ask what DFW is doing with our money. We actually used to get sent a year-end financial statement and a brief explanation of what took place the past year and things to look forward to. Supposedly this was discontinued as a cost cutting measure with everything moving to online. To me, and many others, this was unfortunate and unacceptable as having something in hand to refer to and share is WAY better than all this email junk. I don't have time to sit in front of a computer all day and I'm sure most of you do not either. This decision created a lot of mistrust of the organization in my opinion.</p> <p>My philosophy is that if you can complain about something you should try to do something about it when given the opportunity. So here I am, putting my complaints into action. If you elect me as your board member here in Marathon County, I will do my best to bring that openness and trust back to us farmers by making sure we are all informed about the role and goings on of the DFW organization and making sure our hard earned money is spent wisely and as much money as possible is returned directly to our farms from the investments that we make in this organization. I also will continue to advocate for the farmer, especially us dairy farmers, every chance I get in whatever form presents itself. I am proud of what I do and the food and other benefits that I provide for my community and all of you should be too! I would be honored for your vote to be your representative for the DFW board seat in district 8, Marathon County.</p>

What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	
--	--

[<Return to top>](#)



Director Biography

District 8 (Marathon County)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – David Trimner Children – N/A
When did you begin dairy farming?	2018
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	3200 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Mullins – Marshfield, Wisconsin
Others actively involved in operation:	Partners: Tom & Lorene Mueller, Kathy Trimner Roth, Andy & Jenny Miller
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	<u>5200</u> acres farmed, <u>2500</u> young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Dairy Expo – Youth Enhancement Committee, Co-Superintendent of Youth Contests • Clark County Holstein Breeders • Holstein Association USA – Nominating Committee Member • Wisconsin Holstein Association Member • DATCP County & District Fairs – Judge • Uplevel Dairy – Executive Leadership Academy
Community involvement	Trinity Lutheran Church - Member
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	As a sixth-generation dairy farmer, I share in the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin core values. To serve quality, integrity, and trust in every Proudly Wisconsin dairy product for the benefits of our farmers, processors, and ultimately, our consumers. I am passionate about empowering and engaging others in the story of Wisconsin dairy farming whether it be on my home farm with my employees or at the grocery store with a concerned consumer. More importantly, as a Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board member I look forward to connecting with fellow dairy farmers to hear their concerns and to share the excitement in the global impact and research and

	development happening through their dairy check off dollars. Ultimately, I am like many of my peers, hardworking, passionate, and driven to create a legacy of success for future generations to come.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I grew up on my family’s 400 cow registered Holstein farm, Selz-Pralle Dairy in Humbird, WI. After graduating high school, I attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison majoring in dairy science and was a decorated Badger Dairy judge as well as a National Champion in Dairy Challenge. In 2020, I married David Trimmer and came back to Miltrim Farms where I serve as the dairy herd manager. Miltrim Farms milks 3,200 Holsteins, 1,800 are milked with 30 Lely robots and the remaining 1400 are milked in the original double-24 herringbone parlor. When I’m not working with cows at the farm, I’m on the road working with dairy youth at county, district, state, and national shows as a dairy judge and Co-Superintendent of World Dairy Expo’s Youth Fitting and Showmanship Contests. I also am actively involved in dairy promotion and tours at Miltrim Farms venue the “Milk Haus” where we host school tour events for local FFA chapters. I appreciate all of the ways I’ve been able to be involved in dairy and look forward to continuing that involvement as your board member for Marathon County.

[<Return to top>](#)



Daniel Hinz
501 County Road M, Pickett
WI, 54964
Residence: Winnebago

Director Biography

District 11 (Outagamie and Winnebago counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Stephanie Children – Liam and Brylee
When did you begin dairy farming?	1996
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	300 polled Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	Agropur in Weyauwega
Others actively involved in operation:	I have 5 great employees helping to keep the milk flowing along with my wife and kids who are doing more as they grow and love the farm life, My dad is still helping around the farm too.
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	600 acres farmed, Wheat, Soybeans, Corn are the cash crops, 260 young stock, beef cattle etc

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	County Farm Bureau Board County Farm Bureau Treasurer/Secretary Genex Delegate County Dairy Promotion Chairperson FFA Alumni member
Community involvement	Recently retired from our township's Fire Department and Emergency Medical Responder where I also served as Treasurer. During June Dairy Month, you can see me at several events helping other groups and counties with their June Dairy events.
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I enjoy life as a dairy farmer and also promoting Wisconsin's dairy industry. Wisconsin is known around the world for its great cheese. We have to be an advocate and promoter for Wisconsin Dairy Farmers. In Wisconsin, all great conversations start with cheese.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	My kids are active in sports at school, and I am always willing to bring chocolate milk for the team to enjoy after the game or between games at tournaments. Serving on the DFW board has been a great experience. Seeing what all happens and the different tactics used to get more Wisconsin Cheese in consumers mouths has been rewarding. When we take family trips across the country and go into a grocery store, you will find me checking out all the cheese. It is almost a guarantee that there will be some Proudly Wisconsin Cheese there!

[<Return to top>](#)



Annaliese Wegner
21243 County Rd D
Ettrick, WI 54627
Residence: Trempealeau

Director Biography

District 14 (Jackson, La Crosse and Trempealeau counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Tom Children – Lane and Sage
When did you begin dairy farming?	Entire life
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	600 Holsteins
Where do you ship your milk?	DFA and bottled for Kemps
Others actively involved in operation:	In-laws, Jeff + Betty Wegner
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Trempealeau County Farm Bureau
Community involvement	
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	For the past 11+ years, I have shared my farm story on social media and had the opportunity to chat with many folks, both in and outside of the dairy industry. I want to take what I have learned from this to further promote the dairy industry. I believe I have a unique perspective that will be helpful to the MMB and am excited to have the opportunity to share and learn.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I'm passionate about connecting people to their farmers and food. Being authentic and having genuine conversations about dairy is something I have always loved, but have really mastered within the past few years of sharing online.

[<Return to top>](#)



Mitch Kappelman
7420 County Road Q
Manitowoc, WI 54220
Residence: Manitowoc

Director Biography

District 17 (Calumet and Manitowoc counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – McKenzie Children – N/A
When did you begin dairy farming?	2015
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	447 Holsteins and 41 Brown Swiss
Where do you ship your milk?	Land O' Lakes – Kiel, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	My parents, Pete and Shellie Kappelman and my wife
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	980 acres farmed, 29 young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Assoc. – Nominating Committee Chairman Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Assoc. – Genetics Committee Member WI Brown Swiss Assoc. – Canton 4 Delegate
Community involvement	Adopt-A-Highway Manitowoc Lutheran High School Academic Day Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I want to make America's Dairyland great again! Dairy has such a rich history in Wisconsin, and I want to help shape the future.

What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	Unless my hands are full with breeding or IV'ing a cow, I answer my phone. If you have questions and want to talk about DFW, I will do my best to answer.
--	---

[<Return to top>](#)



Jessica Kelley
 E7304 State Rd 154, Rock Springs, WI 53961
 Residence: Sauk

Director Biography

District 20 (Richland and Sauk counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Brian Bender Children – Faith, Owen, Blayne, and Kailey Step kids – Haley, Alisa, Lacey & Emma
When did you begin dairy farming?	Representing Bender Farms Est. 1993
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	130 Holstein, Swiss, Jersey and Fleckvieh
Where do you ship your milk?	Scenic Central - Muscoda
Others actively involved in operation:	Brian, Jeremy, Roger, Antonio and Hoto
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	600 acres farmed, 150 cash crops, 150 young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	Volunteer at Reedsburg Butter fest for Childrens Events Sauk County Farm Bureau Cows First Program
Community involvement	Host Kindergarten classes to farm to educate youth
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I am representing Bender Farms as a nominee for district twenty of Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. 6 years ago, the opportunity to be part of the Bender Farms came about. Brian and I have distinct positions on the farm. He oversees all the mechanical parts and I oversee all the lactating cows, heifers, babies, and bookkeeping. We have increased our RHA in the last 6 years by 11,000#. As producers we all have the Checkoff dollars being deducted from our milk checks. It is our job to make sure someone can speak for us to make sure the dollars are being spent wisely. Dairy promotion is a particularly important part of Wisconsin and in various institutions that use

	milk products. I want to help all the fellow producers and represent Sauk and Richland County with their checkoff dollars.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I grew up on a beef farm showing angus cattle and spent my summers at my uncle's dairy farm in Tomah, WI. That is where my love of the dairy industry began. There is a big gap between farm to consumer. We need to promote better education in that field. We need to push schools, hospitals, workout centers and grocery stores and various other places to see the importance that milk and other dairy products play in our diet and children's.

[<Return to top>](#)



Director Biography

District 20 (Richland and Sauk counties)

Spouse/Children	Partner – Linda Korklewski Children – Ryanne (James) Hiner & Ross (Danielle) Roecker
When did you begin dairy farming?	1982
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	300 Holstein
Where do you ship your milk?	Foremost Farms USA
Others actively involved in operation:	Gerald and Margaret Roecker - Parents Ryanne and James Hiner - Daughter and Son in Law
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	700 acres farmed, 150__ young stock, beef cattle etc
Ag-related organizations or affiliations	National Dairy Promotion - Board of Directors since 2006 Dairy Management Inc. - Board of Directors since 2006 Foremost Farms USA - Board of Directors since 2020
Community involvement	Currently taking a break from community activities due to family health issues, however in the past we have hosted the Sauk County Dairy Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunts on our farm. We have hosted visitors and media to our farm from all over the United States and internationally.
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	I have an immense passion for Wisconsin and the great dairy products produced and manufactured here. Wisconsin Cheeses, all 600+ varieties are world class, our butters and yogurts are the creamiest! With this in mind I would like to serve on the Board of Directors for Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin. Using my knowledge gained from running our family dairy

	operation and also from 12 years experience on the National Dairy Checkoff Board of Directors I would make decisions that benefit Wisconsin's hardworking family dairy farmers.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	Over the past several years I have been fortunate to have been involved in many dairy organizations. I traveled to China on a trade mission to promote the use of dairy in that region. Spoke with manufacturers there on using whey proteins from the United States because of our quality products. Have attended Natural Products and Restaurant Trade Shows where we inform consumers on the benefits of dairy. I also enjoy speaking with Senators and Members of Congress in Washington D.C. on dairy issues. I am the co-founder of the Farmer Angel Network, where we build strong rural communities by providing education, resources, and fellowship with a focus on mental health.

[<Return to top>](#)



Jody Putz Miller
1796 Fairview Rd
Avoca, WI 53506
Residence: Iowa

Director Biography

District 23 (Iowa and Lafayette counties)

Spouse/Children	Spouse – Dan Miller Children – Kegan, Kayla, Kassy, Karmyn, Kolton; Step children - Makayla, Derek, and Rachel
When did you begin dairy farming?	Been on farm my whole life- started on this farm 14 years ago
How many cows do you milk? Breed(s)	250 Holstein
Where do you ship your milk?	Meister Cheese Muscoda, WI
Others actively involved in operation:	Husband, brother-in-law, stepson, and other employees
How many acres do you farm? Other farm facts:	800 acres farmed, 150 young stock, beef cattle etc

Ag-related organizations or affiliations	I served as secretary of the PAS organization in college. Otherwise, this would be my first time serving on a board like this.
Community involvement	I am involved in 4-H and FFA and the FFA ALumni
Why do you want to serve on the Dairy Farmers of Wisconsin board?	For years I have been an advocate for dairy products and agriculture on my own level. I believe in our industry and our wonderful products. I have ideas and would love to help advocate for Dairy Farmers.
What else should dairy producers in your district know about you?	I work full time alongside my husband on our 4th generation dairy farm. I love farming. I believe in hard work and honesty. My family means everything to me.

[<Return to top>](#)