

News from Albany

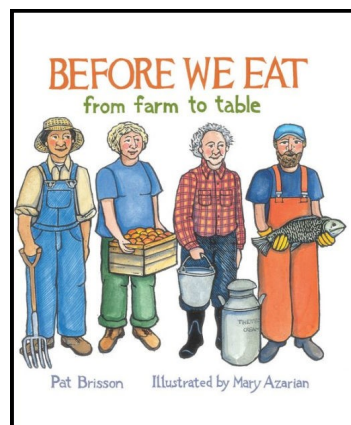
The 2018-2019 state budget includes dozens of essential programs that support research, promotion and marketing that will allow farmers to adjust to new challenges and expand market opportunities including:

- ✓ Increase in funding for NY FarmNet — this organization is seeing a 50% increase in calls from farmers who are coping with the stresses of a down economy.
- ✓ Additional funding for honeybee research, hops and barley programs and support of the growing craft beverage industry.
- ✓ Full support of the Environmental Protection Fund.
- ✓ \$10 million to increase the school lunch reimbursement rate — expanding opportunities for farmers and putting more locally sourced fresh food onto students' lunch plates.
- ✓ \$5 million to improve infrastructure at county fairs.

To learn more about the state budget and priority legislation still pending, please visit NYFB.org.

Fostering a Love of Agriculture at an Early Age

In it's 14th year, Agricultural Literacy Week (March 19-23) introduced elementary students to the vast opportunities and diversity that New York agriculture encompasses. Countless volunteers in classrooms across the state spent time reading Pat Brisson's "Before We Eat: From Farm to Table", a captivating glimpse into what it takes to bring us the food we eat in order to nourish our bodies and spirits. Students were taken on a journey from farm to table to understand different aspects of agriculture and the many possible careers involved. After they read the book, the kids took part in hands-on activities that kept them engaged and learning. The opportunity to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation for local farmers has proven to be an invaluable and welcome resource. Oswego County Farm Bureau was pleased to purchase the books for each elementary school in the county. Thank you to all the volunteers who took time out to read, and to Oswego CCE's Deb Holliday for her work in making the week a success.



The 2018 Agricultural Literacy Week book by Pat Brisson that OCFB purchased and donated enabling county schools to take part in the program.



OCFB board member Heather DelConte read to 2nd graders at Minetto Elementary School. She brought in a bunny that captured the children's hearts and helped reinforce what they learned in the book.

Oswego High's DelConte Awarded 2018 New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship

Danielle DelConte, a senior at Oswego High School, has been named the 2018 New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Youth Scholarship winner from Oswego County. She was chosen by the NYFB State Promotion and Education Committee from among many applicants vying for the scholarship.

Danielle is the daughter of Heather and Scott DelConte, owners of Black Creek Farms in Volney. She plans on attending Cornell University of Agricultural and Life Sciences to study development sociology.



OCFB's Eric Behling (left) presents a check to Danielle DelConte for her academic achievement. She is joined by her parents Scott and Heather DelConte. **Congratulations Danielle!**

2017 Census of Agriculture *Sill Time to Respond*

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service needs a Census of Agriculture response from all of the nation's producers. Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it, even if not currently farming.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete the census either online at www.agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible. For more information, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-866-294-8560.

****Save the Date****

Oswego County Dairy Princess Banquet

Sun., May 20 at 6 p.m.

\$25 per person

Tavern on the Lock • 24 S. First St., Fulton

RSVP Required

Tammie Bonoffski - 315-598-9345

Limited Time Offer!

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for 2018 & all of 2019

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Members Only

Offer Expires
June 30th, 2018



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Oswego County
Farm Bureau News

Started by Farmers for Farmers

Serving the Agricultural Community for 50 Years.

Safety Group 486

Workers' Compensation

25% UPFRONT DISCOUNT <small>*subject to eligibility</small>	PAYING YEARLY DIVIDENDS TO OUR MEMBERS SINCE 1967
COVERAGE FOR 20 AGRICULTURAL CLASSIFICATIONS	28% AVERAGE DIVIDEND**

** Represents an average dividend over the last 5 years. Dividend levels are not guaranteed.

CONTACT MICHELE OR BECKY ABOUT OUR WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM!

EVERY FARMER

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Oswego County Farm Bureau

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The board usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the EZ Truck Stop Restaurant

Oswego County Farm Bureau News

April 2018

President's Report

Thank you to the all the members that made the trip to Albany last month to take part in Farm Bureau's annual Taste of New York Reception and Lobby Day. We were pleased to have Ashley Lynn Winery representing Oswego County agriculture at the reception; their wine slushies were a hit among the attendees. The following day almost every Senator and Assembly member met with a farmer to hear how important critical funding and legislation is needed to help our farms remain competitive and viable. Many of our public policy priorities made it into the final state budget, but there is still more that needs to be done on the state and national level. I encourage you to visit NYFB.org to learn how you can become an effective advocate on issues important to you, right from your home. Together we can make a difference!

Orion Behling

OCFB's Eric Behling (left) joins Farm Bureau members from Jefferson and Onondaga Counties to meet with Assemblyman Will Barclay (center) to discuss agricultural issues at the Capitol in Albany as part of NYFB's annual Lobby Day.

NY FarmNet • 1-800-547-3276

Services are available to all farms in New York, large and small, with a diversity of commodities including dairy, crops, livestock, maple, fruit, vegetables, honey, nursery and more.

Always Free and Confidential

This issue of the Oswego County Newsletter is sponsored by:

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