

President's Message:

After the new year, Clinton County Farm Bureau officially awarded the 2020 post-secondary scholarship to Elizabeth Nichols and Emily Fleury after their successful first semesters at college.

We are certain the semester was challenging for the young ladies and are very proud of them for their exceptional academic achievements.

This year Clinton County Farm Bureau has adopted the New York Farm Bureau Post-Secondary Scholarship in lieu of our separate county scholarship. We are encouraging high school seniors to apply for the New York Farm Bureau scholarship and will consider those applications for an additional \$400 scholarship from our county.

Looking forward, we hope you will join us at the virtual New York Farm Bureau regional meeting on Feb. 22 at noon or 7 p.m. As mentioned above, we are participating in a virtual lobby week instead of our normal lobby day in Albany. It will be a very tough budget year, and we need all the help we can get to connect with our local and downstate representatives to prioritize agriculture in our state's budget. Specific to northern New York is the Northern New York Ag Development program. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, it appears that the program will be on pause for the foreseeable future. I would encourage you all to reach out to our local legislators expressing how important this program is to agriculture in northern New York and to reinstate funding. I hope you all have a successful spring and a safe and healthy rest of your year!

Todd Giroux
President

New York Farm Bureau Statement on Wage Board Overtime Recommendation

The Farm Labor Wage Board made the right decision to delay consideration of lowering the 60-hour farm labor overtime threshold during this unprecedented year. New York Farm Bureau President David Fisher supported Chair Brenda McDuffie's position of delaying a decision and avoiding any unintended consequences that could negatively impact New York's farmworkers, family farms and access to local food.

"I had encouraged giving the process more time to fully evaluate what a lower threshold would mean for all involved, especially with such limited data from this challenging year. I'd like to thank my fellow wage board members for their time and professionalism and encourage the Department of Labor to continue to work with the farming community to do what is best for our farms and employees. We need each other for agricultural production and our rural economies to flourish," said NYFB President Fisher.

New York Farm Bureau also thanks its members who testified and submitted written comments. The care they have for the men and women who are essential workers on their farms is evident. We all value their work and want the very best for farm employees, that includes the ability to earn a good livelihood in the profession they have chosen.

Highlighting Board Member — Ben Clark



Hello Everyone!

My name is Ben Clark, newest member of the Clinton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors. I established my 68-acre maple farm with my wife Ashley in 2016. While ownership of our farm is new, I've been sugaring for 20 seasons, beginning at age 14 working for the previous owner of the farm. I also worked for County Dreams Farm and a local dairy farm. We named our farm Sacred Roots Maple, and as our name implies, we produce maple syrup and other maple products. We may have established our own farm in 2016, but the woods that we have are quite old, and parts of them have been in production for over 150 years. We use a wood-fired evaporator with wood cut and split from our property. In August of 2019, we welcomed our most wonderful gift into this world, Wilder B. Clark. He is, by far, our greatest adventure. I, along with my family, have a passion for living off the land and serving our community. We choose to live simply and strive to live a full life each and every day.



**New York Farm Bureau
Virtual Regional Meetings**

Monday, Feb. 22
Noon or 7 p.m.

Join New York Farm Bureau virtually for our annual regional meetings! Hear an update about New York Farm Bureau and a legislative update from our public policy staff.

Please watch your email for how to register for the Zoom meeting.

**Clinton County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors**
Dial 518 first.

Todd Giroux, President	566-9688
Tony LaPierre, VP & Dis. Director	572-7182
Peter Hagar, Treasurer	643-0052
Tom Frey	593-7904
Ben Clark	420-6806
Carlton Bull	493-7390
Joseph Giroux	563-7523
Sam Dyer	561-0473
Kevin Gonyo	493-5607
Melvin Irwin	578-5782
Melissa Monty-Provost, ProEd Chair	561-8941
Sara Bull, YFR Chair	315-212-4912
Kim Trombly, NYFB Field Advisor	935-8569
ENYFB Regional Office	518-431-5650

Where to find us?



You can find all current updates and information on: www.facebook.com/Clintoncountynyfarmbureau



Sitting at sunset in Chazy, NY is Rusty Creek Farm. Photo taken by Clinton County Farm Bureau Vice President and District Director, Tony LaPierre.

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

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New York Farm Bureau
159 Wolf Rd. Suite 300
Albany, NY 12205



Clinton County
Farm Bureau News

Clinton County Farm Bureau News February 2021



President's Message



What a year 2020 was! I can only hope that means a better year ahead. Despite all of the hardships in 2020, I'm proud of the way our community handled it. People stepped up, pitched in, helped out neighbors and recognized good deeds. Our farmers continued to milk the

cows, tend the fields and provide the food that we put on our tables. I'd like to thank you all for rolling up your sleeves and getting us through these trying times.

Available Scholarship Money

Post Secondary Scholarship—Clinton County Farm Bureau is encouraging all high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in agriculture to apply for the New York Farm Bureau post-secondary scholarship. The application deadline is March 1, 2021. More details on how to apply can be found at [NYFB.org/programs/promotion-education/scholarship](https://nyfb.org/programs/promotion-education/scholarship) or by calling 1-800-342-4143. Those who apply will then be considered for an additional \$400 scholarship sponsored by Clinton County Farm Bureau. If awarded, the additional Clinton County Farm Bureau scholarship will be disbursed following a successful completion of the applicant's first semester of college (2.2 GPA) and proof of enrollment in a second semester.



Left: Windy Meadow Farm in Morrisonville, NY, owned by Clinton County Farm Bureau member Jim Hockney.

Below: Maple Grand Farm in Peru. Owned by Clinton County Farm Bureau Board member Mel Irwin.



The work of Farm Bureau continued as well. It certainly was more challenging, but we managed to keep ourselves busy. In October we held our County Annual Meeting at my farm, Giroux Family Farms. While certainly not the lovely meal we normally have at Guma's, there was something special about having our annual county Farm Bureau meeting in a barn with cows. We also welcomed aboard Ben Clark, a maple producer, to our board of directors. At the beginning of December, we connected with both our local and downstate legislators in a virtual meeting. We had a productive discussion about the legislative session ahead and welcomed all Clinton County Farm Bureau members to join us virtually in March for our annual lobbying event. Mark your calendars for the first week in March if you wish to join us. Please reach out to a county board member or our NYFB Field Advisor Kim Trombly. Also in December, the NYFB State Annual Meeting was virtual, a brand new experience for many of us. Tony LaPierre and Joe Giroux attended on behalf of the county. While certainly not the normal social event we enjoy, our delegate body at New York Farm Bureau still had great discussion to push forward ideas for the betterment of New York agriculture.

Cont'd inside →

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