



THE BUREAU BUZZ

ALL THE NEWS FIT TO PRINT FROM CATTARAUGUS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Wins Awards at State Level

Even though the State Annual Meeting for New York Farm Bureau (NYFB) was an abbreviated affair with only voting delegates from each county allowed to attend, NYFB still gave out their annual awards.

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau (CCFB) had a tremendous showing this year. While we usually win most of the county excellence awards in the various categories (membership, policy development, media relations, etc) this year we also won the coveted Gold Key Award. This is the only the second time that CCFB has won a Gold Key, with the previous time being in December of 2017.

In addition to the Gold Key, Cattaraugus County also received the 2021 Promotion and Education Award, thanks to our Pro-Ed chair, Katie Hill. Katie's tireless work managed to save our annual Ag- Literacy program by developing a COVID friendly version that engaged students, and in some ways, offered advantages over the traditional way. The Variety Pack 4-H Club members were recorded reading the book *Tales of a Dairy Godmother*, *Chuck's Ice Cream Wish*. In addition, Katie made an 18 minute video tour of her family's dairy, Hill's Valley Farm. Each class was supplied with a book and kit to make their own ice cream in a bag from Ag in the Classroom. Upstate Niagara donated the half and half required to use those kits. Each classroom also received a Farm Bingo game and students were invited to write letters or emails to Hills Valley Farm with any questions they had regarding the video. Some great examples are shown below. Overall CCFB Pro-Ed reached 954 kids and teachers with last year's Ag Literacy Project. Great job to all those that helped out!

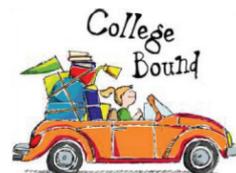
CCFB Planning for 2022

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau is looking to keep as many activities as possible on the calendar for 2022 despite the uncertainty that the continuing COVID pandemic has placed over everything. We are planning to have our annual visit to the County Legislature in mid February. Our tentative plan is to share with them the frustrations and limitations that have come with the lack of slaughterhouse spots available to process animals- even though the demand for those processed animals is very high right now.

The annual Lobby Days event will be taking place the first week of March. It was hoped that this year's Lobby Days would be happening in person, but with the recent shutdowns to the State Legislative Office Building it now looks like it will once again be held virtually. If you have any interest in joining the Zoom meeting with your legislators or some downstate legislators to explain what kind of things agriculture needs to survive and/or thrive please contact Tim Bigham (tbigham@nyfb.org).

In April we will again be doing some kind of "alternative" Ag- Literacy project. (see the article to the left for last year's description). While we still cannot have readers visiting schools like we had in the past, if you would like to help out monetarily or in some other way, please contact Katie Hill (katie_voelker@live.com).

In the longer term outlook we are still looking to do our Ag Trivia Night. Remain on the lookout for details regarding that in the future. We also plan to continue our Annual Summer Picnic in July, Annual Night Golf event in September, and County Annual Meeting in October.



Attention High School Seniors!

It's Scholarship Time!

March 1st, 2022 deadline

The NYFB scholarship application is currently available at NYFB.org. Applicants will compete to win a \$250 renewable scholarship from Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, a \$250 district level award, and on the state level, district winners will compete for a \$2000 and \$3000 award.

Applicants must be 2022 graduating High School Seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.

Applicants must also live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue.

Applicants must have a Family Farm Bureau membership or Student Farm Bureau membership. Students can join as a Student member by visiting www.nyfb.org/membership. Student membership is complimentary.

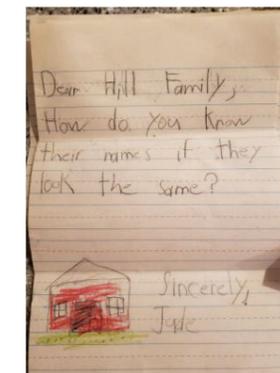
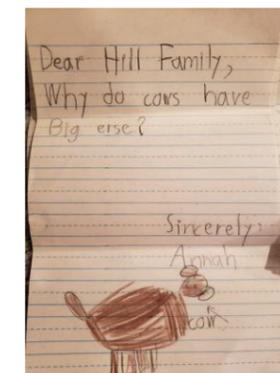
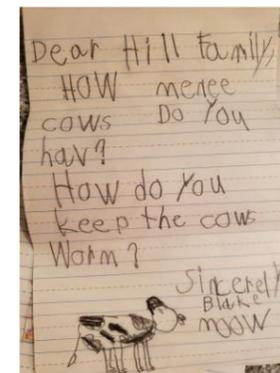
Applicants under the age of 18 must also include the signature of a parent or legal guardian.

Students are required to complete the application which is on the Reviewr on-line platform.

The application link is: https://my.reviewr.com/site/NYFB_Ag_Youth_Scholarship22

After creating an account in Reviewr, the student can log in and begin the application. The student can stop, restart, and edit their application any time before the submission is due by logging into their Reviewr account.

Applications must be completed and submitted by 5:00 pm on March 1, 2022.





A Fireside Chat with the County President

Dear Fellow Farm Bureau Members:

I hope this note finds everyone doing well and that you all had a very Merry Christmas followed by a Happy New Year. It looks like winter has finally arrived. In farming we know that it is just a short time before spring arrives full of fresh smells, blooms and the beginning of what hopefully will be a good planting season.

There is a lot going on in the Farm Bureau and I hope you can all find some time out of your busy schedules to become involved in some aspect of the Farm Bureau business. The Farm Bureau is here to help farmers so please let us know if there is something in your business that may need some assistance. Our State Annual Meeting went well considering all of the necessary restrictions imposed on large group meetings.

Coming up we will be planning Lobby Days which will most probably need to be done virtually. If anyone wants more information on Lobby Days or would like to participate please let me or your Vice President, Kevin Herman, know so we can include you in the plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce E. Rossette
President, Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau
716-244-3118
Haystacks1969@gmail.com

Newsletter Questions/Comments? Contact the editor, Barb Blesy at n.blesy@gmail.com or 716-435-5400

Want to contact your legislators directly?

Cattaraugus County Legislature
Cattco.org/government/legislators

Your Farm Bureau

2022 Directors- Serving our county with pride!

President- Bruce Rossette.....716-244-3118.....Alpaca
Vice Pres.- Kevin Herman.....716-397-9183.....Dairy
Treasurer- Carmen Wright.....716-676-2556.....Dairy/Maple
Secretary- Margie Andrews.....716-358-2280.....Dairy
Nathan Blesy.....716-435-7474.....Dairy
Michael Telaak.....716-969-7676.....Dairy
Dave Zilker.....716-474-5859.....Landowner
Chuck Couture.....716-942-3710.....Greenhouse
Thomas Graser.....716-353-5924.....Dairy
Katie Hill (Pro-Ed Chair).....716-801-0796.....Dairy
Amanda Dackowsky.....716-432-9871.....Beef
AmyJo Burroughs.....716-392-3623.....Equine
Paige Williams.....-YFR chair..716-353-5002.....Crops
NY Farm Bureau Field Staff: Tim Bigham.....716-474-6585
NY State Board Member: Lavern Warriner.....607-426-0521
Nationwide Insurance Rep- Ben Hollamby.....716-933-7864

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Fax: 716-664-2430

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Albany, NY 12247
Phone: 518-455-3563
Fax: 518-426-6905

Calendar of Events

Your Opportunities to Get Involved!



FARM BUREAU BOARD MEETING

DATE: FEBRUARY 14TH @ 7:30PM
PLACE: EXTENSION BUILDING
28 PARKSIDE DR
ELLCOTTVILLE, NY

We meet the 2nd Monday of each month. All members are welcome! We would enjoy your input.



Money Available for 4-H Projects and FFA Trips



As more 4-H and FFA trips are being offered, perhaps you find yourself in need of a little extra cash to help fund your excursion. Maybe you're a member of the FFA that would like to attend the summer camp. Perhaps you would like to try a new livestock project in 4-H this year and need a little cash to fund the building of a new pen? We can help!

Over the past several years the Cattaraugus Farm Bureau has held an ag trivia fund raiser to make money for just these type of circumstances! We would like to help out the youth in our county to achieve their agricultural goals. We are willing to award up to \$200 per youth that applies until the money runs out.

The application requires your basic information, plus whatever farm/ agricultural experience you have and a 300-500 word essay. The essay must include what you want to use the money for, what do you expect to gain from the experience, who sponsors the trip or activity, and what is your total cost for this trip or activity. In addition you will need to include your involvement in agricultural, school, and community activities. You must have a Family or student Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Membership or be sponsored by a Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau member. All 4-Hers and FFA students are welcome to apply.

The application can be obtained by emailing a request to cpcouture@hotmail.com, on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Facebook page, or on the Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau webpage located at nyfb.org/about/county-farm-bureau/cattaraugus-county.



Visit the NYFB website for more information:
www.NYFB.org



"Like" the *Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Facebook Page* for local updates!

www.nyfb.org

Quickly tell your legislators your opinion!
E-Lobby Today!

Waters of the U.S.: Tell EPA to Keep the Navigable Waters Protection Rule

Farm Bureau is urging EPA to recognize the burden that this overreaching regulation places on farmers and to keep the term "navigable" in the Clean Water Act regulations.

Tell U.S. DOL to Implement Fair H-2A Wage Rate

The U.S. Department of Labor has published a proposed rule concerning the methodology used to calculate the adverse effect wage rate for H-2A workers. The comment period for this proposed rule closes on January 31, 2022.

Go to NYFB.org to E-Lobby on the hot issues you feel strongly about! These issues and more are available to lobby with the click of a button!

CCFB Starts FFA Blue Jacket Award

Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau is looking to honor a deserving FFA student from each of the Cattaraugus County FFA chapters. Winners of this award will receive an official FFA Jacket or a scholarship of equal value to be applied to travel/participation expenses involved with FFA activities. Any FFA member and Cattaraugus County resident in grades 7-12 is eligible. The student can be self-nominated or nominated by their FFA advisor. The nominee will need to fill out a short application which is due April 1st. The Blue Jacket award will be presented by Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Members at each local FFA Chapter Banquet. We plan to make this an annual event.

