

## FFA Rising Stars



Congratulations to Belleville-Henderson's **Ethan Billman** (Vice-President, 2nd from left) and South Jefferson's **Anna Bica** (Secretary, 3rd from left) for achieving leadership roles as part of the 2018-2019 New York FFA Officer Slate. *Photo Courtesy of NYS FFA.*

## Zumbach Awarded 2018 Agricultural Youth Scholarship



**Congratulations to Claire Zumbach**, the 2018 New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship winner from Jefferson County. Claire, a Belleville-Henderson senior, plans to pursue a career as a large animal veterinarian. Her scholarship application essay thoughtfully took a hard look at the reality our dairy farmers are facing. Pictured above, JCFB President Adam Miner presents a check to Claire on behalf of the board for her academic accomplishment.

## JCFB Helps FFA Experience Albany



Members of the Belleville-Henderson and South Jefferson FFA Chapters recently participated in the NY FFA Association's State Leaders Experience in Albany. The students met with Senators and Assembly members from across the state to share with them the importance of agricultural education. Jefferson County Farm Bureau was proud to help financially support these young agriculturalists with this experience. Some of the students were able to attend our last board meeting. They are pictured above with JCFB President Adam Miner.

## Gift of Blue

Jefferson County Farm Bureau is proud to support local FFA members with the chance to wear a piece of history by

awarding them their very own official FFA Blue Jacket. In the first of many presentations, JCFB Board Member Kyle Gerhke gives Belleville-Henderson's **Jason Magos** his Blue Jacket.



## Enrollment Reopens for MPP-Dairy

The Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy) is a voluntary risk management program for dairy producers that offers protection when the difference between the all milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producers. With changes authorized under the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, the USDA FSA has set the enrollment period to run from April 9, 2018 to June 1, 2018.

Dairy operations must make a new coverage election for 2018, even if you enrolled during the previous 2018 signup period. Coverage elections will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018.

USDA has a new web tool to help producers determine the level of coverage under the MPP that will provide them with the strongest safety net under a variety of conditions. To access the online resource—[www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mpptool).

For more information, please visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dairy) or call the FSA Service Center in Watertown at 315-782-7289.

## USDA Farm Service Agency is Encouraging Producers to Document Losses Caused by Extreme Weather Conditions

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) administers various safety-net programs to help producers recover from eligible losses, including the Livestock Indemnity Program (for livestock deaths), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (for deaths, grazing, losses, etc.), Emergency Forest Restoration Program (tree losses, debris removal, etc.), and the Tree Assistance Program (for losses of vines, bushes or trees, excluding Maple). However, be aware that timely notification of losses is required to be eligible – this is usually within 72 hours of when a loss occurs or becomes apparent. In the event of a disaster declaration, the more thorough the documentation of the losses sustained, the easier it will be to receive disaster relief.

**Suggested documentation producers may want to gather include:**

- Photographs – take pictures of your crops and any animal losses that may occur. Document when the photo was taken, the photo should demonstrate the severity of the loss.
- Notify the county office of any physical loss – some examples include barn collapse, damage to your land caused by flooding, and any loss of livestock caused by weather. Please note this is not an exhaustive list, call with any physical losses.
- Livestock Loss – please document the number lost, cause of death along with something showing proof of death.
- Feed loss that was produced by you or purchased ruined as a result of weather. Document the type of feed, quantity, and dollar value, with receipts, and pictures.

For more information, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov) or call the FSA Service Center in Watertown at 315-782-7289.

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Jefferson County  
Farm Bureau News



# Jefferson County Farm Bureau News



April 2018

President’s Report



Adam Miner

Jefferson County Farm Bureau has been actively advocating on both, the state and national level to push for sound policies to benefit agriculture. We had a positive trip to Albany in March, as part of Farm Bureau’s annual Lobby Day. To see farmers from across the state telling their stories, reaching almost every Senator and Assembly member was inspiring. We also recently met with Congresswoman Stefanik to discuss the issues facing our dairy farm families.

I encourage you to visit NYFB.org to keep up-to-date on what is happening in Albany and Washington, D.C. Here you can also find many useful resources and valuable benefits.

*This issue of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Newsletter is sponsored by:*



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Canton, NY 13617  
315-386-4335

News from Albany

The 2018-2019 State Budget includes dozens of essential programs that support research, promotion and marketing, which will allow farmers to adjust to new challenges and expand market opportunities including:

- ✓ Increase in funding for NY FarmNet — this organization is seeing a 50% increase in calls from farmers who are coping with the stresses of a down economy.
- ✓ Additional funding for honeybee research, hops and barley programs, and support of the growing craft beverage industry.
- ✓ Full support of the Environmental Protection Fund.
- ✓ \$10 million to increase the school lunch reimbursement rate — expanding opportunities for farmers and putting more locally sourced fresh food onto students’ lunch plates.
- ✓ \$5 million to improve infrastructure at county fairs.

To learn more about the State Budget and priority legislation still pending, please visit NYFB.org.

55th Annual Jefferson County  
Dairy Princess Coronation  
Friday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m.  
Watertown Elks Lodge

Join us as we honor the 2017-2018 Dairy Princess and Dairy Ambassadors for all their hard work. The crowning of the new Dairy Princess and her court will take place immediately after the banquet.

For more information, visit Jefferson County Dairy Promotion on Facebook or call Alison Widrick at 315-778-1127.

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*The Jefferson County Farm Bureau board meets each month on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at Jefferson County Community College in Watertown.*