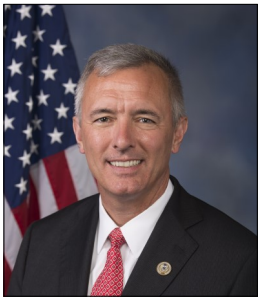


A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHN KATKO



As the federal representative for Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego, and Wayne counties in Washington, I remain focused on supporting our region's agriculture economy. Policies that recently went into effect – such as the new Dairy Margin Coverage program included in

the 2018 Farm Bill -- and legislation I have cosponsored like the Family Farmer Relief Act will improve financial situations for many Central New York farms. Additionally, Congress must focus on finalizing new international trade agreements once it returns for the fall legislative session. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on my recent actions to stand up for Central New York agriculture.

Regional dairy farmers have experienced unfavorable market conditions in recent years. These conditions exposed serious flaws in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), which failed to provide adequate coverage for dairy producers and was not reflective of their operating costs or needs. It was crucial the MPP-Dairy was replaced to reflect the current state of American dairy farming and I strongly advocated for such changes in the most recent Farm Bill. This legislation introduced the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, establishing lower premiums and improving coverage levels for dairy farmers. Approximately 10,000 American dairy farms have already signed up for the new DMC program, providing farmers access to much-needed

economic support. Enrollment into the DMC program is now open and I encourage Central New York dairy producers to take advantage of this beneficial program.

Next, I cosponsored legislation that makes it easier for family farms in our community to restructure debts in Chapter 12 bankruptcy. The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 raises the debt limit to participate in Chapter 12 bankruptcy to \$10 million. Prior to enactment of this legislation, asset values under Chapter 12 bankruptcy rules for family farms were not reflective of the financial situations of modern family farms. Updating this debt limit will establish modern financial flexibility. This bipartisan legislation had widespread support when it passed both chambers of Congress earlier this summer. The President is expected to sign the bill into law.

Lastly, our country is currently negotiating the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to create a more level playing field for America's farmers. Trade deals like the USMCA must be approved by Congress and it is imperative Congressional lawmakers finalize the USMCA in a timely, bipartisan manner. When Congress returns from the August district work period, I intend to work with the Administration and Congressional leadership in reviewing the final agreement.

I look forward to continuing to work in Congress to further grow and support the farming industry in our region and across the country. Our region's strong agriculture economy is among my top priorities in Congress and I am honored to represent you in Washington.

ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE

Cayuga County Farm Bureau is committed to **"Serve and Strengthen Agriculture."** One way we make good on this undertaking is to mentor our future leaders by instilling in them awareness of the impact and benefits that agriculture brings to the community. We are currently seeking individuals or businesses interested in sponsoring our County Annual Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 9. We believe this is a creative way to highlight your business while helping us defray the cost of this event so that we may continue to focus on our mission. Our **Gold Sponsors** (\$250 and up) will have their name/logo listed in the program and receive two tickets to our annual meeting dinner; **Silver Sponsors** (\$100-\$249) will have their name/logo listed in the program and receive one ticket for dinner; and **Bronze Sponsors** (up to \$99) will have their name/logo listed in the program.

To become a sponsor, make checks payable and send to:

Cayuga County Farm Bureau
7413 County House Road
Auburn, NY 13021

*If you have questions, please call
315-252-1367.*

Last year, sponsorship from our annual meeting allowed us to send over 100 children on fun, educational agricultural field trips. Many of these kids experience life on the farm for the first time. We receive such positive feedback from teachers and students that tell us without this support they would be unable to provide these opportunities. They are more than just field trips, they instill a life-long interest in agriculture and greater understanding of the importance of our local farms.



NEW YORK FARM BUREAU POLICY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION FORUM 2020


This forum explores several emerging issues relevant to agriculture in New York and the U.S. Please review these topics and bring this to your county Farm Bureau policy development meeting and County Annual Meeting this summer and fall as a jumping off point for discussion in your county. These issues are only suggestions and unique ideas generated from your county should be an important part of your consideration. These questions are also available on www.nyfb.org and in the July issue of Grassroots.

STATE POLICY TOPICS

- Should eligibility for the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program be based on if the applicant has produced an agricultural product for no more than ten consecutive years or if the applicant has applied to the program within two of years of college graduation?
- Should semi-trailers (over the road tractors) be able to register as agricultural vehicles?
- Do you support incentives for the expansion of renewable natural gas in New York Renewable fuels standard?
- Should hops be required to be processed in New York State in order to be under the label "New York State Beer" with the same current 60% threshold that grown hops have?
- Should an individual property owner be able to receive a personal income tax credit when costs are incurred for tree removal or tree treatment as recommended by a certified arborist or forester due to damage caused by the emerald ash borer to a tree on their primary or secondary residence or rental property?
- Should the Department of Agriculture and Markets offer cost-share to help livestock producers offset the cost of implementing electronic livestock identification?
- Further questions to consider: If they do provide cost-share funding, what level of cost-share should be provided to producers (50%, higher or lower)? Should funding also be made available to help offset the cost of electronic readers to help farmers and livestock auctions quickly identify animals? Should all types of electronic identification be able to be utilized (low frequency vs. high frequency)? Should certain animals be exempt from electronic identification, including those going directly to slaughter?

NATIONAL POLICY TOPICS

- Should milk vouchers be offered through the Milk Donation Program?
- Should Farm Bureau establish policy on PFAS/ PFOA and if so, what should that policy address in regard to contamination and possible impacts to the agriculture industry?



THANK YOU, ABIGAIL YOUNG!
For keeping Cayuga County Farm Bureau up-to-date with our Facebook page!
facebook.com/CayugaCountyFarmBureau
If you have ideas or questions, please contact Abigail Young at ajyoung0224@hotmail.com.

THE TOUGHEST 8 SECONDS IN SPORTS



SYRACUSE SHOWDOWN
SEPTEMBER 20-21
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2019 Promotion & Education Summit

THE POWER OF MAKING CONNECTIONS

NOV. 2-3, 2019

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, SYRACUSE, NY

- Explore resources and ideas to engage those around us
- Share tools to connect with consumers who are eager to learn about food and farming

Workshops on:

- Social Media
- Consumer Engagement
- GMO's
- Telling Your Story
- Tools and Resources

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Bremmer

from Ag Inspirations in Wisconsin

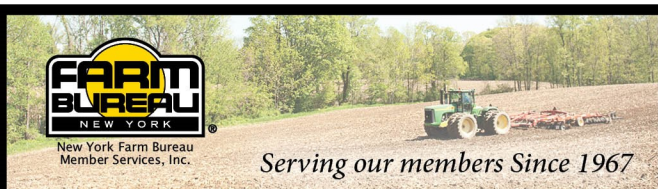
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
800-342-4143 * NYFB.ORG/EVENTS



159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Cayuga County
Farm Bureau News



Workers' Compensation Safety Group 486

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

- **16.1% Average Decrease** in 2019 rates for Safety Group 486 policyholder
- **Over 35%** Three-year average Decrease in rates
- **32%** five-year **Dividend** Average
- **25%** Maximum Safety Group **Upfront Discount**
- Low **8.5% Group Managers' Fee**
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Call or email wcinfo@nyfb.org for a quote.

NYFB.ORG 800-342-4143

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* Percentage is based on dividends paid 2013 through 2017. 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.

Cayuga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

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Jim Young, Vice President	315-727-1367
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John Sorbello, State Director.....	315-730-2670
Mark James, Field Advisor.....	585-738-0242
CNYFB Regional Office	315-252-1367
NYFB Office	800-342-4143

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

Cayuga County Farm Bureau News September 2019



You are cordially invited to attend an evening celebration of agriculture

Cayuga County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Oct. 9

at the

Springside Inn

6141 W. Lake Road, Auburn

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7 p.m. Dinner

Cost is \$20 per person

Special Guest

Congressman John Katko

Please join us at the Springside Inn for Cayuga County Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting. A delicious meal will be served along with quality discussion, decision making and fun for all! We will be electing members of the Cayuga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors and also voting on important policy resolutions that will be sent on for consideration at New York Farm Bureau's State Annual Meeting on Dec. 2-4 in Binghamton.

RSVP by Oct. 1 at:

315-252-1367 or jwilliamson@nyfb.org

We hope to see you there!