

P&E State Committee News
March 30, 2020

The NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee Welcomes a new LIFB Representative

The vacancy has been filled for District 11! The New York Farm Bureau Board of Directors recently approved the nomination of Laurie McBride to fill the seat. With a large constituency living and farming in District 11 (Long Island), the importance of this position is undeniable, as Laurie will act as our liaison, connecting the programs and projects undertaken by the committee with the direct needs of her District.

Laurie grew up in Riverhead, Long Island, on her family's potato/vegetable farm surrounded by lots of extended family who were also involved in the agricultural industry. She previously served as a Cornell Cooperative Extension Suffolk County Agricultural Stewardship Technician for 12 years. Her concentration was in nursery, greenhouse, and tree fruit industries, with a strong focus on Integrated Pest Management and applying research to on-farm practices. Today, Laurie works at Wickham's Fruit Farm in Cutchogue, Long Island, managing the farm stand and pick-your-own as well as helping with crop planning, the IPM program and managing the office. She has been working on the side in the greenhouse/floral industry for almost 20 years growing her own cut flowers, maintaining stands at farmers' markets and design work for weddings and events.

Her educational background includes an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Suffolk County Community College and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from St. Joseph's College. She has put her education and expertise to work as a board member of the Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center, as well as a member of the YFR Committee and currently as a member of the LIFB Board of Directors, chairing their Promotion & Education Committee.

Laurie feels that Farm Bureau is important because it is an opportunity to give farmers a bigger voice. Coming together to solve common problems works so much better than going alone. Now that she has been involved with Farm Bureau on a larger scale, outside of her town and county, she is amazed at the scope of the organization, she had no idea that there was such a vast diversity of involvement and of the scope of the work done by New York Farm Bureau.

The Committee is looking forward to working with Laurie. She will provide an amazing doorway into a major NYFB area. Her expertise and willingness to work on our team will help us to achieve so much more.

