

STATE ANNUAL MEETING WRAP UP

New York Farm Bureau’s State Annual Meeting was held Dec. 4-5, 2018 in Syracuse, NY. Jefferson County Farm Bureau was presented with four County Activity of Excellence awards. County Activity of Excellence awards are presented to county Farm Bureaus that have exhibited excellence in a variety of categories relating to effectiveness in agriculture promotion and outreach, leadership and county Farm Bureau management, legislative advocacy and membership. Jefferson County Farm Bureau received the awards in the following categories:

- Membership
- Agriculture Promotion & Outreach
- Leadership & County Farm Bureau Management
- Legislative Advocacy

At the meeting current Jefferson County Farm Bureau president Devon Shelmidine was recognized as a 2018 Discussion Meet finalist. This honor is achieved through a competitive event where participating, Young Farmers and Ranchers members build basic discussion skills, develop a keen understanding of important agricultural issues and explore how groups can pool knowledge to reach consensus and solve problems.

In addition, Jefferson County Farm Bureau past president Adam Miner from Mannsville was recognized with a Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award, as well as a Distinguished President Award for all his efforts.



**Above:** Kristen Brown (l) Chair of the NYFB State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee along with David Fisher (r), President of NYFB present Adam Miner with the Young Farmers & Ranchers Excellence in Agriculture Award at the NYFB Annual Meeting.



**Above:** Along with two fellow recipients, Devon Shelmidine (c), Jefferson County Farm Bureau president receives the NYFB Discussion Meet finalist award from NYFB President David Fisher (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and NYFB State Chair of the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee, Kristen Brown (right).

“10-GALLON CHALLENGE”

Jefferson County Farm Bureau members and community supporters in the region have once again generously supported the hunger relief efforts of Food Bank of Central New York. The “10-Gallon Challenge” was designed to raise awareness of the major struggles dairy farmers are facing in the local economy while providing nutritious milk to neighbors in need. On Fri., Dec. 21, members of Jefferson County Farm Bureau along with Upstate Farms Milk Cooperative representatives presented a \$3,500 check to Food Bank of Central New York to be used to purchase up to 1,500 gallons of milk from New York producers for needy families during the holiday season. This event highlights the great ongoing partnership between agriculture, the community at large and Food Bank of Central New York.



(l-r) Mike Davis, General Manager of Upstate Niagara; Dan Wolf, Chairman of the Board for Upstate Niagara; Jefferson County Farm Bureau members Jay Canzonier and Adam Miner along with Devon Shelmidine, President of Jefferson County Farm Bureau.

KEVIN M. DANIELS AGENCY RECOGNIZED



Each year at NYFB’s State Annual Meeting, NYFB honors three Nationwide Insurance agencies who have led the company in sales of farm insurance policies. For the second year in a row, the Kevin M. Daniels Agency from Canton was recognized. Jefferson County Farm Bureau appreciates the agency’s desire to help members with insurance, financial, and farm transition services, and thank them for their commitment to serving North Country farmers.

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE OFFERED  
February 8-9, 2019

The New York Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference will be held Fri., Feb. 8 – Sat., Feb. 9 at The Desmond Hotel, Albany NY. The conference will consist of agricultural tours, workshops, speakers and networking opportunities geared toward young farmers 18-35 years of age.

Vance Crowe, Director of Millennial Engagement from Bayer Crop Sciences, will be the keynote speaker. In his presentation “Heroes, Villains and their Motivations: Getting Beyond “Tell Your Story”, Vance Crowe will discuss how young farmers can articulate their challenges of being a successful farmer in the modern age so that consumers can relate and cheer for them to succeed online, in person and even in the grocery store.

Other workshop sessions include “Land As Your Legacy – Estate Planning from a young farmers perspective”,

“Public Speaking 2.0”, "Fat Free Meetings" and “Media Training 101”. Friday’s agricultural tours will visit several agribusinesses in the Capital Region. A team building dessert party is planned for Friday evening.

The cost for NYFB members to attend the two-day Young Farmers & Ranchers Conference is \$130 which includes registration fee, Friday lunch, Friday agricultural tours, Friday dinner and evening activities, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch. The hotel overnight will cost \$124.26/single or double occupancy. Contact The Desmond Hotel directly for reservations at 1-800-448-3500 or on-line: [NYFB Young Farmers](#) and use the Group Code” “NFB” for the discounted rate.

**Reservations are due Jan. 28, 2019.** For more information on the conference call NYFB at 1-800-342-4143.

CCE SHOP MEETINGS— BARNS, CROPS, AND RENT 2019

All meetings are from 12:30 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 17

**Older Barns: renovate or replace?**

Held at Homestead Fields, 20831 Eiss Rd. LaFargeville, NY

Wed., Feb. 13

**2018/19 Crop Seasons w/ Mike Hunter**

The Gathering Barn at Old McDonald's Farm - 14369 County Route 145 Sackets Harbor, NY

Wed., Mar. 13

**What's it Worth? Barn/land leases and custom harvesting**

Murcrest/Peggy & Lynn Murray (garage) - 31721 Route 12 Copenhagen, NY

Have questions or need directions? Contact Jake Ledoux at 315-788-8450 ext. 234 or [jtl224@cornell.edu](mailto:jtl224@cornell.edu)



NYFB members can now save up to \$2,500 on new CAT machines.

Including: wheel loaders, skid steers, backhoes, excavators and more.

Members must provide a valid Member Verification certificate at the time of purchase.

Go to [NYFB.org/member-benefits](http://NYFB.org/member-benefits) to obtain your certificate.



JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
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**CNY OFFICE :** Jill Williamson.....315-252-1367  
7413 County House Road, Auburn NY  
Office Hours: Mon – Thurs 8 a.m.—4 p.m.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Jefferson County Community College, Watertown, NY.

New York Farm Bureau  
159 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12205



Jefferson County  
Farm Bureau News



# JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS



Winter 2019

## WELCOME DEVON SHELMDINE, NEW PRESIDENT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Congratulations to Devon Shelmdine, recently elected president of Jefferson County Farm Bureau at the County Annual Meeting. Devon has been an active Farm Bureau member who has participated and chaired multiple county and state committees over the years. Most recently, Devon has been a member of the Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee where he was a finalist at the NYFB Discussion Meet. Devon resides in Adams with his wife Erica and their two boys. Welcome Devon!

### President’s Report

I trust the holiday season was safe and enjoyable for everyone and the year ended on a good note for all. Just when it seems that you can relax as end of year activities are winding down, we’re off and running with events for the new year!

Lobby Day in Albany for New York Farm Bureau is scheduled for March 5, 2019. This is an excellent opportunity for Jefferson County Farm Bureau representatives to engage with their elected legislators, as well as urban “Adopted Legislators”. The purpose is to

give a rural production perspective to our representatives and let them know what is working and what is not as they prepare to shape agricultural policies. For our urban legislators, this may be the only time that they meet with a farmer, and possibly the only rural New Yorker. Any Jefferson County Farm Bureau member who wishes to participate at Lobby Days is welcome to do so. Please contact me at 315-486-8959 for the particulars.

I’m looking forward to having a productive 2019 and wish you all the same!



*Devon Shelmdine*

## SAWYERS HONORED FOR THEIR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE

Donald and Kayrena Sawyer were presented with Jefferson County Farm Bureau’s Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the county Farm Bureau’s Annual Meeting at Old McDonald’s Farm. The bi-annual award, started in 1984, was created to recognize members who help promote agriculture in a positive manner.

The Sawyers made an impact in the industry soon after establishing their farm on Route 12 in Burville. They received national recognition from the American Farm Bureau Federation, with the first Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher Award in 1969, for excellence and dedication to the farming community. In 1984, they were again lauded with the first New York State Dairy of Distinction Award.

“The Sawyer’s have been trailblazers in our community for many years,” said Jefferson County Farm Bureau President Devon Shelmdine. “They have made a positive impact on agriculture overall, mentored the next generation of farmers and touched our neighborhoods through service.”

The Sawyers are longtime Jefferson County Farm Bureau members. Don is a past president and has donated his time to serve on many agricultural and civic boards. Kayrena has also given her time to the community, holding various offices including past president of the Northern New York Agricultural Historical Society at Stone Mills. Their farm is

operated today under the leadership of the third and fourth generation of Sawyers.

“We are inspired by their dedication, passion and commitment to our community and are proud to place a spotlight on Don and Kayrena’s distinguished service to agriculture through this award,” said Shelmdine.



*Pictured: (l-r) Jefferson County Farm Bureau president Devon Shelmdine, Donald Sawyer, Kayrena Sawyer, past Jefferson County Farm Bureau president and current board member Adam Miner*

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**INTERESTING  
FARMING FACTS**

Farming began around 10,000 B.C. during the First Agricultural Revolution, when nomadic tribes began to farm. Additionally, this is when the eight so-called “founder crops” of agriculture appeared:

- 1) emmer wheat
- 2) einkorn wheat
- 3) hulled barley
- 4) peas
- 5) lentils
- 6) bitter vetch
- 7) chickpeas, and
- 8) flax