

Livingston County Farm Bureau  
 29 Liberty St., Suite 212  
 Batavia, NY 14020



Livingston County  
 Farm Bureau News



Livingston County Farm Bureau members in Albany at NYFB's Lobby Days.

Pictured l-r: Michael Howlett, Rob Noble, Joel Stevens, Claire Mulligan,  
 Leslie Hamilton, Brad Macauley and Tim Northrop

# Livingston County Farm Bureau News

## Spring 2019



### President's Message

As spring approaches you can feel the rural community starting to come alive. Everyone is anxious to get outside and start spring projects and planting. While this time of year is always exciting, we have some continuing challenges in Albany that are going to influence the way agriculture continues in upstate New York.



In March, seven Livingston County Farm Bureau members attended NYFB's Lobby Days in Albany. As many of you have noticed, Albany has been passing bills with rapid speed, with new proposals on everything from farm labor to pesticide and herbicide bans. Albany has 63 members in the Senate, with 40 Democrats (only five in upstate districts, with only three of those having any substantial agriculture). That leaves 23 Republicans (the majority of which are upstate). Only 32 votes are needed to pass a bill. Bottom line, with these numbers, regardless of party, downstate can pass bills completely on their own. Farm Bureau members need to contact their legislative members, including the downstate members who know nothing about agriculture first hand. Numbers of farm profit loss mean little to nothing in their eyes. Farm Bureau members have to appeal to them on an emotional and moral scale. Tell them your story, and make them see why these proposals matter to upstate New York as well as downstate. Explain how these policies will influence food prices and systems in the long and short term throughout the state.

Feel free to contact me, or any of our board members, if you have questions or would like more information. You can also find more information about legislative affairs on the Farm Bureau website at NYFB.org.

Best of luck to you all during planting season. Have a safe and successful spring!

Sincerely,  
 Leslie Hamilton  
 President

### Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Leslie Hamilton, President.....	737-2208
Liam Coyne, Vice President .....	519-9235
Meghan Rodwell, Treasurer.....	703-2149
Emilie Mulligan .....	414-8934
Michael Howlett.....	739-7065
Joel Stevens.....	613-6478
Kent Williams.....	717-327-8095
Kaylene Lyons .....	301-648-8390
Doug Comstock .....	509-2578
Tim Northrop.....	315-523-2516
Kevin Herrington.....	770-3975
John Moore.....	370-2398
Clayton Phelps, Co YF&R Chair.....	519-2563
Dan Stein, Co YF&R Chair.....	944-5710
Jeremy Kingston, Co YF&R Chair.....	519-1610
Claire Mulligan, Co YF&R Chair.....	202-2151
Joe Swyers, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	261-6525
Brad Macauley, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	704-1506
Kim Sanford, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	739-5925
Amanda Krenning-Muoio, Field Advisor.....	749-9508
Livingston Co Farm Bureau.....	1-877-383-7663

### Scholarship

Livingston County Farm Bureau is accepting scholarship applications until May 1. The scholarship is open to any student who is a student member or whose parents are members. The applicant can be someone who is already pursuing an agricultural degree at a college who has not received the scholarship before, or the applicant can be a graduating high school senior who will be pursuing college study in agriculture or a closely related field. Please contact the regional office or any board member for the application.

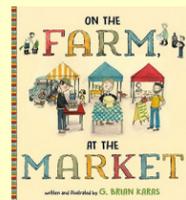


## Agriculture Literacy Week - March 18-22

This year March 18-22 was Agriculture Literacy Week in New York. Volunteers took time out of their busy schedules to read to classrooms all over the state. This year's book, *On The Farm At The Market*, by G. Brian Karas, highlighted three farmers who took their products to the farmers market. The reading was followed by an activity which simulated students budgeting and purchasing food from a typical farmers market.



Kirsty Northrop reading to a class at York Central School



## Farm of the Year: Howlett Farms

Congratulations to Howlett Farms from Avon, NY. The farm started in Henrietta with two milk cows in the early 1880's. Today the farm sits on East River Road in Avon and includes a large grain farm, along with grain handling and marketing services to over 1,100 producers, including a trucking company to move grain as well. Michael Howlett is the fifth generation Howlett working on the farm. He also sits on the Livingston County Farm Bureau board as well as the Cornell Cooperative Extension board. Congratulations to Howlett Farms for being named Livingston County Farm of the Year!



Picture of the Howlett family provided by the Livingston County News



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## Farm Fest 2019 September 14

We would like to announce that Farm Fest 2019 will be held at Mulligan Farms in Avon on Sept. 14. Please contact Emilie Mulligan at [etm39@cornell.edu](mailto:etm39@cornell.edu) if you have any interest in being a vendor, donating or volunteering. We hope to see everyone there!

## Highlighted Member

Chris Cicero: Cadyville Farm, Livonia, NY

Chris Cicero has been an active Farm Bureau member for many years and a former Livingston County Farm Bureau president. He currently sits on the Farmland Preservation board and has held various other board positions throughout the years. Chris and his family own and operate Cadyville Farm in Livonia, along with the Wingate Wedding Barn. He and his wife Dolores have also run the Farm Bureau ice cream booth at the Hemlock fair for many years.

This year Chris was awarded the Gene "Father" Huff Agricultural Achievement Award by the Hemlock Fair. The Gene Huff Award is presented annually to a volunteer for his/her commitment to promoting agriculture through his/her volunteer work at the fair. Chris helped the local 4-H group by opening his barn doors to 15 children without agricultural backgrounds to allow them to raise show heifers for their 4-H fair projects.

"Chris is always willing to lend a hand to the kids when they are struggling with a difficult calf. He loves sharing the agriculture life with every single kid. He is even a great person to talk to as an adult about the many different aspects of life. Chris is an all around great person and a wonderful influence on the Cadyville Crew kids and leaders. The world needs more Chris Ciceros," said 4-H Leader Jessica Silvernail when describing Chris.

We would like to commemorate and thank Chris for all his hard work throughout the county with his various forms of volunteer involvement.



Chris receiving the award in 2018.  
Photo by Marilyn Ryan.



The 4-H group with their heifers at the Hemlock Fair.

## Summer Picnic

Livingston County Farm Bureau summer meeting will be held at the Avon Century Barn  
1177 W. Henrietta Rd., Avon, NY  
July 10 at 6:30pm

Take a moment out of your busy summer to come enjoy a lovely evening with farmers and friends from throughout the county. Please bring a dish to pass. All Farm Bureau members are welcome.



## Kevin Keenan Antique Photo

Millstone Film Co. (formerly Kevin Keenan Photography) is working on a countywide project compiling antique agricultural photos from before 1980. They are aiming for a publication date of November 2019. If you have something you think would be valuable to the project, email Kevin Keenan at [kdkeen10@gmail.com](mailto:kdkeen10@gmail.com)



The Pike Farm in Caledonia circa 1930s. The farm was located On Rt. 20/ Lowery