

Oswego County Farm Bureau Advocates for Agriculture

Farmers from Oswego County spent time in Albany recently to advocate for public policy in support of the more than 200 farm families that make up the county Farm Bureau. They joined farmers from across the state as part of New York Farm Bureau's annual Lobby Day. The two-day trip kicked off with the popular Taste of New York reception attended by elected officials and decision makers. Samples of apple and grape wines and wine slushies from Ashley Lynn Winery in Mexico were among the many New York products attendees enjoyed. "The reception is a great way to start our visit to Albany," said Oswego County Farm Bureau Vice-President Eric Behling. "Our lawmakers are treated to the diverse quality offerings from our farmers all in one venue. They can see the immense contribution from an industry that has faced many challenges over the past few years."

Farmers spent a full day meeting with Senators and Assembly members to push for policies that reinvest in agriculture. They met with their own elected officials along with representatives from New York City who are often far removed from the daily challenges farmers face. They discussed the need for critical funding for research, promotion, farm safety and educational programs along with legislation to help ease the burden from the minimum wage increase.



The team from Ashley Lynn Winery with Senator Patty Ritchie at Taste of New York in Albany.

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



*for an unforgettable dining experience
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Looking for Volunteers



Oswego County Farm Bureau is looking for members with talents in the areas of landscaping and nursery greenhouse skills who would be willing to volunteer some of their time or supplies to the county Farm Bureau's efforts to spruce up the grounds at the Oswego County Fair. If you are able to assist, please contact Nancy Weber at 315-963-7311. Thank You!

The award winning *Grown in New York* Series on Spectrum News (formerly Time Warner Cable) is back for another round of stories highlighting the scope of agriculture in our region. Oswego County Farm Bureau is proud to join 11 other county Farm Bureaus to sponsor the series aimed at giving the non-farm public an inside look at the diversity and dedication of our family farms. If you are not a Spectrum subscriber, visit www.twcnews.com to see the latest videos.

Fostering a Love of Agriculture at an Early Age

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



Gary Hayden spent time with 2nd graders at Volney Elementary School in Fulton during Ag Literacy Week. The book will stay in the school's library for even more children to explore the grape industry.



Mark your calendars: 2017 Oswego County Fair August 9-13



Pre-Registration is required. Register by April 21

Spring 2017 CleanSweepNY collections will take place on the following dates and locations. Pre-registration is necessary:

May 9 – N. Syracuse

May 10 – Castle Creek

CleanSweepNY services are provided to farmers and owners of former farms, all categories of NYS certified pesticide applicators, cemeteries, golf courses, marinas and other entities possessing unwanted or unusable pesticides and other waste chemicals. Each participant is responsible for transporting their own materials to the collection site. The targeted counties in DEC Region 7 are: Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Madison, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga and Tompkins. **Registration packets can be requested by phone by calling 1-877-793-3769 or by emailing info@cleansweepny.com Registration required by April 21.** CleansweepNY services not available to homeowners.

159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Oswego County
Farm Bureau News

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April 2017



President's Report



A true value of your Farm Bureau membership is a team dedicated to advocating for sound public policy on your behalf in Albany and Washington, D.C. Our members do a great job too, this was evident last month as farmers

traveled to the state Capitol for our annual Lobby Day. Almost every Senator and Assembly member met with a farmer to hear how important critical funding and legislation is needed to help our farms remain competitive and viable. Visits like that, phone calls and emails truly do make a difference, but when we cannot be there our Farm Bureau team is. Albany's April 1 budget deadline passed without an agreement and after a tense week of non-stop negotiations, lawmakers approved a final spending plan that includes strong support for agricultural programs, environmental funding and the "Farm to Food Bank" tax credit.

I encourage you to keep up-to-date on what is happening by visiting NYFB.org. There you will find a more detailed analysis of the state budget and outstanding priority issues that we are advocating for during the remainder of the state legislative session and in Washington. The E-Lobby center provides an effective easy way to make your voice heard.

Orion Behling

Be sure to follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date with everything Oswego County Farm Bureau



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The Board usually meets on the first Monday of the month at the Cooperative Extension Office, 3288 Main Street Mexico, NY.