

## President's Message



My name is Edward Merry. Together with my family I operate Lismore Dairy in Arkport, NY, where we have been since 1994. This year, as always, presented new and significant challenges in the agriculture industry. I wish you and your farms a prosperous and safe season. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as president of Steuben County Farm Bureau.

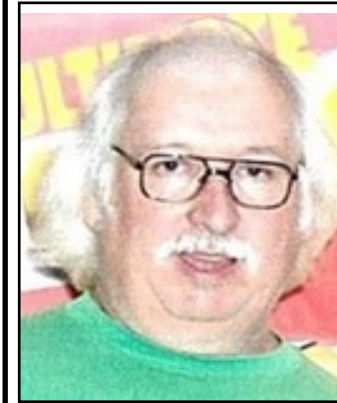
*Edward Merry  
President*

## Annual Member Picnic



This year's annual picnic was held on July 29 at the Howard Community Center where more than 100 members and guests attended. A big thank you to Steuben County Farm Bureau members who volunteer their time organizing and cooking to make this event possible every year.

## In Memoriam Curt Hopkins



Curt Hopkins passed away suddenly on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at age 66. Curt was predeceased by his parents, Lisle E. Hopkins and Neva Conderman Hopkins; sibling James; and many aunts and uncles. He leaves his sister, Karen Hopkins of Rush, NY, and many cousins. Curt graduated from Alfred Tech and managed the family farm for more than 40 years. Initially, Hopkins Dairy Farm produced and bottled milk marketed door to door as well as through Hopkins Dairy stores. In recent years the farm converted to selling beef and grain in the local community. Curt was one of those individuals who seems to have always been part of agricultural leadership in Steuben County. Curt followed in his parents' footsteps in involvement with agriculture from a young age. By the time the 1990s came along Curt had moved through the organization where he served as county vice president for several years under Jim Tombs. He then served as president for several years in the mid 2000s. At the state level Curt served on the NYFB Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and also sat on the state Political Education and Awareness Committee. As impressive as the number of years and positions that Curt served the county Farm Bureau is the number of posts he held in Steuben's agricultural community. Just one month before passing away, Curt was helping, as he usually did, at the county Farm City Day. His enduring presence at all things agriculture in Steuben County will be sincerely missed.

## New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting

The 62<sup>nd</sup> New York Farm Bureau State Annual Meeting will be held Dec. 4-5, 2018 at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown Hotel in Syracuse, NY. Delegates from 52 county Farm Bureaus will consider policy recommendations passed at County Annual Meetings, share ideas and launch programs and activities for 2019. For more information on the meeting, please visit the 'Events' page at NYFB.org.

## Steuben County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meetings

The Steuben County Farm Bureau Board of Directors meets the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Masonic Building at the Steuben County Fairgrounds, unless otherwise noted.

### SHARE THIS!!!!

Look these up and share them on social media

[www.fooddialogues.com](http://www.fooddialogues.com):  
an agricultural issues discussion page

[www.purpleplow.org](http://www.purpleplow.org):  
STEM education platform to help teachers

[www.agfoundation.org](http://www.agfoundation.org):  
resources for ag promotion



Be sure to like us on Facebook at "Steuben County Farm Bureau" and on Instagram at "SteubenCountyFB."



We would like to encourage all of our members to share with us their pictures from their farm and their land as well as their experiences.

## Membership

Your county Farm Bureau is only as strong as its active members. If you know somebody in agriculture who is not a member, encourage them to join. Annual membership dues are \$85.

Your county Farm Bureau works hard at the county, state and national level as a voice for farmers and landowners. Call or email any of the board members listed in this newsletter to sign up. It's quick and it's easy!

**How to E-Lobby—It's fast and easy:**

- Go to [www.nyfb.org](http://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.*







Steuben County  
Farm Bureau News

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Steuben County Farm Bureau Board of Directors		
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<a href="mailto:altonjean@aol.com">altonjean@aol.com</a>		
Jenalee Turner, Secretary/Treasurer.....	607-590-6537	Field Crops
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Dan Hubbard.....	607-765-0988	Potatoes
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Shane Slayton, Young Farmers & Ranchers.....	607-661-6237	Field Crops
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# Steuben County Farm Bureau News



Fall 2018

## Steuben County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting



*Pictured left-right: Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, county Farm Bureau President Edward Merry, Senator Tom O’Mara.*

The annual dinner and meeting was held on Oct. 22 at the Wheeler Community Center. Members and guests began arriving during the social hour until we had approximately 55 attendees. Congressman Tom Reed, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano and Senator Tom O’Mara presented Steuben County Farm Bureau with a proclamation for 100 years of service to the agricultural community. A tribute to county Farm Bureau member Curt Hopkins was read before dinner. Alton and Jean outdid themselves by setting up the room and preparing a delicious pork loin and gravy. Other food contributions included drinks and hors d’oeuvres from Squires and mashed potatoes from Hubbard's. We heard from Stephanie Mehlenbacher about her efforts to get an agriculture program invigorated at Avoca Central School. She gave an overview of her program and some of the things she is

working on, programs she is offering, class sizes, etc. After the meal, introductions and presentations, the business meeting was held. Jenalee gave us a report on the agvocacy activity we are doing in conjunction with Jasper-Troupsburg FFA. We also heard from Scott about the Cornell Cooperative Extension regional agricultural teams. We adopted all resolutions listed in the program and elected the slate of candidates who were also listed in the program. Everyone in attendance walked away with nice door prizes thanks to the efforts of the entire board in soliciting various items.



*Members and guests attend the County Annual Meeting and Dinner.*



*Pictured left-right: County Farm Bureau President Edward Merry with Congressman Tom Reed.*