

President’s Message (cont’d)

Policy and Lobbying

County delegates Mark Dunau and Bob and Joyce Bishop attended the New York Farm Bureau Annual Meeting last December. All of Delaware County’s policies were passed at the meeting. Delaware County Farm Bureau hosted a listening session for Congressman Faso on milk prices and the Farm Bill with Watershed Agricultural Council and Cooperative Extension at Del Rose Farm this past October during a cover crop demonstration with Eklund Family Farm Machinery. To see how the Congressional delegation has voted, you can go online to the American Farm Bureau Federation website.

We had an eminent domain issue between the county government and Bob and Joyce Bishop over the county using eminent domain to take their property to build the new DPW building. President Duane Martin and Field Advisor Todd Heyn spoke out against this. This issue has been satisfactorily resolved.

Lobby Days in Albany were attended by President Duane Martin, director Janet Beken-Smith and Erika Gogis from Stamford Farmers Coop. Among the policies covered included opposition to bans on tie stalls, calf hutches and dehorning. Policies promoted included funding for new research staff and research and education infrastructure at Cornell University, Watershed Agricultural Council projects, Refundable Investment Tax Credit, funding for Lyme disease research and coverage by health insurers, funding for county fairs, reforming state mandates on businesses, farms and local governments, and Department of Agriculture and Markets funding. All local legislators, New York State Senators Fred Akshar, John Bonacic and James Seward, and New York State Assemblymembers Cliff Crouch, Peter Lopez and Brian Miller all received the Circle of Friends Award for 2017. Our two adoptive legislators, State Senator Diane Savino(D- Staten Island) and Assemblymember Missy Miller (R- Long Island City) also received the award.

Bob Bishop was appointed to the American Farm Bureau Federation Farm Policy Committee, where he worked in Washington on the Farm Bill and USDA funding and Soil and Water District issues. USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue appointed Barb Hanselmann to the New York Farm Service Agency Advisory Committee after being nominated by Congressman Faso. Barb Hanselmann, Larry Burgin and Duane Martin were appointed to Congressman Faso’s Agriculture Advisory Committee.

On the federal level, most of our time was dedicated to the Farm Bill, WOTUS rule change, livestock emissions reporting to the EPA, placing whole milk back into schools, submitting comments on the labeling of plant products that call themselves milk, working on tariff trade war and emergency funding for dairy producers. The livestock emissions reporting to the EPA was repealed thanks in large part to New York Farm Bureau. The Farm Bill area we concentrated on was reforming the Dairy Margin Protection Program. At this time I feel it is a much better program, but time will tell. The other Farm Bill program we advocated for was the Large Animal Veterinarian Student Loan Forgiveness Program. Dr. Jessica Arrigan, the new owner of Delhi Animal Hospital, was one of twelve veterinarians nationally who received the scholarship two years ago.

The South Carolina federal judge ruling was a setback, but we are aggressively pursuing a change that is better for our members. We are looking to make the rules clearer, easier to understand and more specific. As of right now, for example, under the flood plan rules of WOTUS, the EPA can have a say on building, code enforcement and zoning in the village of Walton. We are working with a coalition of farm groups, the Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of Realtors, National Independent Federation of Business, National Association of Counties, National Association of Governors, National Association of State Legislatures, National Mayors Conference, National Association of Agriculture Commissioners and some 235 other organizations and businesses including Case-IH, John Deere and Caterpillar to name a few.

The opioid crisis is ripping rural America apart. Many rural counties are facing increasing costs in public safety, social service, emergency response, legal and court costs to name a few. It has also torn farm families apart. We have had this happen in our very own county and I have talked to some of these families. At last year’s national annual meeting, Farm Bureau took a survey of the 3,500 delegates. Seventy-five percent said they have been personally touched by the crisis, either by a family member, employee or friend who had become addicted to opioids, and ninety percent said it was a major problem. Farm Bureau has started a website, Farm Town Strong, with information on how to get help with this disease. Farm Bureau, National Farmers Union and National Association of Counties teamed up to push through a series of bills to help addicts, their families and local governments to offset these costs.

This year at the State Annual Meeting we are discussing the future of Farm Bureau. I am asking all of you to think about what type of organization you want and to tell us. I am of the philosophy that we are a farm/rural advocacy group, we are farmers and agriculture first, but we also are advocates for our rural way of life.

In closing, we all know things are bad out there. All we can do is try our best. In the 25 years of being involved in Farm Bureau, I can say I have never worked with such a great board of directors as I am working with right now, and state field and lobbying staff. The other part of this is, I have also never seen the view of dairy farming is in crisis by our state and federal representatives. They are really taking our crisis very seriously. State Senator Savino has brought up the WOTUS rules, the livestock emissions reporting and the Farm Bill to the two House members who represent Staten Island on our behalf, and they have been yea votes for us. Thank you for your support.

Best Wishes,

Duane Martin, Delaware County Farm Bureau President

2019 Proposed Resolutions	
1. State - Reaffirm – Preamble of the Eminent Domain Section Eminent domain represents the ultimate infringement upon private property rights. As such, the use of eminent domain must be limited and occur only in a way in which maximum deference is accorded to the owner or property. We continue to believe that property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom.	6. State: We support the streamlining and increased ease of use of electronic benefit cards at farmers markets and farm stands for both farmers and consumers to encourage consumption of healthy local foods. We further support enhancement of electronic benefits specifically for farm market and farm stand purchases.
2. Local: The Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is in full opposition to the construction of a new DPW maintenance building. Should this project move forward, we are hereby requesting full disclosure of the entire project complete with funding and all options available.	7. State – Internal: We encourage the state board of directors to develop new methods to promote our Safety Group 486 to outside farms to grow our membership and revenue while also educating our current members.
3. State: We support funding development of an educational program for invasive species identification and eradication.	8. State – Reaffirm – Quality Programs We support mandating all federal and state milk inspectors be identified with a picture identification and leave notice of being on the farm.
4. State – Internal: We are opposed to raising dues levels above \$85 in the current agricultural downturn.	9. We believe that if New York State legalizes recreational marijuana, the regulatory process should allow for the production of recreational marijuana by all farmers, large and small.
5. State – Internal: We encourage the state board of directors to start an open and transparent discussion about where NYFB is heading with regards to membership and what the focus should be moving forward.	10. We demand that New York State fund and work with the Department of Agriculture and Markets to enable the building of slaughterhouses for the growth of livestock agriculture in NYS.

159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Delaware County Farm
Bureau News

Delaware County Farm Bureau Board of Directors	
Duane Martin, <i>President</i>	607-538-9029
Chris DiBenedetto	845-254-4009
Mark Dunau	607-467-4034
Judy DiBenedetto	845-254-4009
Robert Bishop	607-865-8844
Barbara Hanselmann	607-538-9633
Paul Cerosaletti	607-278-5882
Jim Ecklund	607-652-2151
Joyce Bishop	607-865-7979
Janet Beken-Smith	607-652-7225

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Delaware County Farm Bureau News



Fall 2018

Delaware County Farm Bureau Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, October 18
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Delaware Food Works (former Andel Inn)
27905 State Highway 28, Andes, NY**

**Food provided by Delaware County Farm Bureau
*Lasagna with tossed salad, rolls, beverage and “Farmer’s Wife” pies***

RSVP to NYFB Field Advisor Todd Heyn at 518-431-9338

Important Notice: Per our by-laws, only current, regular members of Delaware County Farm Bureau can vote and run for the county Farm Bureau board.

President’s Message:

Greetings. It’s been another tough year of low prices and bad weather. I know it sounds like a broken record or a bad version of the Bill Murray movie Groundhog Day. Still, we all move forward. Delaware County Farm Bureau is working hard for you.

Social Programs

Delaware County Farm Bureau joined neighboring counties to help sponsor Family Farm Days. Vice President Barb Hanselman reported an average of 85 people per farm taking part in farm tours learning about local farming and agriculture.

This year Delaware County Farm Bureau sponsored the Dairy Princess program and cattle classes at the Delaware County Fair. We awarded Jack Stanton, son of Jason and Lisa Stanton, and a student at SUNY Cobleskill majoring in animal science, as the county Farm Bureau scholarship winner. We also sponsored Anna Post, daughter of Warren Post and Molly Brannen, to the New York State FFA Convention in Albany. President Duane Martin also wrote a letter of recommendation for Dr. Faith Burns of Delhi Animal Hospital for the Large Animal Veterinarian Student Loan Forgiveness Program of the USDA.

Delaware County Farm Bureau has plans to partner with Delaware County Chamber of Commerce and Otsego County League of Women Voters to host a debate of New York House District 19 candidates. We are also planning to have a Taste of Delaware County event in late November to sample Delaware County’s bounty.

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