

## North Country Farmers Advocate for Agriculture in Albany

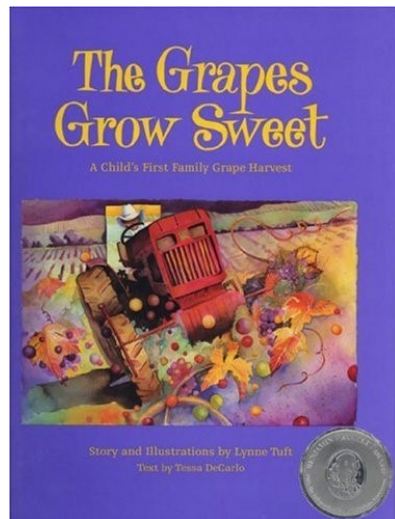
Members from St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau recently spent time at the State Capitol meeting with lawmakers to advocate for public policy priorities that reinvest in our family farms and open up new markets for New York farm products. Members kicked off the two-day trip with New York Farm Bureau's annual Taste of New York reception, a popular event attended by elected officials and decision makers. 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 investment 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.

While in Albany, St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau had the opportunity to present a plaque to Senator Patty Ritchie, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, on behalf of the farm families of the 48th Senate District for standing up for agriculture. Her hard work and dedication were evident in the final state budget passed shortly after the April 1 deadline. There is strong support for agricultural programs, environmental funding and the "Farm to Food Bank" tax credit. For more information on the final state budget visit NYFB.org.



*St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau's Jon Greenwood and Kevin Acres joined Jefferson and Oswego County Farm Bureau members in Albany to thank Senator Patty Ritchie for her hard work and dedication in support of agriculture.*

## Fostering a Love of Agriculture at an Early Age



In its 13th year, Agricultural Literacy Week (March 20-24) introduced St. Lawrence County elementary students to New York's booming grape industry. Countless volunteers in classrooms spent time reading 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.

## Agricultural Academy Accepting Enrollment for Next Year

The Agricultural Studies Academy at Cornell Cooperative Extension's Learning Farm is accepting enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year. The Academy is a partnership between Cornell Cooperative Extension and St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES and offers a one year program to high school seniors who are interested in pursuing careers in agriculture or agribusiness. The Agricultural Academy offers an integrated curriculum and emphasizes: business management, plant and crop science, agricultural mechanics, animal and veterinary science, food production and processing, computer applications and environmental stewardship. In addition to receiving classroom instruction, the Academy's location at Cooperative Extension's Learning Farm gives students the opportunity to receive hands-on field experience in livestock production and management, poultry production, hay production, rotational grazing, managing a sugar bush as well as seasonal vegetable and fruit production.

**To enroll**, high school students graduating in 2018 must be in good academic standing and have completed their regents requirements. Students interested in enrolling in the program can initiate the process by contacting their school counselor. Students and parents who would like to learn more about the Agricultural Academy or would like to schedule a visit can contact Patty Gilbert at 315-379-9192 or email [patricia.gilbert@slboces.org](mailto:patricia.gilbert@slboces.org).



## Young Farmers and Ranchers Strike Up a Good Time

At the beginning of March, St. Lawrence County Young Farmers and Ranchers held a bowling night in Ogdensburg. It was a nice family event filled with fun and great company. Young Farmer Chair Patty Gilbert is looking to plan

the next event and would welcome any suggestions or help planning. Please reach out to Patty with ideas at 315-244-6505 and make sure to like the St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau Young Farmers on Facebook.



## North Wind Farm Day Camp 2017



Are you looking for an exciting fun and educational summer experience for your child in the Canton area? North Wind Farm Day Camp is now open for registration. For more information on weekly themes and registration visit [st.lawrence.cce.cornell.edu](http://st.lawrence.cce.cornell.edu) or call Justin Hicks at 315-379-9192 ext. 261.

**Membership Special:** Through June, **new members** can join Farm Bureau for two years (2017-2018) for only \$99. Ask a friend or neighbor to join today!





St. Lawrence County  
Farm Bureau News

# St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau News

## April 2017



### Presidents Report



I know many of you are hard at work preparing for what I hope to be another productive and safe season. Farm Bureau has spent the last few months of winter

ensuring our lawmakers recognize the importance of what we do and how hard we work to provide for our communities. Our Farm Bureau President David Fisher hit the ground running fighting for a better tomorrow for every farmer. We held a nice reception in February to wish him well in his new role.

I attended New York Farm Bureau’s Lobby Day in Albany with Kevin Acres joining farmers from across the state to advocate for agriculture. Our meetings paid off as both the Senate and Assembly released their one-house budget proposals shortly after our visit, each with a strong support for agriculture. It has been a tough few years for our family farms and I want to thank our members, our Farm Bureau public policy team and our lawmakers, especially Senator Ritchie, for putting together a final New York State budget that addressed several of our priority issues and puts us back on a positive path. This includes funding for numerous programs that support agriculture education research, promotion and economic development for our diverse community. We will continue to keep the lines of communication open with our representatives in Albany and Washington, D.C. to preserve and strengthen agriculture.

*Jon Greenwood*



### DEC Fuel Inspections

DEC has begun inspecting fuel storage on area farms to ensure farms are in compliance. Please double check that your monthly inspection reports are up-to-date and all of your storage is in good repair.



We are switching up our normal summer barbeque in favor of a summer social event at Scott Loomis’ stable in Waddington. Please watch your email and mailbox for more information about this event.



St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau commonly communicates **breaking news, events** and other **information** by email, but we do not have all of your email addresses. Please email ktombly@nyfb.org with your name and farm name so we can add you to the list! Even if you think we have your email, please email us anyway so we can check that your information is correct. We promise never to distribute your information or flood your inbox with email.

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*St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau meets on the third Wednesday of every month at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Research Farm, State Highway 68, Canton, NY at 7 p.m.*