

Oneida County Farm Bureau Recognized at State Annual Meeting



New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher addresses delegates at the 2017 State Annual Meeting in Albany.

Oneida County Farm Bureau's efforts to promote, educate and advocate on behalf of agriculture were recognized at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting held in Albany. Delegate members of the county Farm Bureau represented the more than 330 farm families in discussing and voting on resolutions that set the public policy agenda for the coming year.

"The State Annual Meeting concludes all the hard work of the past year and readies you for what lies ahead," said Jake Schieferstine, New York Farm Bureau State Director and Oneida County Farm Bureau member. "We

have set an ambitious agenda on behalf of every farmer in the state and we look forward to working with President David Fisher and the many dedicated volunteer leaders to put it into action."

The county Farm Bureau was also presented with seven Silver Key Awards for attaining outstanding achievements by involving leaders and members in programs serving agriculture. The awards were given for excellence in the categories of Membership, Agricultural Education & Promotion, County Financial Management, Information and Public Relations, Leadership Development and Policy Development & Implementation- State & National. New York Farm Bureau presented Oneida County Farm Bureau with a check for \$790 for its achievements.

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 Oneida County booth, please contact Kevin Angell at 315-361-5430 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 Oneida County agriculture.

Ag Trivia Challenge Night a Success

Oneida County Farm Bureau's 2nd Annual Ag Trivia Challenge Night was a festive evening filled with fun and friendly competition. Over 90 people came out to Daniele's Banquet Specialists dressed in their ugly holiday sweaters to put their agriculture knowledge to the test – all to benefit Oneida County Farm Bureau youth programming. This year's event raised \$3,000.

THANK YOU to all the businesses, organizations and local farms who sponsored the evening, donated some wonderful raffle items and to those that came out to support us in this endeavor. The partnerships we have developed with all of you are truly making a difference. We are looking forward to next year!



The ugly holiday sweater contest was one of the highlights of the evening.



This **FREE** event will open at 6 p.m. with an ice cream social held by FFA students. The screening will follow at 7 p.m. The evening will wrap up with a panel discussion of farmers and stakeholders from our community.

This documentary gives a glimpse into the past and a vision for a future, and shows the cultural divide between the new food movement and traditional farming.

For more information on this **FREE** event, contact CCE of Oneida County at 315-736-3394. For more information on the film visit www.forgottenfarms.org.



Congratulations to Stephanie Finn who was named the **2017 Oneida County Student of the Year**. She received a check for \$300 on behalf of Oneida County Farm Bureau. Also receiving recognition were Taylor McNamara (\$200) and Lucas DiNitto (\$100).

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.



Oneida County Farm Bureau members Ben and Robin Simons were honored during the County Annual Meeting this fall for 27 years of service on the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Pictured above with Ben and Robin is OCSWCD Board Member Robert Crary (left).

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New York Farm Bureau
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**YOUNG FARMERS -
AGRICULTURE'S LINK TO THE FUTURE**

MARCH 16-17, 2018
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- Agricultural Tours
 - Motivational Keynote Speaker
 - Workshops to benefit you and your business
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More details coming soon

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Oneida County Hi-Lite

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Oneida County Farm Bureau

Hi-Lite



January 2018

President's Report



Happy New Year! I am honored to be leading Oneida County Farm Bureau, an organization that has been an important part of my family for decades. I am the sixth generation of my family to operate our small dairy farm in Durhamville, along with my wife Melanie and son Nathan. I have served on the county board for three years and look forward to this new leadership role. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas, issues, concerns or just to simply introduce yourself. We will

continue to provide informative and educational opportunities to you, our members, along with beneficial programming that will serve to educate the public about the importance of agriculture.

There are a few upcoming events to take note of: New York Farm Bureau's annual Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day is March 5 and 6 in Albany. If you are interested in participating in either event (more details about Taste of New York inside), please contact any board member. A Young Farmer Leadership Conference will take place March 16-17 in Auburn (details inside). There are a limited number special discounts available to cover \$100 in costs. Contact John Wagner at 315-761-9770 for more information.



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As a member of New York Farm Bureau, your voice is valued.





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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.

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