

## 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 downturns and local legislation. These representatives are also aware of a larger network and upcoming 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.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

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#### County Administrator

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## NEW YORK FARM BUREAU 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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

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

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

- 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.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FFA CHAPTERS PARTICIPATE IN NYS LEADERS EXPERIENCE



Jefferson County Farm Bureau provided funds to three FFA chapters in the county for students to attend the NY FFA State Leaders Experience in Albany on Feb. 4-5. This two-day conference focused on FFA members engaging directly with their local lawmakers to learn about the legislative process, the issues facing the industry, developing a message and telling their stories.

Pictured from left to right: Konrad Wojcicowski and Michaela Stephens from Carthage FFA, Julia Dodge and Hope Barney from Belleville Henderson FFA, along with Devon Shelmidine as he presents a check to them during their presentation to Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board about their SLE Conference experience. Five South Jefferson FFA students also received funding but were unable to attend the presentation meeting.

## ARE YOUR AG INSURANCE NEEDS BEING MET?

Nationwide Agribusiness has a long history of working with farmers. Our company was started by farmers and to this day is led by farmers. We have a strong desire to help protect your farm business and service New York Farm Bureau members and their agricultural enterprises.

Kyle Gehrke, with the Kevin M. Daniels Agency, is the agent here to help you with your agricultural insurance needs. We at the Kevin M. Daniels Agency understand that agribusiness has its own unique set of exposures and that having a farm agent with a deep background in agriculture is a great first step towards a lasting relationship.

Coming from an active farming family in Jefferson County and being a member on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau board himself, Kyle is a great resource who knows agribusiness and can sit down with you and review your policy needs.

We encourage you to give Kyle a call and let us quote your farm business. New York Farm Bureau members can take advantage of the 10% Farm Policy Discount that Nationwide offers.

Let us work with you to be sure you and your farm business are properly covered coming into the busy spring season. Thank you!

Kyle Gehrke  
Kevin M Daniels Agency  
Master Farm Certified  
315-386-4335 ext. 5



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## NYFB RECIEVES AFBF RECOGNITION

NYFB Young Farmers and Promotion & Education members met with other members from across the country in Milwaukee, WI recently. While learning new skills and experiencing Wisconsin agriculture, NYFB was



recognized with two awards. NYFB received the **2nd Place State for Pounds of Food Donated** along with **Most Innovative Award for the 10 Gallon Milk Challenge**.

Jefferson County's own Erica Shelmidine was on hand to accept the Most Innovative Award for the 10 Gallon Milk Challenge. Congratulations everyone for a job well done!

## WORKWEAR PROGRAM



All Farm Bureau members and farm employees have to do is either tell our 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 & Socks
- **Scrubs-** Various Styles Including Cargo, Flexible & V-Neck
- **Work Shoes-** Crocs, Workboots, Safety Toe, Electrical Hazard, Rubber & Waterproof Insulated Boots.

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Jefferson County  
Farm Bureau News

This edition of Jefferson County Farm Bureau News  
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and Oswego Counties.

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YOUR INSURANCE POLICY.**

**JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
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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.





# JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS



April 2019

## TASTE OF NEW YORK RECEPTION & LOBBY DAY RECAP

Jefferson County Farm Bureau members Tim Eastman, Kyle Gehrke and myself spent two days in Albany on March 4-5 to help facilitate NYFB's state public policy priorities for the year at NYFB's Taste of NY Reception and Lobby Day.

The Taste of New York Reception on March 4 allowed Jefferson County to feature a booth offering Great Lakes Cheese Curd to elected officials and legislators and their staff. It's a pleasure to be able to showcase and talk about the diverse agriculture that is in Jefferson County and we want to thank Great Lakes Cheese in Adams, NY for their generous support.

Lobby Day on March 5 was a full day event as we meet with both local Senators and Assembly members, as well as "adopted" legislators from New York City to discuss agricultural issues throughout New York State and in Jefferson 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!

*Devon Shelmidine*

Jefferson County Farm Bureau President



Above: Jefferson County Farm Bureau members with NYS Senator Patty Ritchie (second from left)



Above: Jefferson County Farm Bureau members with NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets Commissioner Richard Ball (second from left)

## JEFFERSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE



The Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship is awarded to a member or family

member of Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, or St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau, with preference given to Jefferson County. The scholarship is awarded to a freshman or second-year student at JCC who has financial need and has shown citizenship and leadership through community involvement and/or extracurricular school activities. In order to maintain the award throughout the academic year, the student must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

Application deadline for the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship is **May 1, 2019**. To apply online, go to the menu button at [www.sunyjefferson.edu](http://www.sunyjefferson.edu) and scroll down to "Costs & Aid" and then click on "Apply For Scholarships."

### Meet Jefferson County Farm Bureau's Most Recent Scholarship Winner

My name is Brendon Hunter and I am a recent recipient of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Scholarship at Jefferson Community College. I would like to thank Jefferson County Farm Bureau for its generous support of my academic career while at Jefferson Community College. I am a graduate of Alexandria Central School and reside with my family in Redwood, New York. This is my second year attending Jefferson Community College, majoring in engineering sciences. Jefferson Community College is providing me an affordable, high-quality education. It also allows me to complete two years of college study toward a bachelor degree while still living at home as a way to save money. I plan on continuing my studies at Clarkson University in the fall of 2019 to pursue a bachelor degree in civil engineering.

