

President’s Message (cont’d): The feedback we received was very positive. It was very eye opening for most to learn how much science and technology goes into modern agriculture and all the careers attached to dairy and crop farms. We have received inquiries from the schools regarding job shadowing opportunities which is a way to begin attracting non-agriculture people to agricultural careers. The bonus was that NYAAC (Eileen and Jessica) made most of the arrangements for the event including invitations. They attended the event to help moderate at whatever level was needed. In our case, they would occasionally ask questions to ensure we covered important points. It was a great team effort to help tell our story.

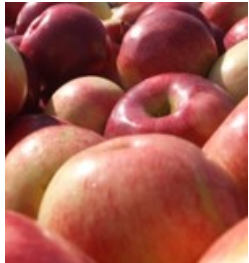
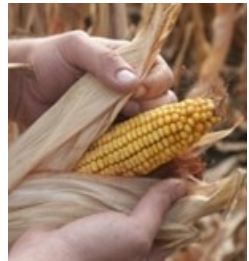
Feel free to call me if you have any questions or comments about the twilight tour, policy season or anything else related to farming or Farm Bureau. Enjoy the rest of your summer and I hope to see many of you at the birthing center at the NY State Fair. *Sincerely, Kim Skellie*



Ontario County Farms Head to the NYS Dairy Cow Birthing Center *By Hannah Worden*

We are excited for dairy cows from Ontario County to be the spotlight at the Dairy Cow Birthing Center for the second year in a row this August and September. El-Vi, Fa-Ba, Hemdale, Lawnhurst, Willow Bend and Will-O-Crest Farms will each be sending six cows to the New York State Fairgrounds to give birth in front of a live audience. This exhibit has become one of the top attractions at the fair and does a wonderful job bridging the gap between producers and consumers. While fairgoers wait for a birth, which can take hours, there is the opportunity to talk to them about our farms, our cows, our families and all the good things in the dairy industry. It is amazing how enchanted people become witnessing a birth. Last year a girl broke into tears upon realizing she had missed the chance to say goodbye to the calf she watched be born.

The exhibit brings in over 350,000 fairgoers and would not be a success without many volunteers. For those interested in volunteering at the exhibit, please contact Jessica Ziehm at Jessica@nyanimalaag.org.



New York Farm Bureau 2018 Legislative Successes

New York Farm Bureau had a very productive legislative session this year. A number of priority issues became law or were funded in the State Budget. Here are the highlights:

- Extension of the 10-year property tax exemption on new or partially reconstructed farm buildings.
- Renters of leased farmland can now submit their agricultural assessment renewals electronically.
- Increased the speed limit in which slow moving vehicles with an attached SMV emblem may travel on roadways.
- Inherent risk legislation which will limit liability on equine, u-pick Christmas trees and agritainment operations.
- A six-year property tax exemption for newly-planted hopyards.
- Legislation that will allow craft beverage makers to produce and sell beer and cider infused ice cream.
- Five million dollars to improve infrastructure at county fairs.
- A nine percent increase in funding for NY FarmNet.
- Increased funding for the Environmental Protection Fund.

Progressive Agriculture Safety Day

There are many challenges in farming today: ever increasing government regulations; falling milk and commodity prices and labor supply uncertainties, just to mention a few. However, the most daunting daily challenge may be **keeping everyone on the farm safe.**

To address safety on the farm and in the home, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County is partnering with the New York Center for Agriculture Health and Medicine, Farm Bureau, local agriculture businesses and fire departments to put together an **Agriculture Safety Day** for the whole family. Progressive Publication has been sponsoring agriculture safety days nationally for over 20 years. It is time to bring the event to Ontario County.

The date is **Saturday, Aug. 18** at the New York Steam Engine Pageant Grounds, 3349 Gehan Road, Canandaigua, NY. **Check-in is at 9 a.m. ending around 3 p.m. with a dramatic rescue demonstration.** You must pre-register for the event. We are planning a variety of demonstrations throughout the day on family and farm safety including:

- PTO entanglement demonstration by NYCAMH;
- grain bin rescue tube demonstration by Benton Fire Department.



Join us on Facebook

Be sure to like the Ontario County Farm Bureau Facebook page to stay up to date on what is happening in the county. Visit us at fb.me/OntarioFarmBureau

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- Bike Safety and Bicycle Rodeo - **Kids Safe ID** by Ontario County Sheriff; fire extinguisher demonstration by Hopewell Fire Department.
- ATV and UTV safety instructor presentation; Shortsville Fire Dept. Fire Prevention Safety Trailer.
- First aid and CPR demonstrations by the Ontario County Public Health Office; entrapment and rescue by Hopewell Fire Department/Mercy Flight
- Ontario County Dairy Princess and her court with interactive fun activities

The day includes **free lunch** for everyone and a **free t-shirt** to all youth who pre-register. Come join your friends and neighbors for a day of educational safety demonstrations for the whole family; **it could save your life.** Please be sure you register to ensure we have enough free food and goodie bags.

All youth must have a registration/release form signed by a parent. Space is limited, so sign up the whole family today. The registration form can be found on the CCE website: www.cceontario.org under EVENTS. You can email or mail it back.

Questions? Contact Amy Morrissey at 585-394-3977 x429 or email: alm72@cornell.edu

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Ontario County
Farm Bureau News



Photo: At New York Farm Bureau Lobby Days in March. L-R: OCFB Membership Chair Lisa Grefrath, OCFB President Kim Skellie, Town Supervisor Margaret Hilton, OCFB Board Member Hannah Worden and Ontario County CCE Director Tim Davis.

SAVE THE DATE

Run on the Farm-5K will be held Sunday, Oct. 7 at 10 a.m.

Steam Pageant Grounds, 3349 Gehan Road, Canandaigua, NY.

All proceeds will benefit Farm Bureau agriculture education.

The Member

Ontario County Farm Bureau News

July 2018



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

Please join us for an

**Ontario County Farm Bureau Picnic
Friday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m.
Town of Seneca Park
3675 Flint Road, Stanley**

**Bring the entire family and a dish to pass
Children's activities, meat and beverages
will be provided**

Enjoy the company of your fellow Farm Bureau members for a fun, relaxing, family-friendly and informative night. The evening will kick off at 6 p.m. with a meet the candidates forum with the candidates running for Congress, State Senate, State Assembly, Sheriff and County Judge.

**RSVP by Aug. 6:
email: kimskellie@gmail.com
or call: 315-879-0943**

We hope to see you there!

Hello Fellow Farm Bureau Members

By the time you receive this newsletter, hopefully you will have had time to enjoy summer, the Ontario County



Fair and all its offerings and have received enough rain to keep the crops thriving after a dry, hot start. However, there is plenty more to enjoy this summer and a lot going on with Farm Bureau. First of all, the policy development season has begun. Surveys were sent out at the end of June. Hopefully

everyone filled out and returned the survey by the July 20 deadline; we need the feedback. If there are any policy changes or suggestions that are not in the survey, you can contact me by phone at 315-879-0943 or by email at kimskellie@gmail.com. You can also bring ideas and thoughts for discussion to the kitchen meeting in September or the Ontario County annual meeting in October. NYFB will be kicking off the season with its Commodity Committee webinar and conference calls in July and August, followed by feedback from the county annual meetings, and culminating with the State Annual Meeting in Syracuse in December.

If you want to affect who is deciding on our policy and laws locally, statewide and nationally, come to our meet-the-candidates picnic on Friday, Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. at

the Town of Seneca Park in Stanley. Lisa Grefrath is working on getting all the candidates to attend. It will be a good chance to ask questions, listen and decide for whom to cast your vote.

Lastly, I want to share with all of you a recent event at our farm. As many of you are aware, our farm straddles the Ontario/Wayne county line and the town line between Phelps and Arcadia. In addition, Wayne County Farm Bureau President, Matt Wunder, is a member of our team at El-Vi Farms. We decided to work with the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition to host a twilight tour. This was an evening tour of the farm to educate community leaders about what we do on a modern dairy and crop farm. We invited town, village and school officials from both sides of the line and 12 of them joined members of our team including our veterinarian, Nate Thompson; crop consultant, Tim Kehoe; Jessica Ziehm and Eileen Jensen from NYAAC and Ashley Randle from Northeast Dairy Producers Association. We took a one hour hay wagon ride on a planned route around the farm highlighting dairy cow nutrition, calf raising, cropping practices and nutrient management plans as well as animal health, focusing mostly on transitioning cows through pregnancy to a healthy lactation. After the ride, dairy ambassadors served ice cream sundaes during social time.

Cont'd inside:

