

## Members Advocate for Agriculture

Members from Oneida County Farm Bureau recently spent time in Albany meeting with lawmakers to discuss the upcoming state budget and public policy priorities, joining farmers from across the state as part of New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day. They kicked off the two-day trip with the annual Taste of New York reception, a popular event that highlights the diversity of New York agriculture. Oneida's booth proudly served samples of local products including wine and Verona-Vernon-Sherrill FFA's maple syrup. Representatives from Oneida County spent a full day meeting with Senators and Assembly members, with not only their elected officials, but also with urban legislators whose districts are not comprised of farmland. They discussed the need for critical funding for agricultural research, farm safety and educational programs; proper investment in clean water infrastructure and the EPA; and enacting meaningful legislation that will help farmers offset detrimental costs associated with the minimum wage increase.



From left to right: Ben Simons, Jim Humphreys, Senator Valesky and VVS FFA members Jonathan Perry, Phil Lagoy and Danann Lohr in Albany.



Jackie Adams reads to VVS students.

## Agricultural Literacy Week Activities Make a Difference

In its 13th year, Agricultural Literacy Week (March 20-24) introduced elementary students to New York's booming grape industry. Local volunteers spent time in classrooms reading *The Grapes Grow Sweet* by Lynne Tuft, a wonderful story that captures the way of life for over 1,600 family owned vineyards in our state. After they read the book, students took part in hands-on activities that kept them engaged and learning. Each school then received a copy of the book to keep in their library. The opportunity to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation for local farmers has been an invaluable and welcome resource. Thank you to Cornell Cooperative Extension and the countless volunteers that help bring agriculture into our classrooms.

## Grown in New York Series is Back

Last year, Oneida County Farm Bureau, and eleven 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. 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](http://www.twcnews.com).

## The New York Farm Bureau Foundation

### Fundraising Feast North

Friday, May 19, Tailwater Lodge, in 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](mailto:sprokop@nyfb.org)



*Please join us . . .*  
for an unforgettable dining experience  
that supports agricultural education programs.

## Farm Fest 2017

Friday June 2nd

4:30 pm to 8:30 pm RAIN or SHINE

DiNitto Farms

6585 Benton Road Marcy NY



**Oneida County Farmers**  
Invite you to join them for some good old fashion fun and festivities the whole family will enjoy  
Visit educational displays and exhibits  
Learn about Agriculture and  
**ENJOY**

Pony Rides	Hay Rides
Farm Tours	Hay Maze
Games	Food
Petting Zoo	Vendors

Face Painting by Oneida County 4H

**Kiddie Tractor Pulls at 5pm and 7pm**  
Live local radio broadcast

Food will be available from  
local 4-H clubs  
Chicken BBQ by Stittville Fire Dept.

Co-sponsored by: Oneida County Farm Bureau, Oneida County Dairy Promotion & Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County. All donations are appreciated. For more information please call CCE Oneida County at (315) 736-3394

Please visit our website at [www.cceoneida.com](http://www.cceoneida.com)

**CASH ONLY, fee for pony rides and food (NO ATM)**



\*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities\*



To keep up-to-date on everything Oneida County Farm Bureau, like us on Facebook.

## Tractor Safety Course Offered

4-H Tractor Safety Course: Safe Tractor and Machine Operation Program is open to youth and adults 14 and over.

**When:** April 18-20 at the VFW in Clinton

**Cost:** \$25 for 4-H members  
\$30 non 4-H members

**Time:** 8:30 a.m.– 3 p.m.

All farm and non-farm youth and adults who will be working in or around machinery are encouraged to participate in this program. Please call the 4-H office to register at 315-736-3394 or online at [reg.cce.cornell.edu/2017TractorSafety](http://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2017TractorSafety).

**Registration Deadline is April 7.**





159 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12205



Oneida County Hi-Lite

# Oneida County Farm Bureau

## Hi-Lite

April 2017



### President's Report



Thank you to our members who took time last month to travel to Albany for New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day to represent the public policy interests of the over 420 families that make up our county Farm Bureau. They joined farmers from across the state to reinforce the need for funding and initiatives that are necessary to keep our industry moving in a positive direction. Almost every Senator and Assembly member met with a farmer to hear the hard reality of what the current business climate means to our rural economies. I am optimistic that Albany heard our concerns, but we will continue to make sure our voice is heard, not only in Albany, but in Washington and here at home.

Steve Adams

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1.800.342.4143  
NYFB.org

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Oneida County Farm Bureau  
Meet and Greet

Monday, April 17 at 7 p.m.  
Prospect Falls Winery  
400 Academy Street in Prospect

We hope you can join us for an evening of great conversation. Wine tastings available for a fee with light refreshments. Our monthly county Farm Bureau Board Meeting will follow at 8 p.m. Open to all county members to enjoy and get to know a local business.

Prospect Falls is Oneida County's first licensed winery and the county's second to open.



Prospect Falls Winery proudly served their award winning wine to the many attendees at the 2017 Taste of New York Reception. The event kicked off a productive Lobby Day at the state Capitol. Pictured above (left to right) Prospect Falls Winery's Stephen Keblish and Nick Keblish, OCFB Pro-Ed Chair Karen K. Lohr, OCFB Board Members Jim Humphreys and Kathy Gregory-Salvo.