

2018 Promotion and Education Award Winner

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In 1997, the New York Farm Bureau Promotion and Education Committee established the “Excellence” pin, which recognizes those who have worked diligently to promote and educate. At the 2018 New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting, the committee had the honor to add to this group of devoted supporters of agriculture. The award recognizes a county Farm Bureau’s effort, program creativity and achievement and individuals and organizations for dedication that goes above and beyond the average.

After consideration, the NYFB Promotion and Education Award was presented to Dutchess Putnam Westchester County Farm Bureau for its “Feeding the Hudson Valley” program. The goal was to meet the needs of neighbors while mitigating the impact of food waste. The program primarily served Dutchess, Putnam, Orange, Ulster and Columbia Counties. The program set up a website with ChowMatch, a mobile app, where Feed HV, which is a regional food rescue and gleaning network, links food donors to nonprofit organizations with food assistance programs. The program coordinated with farms, orchards, organizations and businesses and as of September, 42,000 pounds of food was recovered and distributed. This provided 36,000 meals at emergency feeding programs and shelters. 170 volunteers have signed up on the ChowMatch app to move food. Local farms donated 1900 pounds of apples, 600 pounds were distributed as fresh apples and 1300 pounds produced 300 quarts of applesauce.

Carrie Jones Ross, the county Farm Bureau Program Chair, gives three presentation per month at schools and colleges for continued program growth. A long-term program with lasting results. Dutchess Putnam Westchester County Farm Bureau received a check for \$200, the coveted “Excellence” pins for its committee and a recognition certificate. The committee included Carrie Jones Ross, Mark Doyle, Sarah Simon, Sharon Leader, Martha Elder, Ermin Siljkovic and Sarah Salem.

Several entries were noted by the judges for special recognition including Chautauqua County’s “Mrs. Perry’s Classroom Calf”, and Tioga County’s “Agriculture Education Building Events at the Tioga County Fair”. Both are amazing programs, which made for a very difficult decision. Each county Farm Bureau received a certificate of recognition.



Pictured: David Fisher, NYFB President and Phyllis Couture, NYFB State Promotion and Education Committee Chair present Mark Doyle, Dutchess Putnam Westchester County Farm Bureau, with the Promotion and Education award.