

Saratoga County Farm Bureau News July 2018



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message: Hello Folks! I last wrote to you about the happenings with Saratoga County Farm Bureau in February of this year. Since then, Saratoga County Farm Bureau has been very busy with events in our county and at the state level. I also have been very busy with these events and planting crops as it was a late spring. Hopefully, all of you have been able to get planting and first cutting hay done! With that being said, I will get you updated on everything Saratoga County Farm Bureau has been doing over the last few months.



In February, we confirmed who was going to the Legislative Reception and Lobby Days in March. I would like to thank the Saratoga County Dairy Promotion team and their leaders Sherrie Hanehan, Colleen Luke and Heather Swatling for representing us at the Legislative Reception. I would like to thank Mike Schwerd, Dave

Cummings and Kimberly McCormick for going to Lobby Days with me to represent Saratoga County Farm Bureau. I would like to give a special thank you to Mike Schwerd for organizing our efforts for this event. I would also like to thank John Arnold for going to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors meeting in February and presenting them with our resolutions and thanking them for all they do for us.



Saratoga County Dairy Princess Grace Hanehan

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On March 3, we hosted the annual Rural Urban Dinner at Panza's Restaurant. This event was quite well attended and featured Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and Julie Suarez from Cornell as our keynote speakers. Congresswoman Stefanik spoke about the Farm Bill and what was being done for agriculture in Washington, D.C. Julie Suarez spoke about farmland and the disappearance of it in New York State and how it is going to affect the state. At this event, we had our annual fundraiser for the Food Bank of Northeastern New York. The raffle contained gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses. This year we successfully raised \$419 for the Food Bank. Many thanks to all those who attended and helped raise the money. We also had Agriculture Literacy Week in March. I would like to thank Carter Older for ordering the books and setting up volunteers to read at the schools.

At our April board meeting we discussed the Saratoga County Farm Bureau scholarship. I would like to congratulate Grace Hanehan and Johnathan King for winning the scholarship this year. *Cont'd on the back:*

President's Message (cont'd):

Grace will be attending Morrisville College and Johnathan will be attending Cornell. We discussed that there was not going to be a Sundae on the Farm event this year, but that we were hopeful for next year. The board also decided not to have a May meeting so we all could tend to our farms and the very busy spring season.

I would like to thank all of you for being members of this great organization. We have NOT reached our membership goals this year and we hope that we can regain those lost members next year. The strength of our Farm Bureau is our members. We have gained some legislative victories this year and would like to continue to build on this success. Our organization depends on our members to have a strong voice in Albany and Washington, D.C.

Until the next time, stay strong and farm on!

Jamie Pettis, III President



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Saratoga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Remember to dial 518 first.

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Policy Development 101

By Field Advisor Kim Trombly

New York Farm Bureau has a policy book that we use when we lobby in Albany and Washington, D.C. It is this policy book that we used to pass things like the 2% tax cap on agriculture assessments, the increased estate tax exemption and restrictions on FOIL requests. However, many members wonder how we set these policies. Is it big feed companies? Is it New York City financial advisors? The answer is no. Our policies are set by our regular farmer members and only our farmer members. Each year county Farm Bureaus are asked to identify policies that are important to their farmer members. Once those policies are identified, they are brought to the County Annual Meeting where Saratoga County Farm Bureau members vote to either approve or not approve the new policy. After Saratoga County Farm Bureau approves its

new policies, they are brought to the State Annual Meeting where they are again voted on to determine if they will go into the state policy book. In order for your voice to be heard, you must bring your ideas for Saratoga County Farm Bureau's policies to the attention of the county Farm Bureau board. Saratoga County Farm Bureau is very interested to know what is important to its members, so please email, call, text or talk to a board member. They also encourage you to bring policies to the County Annual Meeting in early October where Saratoga County Farm Bureau will finalize its policies to bring to the state.

