

Cayuga County Farm Bureau News

March 2021



To Serve and Strengthen Agriculture

President's Report



Last year was quite a year. As agricultural producers, we are used to handling challenges such as weather, markets, and the everyday roadblocks. This pandemic is no different. We deal with what is in front of us and move on to the next thing.

Farmers, along with our workers and agriculture-related professions, make up a little over one percent of the population. It is imperative that we continue to educate the other 98+% about agriculture and where our food comes from. That is why New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Day, held the first week in March, became a virtual lobby week during the COVID-19 pandemic and is so important to all producers. It is an opportunity for us to talk with elected officials and let them know how their decisions affect the agriculture industry in upstate New York. This year, all county Farm Bureau's participated via Zoom and met with legislators throughout the state to discuss

current and proposed legislation impacting us all.

We just got through a really tough year, but we are a resilient bunch. Through it all, our farmers continued to milk the cows, tend the fields and provide food that we put on our tables. Your county Farm Bureau board will continue to advocate and work on your behalf. If you have any concerns, questions or needs, please reach out to any of your county board members.

Ray Lockwood, President

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR FARMWORKERS



As I write this, New York State has yet to prioritize farmworkers as eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, despite CDC recommended guidance to include agricultural and food workers in phase 1B of the rollout. New York Farm Bureau has made this issue a priority. We have had numerous conversations with the governor's office and the departments of Agriculture and Markets

and Health urging the state to begin vaccinating farm employees as soon as more vaccines are available. New York Farm Bureau also joined with more than a dozen agricultural organizations that sent a letter to the governor to once again urge action.

We have also asked for logistical assistance to establish vaccination centers for farmworkers, i.e., Finger Lakes Community Health (FLCH), including working with county health departments and our farmers to make this happen. If anyone is interested in being a farmworker vaccine host site, here are some guidelines FLCH has

suggested:

1. You need three rooms or a large enough space to have three stations spaced apart, possibly with curtains in between for registration, injection, and post injection observation. Drive-through locations may be considered.
2. If you can supply staffing, get that information to FLCH along with the number of clients likely.
3. Consider vaccinating employees in stages to prevent too many absences at work due to reactions to the vaccine, especially the second dose. This does not help those who want to set up a host site with a two stop shop and done. We are working on how to best do this.

We will keep you apprised as we know more. Cornell Cooperative Extension will be a resource as well. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at 315-879-0943 or kimskellie@gmail.com.

Kim Skellie

NYFB Region 3 District Director

WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERSHIP

The year 2020 certainly brought about a few more challenges than us farmers are used to dealing with: drought, COVID, and low commodity prices amongst them. The good news is that New York Farm Bureau did not slow down in its work advocating for all of us in Albany, Washington, D.C., and locally. With the political environment, it is more important than ever that we all continue to fight for our livelihoods through our own actions as well as those of Farm Bureau.

As we head into spring, please keep our organization in mind for not only volunteer work (if and when we can start doing events again) and advocating for your industry, but also advocating for Farm Bureau. We are only as strong as our membership and its solidarity and keeping farming in New York relevant.

Cayuga County Farm Bureau can always use your help with getting new members, whether they be full- or part-time farmers, or supporting business and people that eat.

Starting March 1 through June 30, we run a great special for new members. For \$129, new members get the rest of 2021 and all of 2022. That is a \$69 savings, and all the great member savings benefits that come with it. To

sign up, folks can either go to NYFB.org or call 800-342-4143—it's that easy!

SIGN UP FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO RECEIVE A MEMBERSHIP JACKET!

Dan Palladino, Onondaga County Farm Bureau member, talked with family and friends about the importance of becoming a member of New York Farm Bureau. He signed up five new members in 2020 and was awarded a New York Farm Bureau jacket. You can earn a membership jacket this year by signing up five new members. Reach out to your agriculture contacts and make sure they are members of Farm Bureau. If they are not members, ask them to join. Let them know that we are stronger together and get a great jacket, too!



CAYUGA COUNTY DAIRY PROMOTION

By Molly Rejman, Cayuga County Dairy Princess, Cayuga County Dairy Promotion Team

My name is Molly Rejman and I am the Cayuga County Dairy Princess. I am currently a senior at Southern Cayuga High School and will be attending Cornell University in the fall, majoring in animal science.

When I was crowned Cayuga County Dairy Princess, I was excited to be able to share my passion for the dairy industry. My ambassadors and I have been able to overcome almost every challenge that has come our way. We've been using our creativity to promote the industry while staying safe. In July we were able to go to the Auburn Rescue Mission to serve root beer floats, educate the kids about the industry, all while playing fun games. Beginning in August, we attended our first farmers meeting and we began our fundraiser for Fill a Glass with Hope. Our "cow herd", made up of ten cow signs, was moved to new locations in the county when a donation was made. This fundraiser brought many smiles to our community as the cow herd moved to many businesses and homes. The donations that we received will go to Fill a Glass with Hope to give milk to families in need.

The pandemic hasn't stopped us from doing milk giveaways or from going to classrooms. We have been able to hand out milk at the Genoa food giveaway and the King Ferry Food Pantry, and have plans to go to

the Cato and Weedsport food pantries. St. Albert the Great Academy even welcomed us into their classrooms for a quick presentation and chocolate milk! Unfortunately, we haven't been able to go to any other schools in person so we started a YouTube channel for teachers to show their students.

On our Cayuga County Dairy Promotion Team Facebook page, we share our love for dairy products and updates on what's going on in the dairy industry around the county. We look forward to attending more farmers meetings, making more classroom presentations, and anything else that comes our way. I have enjoyed sharing my love for ice cream and cows with others and I look forward to the rest of my time as the county dairy princess.



Members of the Cayuga County Dairy Promotion Team (l-r) Molly, Ellie and Nora help with the milk donation to the King Ferry Food Pantry.

CAYUGA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT HOLDS SPRING TREE SEEDLING AND GROUNDCOVER SALE



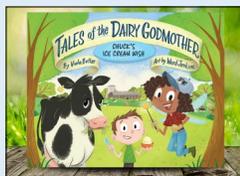
This year is the 50th year that the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) has hosted a Spring Tree Seedling Sale. The district has sold tree, shrub and groundcover seedlings to the public as an affordable way to promote conservation on large and small properties, for all landowners.

A variety of New York grown conifers, hardwoods, shrubs, and groundcovers are available. The CCSWCD will be taking orders through Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Pickup date will be Friday, May 7, 2021. Supplies are limited, order early.

To request an order form, call or email CCSWCD:
315-252-4171 ext. 4
cayugaswcd@cayugaswcd.org

Order forms and online ordering are also available on their website at www.cayugaswcd.org

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, Cayuga 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.

SAFE TRACTOR AND MACHINERY OPERATION COURSE OFFERED

The 4-H Youth Development Program of Cayuga County will be conducting a Safe Tractor and Machinery Operation Safety Certification Course for youth between the ages of 14 to 16. Youth from Cayuga County and surrounding counties are invited to participate in this very important safety program.

Classes are set to begin March 29. *Pre-registration is required.*

TO REGISTER: Call 315-255-1183 or go to blogs.cornell.edu/cceecayuga and click on the 'Registrations!' button at the top of the page.



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.

- 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.

New York Farm Bureau
 159 Wolf Rd
 Albany, NY 12205



Cayuga County
 Farm Bureau News



EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS FOR FARM BUREAU MEMBERS

Farm Bureau protects the future of your farm and your neighbors farms all year long. Today, membership can save you up to \$500 on new Case IH tractors and equipment!

SAVE \$200

on Farmall® Compact A & C series, Farmall utility A series, Farmall 100A series, Farmall utility C & U series, Farmall V series, and Farmall N series tractors as well as round and small square balers, disc mower conditioners

SAVE \$500

on Vestrum® and Maxxum Series Tractors, Large Square Balers and Self-propelled Windrowers

A current Farm Bureau membership verification certificate must be presented to the Case IH dealer in advance of product delivery to receive the incentive discount. Members can download a certificate at www.nyfb.org/member-benefits

NYFB.ORG



1.800.342.4143

**Cayuga County Farm Bureau
 Board of Directors**

- Raymond Lockwood, President 315-252-4975
- Jon Patterson, Vice President..... 315-729-0438
- Jeff Ten Eyck 607-291-6148
- Michael Dennis 315-253-4787
- Dale Kehoe 315-406-1325
- Donald Janssen 315-515-9685
- Brian Mitteer 607-423-4616
- Heather Warren 315-834-9829
- Mike Wilson 607-342-7948
- Matt Pinckney, YF&R Chair 315-497-2713
- Rebecca Staehr, Pro-Ed Chair..... 315-283-3664
- Kim Skellie, State Director 315-879-0943
- Mark James, Field Advisor 585-738-0242
- CNYFB Regional Office 315-252-1367
- NYFB Office..... 800-342-4143

The board usually meets the second Wednesday of each month at the CNYFB Regional Office located at 7413 County House Road in Auburn.