

Director Candidates: Region 2 — Wis. (4-year term), Candidate 2 of 2



Kimberly Wedig

(Incumbent)
59 years old
Darlington, Wis.
(608) 482-3123
dbln cows@gmail.com
Farm Credit Member since: 1987

Family: My husband, Joe, and I have four children — three sons:

Justin (Jenna), Mitchell (Anna), Levin (Emma); and one daughter Mykel (Brandon) Bickham and six grandchildren. Our three sons have returned to join our family operation.

Brief description of agricultural operation and employment/business experience for the past five years:

Currently, we milk 300 dairy cows and have a 200 cow-calf beef operation, specializing in show cattle. We own 600 acres and rent an additional 300 acres. For the past 38 years, I have worked alongside Joe in building and expanding our farm. I am primarily responsible for financial record-keeping, marketing plans, calf care and employee relations.

Boards or committees you currently serve on and boards or committees you have served on in the past five years:

- Compeer Financial Board of Directors
- Chairman of the Wisconsin Farm Credit Legislative Committee
- Vice Chair of Compeer's Young, Beginning, Small, and Emerging (YBSE) Committee
- Trustee on the Fund for Rural America Board
- Compensation and Governance Committee
- 2020 Compeer Nominating Committee

Community involvement/government service: I am a member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church where I taught CCD for many years and have been a volunteer with the Meals on Wheels program. As a member of the Darlington FFA Alumni, I have served as treasurer and chaired various committees. I was invited by my Dale Carnegie mentor to return and coach the Dale Carnegie Course.

Education:

- 1984 graduate of Brodhead High School
- 2013 certificate in Web Development
- 2018 Dale Carnegie Program graduate.

What is your vision for the future of agriculture? My vision for the future is one that successfully transitions operations to the next generation, invests in rural infrastructure, and embraces new technologies while maintaining the core values that define farm families. Agriculture will continue to evolve to meet the growing demands of a changing world. Equally important, we must ensure that rural communities remain vibrant places where families can thrive, because strong communities are the foundation of strong agriculture.

What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial? Two of the primary issues that I believe Compeer and its clients are facing are *succession planning* and *rural vitality*. *Succession planning* is one of the most critical and personal challenges facing agricultural operations today, consistently ranking among the top concerns of Compeer clients. I am currently living this journey myself, as our three sons have begun investing in our farm. The transition is both rewarding and complex, with no single blueprint to follow — each family, each operation is unique. I feel fortunate to have successors who share passion for agriculture. Yet, I recognize that not every farm has a clear path forward. I am personally dedicated to helping secure the legacy of today's farmers and ensuring a vibrant future for generations to come. As part of this commitment, I currently serve on Compeer's Young, Beginning, Small & Emerging (YBSE) Committee.

Secondly, *rural communities* are the lifeblood of production agriculture, providing the essential support networks that farming families rely on. Compeer recognizes this and has made rural vitality one of its highest priorities. We understand that without vibrant places for families to live, work and grow, agriculture's future is at risk. Compeer is actively working with Congress to secure language in the next Farm Bill giving Farm Credit associations permanent authority to finance essential rural infrastructure, such as hospitals, nursing homes, daycare centers, and fire and safety departments, without the burden of case-by-case approval from the Farm Credit Administration. Investing in rural communities is investing in the future of agriculture.

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors at Compeer Financial? Compeer is a leader in the financial services industry. Not only is Compeer a strong financial partner, but it is also committed to the personal growth of its members, offering valuable resources and educational tools for farmers. I bring to the board the experience of having once been a young beginning farmer and I know firsthand the challenges of working the next generation into our operation. I have a vested interest in seeing Compeer continue to serve our rural economy. It is for my sons and their future that I want to continue to serve on the board. Compeer has served my family and farm well, and I would be honored to continue to serve the organization. Thank you for your consideration.