

Madison County Receives Silver Key Awards

Madison County Farm Bureau joined farmer members from across the state at New York Farm Bureau’s State Annual Meeting on Dec. 5-6 in Albany to set the public policy priorities for the coming year. Delegates from the county Farm Bureau were also recognized for their achievements on behalf of the more than 300 farm families they represent.

Madison County Farm Bureau received eight Silver Key Awards for excellence in programming relating to effectiveness in the following categories: Membership; Agriculture Education & Promotion; County Financial Management; Information & Public Relations; Leadership Development; Policy Implementation– State & National; Young Farmers & Ranchers and Distinguished President. County Farm Bureau received a check for \$1,030 for an outstanding year in achievements.

MCFB’s Taylor Given Membership Award



NYFB Field Supervisor John Wagner (left) presents Dave Taylor with a Carhartt jacket on behalf of NYFB.

Congratulations Dave!

Madison County Farm Bureau Membership Chair Dave Taylor was recently recognized for his efforts to grow the county Farm Bureau’s family by receiving NYFB’s High Five Award. He signed up five or more new members in 2017 and was presented with a Carhartt jacket for his dedication and time. To learn more about incentives to grow membership, contact John Wagner at jwagner@nyfb.org.

New York Farm Bureau
Young Farmers & Ranchers

YOUNG FARMERS -
AGRICULTURE’S LINK TO THE FUTURE

MARCH 16-17, 2018
HOLIDAY INN, AUBURN

Keynote Speaker - Matt Lohr

All Young Farmers are invited to attend:

- Agricultural Tours
- Motivational Keynote Speaker
- Workshops to benefit you and your business
- Networking with other young agriculturalists
- Updates on State & National issues affecting Agriculture

More details coming soon

800-342-4143 NYFB.org

There are a limited number of special discounts available to cover \$100 in costs. Contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 or jwagner@nyfb.org for more information.

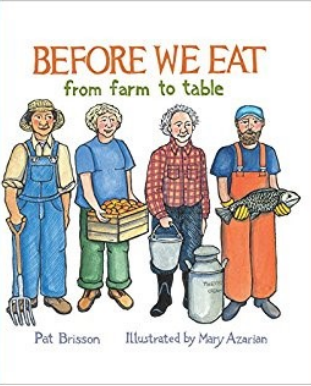
Thank You Farmers

Through Nov. 2017, nine million pounds of fresh food and farm products have been donated by farmers to regional food banks. That translates into nearly seven million meals being provided to New Yorkers in need.

“New York farmers come through year after year with generous donations of fresh food to help feed people in their communities who may be struggling. This effort remains a priority for New York Farm Bureau”, said David Fisher, New York Farm Bureau President.

To find ways you can help, visit the Food Bank of Central New York at www.foodbankcny.org or call 315-437-1899.

2018 Agricultural Literacy Week



In celebration of agriculture, we are once again taking an active role in **Ag Literacy Week**. We had such a wonderful time last year and the children loved it. It is such a rewarding program to be involved in and we hope you will join us.

During the week of **March 19-23**, we are looking for volunteers to read *Before We Eat: From Farm to Table*, by Pat Brisson, to elementary school children. If you are interested in participating, please contact Johanna Bossard at 315-440-1044.

Giving Back Locally



Madison County Farm Bureau was proud to donate a check to the Food Bank of Central New York in the amount of \$3,181. For every dollar donated to the Food Bank, three meals are provided to a person in need in the community– that's 9,543 meals raised in total at their Winery Takeover Night in October. Thanks again to Owerá Vineyards for partnering with us on this amazing event. We can’t wait for next year! Pictured above from left to right Dawn Schmidt (Owerá Vineyards), Johanna Bossard (MCFB) and Lynn Hy (Food Bank of Central New York)

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“To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture”
As a member of New York Farm Bureau, your voice is valued.

Member Login

eLobby - Take Action! Events Become a Member!

How to E-Lobby—It’s fast and easy:

- Go to www.nyfb.org and click on the green “eLobby-Take Action!” button on the left side of the page under the banner photos, or by clicking the green “Take Action! Advocacy” button.
- Find the letter you want to send and click “Take Action.”
- The action alert description will appear followed by the recipients and the letter text. Type in your name and address and press “Send Message” at the bottom of the page.
- Your letter is sent directly to lawmakers and you are helping to impact farm public policy! Encourage your friends to E-Lobby by typing in their e-mail addresses.

Take Action!
Advocacy

If you have any problems using the E-Lobby feature, call the NYFB office at 1-800-342-4143.

Keep an eye on your mailbox or check NYFB.org for a host of issues that you can easily advocate for.

Your voice truly makes a difference!

Here are a few of the priority issues that NYFB will be fighting for in 2018:

- Double the minimum wage tax credit for farmers starting in 2018.
- Oppose unworkable farm labor mandates and make much needed updates and reforms to New York State labor laws and regulations.
- Increase school meal reimbursements to incentivize the purchase of fresh and minimally processed local food.
- Support the removal of an acreage requirement for farms in the agricultural assessment program as long as they meet income eligibility requirements.

159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Madison County
Farm Bureau News



NYFB members can now save up to \$2,500 on new CAT machines.

Including: wheel loaders, skid steers, backhoes, excavators and more.

Members must provide a valid Member Verification certificate at the time of purchase.

Go to NYFB.org/member-benefits to obtain your certificate.





1.800.342.4143
NYFB.org

**Madison County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Darrell Griff, President | 315-691-9635 |
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| John Wagner, Field Advisor | 315-761-9770 |
| CNYFB Regional Office | 315-252-1367 |
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Madison County Farm Bureau meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of every month at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County Farm & Home Center, 100 Eaton Street, Morrisville, NY at 7:30 p.m.

Madison County Farm Bureau

January 2018

President's Report



It was a busy end of the year for Madison County Farm Bureau. In October, we held our County Annual Meeting in Cazenovia. It was great to see so many members taking part in our grassroots policy process. At the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting in December, we set the agenda for 2018 to

benefit every farmer and address some of the obstacles our family farms face after another tough year. I look forward to working with NYFB President David Fisher and our dedicated volunteer leaders to advocate for a better tomorrow for our members.

We are looking forward to some quality events and programing to benefit you, our members, over the next few months. Thank you for your continued support of our organization. Our collective voice can truly make a difference.

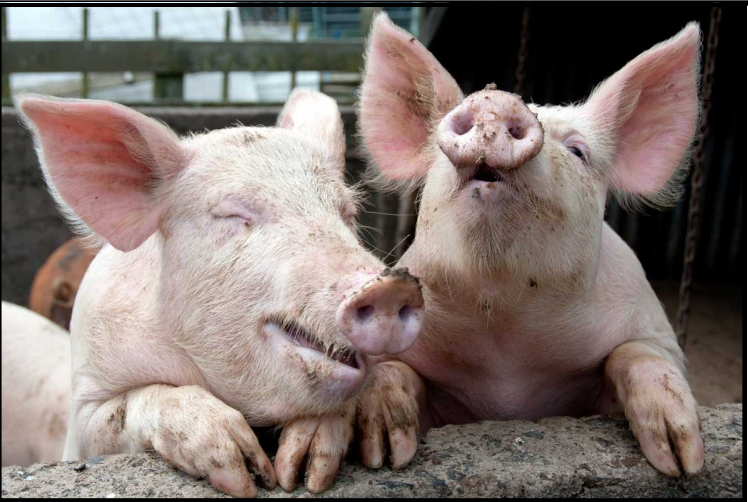
Darrell Griff

New York Farm Bureau's Taste of New York Reception is Monday, March 5, in Albany. If you have a farm product you would like to showcase in the Madison County Farm Bureau booth, please contact Darrell Griff at 315-691-9635 or John Wagner at 315-761-9770.

This is a great opportunity to show elected officials from across the state the diversity and importance of Madison County agriculture.



EVERY FARMER



Mark your Calendars

4th Annual Ag Trivia Challenge Night

Sat., Mar. 10

*Keep an eye on your mailbox for
more information*

The **Madison County FSA** office will be holding a **Loan Program Open House on Thurs., Jan. 25, 2018**, from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There will be a Farm Loan Officer in Madison County that day to answer any farm loan questions you may have, or to assist you with the loan application process. Staff will be available to help with marketing assistance loans, farm storage facility loans, emergency loans or to discuss programs in general.

For more information, call 315-824-9076.