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For more information, contact  
          (name of county contact)            
          (phone number)                  

For Immediate Release  
Today's date

**(County) Farm Bureau promotes Ag in the Classroom Essay Contest**

The (County) Farm Bureau is promoting Wisconsin Farm Bureau- Ag in the Classroom essay contest for fourth and fifth grade students. The essay is titled “***The machines that make Wisconsin agriculture work***”. Students will be able to explore the history of farm machinery in Wisconsin; the importance machines and equipment have had in the advancement of agriculture and food production; machinery companies and inventors from Wisconsin; bio-fuel and energy production and usage; how our food is processed (i.e. cheese making, fluid milk production) and the machines and equipment used; or many other angles relating to agricultural machinery. Any essay relating to agricultural machinery or equipment will be acceptable.

The contest is sponsored by the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, We Energies, and the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation. Last year more than 750 students participated in the essay contest.

Contest information and rules, lesson plans, resources, and sample activities are location on the Ag in the Classroom web site at [www.wisagclassroom.org](http://www.wisagclassroom.org) or by contacting Darlene Arneson at 608-828-5719 or [darneson.fbcenter@wfbf.com](mailto:darneson.fbcenter@wfbf.com).

Participating schools need to submit essays by April 1 to (county Farm Bureau essay contest contact). The essays must be between 100 to 300 words in length and are judged on content, grammar and spelling, and neatness. Nine district winners will be chosen by April 25 and a state winner will be selected by ballot by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation’s Women’s Committee. Each district winner will receive a classroom presentation and victory party in the spring of 2010 for their entire class (or homeroom). A state winner will receive a special award.

The Ag in the Classroom is a program to help students K-12 to explain the importance of agriculture. The program is coordinated by the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

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