

Wyoming County Farm Bureau
29 Liberty St., Suite 212
Batavia, NY 14020



Wyoming County
Farm Bureau News



Wyoming County's Voice for Agriculture

President's Message:

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field." Who said that? If your answer was Dwight D. Eisenhower, you would be correct.



Perhaps you'd like to consider bringing a team to the next Wyoming County Farm Bureau trivia night. At this past trivia night that very question was asked and it got me to thinking. I'm not sure, even with a pencil and paper, I could find a good way to make farming look easy these days. No matter what type of food or textile we produce as American farmers, the margins for a return to earn a living are slim to non-existent. If we do find a path to create an honest living in agriculture, we do so to produce food for a population of people that seemingly could care less for the efforts made. WHY? Why do we carry on, trying to feed the world for people that don't care, in the face of legislation at every turn, that seems to condemn farming?

At the age of 18, I stood in a squad bay, along with 59 other young men. Parris Island, South Carolina, had just become our new home as we were in the first few weeks of Marine Corps basic training. As we all stood there, bodies locked and rigid, I recall very vividly one of our drill instructors reciting to us some of the core values of a Marine—honor and integrity. Defined as having the quality of being honest, having strong moral principles and ethically righteous. More simply put, doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.

When I ask myself why I bother to continue farming in the face of the adversity, I return to the principles spelled out by those drill instructors years ago. Deep down I think it's the right thing to do. I believe that a top quality, locally-produced food source in the United States is fundamental to the prosperity of all people. I believe that the products I produce and put into the marketplace for others to consume are a great nutritional food source. This year before you drill that first hole in the trunk of a sugar maple tree, before you pull the plow across the ground for the first time, and before that first seed gets placed into the warm spring soil, ask yourself why you do it.

Warm Springs Wishes,
Russell Klein
President

Wyoming County Farm Bureau
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Wyoming County Farm Bureau Attends Lobby Days in Albany March 4-5

Members from Wyoming County Farm Bureau attended New York Farm Bureau's Lobby Days in early March, accompanied by two FFA students and their advisor from Letchworth. The two-day event started with the Taste of New York reception where county Farm Bureau members served cheese from the East Hill Creamery to state lawmakers, commissioners and staff. Following the evening event, members met with both their local Senators and Assembly members as well as New York City lawmakers that the county Farm Bureau "adopted."

Wyoming County Farm Bureau advocated for a number of priorities this year. The organization supports critical funding for current agricultural, animal health, promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 19-20 state budget, ensuring staff funding for critical positions at the Department of Agriculture and Markets, and funding for a farm tire cost share disposal from DEC Part 360 regulations through the Environmental Protection Fund.

County Farm Bureau members also advocated for important budget funding for a myriad of agricultural research, promotion and marketing programs, to expand the Farm Workforce Retention Tax Credit to Christmas trees, maple, farm wineries and cideries. They also voiced their strong opposition to unworkable employer mandates in New York State, and advocated to remove unemployment insurance requirements for H-2A workers.

Thanks to our members for taking time off to advocate for these important issues.



Pictured l-r: Alton Rudgers, Russell Klein, Kelly Wilcox (Letchworth FFA advisor), Allison Karasiewicz, Ashley Covert, Lynnell Schreiber and Brian Parker



Pictured l-r: Lynnell Schreiber and Russell Klein serving cheese at the reception.

Wyoming County Farm Bureau Offers Scholarship

Wyoming County Farm Bureau will award \$1,500 to a high school senior or college student for the current school year. Lamb and Webster will help with the scholarship fund with a donation equal to the amount of raffle tickets sold at the Pride of Ag Dinner. Scholarships may be applied to tuition, housing, books and other educational expenses.

To be eligible, applicant **MUST**:

- Reside in Wyoming County, New York, and have a parent and/or guardian that is a New York Farm Bureau member.
- Be a high school senior enrolled in an approved/accredited college or university; OR
- Be a full-time student attending an approved/accredited college, university or vocational technical program.
- Be pursuing an agricultural or agribusiness degree.



Rules:

- Winner must be enrolled in an approved/accredited college, university or technical/vocational program and be a full-time student each semester, unless an exception is requested in writing and approved.
 - Application must be typed.
 - All application materials must be received by the regional office by May 4, 2019.
- Mailing address: Wyoming County Farm Bureau, 29 Liberty St # 212, Batavia, NY 14020.
- The Wyoming County Farm Bureau Scholarship Committee will make the final determination on all cases concerning the interpretation of these rules. All applications become the property of Wyoming County Farm Bureau and any content may be used in press releases.

Contact the WNY office at 585-343-3489 or wny@nyfb.org for an application.

Wyoming County Farm Bureau Presents

Trivia Night



The second Monday of each month at:

The Flip Side

3803 Main St., Stykersville, NY

7 p.m.

Next trivia night is April 8.

For details or questions contact:

Alton Rudgers at 585-297-3152

Find details on facebook



"Wyoming County Farm Bureau"

Meeting With Board of Supervisors

Wyoming County Farm Bureau hosted a meeting with the County Board of Supervisors on March 12 at the Ag Center. This annual meeting helps keep the lines of communication open with the elected officials. Concerns expressed were about roads and bridges, the hospital, the county budget and funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension, as well as solar installations in the county. Area FFA members also attended the meeting as Farm Bureau guests.

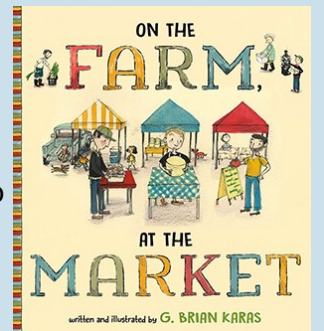


Russell Klein leads the discussion during the meeting with the Wyoming County Board of Supervisors

Agricultural Literacy Week—March 18-22

Wyoming County Farm Bureau helped purchase books to celebrate New York agriculture when volunteers throughout the state will read a book with an agricultural theme to second graders. Students and teachers will benefit from hands-on lessons and receive follow-up activities, along with the book. The book is donated to the school or classroom library with a bookplate recognizing the donor and New York Agricultural Literacy Week.

This year's book, *On the Farm, At the Market*, written and illustrated by G. Brian Karas, takes students on a journey to farmers markets. They find an interconnected community following food production and sales processes of three different farms. An understanding of the food sold at the market comes together to create the meals we share.



Alton Rudgers at Trivia



Fun on Trivia Night