

Statement on Inherent Risk Reform Bill Signing

A Huge Win For New York Farm Bureau

The governor's signature delivers a major priority for New York farms that are looking to access legal protections and reduce liability insurance costs for agritourism and equine businesses.

New York Farm Bureau achieved a major victory for farms across the state with the passage and signing of inherent risk reform for agritourism and equine businesses (S.1152/A.559). Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the legislation that will amend the general obligations law to clarify responsibilities for both farm operators and visitors alike.

This legislation establishes limited liability protections for the inherent risks of inviting the public onto a farming operation. Agricultural tourism and outdoor recreation activities that include horseback riding, u-pick Christmas trees and fruit orchards, along with tours of wineries and maple operations, all now have a new line of defense against frivolous lawsuits because of the new law. Until now, New York's litigious environment had diminished the number of insurance carriers willing to cover these businesses, while dramatically increasing the cost of liability coverage. Many farmers have had to turn down opportunities to invite the public onto their farm because they could not find or afford the liability insurance

necessary to host these opportunities in this state.

Under the legislation, farms must have proper signage to delineate pathways and buildings open to the public, adequately train employees involved in agritourism, take reasonable care to prevent foreseeable risks and post warnings to visitors about inherent risks of participating in activities on working farms.

The new law does not give New York farms blanket immunity from responsibility. Instead, it will protect owners from lawsuits by an individual who is taking no responsibility for his or her own actions. Farmers should not be at fault for a lack of due care by customers engaging in inherently risky activities or situations over which the farmer has no control. For example, customers should assume that there is some natural, inherent risk for riding a horse or climbing an apple tree and act accordingly to avoid injury.

"This legislation has been one of our organization's major priorities. For too long, farmers had to choose between higher insurance costs or closing off their businesses to the general public that is eager to experience life outdoors on a farm. Now that we have crossed the finish line, we are hopeful business costs will reflect the reduced liability our farmers now have. New York Farm Bureau is grateful to Governor Cuomo for signing the important legislation that brings New York law in line with most other states. We also appreciate the leadership of both sponsors of the bill, Sen. Robert Ort and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, who have long championed the legislation. We are grateful as well for the effort of our members who made phone calls, e-lobbied their representatives, and spoke up about the need for this legislation. Their hard work made all the difference," said David Fisher, New York Farm Bureau President.



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.

State Annual Meeting 2017 Review

*Voting delegates
at State Annual
Meeting*

*Pictured L-R: Caleb
Peters, Andrew Reid,
Matthew Wunder,
Alicia Abendroth, Alex
Abendroth, Gary
Orbaker and Ken
VanFleet.*



Wayne County Farm Bureau Wins Awards At State Annual Meeting

Wayne County Farm Bureau was presented with Silver Key Awards at the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, held Dec. 5-6 in Albany, N.Y. Silver Key Awards are presented to county Farm Bureaus that have exhibited excellence in a variety of categories relating to effectiveness in policy implementation, promoting agriculture amongst the public and in classrooms, leadership development, and membership building.

The awards were presented for excellence in the following categories: Agriculture & Promotion, County Financial, Information & PR, Leadership Development, Policy Implementation—State & National.

While at the State Annual Meeting, farmer members also took part in the grassroots process of laying the groundwork for the year ahead. More than 150 delegates from across New York proposed, discussed and voted on resolutions that will guide New York Farm Bureau's public policy agenda for 2018.

Wayne County Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving the economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural community. The county is part of New York Farm Bureau, the largest agricultural advocacy group in New York State, known to members and the public as "The Voice of New York Agriculture."

Signing Up New Members

Wayne County Farm Bureau Board Members Gary Orbaker, Caleb Peters and John Sorbello all received New York Farm Bureau jackets for signing up at least five new members. Gary also received the Kick Start Award for signing up five new members before Sept. 1 and received a gift card.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

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**



Wayne County
Farm Bureau News

Wayne County Farm Bureau News January 2018



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

Featured Benefit Of The Month



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.



Dates To Remember

March 5-6 Taste of NY & Lobby Days, Albany
March 16-17 Leadership Conference, Auburn

Wayne County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Matthew Wunder, President.....315-573-2908
Tim Kehoe, Vice President315-414-1667
David Coene, Treas. & Secretary. 585-265-4206
Fred Pickering585-216-2047
John Castor.....315-587-9875
Alicia Abendroth.....315-594-1479
Andrew Reid315-576-1705
Caleb Peters, YF&R.....585-217-6546
Lindsey Gertenslager ProEd Chair..716-353-6393
Duane Crandon, Co-Mbrship Chair 315-946-9417
Gary Orbaker, Co-Mbrship Chair ...315-945-6311
Skip Jensen, NYFB Advisor315-730-3579
John Sorbello, NYFB Director.....315-730-2670
CNYFB Regional Office.....315-252-1367
Nationwide Insurance Agent
Jacqueline Gleichauf315-539-2107

New York Farm Bureau Sets 2018 Priority Issues

Listed below are some of the priority issues recently announced by New York Farm Bureau for 2018.

State Priorities

- * Support funding for critical food safety, animal health and agricultural promotion and economic development programs in the Agriculture and Markets budget.
- * Double the minimum wage tax credit for farmers starting in 2018.
- * Support for funding of Environmental Protection Fund programs that provide cost-sharing of critical farm water quality and farmland protection projects that allow farms to reinvest in their farm business.
- * Oppose unworkable farm labor mandates and make much needed updates and reforms to New York State labor laws and regulations.
- * Transfer farm tax assessment functions from the Department of Taxation and Finance to the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Criteria for determining what earmarks them for a priority is as follows:

- ◆ Issue must have a broad-based agriculture impact.
- ◆ Issue must be of significant interest to county Farm Bureau.
- ◆ Issue must impact farmers' ability to conduct business, make a profit, or effect quality of rural living.
- ◆ Issue should attract member interest in anticipation of drawing their active participation.
- ◆ Issue should have a reasonable chance of being resolved.

2018 Tractor Safety Course in Ontario County

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County's 4-H Program is once again sponsoring the Tractor Safety and Certification program beginning on Thurs., Jan. 25, 2018. This eight week series of classes is for youth ages 14 and 15 to meet the certification requirement of the US Department of Labor National Safe Tractor and Machinery Operations law. Youth ages 14 and 15 seeking employment on farms this coming summer will need this certification. Older participants may sign up if space allows.



Ontario County 4-H only offers this course **once** a year to youth in Ontario and surrounding counties. The 2018 classes begin on Jan. 25 and will be held on Thursday nights through Mar. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension office in Canandaigua. The driving test will be Saturday, Mar. 24. Classes are taught by volunteers with many years of practical experience as well as local farm equipment shop owners and employees. Tours of local equipment dealers, Monroe Tractor and LandPro and American Equipment, are included in the series of meetings.

Attendance at all classes is mandatory to receive the certification along with a written exam and driving test. The cost for Ontario County residents to take the certification series is \$25 and out-of-county residents is \$35. Employers are encouraged to have potential employees attend for the certification requirement.

The first meeting on Jan. 25 will be a presentation from the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health of Cooperstown. The public is welcome to attend this event to learn more about farm safety and prevention across the state.

To register and for more information, contact Amy Morrissey, 4-H Educator, at 585-394-3977 x 429 or email at alm72@cornell.edu