President’s Report

Onondaga County Farm Bureau board of directors held their first listening session this year at Emmi’s Farm located in Baldwinsville. Some of the concerns raised amongst attendees were getting approval of pesticides by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC), along with how to handle overtime and days off during harvest time. A lot of us are facing these same issues with the state. As the agricultural community, we need to work together in organizations with the state to enhance our viability.

I am Mark Tucker, your current president of Onondaga County Farm Bureau. My farm is located in Skaneateles where we just sold our dairy cows and are now raising beef and dairy replacement heifers. We also grow corn, soybeans, wheat, oats, and hay. I am also on the Skaneateles Town Board, church board, and Onondaga County Farm Land Protection Board.

Onondaga County Farm Bureau meets on the second Monday of every month and everyone is welcome to attend. If any member, or anyone you know who wants to join, needs some help with issues on their farm, we are here to help. Feel free to reach out to me or any member of the board of directors.

Mark Tucker
President
**YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS GROUP**

Our Young Farmers & Ranchers group would like to organize some events for anyone between the ages of 18-35 who are involved in agriculture. We’re looking to get together people who are as passionate about agriculture as you are. In the past, we have had farm tours, gone bowling and visited a brewery. If you would be interested in attending free events like this, please contact us at 315-252-1367.

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**SAVE THE DATES**

March 13..... Farm Labor Wage Board Hearing
11:00 a.m. at Onondaga
Community College, Syracuse

Oct.10-11..... Lafayette Apple Festival.
Date TBD.... Equine Educational Seminar
Date TBD.... Young Farmer BBQ

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**LOBBY DAY AND TASTE OF NEW YORK RECEPTION**

New York Farm Bureau’s *Lobby Day and Taste of NY Reception* took place over two days recently in Albany, NY. Participants of the Taste NY Reception are able showcase their products and show the diversity of New York State’s agriculture. During Lobby Day, members are able to meet with elected officials to discuss the importance of agriculture. For some of our elected officials, especially out of urban areas, this may be the only contact they have with agricultural producers.

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**ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU WINS AWARDS AT STATE ANNUAL MEETING**

Onondaga County Farm Bureau was presented with five County Awards of Excellence at the New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, held in December in Binghamton, NY.

The County Awards of Excellence are presented to county Farm Bureaus that have exhibited excellence in a variety of categories relating to effectiveness in agriculture promotion and outreach, leadership and county Farm Bureau management, legislative advocacy, and membership.

The awards were presented for excellence in the following categories:
- Membership
- Agriculture Promotion and Outreach
- Leadership and County Farm Bureau Management
- Legislative Advocacy
- Distinguished President

While at the State Annual Meeting, farmer members also took part in the grassroots process of laying the groundwork for the year ahead. More than 150 delegates from across New York proposed, discussed and voted on resolutions that will guide NYFB’s public policy agenda for 2020.

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**As a loyal New York Farm Bureau member, you may be eligible for a discount on farm insurance.**

Nationwide® is proud to be the exclusive insurance provider of the New York Farm Bureau Member Services, offering NYFB members significant savings on farm insurance, and a full range of insurance and financial services, including:

- Farm Insurance*
- Automobile Insurance*
- Pet & Travel Insurance*
- Commercial & Home Insurance
- Powersports Insurance
- Life Insurance
- Farm Transition Planning

* Select savings may apply

**TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATIONWIDE AGENT, OR VISIT NATIONWIDE.COM/NYFB**
ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Two $500 scholarships will be awarded to students pursuing a college degree in an agriculture-related major.

Applicants must:

- Reside in Onondaga County
- Be an Onondaga County Farm Bureau member (or have a parent/guardian that is a member)
- Major must be agriculture-related (including but not limited to: dairy, equine, horticulture, natural resources and conservation, aquaculture)
- Provide a Letter of Reference with the application

This scholarship is for applicants enrolled in (or planning to enroll in) college for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021.

Name: __________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone Number: _________________________ Email Address: __________________________
College to attend: __________________________________________
Intended area of study (major): __________________________________________
Career goal after college: __________________________________________
Leadership activities: __________________________________________
Work experience: __________________________________________
Agricultural experience: __________________________________________

Please attach 2 essays (up to 500 words each):

1. Write about a positive or influential agricultural experience.
2. How would you defend agriculture to someone who is critical of agriculture?

By my signature below, I (or my parent/guardian) agree to become an Onondaga County Farm Bureau member, if not already a member with dues paid for the current year, if I am awarded this scholarship.

______________________________________________________
Signature of Applicant

Mail application to: Onondaga County Farm Bureau
C/O Patricia Bana
1197 Matson Road
Tully, NY 13159
Questions: Call 315-391-4290

Two winners will be chosen by July 1, 2020. Each winner will be presented with a $500 check upon providing proof of attendance (grades from one semester of agriculture-related study) and paid Onondaga County Farm Bureau dues.

Onondaga County Farm Bureau News

Onondaga County Farm Bureau WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER JEREMY MAPSTONE

Onondaga County Farm Bureau would like to welcome Jeremy Mapstone to its board. Jeremy has written a brief introduction so that members might get to know him. We hope you’ll join us in welcoming him as our newest board member.

My name is Jeremy Mapstone and I am from Pompey, NY. Our family farm was started in 1944 by my grandfather, and my father took over in 1991. We are currently milking 300 cows and are certified organic. I came back to the farm full time in 2015 and it wasn’t long before I noticed a need for the younger generation to have a voice in Farm Bureau. I look forward to learning more about the legislative process and working on behalf of farmers to make sure we have a voice at the table moving forward.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU JEREMY!