

Adirondack Food System Network

Adirondack Health Institute is pleased to announce the launch of the *Adirondack Food System Network*, a collaboration of multiple organizations working together as equal partners to better understand systemwide issues, identify gaps and develop realistic solutions to help strengthen and promote a more resilient food system. The vision of the Network is an Adirondack regional food system that is resilient, just, environmentally responsible and supports improved human health. The mission is to advance innovative solutions through lasting collaboration that strengthen and improve our regional food system for individuals, the environment and the economy. Collaboration will initially focus on connecting efforts in five areas: production, consumption, distribution, processing, and food waste management. The Network covers nine New York counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

More information can be found on the Adirondack Health Institute website at: <https://ahihealth.org/adirondack-food-system-network/>

Solar Projects

Recently, there has been increased activity and interest in developing solar installations in Essex County. Jurisdiction for these solar arrays lies within the towns they encompass. Towns who wish to receive guidance for drafting legislation are encouraged to reach out to Anna Reynolds at the Office of Community Resources at Anna.Reynolds@essexcountyny.gov or call 518-873-3895.

NY FarmNet

NY FarmNet has helped thousands of farmers by providing free, on-farm consulting services that focus on the financial side of operating a farm, as well as the dynamics that come with owning a family business. NY FarmNet services are available to all farms in New York State, large and small, with a diversity of commodities including dairy, crops, livestock, maple, fruit, vegetables, honey, nursery and more. For assistance, call 800-547-3276



New York Farm Bureau members receive an upgraded John Deere rewards membership (Platinum 1) unlocking **EXTRA DISCOUNTS**

Discounts on the following categories of equipment

- \$200-\$1,700 off Commercial Mowing
- \$50-\$150 off Residential Mowing
- \$100-\$300 off Utility Vehicles
- \$200-\$300 off Tractors
- \$550-\$1400 off Compact Construction

Visit www.JohnDeere.com/FarmBureau to register

Must be a valid member of Farm Bureau for 30 days
A valid email address is required for eligibility.

For other details and restrictions
NYFB.ORG/MEMBER-BENEFITS • 1-800-342-4143



A lamb at Ben Wever Farm, owned by board members Linda and Shaun Gilliland.



Champlain Champignons Log Inoculation Day At Ben Wever Farm in Willisboro, owned by Shaun & Linda Gilliland. Inoculating the logs to start mushroom production.

E-Lobby ~ Let your voice be heard.

To see current legislative issues and voice your opinion, go to NYFB.org and click on the 'e-lobby-Take Action!'



Request Amendments for the Hero Act

The NY Hero Act has been passed in both houses and has not been delivered to the Governor. This legislation would require legislation would create a new mandate on businesses by adding an airborne infections' disease prevention standard covering all private employers. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic we have worked hard to ensure compliance with safety requirements to help stop the spread of COVID-19.



Protect Stepped-up Basis for New York Family Farms

Proposed legislation in Congress would tax capital gains at death and eliminate stepped-up basis as a way to raise revenue for government spending. This would be devastating to American agriculture. Many farmers hold assets such as land for decades, passed on from generation to generation. Stepped-up basis is a process that allows a farmer to pay capital gains taxes only on a property's increase in value since the time that land was inherited, instead of paying the full increase in value since it was purchased by a deceased relative. In addition, the tax on the new stepped-up value is deferred until property is sold by the surviving family member.



Oppose EPR Legislation

This legislation would establish an entirely new statewide recycling program called an extended producer responsibility program that would put the farm and forestry community in charge of the waste stream they generate and have detrimental impacts across the agriculture industry effecting the wine, dairy, and maple sectors among others.



Oppose a Ban on Neonicotinoids

There is legislation that would ban neonicotinoid seed treatments, as well as the products' use on ornamental trees and shrubs, and turf. Neonicotinoid seed protectants are crucial tools for corn, soybean and wheat farmers, of which there are many in the state. Let your legislators know you oppose this legislation.

CCE is fully open!

CCE-Essex is open and staffed on a rotating basis to avoid overcrowding the office. We will continue to offer workshops and classes online to the extent possible; please visit our website for current offerings. You may reach our staff by visiting the staff page on our website at <http://essex.cce.cornell.edu/staff> for their email address or by calling 518-962-4810. Our phone system or office staff will forward your voice message to them via email. As always, we're here to help with information and people you can trust!



Cows at sunset in Willisboro by board member and YF&R Chair Lucas Strong.

Essex County Fair will be held Aug. 18-22, 2021 at Essex County Fairgrounds, Westport.

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



Essex County
Farm Bureau News

Essex County Farm Bureau News May 2021



Where to find us? Check out our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/EssexCountyFarmBureau/



If you are a New York Farm Bureau member who direct markets your products, this is a member benefit that can make it easier for potential customers to find you.

NYFB member farm stands, farm markets, brewery, wineries & distilleries are at www.nyfb.org/resources/local-farm-market-guides

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE
YOUR FARM LISTED?

CONTACT JESSICA GAIGE
JGAIGE@NYFB.ORG
1-800-342-4143

Essex County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Dial 518 first.

Jeffrey Leavitt, President.....	891-6666
Steven Googin, VP/YFR Chair.....	645-2697
Jori Wekin, Treasurer.....	435-640-6194
Racey Hendersen, Secretary	341-9655
Anne Lincoln	963-4168
Lee Garvey.....	963-7511
Dillion Kiepetar	265-8520
Linda Gilliland, Pro-Ed Chair.....	963-7447
Bernard Leerkes	585-6138
Tony LaPierre, NYFB Director.....	572-7182
Kim Trombly, NYFB Field Advisor.....	935-8569
ENYFB Regional Office.....	431-5650

President's Message:



Essex County Farm Bureau has continued advocating on behalf of local farmers throughout the pandemic, despite limitations on in-person lobbying and other in-person meetings. We continued to host regular board meetings through teleconferencing or in locations where physical distancing could be followed. The pandemic did not put a hold on area farmers voicing their need for policy changes. I continue to be impressed by the collective resourcefulness that I have seen amongst our farming community. Our farming community has come together to help make our county stronger than ever. Essex County Farm Bureau's advocacy on behalf of farmers in Essex County began at the New York Farm Bureau's virtual State Annual Meeting in December, which I attended to advocate on behalf of the positions of the county. Ultimately, the spirit of some county resolutions were added to the official New York Farm Bureau 2021 policy book. These included resolutions on meat processing, solar installations and consumer access to farm products. There were a few resolutions not included in the final state book, such as policies on third party raw milk sales, but the county will continue to advocate for these changes in 2022.

To continue advocacy efforts, board members Racey Henderson and Steven Googin attended two virtual lobby days for the county that connected members with both local and downstate elected officials. "Virtual lobby day allowed a frank and open discussion with Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner. We were able to share with her our concerns regarding meat processing bottlenecks for small producers at a time when demand for local meat is very high. We also shared the frustrations of knowing milk is being dumped while the shelves are empty at the grocery store and our desire to address these challenges." said Henderson following the events.



Shedding out the winter woolies
at Ben Wever Farm.

Sincerely,
Jeff Leavitt
President

Join Essex County Farm Bureau Summer Picnic

July 22 at 5 p.m.
Ben Wever Farm
444 Mountain View Dr., Willsboro

Please bring a dish to pass.
RSVP to Kim Trombly at
ktrombly@nyfb.org/518-935-8569

Adirondack Harvest Fest Sept. 13-19

Let's invite our neighbors and visitors to learn about your businesses and celebrate the harvest together! You can host an event on-site, or we can pair you with other businesses in your area to work together.

Adirondack Harvest will promote this event far and wide, helping you reach new audiences for your business and make new connections in your community. Your business/event will be published in an online and print map and calendar that we will be distributing and advertising. You will receive signage to make it clear that your business is a stop as part of the event.

For more information, contact Laurie Davis at 518-962-4810 or email: lsd22@cornell.edu