

Albany County Farm Bureau News August 2017



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

President's Report

Greetings from Albany County Farm Bureau



Recently the Albany County Farm Bureau board partnered with the Eastern New York Farm Bureau Regional Office for a variety of services. One of the services is to produce newsletters, and I am pleased to introduce the first edition to you.

As a grassroots organization, Farm Bureau depends on input from its members in its support of the agricultural community. As such, this first newsletter has a focus on upcoming policy development issues and is seeking your thoughts, ideas and concerns surrounding your life and business in agriculture.

Some of the current issues under discussion include:

- Eligibility of farm operations under seven acres for agricultural assessments;
- Extension of Real Property Tax (RP-483) exemption for agricultural buildings
- Prohibition of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for hunting wildlife in NYS

In this newsletter, you will find further information about current issues of concern. As Farm Bureau members, it's up to us to bring these issues to our County Annual Meeting in October for consideration. More information on date will be in future mailings. Please feel free to contact anyone on the Albany County Farm Bureau Board with your concerns and ideas.

I hope you enjoy this first edition newsletter and I look forward to your thoughts and comments. My contact information is: 62landarch@gmail.com and 518-466-5770. Thanks,

Respectfully,
Ed Kleinke, III

Policy Development Questions:

Please review these topics and bring this to your county policy development meeting and County Annual Meeting this summer and fall as a jumping off point for discussion in your county. As always, members are strongly encouraged to bring unique ideas/suggestions to your county Farm Bureau board of directors. and plan to develop policy specific to the needs in your county.

State Policy Items:

1. Should farm operations of less than seven acres used in agricultural production be able to generate less than the current \$50,000 in annual gross sales income to be eligible for agricultural assessment?
2. Should the Real Property Tax (RP-483) exemption for agricultural buildings be extended?
3. Should New York prohibit the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) for hunting wildlife?
4. Should there be a tax credit or other incentive for carbon farming?
5. Should New York allow insurance corporations to receive a tax credit for investing in rural business growth funds and to establish a fund for investment in agriculture and enterprises that create jobs in rural areas?
6. Should providing shelter be included and defined in the animal cruelty statute?
7. Should a standard be set in law for "pollinator-friendly solar arrays"?
8. Should alcoholic beverage producers be able to electronically file their tax returns?
9. Should koji-based distilled spirits be defined under Alcoholic Beverage Control Law and eligible for sale at retail for consumption at locations licensed to sell wine?
10. Should there be annual New York ingredients reporting requirements for farm brewery licensees?

Cont'd on back: ➡

**Albany County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**

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Renee Schoonmaker, Field Advisor	461-8659
Dean Casey, NYFB Director	796-4874
NYFB Eastern Regional Office.....	866-995-7300



159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205

**Albany County Cornell Cooperative
Extension Calendar**

TOMATOES 101

Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2017

EPA Certified RRP Refresher Training

Thursday, Aug. 17, 2017

Fermented Foods For Health

Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017

Master Food Preservation Workshop

Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2017

***For more information on workshops, please call
the extension office at 518-765-3500.***

Policy Questions Cont'd:

11. Should a database be created that provides information regarding the ownership of music rights for music licensing fees?
12. Should NYFB support state-level funding to the New York State Agricultural Mediation Program?
13. Should an individual be granted additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification in any of the agricultural specialties if they have a certification in just one of the CTE Agricultural titles and pass the
14. Should the New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Program be restarted?

National Policy Topics:

15. Should Farm Bureau have national policy supporting Agricultural Mediation Programs?
16. Should a farmer be required to complete all practices described in their CNMP within an EQIP contract period, regardless if the practice is necessary to complete the EQIP-funded project?

**Do You Know New York Farm Bureau
Has An E-Lobby Center?**

**Go to www.nyfb.org and click on the E-Lobby
box to advocate on important issues in agriculture.**