

State Promotion & Education Committee Vacancy in District 2 filled by NYFB
Board of Directors

December 28, 2018

With the retirement of Jodi Smith and a year remaining on her term representing District 2 on the New York Farm Bureau State Promotion & Education Committee, the NYFB Board did not hesitate to insure continuity of representation with the blessing of all District 2 County Farm Bureaus, which includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming County. Now there is the voice of Bernadette Harwood on the NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee. Bernadette and her husband, Donald's, family own a dairy farm in Perry (Wyoming County) which has a milking herd numbering more than 700. They have been farming in New York since 2003. Although she was not raised on a farm, she married into it in 2007. Bernadette's educational background includes an MS Ed Agriculture and Extension Education Degree from North Carolina State University and a BS Agriculture and Extension Education Degree from Pennsylvania State University.

In Pennsylvania, where Bernadette grew up, she was an active member of the FFA, which lead to her pursuing agriculture as a career option and to meeting her husband. Bernadette and Donald have two children; McKenna who is seven and Rylea who is four. She has been a NYFB member for five years and has made a real contribution to the entire district via her activities and agricultural knowledge and expertise.

She has been involved in a number of organizations, including: the Young Cooperator Board for the National Milk Producers Federation where they acted as Secretary Couple in 2016; the Young Cooperator Chair Couple for Upstate Niagara Cooperative for 2015/2016; the Young Cooperators Upstate Niagara Milk Cooperative since 2007; Alpha Tau Alpha Honors Fraternity for Agriculture as a Life Member; and the New York Association for Agriculture Educators Board of Trustees for 2010/2011. Bernadette also participated in the Foundation's Food & Farm Experience in 2018.

Bernadette feels the "Farm Bureau is important as it represents all areas and facets of agriculture from the service sector to the on-farm production in every commodity. She believes that it is important that we present a united front in lobbying, as well as promotion and education. With fewer and fewer people involved in producing their own food, fiber and natural resources it's important to share our story, from the laws that effect our business to the education of the next generation of consumers. We are few, but we impact people's lives every day and utilize the latest science, technology, and resources to do so. Farm Bureau has been a true advocate for the farmer and those that serve us, as well a great supporter of agriculture education at our local level."

We welcome Bernadette Harwood to the committee and look forward to utilizing her talents and expertise with tremendous success.

