

Schoharie County Farm Bureau News

Summer 2017



Schoharie County Farm Bureau's County Annual Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017

The Olde Tater Barn

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Schoharie County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The meeting will be held at The Olde Tater Barn in Central Bridge on Thursday, Sept. 14. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with a cash bar available. Dinner will cost \$30 per participant and will be served at 7:00 p.m. The annual business meeting will follow. Please RSVP to Linda Cross at 518-868-9303 or crosslk@midtel.net.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Jessica Ziehm, Executive Director of the New York Animal Agriculture Coalition (NYAAC). NYAAC is a farmer led organization that supports the New York dairy industry. Ziehm brings a unique perspective on marketing and selling agriculture to the general public that continues to grow further removed from the farm.

Each regular member in attendance will also have the opportunity to debate and vote on new resolutions that are proposed. These resolutions are the potential future policies of NYFB that dictate where the organization is headed. It is said that those who show up make the rules. If you want to see NYFB support or oppose certain issues, this is the time to let your opinions be known. If you have a new resolution or would like to suggest a change to current Farm Bureau policy, please reach out to one of the Schoharie County Farm Bureau Board of Directors or field advisor in advance of the dinner to make the business portion of the meeting as time efficient as possible. This will allow the time to work with you to make sure your suggestion is presented in a clear and concise format. Contact information can be found in this newsletter.

Board of Director Vacancies

It is said that organizations are only as strong as those that step up to assist in the administration. To that end, Schoharie County Farm Bureau is looking to fill a couple vacancies on its board. Board positions are for two-year terms and are limited by its by-laws to three terms in a row. The board meets roughly once each month for an approximately 90-minute meeting. The board also has responsibilities for membership recruitment as well as assistance in organizing and running a couple of activities and/or events each year. If you are interested in stepping up to assist in leading Schoharie County Farm Bureau, please reach out to one of the current board members or the field advisor to express your interest.

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*Discount rates may vary between 5 and 25 percent, depending on time of year, availability and other factors. **Farm Bureau discount may NOT be stacked with other AWD corporate or BCD corporate or membership discounts.

“Forgotten Farms” Film Screening in Cobleskill

Schoharie County Farm Bureau is proud to bring a screening of the film, “Forgotten Farms” to the Cobleskill/Richmondville High School auditorium on the evening of Sept. 19. The evening will start with a free ice cream social at 6:00 p.m., the showing will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the night will conclude with a panel discussion with the film’s creators and local authorities including the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture, Richard Ball.

Below is an excerpt from the film’s website:

The film “Forgotten Farms” examines class divides in our farm and food communities. Most people buy their food in supermarkets and don’t have a chance to meet their farmer, as the bumper sticker recommends. But in more affluent communities, farm-to-table restaurants, farmer’s markets and CSAs are booming and the new farmers are celebrated.

There is another farmer who is left out of the local food celebration.

New England has lost over 10,000 dairy farms in the past 50 years; fewer than 2,000 farms remain. Collectively, they tend 1.2 million acres of farmland and produce almost all of the milk consumed in New England. In our enthusiasm for the new food movement, we often overlook the farmers at the foundation of the regional agricultural economy. Only 100 years ago, New



159 Wolf Road

Albany, NY 12205

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England produced most of its own food on 16 million acres of farmland. Climate change will demand that more of our food is grown closer to where we live. As we strive to revive local production, we have much to learn from dairy farmers who have been managing most of the farmland and sustaining the farm economy all along. Through conversations with farmers and policy experts, the film reconsiders the role of these vital but forgotten farmers.

Forgotten Farms gives us a glimpse into the past and a vision for a future regional food system. The documentary shows the cultural divide between the new food movement and traditional farming, highlighting the need to examine differences, develop mutual understanding, and find common ground. A truly sustainable local food system that benefits everyone will rely on all of our farmers.

Schoharie County Farm Bureau

Board of Directors

John Radliff, President.....	518-234-2820
James Saddlemire.....	518-295-7006
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