

BE A LOCAL LEADER BY CONNECTING WITH THEM

Contacting your local legislative leaders and informing them about the state of your operation can bridge the gap between economic downfalls and local legislation. These representatives are also aware of a larger network and up and coming programs that farms can take advantage of.

Making the contact and making them “your leader” can make you their “go-to” for questions they may have on specific issues in the future. Break the barrier and bridge the gap to make the local and state leaders informed. Elected officials representing Lewis County are:

Lewis County Legislative Board

District 01

John Lehman
315-346-6696
johnlehman@lewiscounty.ny.gov

District 02

Randy Lachausse
315-608-1087
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District 03

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ronburns@lewiscounty.ny.gov

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District 06

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District 07

Greg Kulzer
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District 08

Lawrence Dolhof, Chair
315-348-6487
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District 09

Thomas Osborne
315-376-4355
tomosborne@lewiscounty.ny.gov

District 10

Jerry King
315-942-4791
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County Manager

Ryan Piche
315-376-5354
Ryannpiche@lewiscountyny.gov



NEW YORK FARM BUREAU 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

New York Farm Bureau works every day to advocate for agricultural industry and our rural communities.

We identify key issues that directly and indirectly impact agriculture through a structured, grassroots policy development process that reflects the collective interests of our members. These policies determine the

- Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 19/20 budget.
- Strong opposition to unworkable employer mandates in New York State.
- Ensure staff funding for critical positions at the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
- Fund farm tire cost-share disposal (from DEC Part 360 regulations) through the EPF.
- Expand the Farm Workforce Retention Tax Credit to Christmas tree, maple, farm wineries and cideries and increase overall funding.
- Remove unemployment insurance requirements for H-2A workers.
- Amend General Municipal Law 247 to allow farms with conservation easements to construct necessary farm buildings and structures.
- Support training for police and district attorneys on animal cruelty laws pursuant to current law.
- Funding for research and eradication of tick-borne illnesses.

focus of our advocacy discussion and action for the year ahead.

New York Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors has established the following state and national priority issues for 2019:



BLACK RIVER VALLEY NATURAL

Invites all **Processors, Businesses and Producers**
to attend our

OPEN HOUSE!

Thursday, April 25

Black River Valley Natural Plant
4012 Center Street, Lyons Falls, NY

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

If you’ve ever dreamed of processing, let’s talk!

Please enter through the visitors entrance on the left side of the building.

YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS BOWLING EVENT RECAP

On Sat., March 16, Lewis County Farm Bureau held its first Young Farmers & Ranchers event at Lewis Lanes. Approximately 30 young farmers from a variety of agriculture and farming backgrounds attended. There were all sizes of farms and types of farm operations represented with farmers from the Tug Hill Plateau, the Black River Valley and as far away as the foothills of the Adirondacks, on the back side of Croghan. There were also several people from local agriculture businesses that attended. For this event, we bowled several games, enjoyed pizza, wings, soda and, of course, milk. There was a lot of socialization happening, as many of the farmers met other farmers for the first time. As you know it is sometimes hard to get off the farm, and when you run into someone who is also passionate about agriculture, there is always plenty to talk about. This kickoff event will hopefully be the first of many to come in the future for Lewis County. We plan to do a local agriculture enterprise tour in the upcoming months and provide the opportunity to see some of our diverse farming operations. A special thank you to NYS Agriculture Classroom Coordinator, Katie Carpenter, who also attended and did several giveaways of books to the people in attendance. Thank you to Hidden Pastures Dairy, who gave away some gelato. Thank you to our regional field advisor, John Wagner, and his wife, Theresa, who came up and provided some T-shirts to give away. Thank you to Lewis Lanes for providing a beautiful facility, awesome food and who generously covered shoe costs for our farmers. Thank you to Lewis County Farm Bureau for having this kickoff event. And finally, THANK YOU FARMERS!



Blake Place

YF&R Chair, Lewis County

THE NEXT YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS MEETING

SATURDAY, APRIL 13
TOUR OF MARKS DAIRY FARM
6314 Cannan Rd, Lowville, NY

We will meet up at 1:30 p.m. for pizza and some socializing. Ice cream sundaes will be provided by the Dairy Princess and her court. Tour will begin at 2 p.m. See you there!

Watch our Facebook page *Farm Bureau of Lewis County NY* for further details.


NEW YORK STATE DAIRY PRINCESS CROWNED FROM LEWIS COUNTY


Congratulations to Reagan Domagala, recently crowned New York State Dairy Princess at the Holiday Inn in Liverpool. She has served as the Lewis County Dairy Princess since spring of 2018 and competed against 21 other county dairy princesses to win the New York State title. The competition included personal interview, question and answer session, written skills test, product knowledge test, as well as a prepared speech.




For her efforts, Domagala will receive a \$1,200 scholarship and will serve as a dairy industry spokesperson at events throughout the coming year, such as farm meetings, fairs and school visits. She will also help mentor and train new county dairy princesses.

Domagala resides with her parents, Robert and Nancy, in the southern part of Lewis County.

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"To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture"
As a member of New York Farm Bureau, your voice is valued.



Member Login

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How to E-Lobby—It's fast and easy:



Take Action!

Advocacy

- Go to www.nyfb.org and click on the green "eLobby-Take Action!" button on the left side of the page under the banner photos, or by clicking the green "Take Action! Advocacy" button.
- Find the letter you want to send and click "Take Action."
- The action alert description will appear followed by the recipients and the letter text. Type in your name and address and press "Send Message" at the bottom of the page.
- Your letter is sent directly to lawmakers and you are helping to impact farm public policy! Encourage your friends to E-Lobby by typing in their e-mail addresses.

If you have any problems using the E-Lobby feature, call the NYFB office at 1-800-342-4143.

New York Farm Bureau
159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Lewis County
Farm Bureau News

This edition of Lewis County Farm Bureau News provided
by:



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**LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Greg Millick..... 315-525-4127
Blake Place.....315-528-7050
FIELD ADVISOR: John Wagner..... 315-761-9770
CNY OFFICE : Jill Williamson..... 315-252-1367

Lewis County Farm Bureau board meetings are held the third
Tuesday of each month @ 7:30 p.m. in the Soil & Water
Conference Room at the County Office Building on Outer
Stowe Street, Lowville.

Lewis County Farm Bureau News

April 2019



President's Report



Lewis County Farm Bureau members spent two days in Albany visiting with lawmakers on March 4-5 to highlight the organization's state public policy priorities for the year.

The evening of March 4 kicked off our trip as we, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County (CCE Lewis), hosted a booth at NYFB's Taste of New York Reception. Held

every year for lawmakers, commissioners and staff, Lewis County Farm Bureau's table featured local products from Black River Valley Natural and Mercer's Ice Cream.

Thank you to Michelle LeDoux and Melissa Spence from CCE Lewis for putting our great display booth together. It really helped us showcase the diversity and importance of Lewis County agriculture.

On Tues., March 5, members participated in the annual Lobby Day event. The day was scheduled with meetings with local Senators and Assembly members, as well as New York City lawmakers that the county Farm Bureau "adopted".

Legislative priorities that affect farmer members throughout the state were discussed and members had the privilege of meeting with new Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou from Manhattan. She was enthusiastic to learn about the agriculture issues throughout New York State and in Lewis County.

It was a successful trip, and I'd encourage any Farm Bureau member to make the journey at least once to meet with their elected officials and promote New York State agriculture.

Jen Karelus

President



***Pictured:** Jen Karelus (c) and Joe Shultz (r) meet with adopted legislator Yuh-Line Niou (l) of Manhattan.*



Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul (3rd from right) and NYFB President David Fisher (2nd from right) visiting the Lewis County Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County Taste of New York reception booth.

WORKWEAR PROGRAM



All Farm Bureau members and farm employees have to do is either tell the person at the customer service desk they are a New York Farm Bureau member or show any type of proof—that's it. Members will bring their purchases to customer service, mention that, and they will get the discount of **10% off Herb's Already Low Regular Prices!**

Present your Farm Bureau membership card or pay stub at checkout for your discount on all qualified purchases. It's that simple, no fees, no cost.

- **Work Clothing-** Jeans, Jackets, Shirts, Hats, Gloves and Socks
- **Scrubs-** Various Styles Including Cargo, Flexible and V-Neck
- **Work Shoes-** Crocs, Workboots, Safety Toe, Electrical Hazard, Rubber and Waterproof Insulated Boots.

All 9 Herb Philipson's store locations in Central New York

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