FFX

Continued from page 8

next stop was Blue Chip Horse Farm, Jean Brown, General Manager, the leading commercial Standardbred breeding and boarding farm in New York, where the group had a chance to see the facility and horses and learn about the industry. These tours permitted participants to get an up-close look at various sectors of the agriculture industry while becoming more acquainted with newer technologies being used in agriculture to stimulate inquiry and interest.

Dinner at the Mill House Brewing Co. included another "tasting" and an opportunity to interact with Larry Stock, proprietor and brew master, to learn about the many career opportunities and his own experience and pathway. After dinner comments were shared by Theresa Sweeney, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. The networking and conversations about agriculture were at an all-time high as FFX participants shared with each other and enjoyed the local tastes of agriculture.

The final day included an industry outlook panel with Cornell, SUNY Morrisville, NY Wine & Grape Foundation, NY Turfgrass Association, SUNY Delhi, USDA APHIS, and DFA represented who shared their own personal agricultural career roadmap as well as the many opportunities within their organization and/or education unit. The diversification and opportunity hit home for many of the participants.

CTLE credits were offered for FFX and Terry Hughes shared a great deal of information together with his passion for the industry. Then the participants "wrapped up" the session with evaluations and comments and a quick review of the session. Good byes were said, but with the understanding that the network established will be used for many things!

In summary of the event, participants are quoted as saying....

"This event was awesome. Thank you for the way in which you took care of us. Many lessons learned from the trips and the presentations. We are already at work planning to develop our "farm" next year. I am looking forward to greater collaboration with you."

"I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for a fantastic conference last week. It was great from start to finish. I am a new career coordinator and the conference provided me so much valuable information. I also want to thank you for the materials you gave us on the flash drive - I am just looking at them now - very valuable."

"Absolutely wonderful conference, great job! My district is already thinking about a job fair for agricultural careers."

The NYFB Foundation would like to recognize and thank those organizations that supported the 2018 FFX: Pioneer Hybrid International, the Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance, Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York and Price Chopper's Golub Foundation. Check nyfbfoundation.org for more detail about the agenda and presenters, who helped make the event so successful and inspiring. We will be adding a variety of information in the coming month. Watch for updates about the FFX 2019, which will continue to focus on the middle and high school counselors who impact our youth, our industry and our economy.

Election

Continued from page I

in the balance, agricultural and other rural interests will need to change their lobbying game plan to build bridges to the new majority and their constituents. A recipe for success could be travelling to meet Senators in their home districts, a stepped-up farmer presence in Albany and advecting for hearings agrees

Survey

cost of this year's feast for 10 people is \$48.90, a less than one-percent decrease from last year's national average. The AFBF survey also factors in a different celery and carrot crudité price and \$3.01 of miscellaneous ingredients used in the meal's preparation that are not included in New York's informal survey. More information on the national survey can be found at www.fb.org.

Farm Bureau does not make any statistical claims about the survey data, but it is a useful gauge of price trends across New York and the country for shoppers who look to compare prices.

home districts, a stepped-up farmer presence in Albany and advocating for hearings across upstate on legislation that would negatively impact farmers.

Those in agriculture must look at these

time, however, you are marketing your farm's story and Farm Bureau policy.

On another note, long-time Assembly Agricultural Committee Chairman, Bill Magee, lost his bid for re-election. Assemblyman Magee served as the Dean of Agriculture in the Assembly Majority for decades and guided groundbreaking agricultural legislation and budget funding through his committee and the Assembly with his strong, yet understated manner. Agriculture certainly changed for the better because of Bill Magee and we thank him for his service to our farm families.

changing political times as an opportunity to

meet potential new customers, much like you

already do when you sell your products. This

Next

Continued from page 11

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be the ones in position to better achieve their

policy goals when Congress starts to vote on bills important to agriculture. Before 2018 is done, what will you say to your representative and senators?

Cody Lyon is managing director, advocacy & political affairs at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

E-lobby Center NYFB.org

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Face of Ag

Continued from page 14

What is biggest opportunity?

in the Capital District, I believe, we have unlimited opportunities in agriculture for our types of business. The economy is strong which helps our retail sales of Christmas trees and pumpkins. For our Christmas trees we can sell pretty much everything we are able to grow. New York State looks favorably on agriculture and I feel we can feel that at all levels. The state does a good job promoting tourism which helps our agritainment business. They are also helping us in the liability issue by instituting the inherent risk law last year for farms.

I'm hearing there are huge opportunities coming down the road for growing hemp. So farms with lots of land could benefit greatly.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy many aspects of my

agricultural job. Two things I embrace most are meeting people who also own farms. They are always friendly people who are willing to help and give advice. Another thing I like is to have the challenge of increasing our In New York State and, particularly productivity by use of equipment, chemicals, fertilizer, and weed control. This is a never-ending challenge but when you do better than the year before that provides a sense of accomplishment.

With so many young people interested in agriculture—what advice would you give to them?

I would advise any young person who's interested in agriculture to get as much education as possible. A dual focus would be most beneficial in college with the primary major being in the aspect of agriculture that holds the most interest and an additional major/minor in business. When starting a job, a young person would be wise to use as much technology as possible as I believe that will be the future in agriculture. Plan for the long-term and be as flexible and patient as possible!

Why is Farm Bureau important to you?

For me, Farm Bureau keeps me in touch with what's happening in agriculture. There have been some wonderful experiences that came to me through Farm Bureau. I was involved in a lobbying effort in Albany, and they arranged for a

meeting with Sonny Perdue who was working on the 2018 Farm Bill. Farm Bureau came to our farm and I was able to speak against the possible \$15 minimum wage. This was a success as they lowered it to \$12.50 for upstate New York.

