

New York Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 5330  
Albany, NY 12205



Schoharie County  
Farm Bureau News

# Schoharie County Farm Bureau News



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

March 2017

### President’s Report



It’s been a long time since my last column. We’ve had an election, *It’s been that long* two elections actually. Congratulations to David Fisher, our newly elected New York Farm Bureau President. Holidays, major snow storms, I guess 8” is a big storm. I just think of it as a normal snowfall. New CAFO regulations, it takes a Philadelphia lawyer to figure them out and Lobby Days was on March 7. Maple sap has started to run and quite a bit of syrup has been made. I know spring is around the corner because my vegetable seeds were delivered today. Soon there will be fences to mend and ground to plow. The circle continues, but take a moment to review your safety protocols on your farm. Review with your family and employees the do’s and don’ts of appropriately handling cattle and cutting wood. Finally, if you haven’t renewed your membership dues please consider doing so. We have a special rebate program going on now.

Schoharie County Farm Bureau has been busy. Our milk coupons have been delivered to our food pantries and we have finished the update to our Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. Membership growth is always difficult but we continue to reach out to new potential members. You can help us with this effort. Sign up your friends or neighbors that want to support agriculture in the county.

We also want to recognize our newest young farmer member, Marc Silva. Marc participated in the national Young Farmer Discussion Meet at AFBF that was recently held in Phoenix. He climbed through the ranks to the Sweet Sixteen. Quite an accomplishment. Congratulations!

John Radliff

### Membership Rebates for New Members and Renewals

The Schoharie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors has been discussing how to encourage new membership growth and the retention of the current membership. The Board of Directors voted at the March meeting to create a rebate of \$10 for everyone that has renewed or will renew their memberships from Nov. 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

For new members, starting on March 1, NYFB has once again instituted the \$99 membership special for the remainder of 2017 and 2018. Those who join Schoharie County as new members before June 30 will receive a \$24 rebate from the county Farm Bureau. By granting these rebates, it will level the final membership dues structure for every member in Schoharie County. In order to qualify, the renewing or new member will need to pay the current fee to activate their membership and then Schoharie County Farm Bureau will issue the rebate at the next monthly meeting.

This is the best way to incentivize your friends, neighbors and coworkers to join with the largest agricultural advocacy organization. Each members’ voice counts and together our voices are louder and clearer than they ever could be individually.

### Updated Schoharie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

Schoharie County has a new and updates Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. This plan was appointed by County Administrator Steve Wilson, and approved by the board of supervisors. We wish to thank the board of supervisors and our county administrator for recognizing the importance of agriculture to our local economy and its potential to develop and create new jobs and economic growth.

### Calendar of Events

- March 20-24: Ag Literacy Week
- March 31: Celebrate Agriculture Conference, Syracuse

### Schoharie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

John Radliff, President.....	234-2820
Jim Saddlemire, VP.....	295-8664
Winnie Nelson, Treasurer.....	295-7571
Linda Cross.....	868-9303
Fred Martin.....	895-8955
Nickolas Kossman.....	788-7840
Nancy Nally.....	868-4009
Sarah Blood, YF.....	858-3183
Alicia Terry.....	827-7143
District 9 Director-Darin Hickling.....	(607)267-0703
Field Advisor, Todd Heyn.....	431-9338



### Prescription Savings and More

- **Prescription Drugs** - savings that average over 45%
- **Vision Care** - Up to 50% off usual charges for contact lenses and eyeglass examinations and materials
- **Daily Living Products**- Get 10% off a wide selection of assistive daily living products including fitness, safety, medical supplies and more

For more information about the ScriptSave Prescription Savings Program, visit [www.scriptsave.com](http://www.scriptsave.com)

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1.800.342.4143

DISCOUNT ONLY - NOT INSURANCE. Discounts are available exclusively through participating pharmacies. The range of the discounts will vary depending on the type of provider and services rendered. This program does not make payments directly to providers. Members are required to pay for all health care services. You may cancel your registration at any time or file a complaint by contacting Customer Care. This program is administered by Medical Security Card Company, LLC of Tucson, AZ.

**Mini-Grants available from Schoharie County  
Soil & Water Conservation District**

The Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District is announcing a farm conservation mini-grant program. This program will provide implementation funds for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) that will reduce sediment, erosion and non-point source pollution from entering the waters of Schoharie County. In the list below are some examples of the common conservation practices that could be implemented on farms under this program.

- Access Road
- Animal Trails and Walkways
- Roof Water Collection
- Diversion
- Fuel Storage Tanks
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Stream Crossing
- Milkhouse Waste Collection System
- Water and Sediment Control Basin

Funding will be provided with a maximum amount of \$5,500 with an additional \$500 to be used for engineering fees only. All projects submitted will require a sight visit by district staff and then ranked by the Board of Directors of the Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District. All practices must be implemented and paid for by December 31, 2017. You will be notified by the District as to whether your project was selected for funding under this opportunity.

Farms should contact the District to apply for consideration or questions. Farms will need to provide a schedule F if selected for funding. Selection will continue until all funds are expended. The applications are due April 28, 2017.

**Celebrate Agriculture Conference  
“Meeting the Challenge of Change”  
March 31, Syracuse, NY**

The Celebration of Agriculture Conference will be held on Friday, March 31 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Syracuse. An extended Young Farmer program will begin Friday evening with an event at the Syracuse Crunch Hockey Game with agricultural tours planned for Saturday, Apr. 1.

Hotel Reservation Deadline: March 15  
Conference Registration: March 17  
For detailed agenda please visit: [http://www.nyfb.org/news\\_and\\_events/](http://www.nyfb.org/news_and_events/)

**Meet your Schoharie County Farm Bureau  
Board of Directors – James Saddlemire**

When you think of Jim Saddlemire, you think of grain, hay and trucks. Very few people think about him as a free rock climber, hiker and an advocate of the Adirondacks. In Jim’s part time, he finds the time to help maintain the trail system and the hiking shelters that dot the Adirondacks. Jim along with several other volunteers will go in on weekends to stabilize trails and rebuild the shelters. Not only does Jim volunteer to do this, he is also a coordinator. Part of his job is to work with DEC to have the materials and the manpower at the work stations throughout the Adirondacks to rebuild the hiking shelters and trails. Using native materials, the crews will go in on weekends, or several weekends, depending on the case and do the necessary repair tasks. Along with coordinating the necessary manpower, Jim also needs to make sure that the non-native materials required are brought in either on the backs of volunteers or helicoptered in by DEC depending on location. We don’t know where Jim finds the time to do this but he does because he is a very strong advocate for the hiking trail system in the Adirondacks. The Schoharie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is proud to have Jim as a member and we thank him for his service to agriculture as well as the Adirondacks.



**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

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1.800.342.4143

**Fiber Mill Seeks Public Support in Schoharie County**

Samantha Graves arrived in Richmondville with a dream of opening a fiber mill in the next three years. Little did she realize as soon as farmers heard news of a local mill they would be dropping fiber off to her front door.

The change meant buying equipment for processing on the farm and the addition of other fiber animals to the farm, including alpaca.

“As we grew, so did my dream of processing for other farmers,” explained Graves. “I know fiber processing can be intimidating for people new to fiber. And I thought it would be good to reach out to those dual purpose farmers who raise sheep for meat or alpacas for hobby, but may be storing or giving away fiber.”

Graves spent nearly a year trying to locate the best place to open a mill. She saw real potential for a fiber mill in upstate New York.

“Within three weeks of moving into our house, we received an invitation to look at some buildings available for lease by SUNY Cobleskill. We found the ideal location for the mill on a property immediately adjoining campus,” she said.

There was only one problem. They still needed the necessary milling equipment to open the larger mill.

“I have been visiting the milling equipment folks for the past few years and they’ve been very patient with me,” Graves said with a laugh. “We need to raise some immediate funds to pay for the equipment and to retrofit the existing building.”

Rather than apply for a loan, which Graves fears would force her to raise her prices, she went a different route. She is asking fiber enthusiasts and farmers to get behind her as Founding Farmers for the mill by contributing their pre-order down payments for processing toward funding the mill. It’s not the first time a business has leveraged down payments on a crowdfunding platform like Kickstarter, but Graves said reaching the necessary demographic requires enormous support and the addition of donations.

“Really, I think we’ll pull this off with a good combination of support from farmers and fiber folks as well as through donations.” said Graves.

Anyone interested in supporting the opening of the mill please visit [www.oldnyfibers.com](http://www.oldnyfibers.com) and click on Founding Farmers or go directly to [www.kickstarter.com](http://www.kickstarter.com) and search “Old New York Fiber Mill.”

**It’s About More than Just Farms and Farmers -  
Todd Heyn, NYFB Field Advisor**

As a Field Advisor with New York Farm Bureau, one of my main responsibilities is working to increase our membership. It’s a known fact that the more members that we have increases our strength with our agricultural advocacy efforts in Albany and Washington D.C. Traditionally we have only reached out to our farming neighbors and asked them to join with us in our efforts.

In this day and age, we need to expand our outreach efforts to all of our neighbors, friends and coworkers. There has been a huge up swell of people that are interested in agriculture due to the farm to table movement as well as the giant influx of people moving from urban and suburban areas to our rural and country roads. It is these people that can and should be members of New York

Farm Bureau. They want to support the farms around them because they rely on the farms for fresh and locally grown meats and produce. These potential members also want to support their local farms because they are a large part of the ambiance that caused them to choose to live where they do. These people chose to move here because of the farms, the open spaces and the forests. If there is no agriculture, these areas will be developed into more housing and industrial areas.

If we are to maintain and then increase our strength in Albany and Washington D.C., we need to also increase our membership. To do that, we need every member to talk to their friends, family and neighbors about becoming a member. Not just those that are involved in agriculture but also those that use agriculture as part of their daily lifestyle. Together, we can make a difference that will be stronger than any one person could do on their own.