

## Director Candidates: Region 2 - Wis. (4-year term), Candidate 1 of 2



### **Kimberly Wedig**

55 years old  
Darlington, Wis.  
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Farm Credit Member Since: 1987

**Family:** My husband Joe and I have four children, Justin (Jenna), Mykel, Mitchell and Levi. After college, our three sons pursued other interests, but one-by-one have all returned to our farm. Mykel started her career in Washington, D.C. working in ag policy. She has recently begun a position with Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative and the Dairy Business Association in Madison as associate director of government affairs.

**Brief Description of Agricultural Operation and Employment/Business experience for past five years:** 260-head dairy operation • 200 cow-calf show cattle beef operation • Own 600 acres/rent 300 acres • I have worked side-by-side with Joe growing our operation. I am responsible for the financial records and marketing plans along with calf care and employee relations.

**Boards or Committees in the past five years (and principal business):** I served on the Compeer Advisory Council (2018-2020) and was elected to serve on the Compeer Nominating Committee for the past two years. I was on the Lafayette County Livestock Auction Committee from 2013-2019. I co-chaired and clerked the auction at the Lafayette County Fair.

**Community Involvement/Government Service:** I am member of Holy Rosary Catholic Church where I taught CCD for many years and recently I became 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 coach the 2020 Dale Carnegie Course.

**Education:** I am a 1984 graduate of Brodhead High School. In 2012, after my youngest left for college, I took a yearlong program to earn a certificate in Web Development. I am a graduate of the Dale Carnegie Program.

**What is your vision for the future of agriculture?** In an ever-changing world, the one constant in agriculture is our respect of the land and livestock we care for. I believe it is our responsibility to relay that sentiment to consumers in a constructive and collaborative way. As agricultural producers, we need to lead the cause and make it a priority that the members of our communities are hearing from us on how things are grown and managed. Our conventionally managed farm is a member of the Lafayette Ag Stewardship Alliance (LASA). LASA is a farmer-led watershed conservation group set up to be proactive in our community, cultivate relationships with community members, and promote best practices in farming. I see more groups like LASA coming

together to proactively connect with their communities and explore ways to work on environmental stewardship that make financial sense for producers. With that, I also believe the future is reliant on farmers being open to voluntarily implementing new ideas when given new information.

**What do you believe are the primary issues facing agriculture and Compeer Financial?** There are many challenges facing farmers and Compeer Financial, but I want to focus on one that has the potential to make or break the industry with one stroke of the pen: government regulations. There are a lot of policy changes on the horizon. Some of the proposed changes would have a profound impact on how farmers set up their business plans. High-cost barriers are already making it difficult for beginning farmers. How will we ensure that future generations will be able to farm? With an aging farming population this question has never been so important. To ensure we are on the forefront of change, Compeer needs to continue to be actively involved in legislative affairs. As producers we will need to be proactive and educate ourselves about changing policies. Compeer and producers will all need to be nimble as we navigate through these changes.

**Why I want to serve on the Board of Directors of Compeer Financial?** I see Compeer as 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. Compeer also keeps our local communities vibrant through grants and other generous financial support. I will bring to the board the experience of having been a beginning young farmer. I'm still actively involved in production agriculture and 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, as I have three sons farming. It is for them and their future that I want to serve on the board. Compeer has served my family and farm well, and I would be honored to serve the organization in return. Thank you for your consideration.