

Onondaga County Farm Bureau is Taking Over Greenwood Winery

We are teaming up with Greenwood Winery and the employees of the Food Bank of Central New York for a fun afternoon of food, drinks and live music to shine the spotlight on hunger. Volunteers will be serving up food and drinks with ***all tips and proceeds*** from a signature cocktail “30 Meal Merlot Mix” and a signature burger, the Farm Bistro Burger, *going to the hunger-relief mission of the Food Bank.*

Please Join Us

Sunday, March 19 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Greenwood Winery & Bistro

6475 Collamer Road, East Syracuse

All tips and proceeds from our signature cocktail “30 Meal Merlot Mix and the Farm Bureau Bistro Burger will be donated to the Food Bank of Central New York’s hunger-relief mission

Musical entertainment provided by

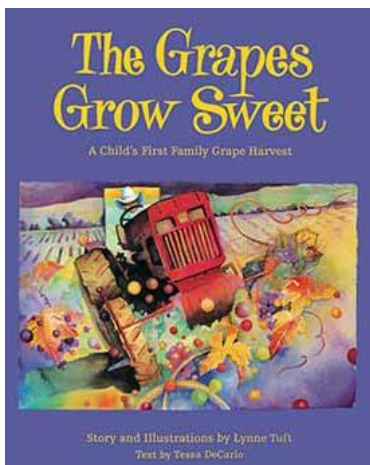
Kanjira



Help Bring Ag into the Classroom

In celebration of agriculture, we are once again taking an active role in Ag Literacy Week. It is such a rewarding program to be involved in, and hope you will join us this year. The **week of March 20-24**, we are looking for volunteers to read *The Grapes Grow Sweet* by Lynne Tuft to elementary school children. The book wonderfully captures the way of life for over 1,600 family-owned vineyards in our state. Students will gain a better understanding of the importance of grapes as an economic driver in our communities, and learn more about STEM careers, and post secondary opportunities related to the grape industry; from grape production, research, crop management, processing

to tourism, and hospitality. There are also fun, hands-on related activities to keep them learning and engaged. If you are interested in participating, please contact Melanie Palmer at 315-424-9485, ext. 228 or mjp232@cornell.edu.



Onondaga County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education News

The Onondaga County Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee is looking forward to an exciting year ahead with many quality opportunities to raise awareness about agriculture. To get involved, or to find out more about our upcoming programs, please contact Pro-Ed Chair Christina Hudson at 315-350-8883.

Ag Literacy Week March 20-24 – Thank you to New York Agriculture in the Classroom and Onondaga County Cornell Cooperative Extension for their efforts to help teachers integrate agricultural concepts into the classroom.

After School Ag Clubs – A six week pilot program is up and running in the Fayetteville-Manlius School District with hopes of expanding the program to other schools this fall. Volunteers are needed. If you are interested, please contact Christina.

Boy Scout Badges in Veterinary Sciences, Surveying, Farm Mechanics, Soil and Water Conservation – This venture is in the early phases of the planning process.

Onondaga County Agriculture Booth – We will be out and about at various events throughout the year as well as considering the feasibility of a booth at the Great New York State Fair in partnership with New York Farm Bureau, CCE, Dairy Promotions and FFA to show unity in Onondaga County agriculture.

Celebration of Agriculture Conference

March 31, 2017 • DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, East Syracuse

Cost: NYFB Members Luncheon & Registration -\$40

Workshops Include:

Drones in Agriculture; Bridging the Generational Divide; The Changing Face of NYFB Membership; How to Run or Ruin a Meeting; Speak Up, Speak Out

This conference is for EVERYONE – there is no age group, sector or business who will not benefit from the keynote speaker and workshops. For more information and to register, call 800-342-4143, or visit nyfb.com. **Registration deadline is March 17.**

Workshops include pesticide applicator recertification credits*

Extended Young Farmer Session

Friday March 31

Young Farmers and Ranchers Dinner & Syracuse Crunch Hockey Game

Saturday, April 1

Agricultural Related Tours – Cortland County

Z's Nutty Ridge Nursery- walnut, chestnut, and hazelnut farm

Trinity Valley – dairy farm with milk processing facility and retail shop

Cortland Beer Company – farm distillery and brewery located in downtown Cortland

Extended Young Farmer's Package- \$115*

****Onondaga County Farm Bureau will pay registration fees for all county Young Farmer members.*** Please contact Marcus Richards at 315-729-4130, or Dan Palladino at 315-766-7885 for details.





Onondaga County
Farm Bureau News



Members Only Discount

Farm Bureau members are eligible for \$500 off the purchase or lease of qualified 2016 and 2017 Chevrolet, Buick or GMC vehicles. From Silverado to Encore to Terrain and more!

- Must be a member for 30 days
- Stackable with other GM offers
- Visit FBVerify.com/GM to print your Membership Verification Certificate

NYFB.ORG



1.800.342.4143

Onondaga County Farm Bureau News

March 2017



President's Report



Dear Onondaga County Farm Bureau members,

What an exciting year 2016 was for our County! We ended the year winning our first Gold Key award in over 25 years at New York Farm

Bureau's State Annual Meeting for our program accomplishments in 2016! I was also honored to represent our county, and 10 other counties at the American Farm Bureau Federation's (AFBF) Annual Meeting in Phoenix to receive a national program award from AFBF President Duvall for our Time Warner Cable collaboration promoting agriculture and farms across 11 Central New York counties. I had the opportunity to meet leaders from across the country, and bring back ideas to help grow and strengthen agriculture in our county.

The following actions have us strongly positioned in 2017 to achieve our goal of making Onondaga County Farm Bureau one of the strongest county Farm Bureaus in New York:

We have a new **Membership Committee** lead by our Chair Scott Potter, who has already brought us to our annual membership goal three months earlier than last year.

We have a new **Local Issues Committee** composed of leaders from our board, as well as Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water, and county legislature. We are going to proactively go out and meet with

town boards to advocate for you and farming in your community.

Finally, what I feel is most critical for our future success as an organization, we have empowered our **Young Farmers & Ranchers** Chair (Marcus Richards) and **Promotion and Education** Chair (Christina Hudson) with strong committees, and a healthy budget and activity plan to reach out into our community, and in particular to our youth. You will find this quarter's newsletter is all about some of the great events we have planned already.

Your membership dollars are hard at work, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Please join us at these events this year and to help us show Onondaga County how important agriculture is for our future, and how much we value youth, each other, and our entire community.

Dan Palladino

Dutch Hill Maple Tour Friday, March 10 at 4:00 p.m.

1275 Woodmarcy Road, Tully

Open to Farm Bureau members ages 18-35

Come out and learn more about the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, and to see Onondaga County's largest maple sugar operation.

This is the first of many Young Farmer events planned for 2017. Keep an eye on your inbox, mailbox and be sure to like Onondaga County Farm Bureau's Facebook page to keep up-to-date. We have some great educational and networking opportunities on the horizon, including a bowling night out and a local brewery tour.