

2019 ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

GUEST SPEAKERS

10:45 A.M. – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR ANIMALS GO TO MARKET: BQA & FARM CERTIFICATION



Bill Halfman
Monroe County Agricultural Agent

Bill grew up on a 65 cow dairy farm near Bloomer WI. He has a B.S in Agricultural Education from UW-River Falls, and a M.S. in Plant and Soil Science from The University of Tennessee-Knoxville. He has worked in Extension for 24 years beginning in Tennessee, then in southern Minnesota, and eventually back to Wisconsin where he has been the Agriculture Agent in Monroe County for the past 16 years. He is one of the co-leaders for BQA educational programming and certification in Wisconsin.

11:15 A.M. – A VIEW FROM THE CAPITOL



Steve Etka
Coordinator & Lobbyist, Midwest Dairy Coalition

Steve Etka is the coordinator and lobbyist for Midwest Dairy Coalition, representing dairy farmers from eight states across the Midwest. The Midwest Dairy Coalition started in 1990 as an organization to represent dairy farmers in the Upper Midwest and to be used as an effective and useful forum for discussion, debate and to propose common action dealing with the ever-changing federal dairy issues of the day. Etka first became involved in dairy policy after college, working for the National Commission on Dairy Policy followed by working for American Farmland Trust (AFT), a non-profit conservation organization. While lobbying Congressional leaders on issues related to farmland protection and on-farm land and water conservation, he realized his passion for the work. He eventually went on to serve as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Herb Kohl of Wisconsin, focusing on the agricultural issues of the state. Today, he is the voice of dairy farmers across the Midwest, through Midwest Dairy Coalition.

