


Genesee County Farm Bureau
29 Liberty St., Suite 212
Batavia, NY 14020



Genesee County
Farm Bureau News



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DISCOUNT ONLY - NOT INSURANCE. Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending on the type of provider and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to providers. Members are required to pay for all health care services. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by contacting Customer Care. This program is administered by Medical Security Card Company, LLC of Tucson, AZ.

Genesee County Farm Bureau



Winter 2018

Winter 2018

WWW.GENESSEECOUNTYFARMBUREAU.COM

Message from the President

by Christian Yunker

As we watch snow flurries come and go here in Western New York, the sound of birds chirping and the smell of spring will be here before we know it. As we look ahead to 2018 it is easy to get discouraged. Milk prices are headed for a cringe-worthy low, grain prices don't look all that much better and no matter which vegetable, fruit or commodity we grow our labor availability shrinks and our costs continue to increase here in New York State. As we scramble to cut costs and save on the farm, our state government in Albany is looking to do the same.

That is why now is the time for us to speak up for our industry and let the rest of New York State know what is important to the folks that cultivate our food supply. Reach out to us at Farm Bureau, and reach out to your representatives in Albany and Washington, D.C. There has never been a more important time to do so. If you don't have the time, your county Farm Bureau leaders and state staff do.

NYFB released its state legislative priorities for 2018 that seek to address the significant loss in farm incomes that will occur across the state. They include: doubling the minimum wage tax credit for farms; supporting and securing strong funding for the Environmental Protection Fund so we can support water quality and farmland protection funds, especially for additional manure storage; advocating for additional funds for Cornell that would update critical infrastructure to allow important research and extension work to continue, just to name a few. We will also be working hard to keep the line items in the budget that our industry relies so heavily on. Please visit www.nyfb.org for details on all these issues and more.

NYFB will advocate for these and other issues during the current legislative session. This effort will include hundreds of farmers who will visit Albany to meet with legislators during the organization's annual Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day, March 5-6, 2018.

We'd like to again thank you for your continued support. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Also please check out our updated website www.geneseecountyfarmbureau.com.

Genesee County Farm Bureau Board of Directors	
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Tyler Reynolds.....	585-356-8123
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Member Login

eLobby - Take Action!EventsBecome 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.



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



Leadership Conference

New York Farm Bureau
Young Farmers & Ranchers

Young Farmers -
Agriculture's Link to the Future

MARCH 16-17, 2018
HOLIDAY INN, AUBURN



Matt Lohr

Sessions Include:

- Keynote Speaker - Matt Lohr, Lifting the Limits, The Strongest Link
- Know Your Beef Beyond the Label
- YF&R Competitive Events 101
- How an Idea gets from the Kitchen Table to the Delegate floor

Registration Costs
NYFB Members: Young Farmer
Package = \$125

Hotel Costs:
\$100.57 per room [includes taxes]
Call Holiday Inn, 315-255-4531 for
your hotel reservation

Registration Deadline
MARCH 7, 2018

To Register:
800-342-4143 • NYFB.org

WHY IS FARM BUREAU SO IMPORTANT?

Here are a few past successes and current issues:

NEW YORK

- Enactment of a 2% tax cap and agricultural assessment cap.
- Enactment of the farmers' school property tax exemption, saving farmers millions on their tax bill.
- Ten-year real property tax exemption on new farm buildings to facilitate farm updates and growth.
- Lead the charge to accomplish inherent risk reforms for equine, u-pick and agritourism industry.
- Expanded the ability for farms to use renewable energy installations, such as anaerobic digesters, solar arrays and wind.
- Leading the charge to increase the estate tax threshold in New York to over \$5,000,000.
- Working to combat expanded labor mandates, improve access to agricultural education and implement infrastructure parity between downstate and upstate.
- Maintained exemption for 150 air mile radius in relation to "hours of service" trucking requirements.
- Works to maintain the agricultural sales tax and diesel fuel tax exemptions.

NATIONAL

- Constantly advocates tax landscape for famers including permanent section 179 expensing and bonus depreciation to name a few.
- Working to reduce regulatory impacts on our farms including: WOTUS- "Waters of the U.S." rule, ensuring access to biotechnology and monitoring FSMA implementation to ensure FDA provides information to states to implement the rule fairly and consistently.
- Action on a Modern Highway Funding Bill which will provide long-term certainty of funding, more flexibility for states and local governments, and streamlines the project approval process.
- Passage of the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), paving the way for modern deals to grow markets.
- Repeal of the mandatory County of Origin Labeling provisions.

New Member Benefit!

JOHN DEERE

NYFB members can now receive special access to the John Deere's GreenFleet™ Loyalty Rewards program.
providing members with a free two-year Platinum 2 membership.

Discounts on the following categories of equipment

- \$350-\$3,200 off Commercial Mowing
- \$100-\$250 off Residential Mowing
- \$200-\$350 off Utility Vehicles
- \$200-\$350 off Tractors
- \$500-\$3,700 off Golf & Sports Turf
- 17% off MSRP – Commercial Worksite

Just sign up for John Deere GreenFleet Loyalty Rewards program using a valid member ID and zip code for membership verification

visit: www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau!

For other details and restrictions

NYFB.ORG/MEMBER-BENEFITS • 1-800-342-4143

Calendar of Events

March 5 -6: NYFB Lobby Days in Albany

March 16—17: YF&R Leadership Conference, Auburn

March 17: Genesee County Celebrate Agriculture Dinner, Alexander

March 19-23: Ag Literacy Week

June 6: Kinderfarmin' at Reyncrest Dairy, Pembroke

Genesee County Celebrate Agriculture Dinner

Sat., Mar. 17
6 pm

Alexander Fire Hall

This event is a celebration of Genesee County's number one industry—agriculture. The highlight is a delicious meal using locally grown and produced foods prepared by Penna's Catering. The Soil and Water Conservation District will also be presenting the Conservation Farm of the Year award. The event is coordinated by Genesee County Farm Bureau, CCE Genesee County, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Genesee County Chamber of Commerce.

Cost: \$30.00 each or a table of 10 for \$275. Sponsorships at a cost of \$350 (which includes a table of 10) are available which will help support agriculture educational events in Genesee County. Only 400 tickets will be sold—tickets not available at the door.

To reserve your tickets, stop by or call the Genesee County Chamber of Commerce, 210 E. Main Street, Batavia. 585-343-7440, ext. 27 or chamber@geneseeny.com

The brochure is available at the CCE Genesee County website genesee.cce.cornell.edu

PathStone Corporation Accepting Applications for On-Farm Housing Grant

This program is a matching grant of up to \$2,000 to repair and upgrade existing farm labor housing. Examples of eligible repairs include, but are not limited to: bathrooms, plumbing, laundry facilities, recreation rooms, upgrading kitchens and appliances, heating, floors, walls, windows, ceilings, doors and other major structural components. Special consideration will be given to projects that positively impact the quality of life for farmworkers during off work hours. Farm owners must agree to provide \$1 for every \$1 provided by PathStone Corporation. This grant is available in Monroe, Wayne, Ontario, Orleans and Genesee Counties. If interested, or if you have questions, please contact Susan Lerch at 585-546-3700, ext. 3020 for an application. The application deadline is March 15, 2018 and the work will need to be completed by June 7, 2018. Please help us spread the word as we want to assist as many farms as possible!

Ag Literacy Week March 19-23

This year's Agricultural Literacy Week book, "Before We Eat: from Farm to Table" by Pat Brisson, displays the vast opportunities and diversity that New York agriculture encompasses. Students will be taken on a journey from farm to table to understand the different aspects of agriculture and the many possible careers involved. This is a captivating glimpse into what it takes to bring the food we eat to us in order to nourish our bodies and spirits. Genesee County Farm Bureau has purchased 12 books again this year, which will be distributed to volunteers who will read to students in area elementary schools. These volunteers will play a key role in introducing agriculture to students and providing teachers with lesson plans centered around this educational book!

If you are interested in the opportunity to excite and share the importance of maintaining our viable American agriculture with both teachers and students, please contact Brandie Waite at CCE Genesee County at (585) 343-3040, ext. 101 or bls238@cornell.edu.