

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



Livingston County
Farm Bureau News



Livingston County Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting
Delegates (l-r): Brad Macauley, Dan Stein, Leslie Hamilton, Claire Mulligan, Jeremy Kingston, Liam Coyne and Clayton Phelps

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 to obtain your certificate.

1.800.342.4143
NYFB.org

Livingston County Farm Bureau News

Winter 2019



President’s Message

Hello everyone, my name is Leslie Hamilton and I’d like to introduce myself as your new Livingston County Farm Bureau president. I work with my father and uncle on our crop farm in Geneseo. My husband Dan and I also run a small beef and pork operation together in Piffard.

Our county has had a very productive and active fall. Farm Fest was hosted by Coyne Farms in Avon this past September. With over 2,300 people in attendance, there were constant lines for the dairy and worm farm tours throughout the day. The event was an overall great success and we are already working on plans for this year!



In the beginning of December seven of our board members, myself, Dan Stein, Brad Macauley, Liam Coyne, Jeremy Kingston, Claire Mulligan and Clayton Phelps, attended State Annual Meeting in Syracuse. We voted on policies for the upcoming year and attended various meetings and workshops. It was fabulous to have such a great turnout of members, especially due to the fact it was the first time attending for three of the members.

We are very excited about our board this year. With over half of our board under 35, we have one of the youngest boards in the state. With the average age of the American farmer well into their fifties, we are very lucky to have so many young farmers interested in Farm Bureau. Getting young farmers engaged is key to the future success of agriculture. As a young farmer myself, I can personally attest to the fact that It’s a fairly daunting time to be entering the agricultural workforce. Times are tough and you have to be innovative to succeed. This is why we are so proud of the influx of young farmers onto our board. To have this many young people getting involved in the community’s agricultural policy, outreach and promotion is very encouraging for the future of Livingston County agriculture. We look forward to the coming year and we are excited to see the fresh, new ideas that our board has to offer.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you are interested in Farm Bureau or if there is anything that I can help you with. From myself and Dan, we wish you a healthy and productive 2019!

Sincerely, Leslie

Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Leslie Hamilton, President.....	737-2208
Liam Coyne, Vice President	519-9235
Meghan Rodwell, Treasurer.....	703-2149
Emilie Mulligan	414-8934
Michael Howlett.....	739-7065
Joel Stevens.....	613-6478
Kent Williams.....	717-327-8095
Kaylene Lyons	301-648-8390
Doug Comstock	509-2578
Tim Northrop.....	315-523-2516
Kevin Herrington.....	770-3975
John Moore.....	370-2398
Clayton Phelps, Co YF&R Chair.....	519-2563
Dan Stein, Co YF&R Chair.....	994-5710
Jeremy Kingston, Co YF&R Chair.....	519-1610
Claire Mulligan, Co YF&R Chair.....	202-2151
Joe Swyers, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	261-6525
Brad Macauley, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	704-1506
Kim Sanford, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	739-5925
Amanda Krenning-Muoio, Field Advisor.....	749-9508
Livingston County Farm Bureau.....	1-877-383-7663

Calendar of Events

Jan. 28:	Sign-up deadline for NYFB YF&R Conf.
Feb. 8 - 9:	YF&R Leadership Conference, Albany
Feb. 16:	YF&R Dinner Dance, BWs
Mar. 1:	NYFB Scholarship Application Deadline
Mar. 4 - 5:	Lobby Days, Albany
Mar. 18 - 22:	Agricultural Literacy Week

Agricultural Literacy Week—March 18-22

Livingston County Farm Bureau will help 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.

If you are interested in participating please contact LCFB.



Genesee Valley Hunt Races

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee attended the Genesee Valley Hunt Races in October. Each year, the Hunt welcomes tailgaters and even offers a competition if you're the competitive type. This year, the young farmers held one of their own, which included a bloody mary bar with various foods and desserts. Even though it was the first year for the group to attend this event, there were nearly 30 people in attendance. Some of those were attending the races for the first time, and others might not have taken the time to come enjoy the event on their own. It was a great way to catch up with friends during the busy season. The event turned out to be a great success! The committee hopes to grow the event in the future and possibly make it an annual tradition.



New York Farm Bureau Offers Agricultural Youth Scholarship

Applicant Guidelines

2019 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural industry.

Live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue.

Family Farm Bureau membership or student Farm Bureau membership is required and may accompany application.



Process and Procedure

Applications and information available at www.nyfb.org or by calling 1-800-342-4143.

Students are required to complete an application, which is a fillable pdf available on the NYFB website, and submit a brief 300-500 word essay discussing an issue facing agriculture in their county, explaining how they think NYFB can support members who may deal with this issue.

Completed application packets must be returned to New York Farm Bureau in Albany. **A March 1, 2019 postmark deadline or via email.**



2019 YFR Night Out Featuring Riding Shotgun

Saturday, February 16
7 p.m. - social hour and appetizers
8 p.m.-midnight - band

BW's Restaurant, 11070 Perry Rd., Pavilion
Tickets are \$25 advanced purchase
\$35 at the door

Look for the event on Facebook for the ticket link, or contact LCFB if you would like more information.

Brought to you by New York Farm Bureau District 2
Young Farmers and Ranchers

Highlighted Member Amos Smith: Lawnell Farms, York, NY

Amos resides with his wife Stephanie and daughter Cora in Linwood. Along with his grandfather, parents, sister and brother-in-law they own and operate their family's dairy farm in York.

Amos returned home to the farm in 2006 after obtaining a B.S. in animal science at Cornell University. He currently sits on the York town board, represents the New York Farm Viability Institute board on the New York Corn and Soybean Growers Association board, and has previously served two terms on the Cornell Cooperative Extension board.

What is your favorite part about Livingston County Agriculture?

The seasons. I love the changes, it gives you something to continually look forward to.

What do you think will be your farm's biggest challenges in 2019?

Controlling cost structure to try and facilitate cash flow. I don't think this is going to be a problem limited to our operation alone. I think that 2019 will see this as an industry-wide problem.

What would you be doing if you weren't involved in agriculture?

Something in agribusiness. I actually wanted to be an Air Force pilot at one point in time.

Additional comments to the community:

I think that it's very important that we as an agricultural community continue stewardship to the land as well as the community. We have to remain good neighbors while remaining productive farmers and business people at the same time.

I also want to also thank Farm Bureau for all they do for us, taking the time to lobby when we as farmers cannot. It helps to ensure the future of New York agriculture.



Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference

New York Farm Bureau will be holding its Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference on Feb. 8-9 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY.

This year's theme is "Young Farmers -The Future Agricultural Superheroes"

Keynote Speaker—Vance Crowe

Heroes, Villains and their Motivations: Getting beyond "tell your story"

Workshops:

Land as Your Legacy
Public Speaking 2.0
Media Interview 101
Fat-Free Meetings

The conference is a great way to make contacts across the state, as well as take tours of local agriculture in the Albany area. You can register online at NYFB.org, or by contacting LCFB.