

North Country Farmers Advocate for Agriculture

Members from Jefferson County Farm Bureau recently spent time at the State Capitol meeting with lawmakers to advocate for public policy priorities that reinvest in our family farms and open up new markets for New York farm products. Members kicked off the two-day trip with New York Farm Bureau’s annual Taste of New York reception, a popular event attended by elected officials and decision makers. Jefferson County Farm Bureau’s booth provided samples of Black Sheep Root Beer from Otter Creek Winery in Philadelphia and cheese curd from the Great Lakes Cheese Company in Adams. Representatives spent a full day attending meetings with Senators and Members of the Assembly, not only with our own elected officials, but also with New York City legislators. They gave each lawmaker an honest assessment of the additional economic pressures family farms have been facing over the past two years, including low commodity and milk prices and rising labor costs. They discussed the need for a state budget that invests in critical research, promotion, farm safety and educational programs, clean water infrastructure and the Environmental Protection Fund and legislation to offset the harmful effects of the minimum wage increase.



From left to right: Devon Shelmidine, Assemblyman Will Barclay, Matt Laisdell, Kyle Hafemann and Oswego County Farm Bureau’s Eric Behling.

Fields Awarded New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship

Belleville Henderson Senior Adam Fields was named the 2017 New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship winner for Jefferson County. Adam’s thoughtful essay about the challenges farmers face in educating our lawmakers and his commitment to agriculture demonstrated on his application are shining examples of what this scholarship embodies.



Jefferson County Farm Bureau President Adam Miner (left) presents Adam Fields with a scholarship check on behalf of the county Farm Bureau.

He grew up on his dairy farm in Sackets Harbor and knew early on that taking over the farm one day was what he wanted to do. In the fall, he will be pursuing a Agricultural Engineering degree from SUNY Cobleskill and once back on the farm he plans to be involved in agricultural leadership organizations like Farm Bureau. He is inspired by leaders in his own community that work to bridge the gap between farmers and the non-farm public and how important that connection is to keeping his own farm viable.

Congratulations Adam!

54th Annual Jefferson County Dairy Princess Coronation
Friday, May 19 at the Watertown Elks Lodge
Cowtails at 6:30 p.m.
Introductions at 7:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner to Follow

The Jefferson County Agricultural Promotion Board would like to invite you to the 54th Annual Dairy Princess Promotion Coronation. The 2016-2017 Jefferson County Dairy Princess Krystle Burger, Alternate Dairy Princess Cassidy Schell, Dairy Ambassadors Alannah Cook, Cassidy Cook, Katelyn Burger and Claire Zumbach have been excellent promoters for the dairy farmers of Jefferson County. These young people and their families deserve a sincere thank you for their efforts. Your attendance at this banquet will be a way of honoring them for their hard work. The crowning of the new Dairy Princess and her court will take place immediately after the banquet. We hope you will join us for our annual tribute to the dairy industry of Jefferson County. **For more information, please contact Alison Widrick at 315-778-1227.**



The New York Farm Bureau Foundation
Fundraising Feast North

Friday, May 19
Tailwater Lodge, Altmar
6:30 p.m. reception with dinner at 7:15 p.m.
\$100 per person or \$750 for a table of 8
For more information, call Sandra Prokop
1-800-342-4143 or email sprokop@nyfb.org



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Keep up-to-date on everything Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Grown in New York Series is Back

Last year, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, and 11 other county Farm Bureaus, partnered with Spectrum News (formerly Time Warner Cable News) to produce an award winning series spotlighting Farm Bureau members and agriculture in the Central New York and Finger Lakes Regions. The purpose of this series is to educate the non-farm public on the scope and diversity of farming in their region. Each county Farm Bureau receives recognition through promotional spots as well as a thirty second Farm Bureau advertisement encouraging viewers to join Farm Bureau. Each episode airs on the third Saturday of the month each hour for 24 hours. The first episode of the 2017 season features Moser’s Maple in Croghan. Future episodes will air over the next seven months. These programs were recognized for their excellence at the American Farm Bureau Annual Meeting this past January. We hope you enjoy the content. If you are not a Spectrum subscriber, view the stories by going to www.twcnews.com.

159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Jefferson County
Farm Bureau News



Jefferson County Farm Bureau News



April 2017

President’s Report



As I sit down to write this, there has been a flurry of activity in Albany in regards to the state budget. After missing the initial April 1 deadline, lawmakers gave final approval to a spending plan that includes strong support for agricultural programs, environmental funding and the “Farm to Food Bank” tax credit. The last two years have been especially challenging for our family farms. I am pleased lawmakers heard our call for a sound investment that will keep our industry on a positive path. I encourage you to visit NYFB.org for the most up-to-date information on the legislative session in Albany and the current status of our priority issues in Washington, D.C. Once there, take a few moments to make your voice heard on issues that matter to you most. The E-Lobby Center is a powerful tool in our continued advocacy. Hearing directly from a farmer makes a measurable impact.

Membership Special: Through June, **new members** can join for two years (2017-2018) for **only \$99**. I encourage you to ask your neighbors, friends and family to become part of an effort to keep our farms viable. Thank you for your support!

Adam Miner

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1.800.342.4143
NYFB.org

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The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board meets each month on the first Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson County Community College in Watertown.



Nationwide®

The Kevin M. Daniels Agency would like to introduce our newest staff member, Kyle Gehrke. Kyle grew up on a farm, and his personal experience aids in helping to better anticipate your needs as a farmer.

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