

Genesee County Farm Bureau Attends NYFB Lobby Days in Albany March 1-3

Members from Genesee County Farm Bureau participated in numerous Lobby Day zoom meetings with various members of the Senate explaining concerns effecting our farming communities.

Some of the more important ideas discussed

- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 21/22 state budget
- Continue investment in the Nourish-NY program which has supported over 4,152 farms
- Invest/harmonize Agricultural Programs at State Agricultural Colleges and Universities, including CALS, Morrisville, Colbeskill and Alfred
- Remove overtime requirement for voluntary day of rest for workers, if the employee will not work the number of hours needed to receive overtime
- Extend the statutorily required farm housing inspection deadline for houses with 4 or less employees to January 1, 2022
- Oppose legislative pesticide prohibition or ban bills that circumvent the registration process at the Department of Environmental Conservation
- Support farmers in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change through funding of critical programs in the Environmental Protection Fund and legislative programs that support on farm mitigation, including renewable energy
- Enact a stat renewable fuels standard to help mitigate methane while providing a reliable low carbon fuel source
- Oppose efforts to further restrict the use of medically necessary preventative and therapeutic use of antibiotics
- Ensure continued use of veterinarian and scientifically based animal care practices on farm
- Increase access to rural broadband to allow for enhanced marketing and sales, along with greater utilization of farm equipment technology



Photo above: County Farm Bureau members along with Field Advisors, on Lobby Day zoom with Senator Edward Rath

2021 STATE PRIORITIES

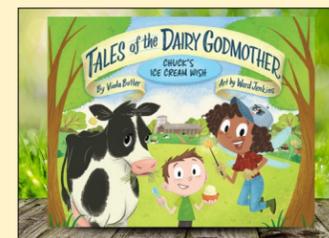
New York Farm Bureau works every day to advocate for agricultural industry and our rural communities. We identify key issues that directly and indirectly impact agriculture through a structured, grassroots policy development process that reflects the collective interests of our members. These policies determine the focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

New York Farm Bureau's Board of Directors has established the following state priority issues for 2021:

- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 21/22 state budget.
- Continue investment in the Nourish-NY program.
- Invest/harmonize agricultural programs at state agricultural colleges and universities, including CALS, Morrisville, Cobleskill and Alfred.
- Remove overtime requirement for voluntary day of rest for workers, if the employee will not work the number of hours needed to receive overtime.
- Extend the statutorily required farm housing inspection deadline for houses with four or less employees to Jan. 1, 2022.
- Oppose legislative pesticide prohibition or ban bills that circumvent the registration process at the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Support farmers in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change through funding of critical programs in the Environmental Protection Fund and legislative programs that support on-farm mitigation, including renewable energy.
- Enact a state renewable fuels standard to help mitigate methane while providing a reliable low carbon fuel source.
- Oppose efforts to further restrict the use of medically necessary preventative and therapeutic use of antibiotics.
- Ensure continued use of veterinarian and scientifically-based animal care practices on farm.
- Increase access to rural broadband to allow for enhanced marketing and sales, along with greater utilization of farm equipment technology.

AGRICULTURAL LITERACY WEEK

MARCH 15-19, 2021



Each year, for one week in March, a *Celebration of Agriculture* is brought into classrooms throughout the United States. Agricultural Literacy Week is intended to introduce children to the importance of the agricultural industry and helps them to have an awareness of where their food comes from. Introducing children to agricultural literacy is done through pre-selected books read to classrooms with additional activities reinforcing the ideas that are introduced.

This year's selection is "Chuck's Ice Cream Wish (Tales of the Dairy Godmother)". Written by Viola Butler with illustrations by Ward Jenkins, the story has Chuck's dairy godmother take his wish for ice cream and introduce him to the work that farmers do everyday taking care of the cows to get the milk to make the ice cream.

This year, Genesee County Farm Bureau is pleased once again to support Agricultural Literacy Week by purchasing the books being read to classes. These books will then be donated to school and classroom libraries so that all children can learn the importance and value that agriculture brings to our communities.

Scholarship Available For High School Seniors

Genesee County Farm Bureau is once again offering a scholarship for graduating seniors who are continuing their education beyond high school through a trade school or a two or four year collegiate program related to agriculture. The award will go to the child of a regular or associate member of the county Farm Bureau. Scholarship applications are available from the regional office or on the website at www.geneseecountyfarmbureau.com.

The award decision will be based on:

- involvement in agriculture and the applicant's stated intentions to remain involved in agriculture;
- scholastic participation;
- activities; and
- application responses and essays.

The scholarship committee will review all applications and make a final decision about the award recipient. **Completed applications must be returned to the office no later than April 30, 2021.** Interviews will be held if necessary.

Award recipient will be notified by June 1. Please share with graduating seniors you may know!



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SIGN UP NEW FARM BUREAU MEMBERS AND RECEIVE AWARDS

2021 MEMBERSHIP INDIVIDUAL AWARDS & INCENTIVES

HONOR CLUB

Sign up 1 new membership and NYFB will recognize your accomplishment by awarding you a special gift at your County Annual Meeting.

HIGH FIVE AWARD

Sign up 5 new memberships and NYFB will show its appreciation for your hard work by awarding you with a special Farm Bureau apparel item.

MARCH MEMBERSHIP CASH INCENTIVE

For each new membership you sign up during March you will receive a \$20 cash incentive. Valid for new members signed up 3/1/2021 - 3/31/2021

NYFB.org
1.800.342.4143



Contact your Local Field Advisor with any questions.

Genesee County Farm Bureau
420 E Main St
Batavia, NY 14020



Genesee County
Farm Bureau News



Serving our members Since 1967



Workers' Compensation Safety Group 486

Take a look at what NYFB Safety Group 486 has to offer.

- **16.3% Average Decrease** in 2019 rates for Safety Group 486 policyholder
- **Cumulative rate decrease of over 51%** in the past four years.
- **36% five-year Dividend Average**
- **25% Maximum Safety Group Upfront Discount**
- **Low 8.5% Group Managers' Fee**
- **Licensed NYFB staff** services account and acts as liaison with NYSIF

Call Amanda Krenning-Muoio for a quote 585-749-9508

* Percentage is based on dividends paid 2014 through 2018. Dividends are not guaranteed. Continued membership in NYFB is required to participate in Safety Group 486. Eligibility for insurance is subject to the New York State Insurance Fund underwriting requirements. NYFB and its subsidiaries have no authority to bind coverage for any member.

Krenning-Muoio licensed to sell Workers' Compensation insurance.



New York Farm Bureau Senior Field Advisor, Amanda Krenning-Muoio, is now licensed to sell Workers' Compensation Insurance for NYFB's Group 486 Safety Group. Amanda completed the license training and passed the state exam in 2019. "We are very pleased that Amanda is now a fully licensed property and casualty agent and able to work with our staff in the Albany office to help our members with quotes for their Workers' Compensation insurance needs", said Henry Talmage, Director of Member Relations and Economic Services. Amanda will continue her duties as a Field Advisor serving Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Orleans, Wayne & Wyoming counties.

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President's Report

By Bruce Naas

I hope everyone has had a safe and healthy winter. Hopefully the warm weather and the increase of covid vaccinations will bring a reprieve from the virus giving us the ability to get out and see the neighbors.

Your county F.B. has been active throughout the winter months with our "new normal". These included monthly zoom meetings, emails, and our recent virtual lobby days. We have been pushing for vaccinations for all farm employees, a moratorium on farm overtime issues, as well as a closer look at proposed chemical/pesticide restrictions coming from New York State.

As spring and summer approach, I have renewed faith that we will once again be able to conduct in-person meetings, talk with you at your farm, and safely bring our elected officials out to see how we do business. I sincerely hope we can capitalize on the growing trend from the consumer to know where their food comes from, how it is produced and why we do what we do to provide the best quality and value anywhere in the world.

Hopefully we can use these topics to build stronger relationships with our folks in Albany. This definitely will be a year to highlight how and why we farm.

GENESEE COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Naas, President.....	716-747-3765
James Kingston, Vice President.....	585-813-8640
Danielle Cummins, Secretary and Treasurer	585-734-8099
Christian Yunker.....	585-356-9151
Kevin Veazey	585-704-7516
Emma Long	585-813-7228
Peter Metzler	585-356-9504
Bryon Lord	315-730-4307
Ann Mowry.....	585-356-5275
Natasha Sutherland	585-356-5560
Amanda Krenning-Muoio, Field Advisor.....	585-504-8308
WNYFB Regional Office	585-343-3489
NYFB Office	800-342-4143

Genesee County board meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m. .



**DEEP ROOTS
STRONG FOUNDATIONS**



WE'VE MOVED

The WNY Regional Farm Bureau Office serving Genesee County has moved.

Our new office is located in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Genesee County offices located at 420 East Main Street, Batavia, NY 14020

