

## Legislative Update



St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau representatives joined farmers from across the state in early March as part of New York Farm Bureau's annual Lobby Day. We had productive meetings with our elected officials and our 'adopted' legislators representing downstate to discuss public policy priorities that will keep agriculture on the right path.

The **2018-2019 state budget** includes dozens of essential programs that support research, promotion and marketing that 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.

**Lend your voice.** The 10-year real property tax exemption on new farm buildings sunsets at the end of this year and must be extended. This program is critical in helping farms build and afford needed farm infrastructure. Please reach out to your local legislators and ask them to support this crucial measure. Visit [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) and click on the e-lobby link to find out how you can help.



The House of Representatives has released a **2018 Farm Bill** draft, H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. This begins the process of moving the bill through the House for a possible vote by the members of Congress. The Senate has not released its version of the Farm Bill and would have to be reconciled with the House version before final passage by both houses. To learn more about the bill,

visit [agriculture.house.gov/farmbill](http://agriculture.house.gov/farmbill). You are encouraged to reach out to representatives and share your stories on how Farm Bill programs have impacted your farm. If you have questions, please contact New York Farm Bureau at 1-800-342-4143. To find your representative, visit [house.gov](http://house.gov) or call the Congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121.



St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau recently attended a listening session hosted by Congresswoman Elise Stefanik to discuss issues revolving around the persistent low prices paid to our region's dairy farm families. It was an opportunity for her to hear first hand the sobering reality that exists in the industry right now and what is needed to address the current climate.

*Pictured are Congresswoman Stefanik and SCFB President Jon Greenwood*

## Calling All Young Farmers

The Young Farmers program is a great way to build a network, learn, raise public awareness, advocate and serve our community. If you would like to get involved or have ideas for future events, please contact Patty Gilbert at 315-244-6505.

**Congratulations** to Ted Greenwood for a job well done at the Young Farmers Discussion Meet at the State Annual Meeting in December. He showcased his understanding of agricultural issues and offered thoughtful solutions to challenges farmers face.



*St. Lawrence County Young Farmers recently toured Stauffer Farm in North Lawrence*

### SCFB Helps FFA Experience Albany

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau was pleased to sponsor students from the Canton and Gouverneur FFA Chapters to travel to Albany to take part in FFA Governmental Awareness Days in February. During the two-day event, students learned more about the legislative process and met with local officials. It was a great learning experience and gave them the opportunity to share the importance of FFA.

### 2017 Census of Agriculture *Still Time to Respond*

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service needs a Census of Agriculture response from all of the nation's producers. Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it, even if not currently farming.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete the census either online at [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov) or by mail as soon as possible. For more information, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call 1-866-294-8560.

**Keep your eye on your mailbox for information on the 2018 Day on the Farm**



7 themed weeks from  
July 2, 2018 to  
August 13, 2018

Buggin' Out, North Wind Olympics, Space the Last Frontier, North Wind Festival, Animal Planet, Survivor, Myths and Legends  
**\*New: 4 week Animal Science Program\***

**Check us out on Facebook @northwindsle**



160 per week or, 140 per week for 3+ weeks  
Ages 5 - 12  
Monday to Friday 8:00AM to 4:00PM

✱ Hands on Activities ✱ Arts and Crafts ✱ Outdoor recreation ✱ Animal Science ✱ Gardening ✱ Team Building ✱ Agriculture ✱ Nutrition ✱ Archery ✱ Fishing ✱

Limited spaces available, register now!  
visit [stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu](http://stlawrence.cce.cornell.edu) to register, or call (315) 379-9192 for more information

Cornell Cooperative Extension  
St. Lawrence County

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### NY FarmNet • 1-800-547-3276

**Services are available to all farms in New York,** large and small, with a diversity of commodities including dairy, crops, livestock, maple, fruit, vegetables, honey, nursery and more.

**Always Free and Confidential**



159 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12205



St. Lawrence County  
Farm Bureau News

# St. Lawrence County

## Farm Bureau News

### May 2018



#### President’s Report



St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau has been actively advocating on both the state and national level to push for sound public policies to benefit agriculture. These policies were the result of Farm Bureau’s unique grassroots process that started at our well-attended County Annual Meeting last fall and were passed at the State Annual Meeting in December. Each meeting was filled with thoughtful discussion on issues facing our local farm families. Thank you for your continued support of our organization. I am proud to continue leading our county Farm Bureau and thankful for our dedicated board members who are committed to providing quality opportunities and programs for our members.

Please take a look inside for the latest news from Albany and Washington, D.C., as it pertains to agriculture and feel free to contact me with any questions, issues or concerns.

I hope you can join us for our annual summer barbeque in July!

*Jon Greenwood*



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Farm Bureau protects the future of your farm and your neighbors farms all year long. Today, membership can save you up to \$500 on new Case IH tractors and equipment!

**SAVE \$300**

on Farmall® Compact C series Tractors, Farmall A series utility tractor, Round and small square balers, Disc mower conditioner, Sickle mower conditioners & Case IH Scout™ Utility Vehicles

**SAVE \$500**

on Farmall® C & U Series Tractors, Maxxum and Farmall® 100A Series Tractors, Large Square Balers and Self-propelled Windrowers

A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount. Members can download a certificate at [www.nyfb.org/member-benefits](http://www.nyfb.org/member-benefits)

NYFB.ORG



1.800.342.4143

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Betsy Hodge, Pro-Ed Chair.....	315-379-0607
Kim Trombly, Field Advisor .....	518-935-8569
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*The St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau board meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Research Farm, State Highway 68, Canton, NY*

**Limited Time Offer!**

**JOIN NOW**

for 2018 & all of 2019

**for \$99**

Available to New Members Only

Offer Expires June 30th, 2018



EVERY FARMER

1-800-342-4143 • NYFB.org

St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau

Summer Barbeque and

North Country Retirement Party for

Fred Perrin

Dinner Will Be Provided

Wednesday, July 25

6 p.m.

Loomis Quarter Horses

939 County Route 33

Waddington, NY