

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



Chautauqua County
Farm Bureau News

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REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY?

NYFB e-lobbying efforts are ongoing. To participate in the e-lobby action items that NYFB is working on, go to www.nyfb.org and click on **eLobby - Take Action!** Show elected officials you support New York agriculture.

WHAT IS NYFB’S LEGAL DEFENSE FUND?

NYFB’s Legal Defense Fund supports and protects farmers’ rights in the legal arena in matters involving significant NYFB policy that stand to have far-reaching impact on the farmers in New York State.

Money contained in the fund comes from the generous contributions of county Farm Bureaus and members. The collective bargaining lawsuit drained the fund. We need to replenish the fund to meet the new legal challenges around the corner.

Membership renewal invoices for 2020 will be arriving in your mailboxes in September. Please take that opportunity to make a gift to NYFB’s Legal Defense Fund, or you can contribute by sending a check to: NYFB Legal Affairs, PO Box 5330, Albany, NY 12205. Please note “Legal Defense Fund” in the memo portion of your check. Thank you for your generous support.

Contributions or gifts to the NYFB Legal Defense Fund are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau News

Summer 2019

President’s Message

I wanted to let you know the importance of Farm Bureau’s efforts when working to oppose the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act. We had the cards stacked against us when this bill was introduced with Democratic majorities now in both the State Senate and Assembly.

There were enough votes to pass the bill when it contained a 40-hour week and eight-hour day overtime threshold and collective bargaining that would allow for worker strikes.

With all the efforts of Farm Bureau and other agricultural organizations, we ended up with the best deal we could at this time with the situation that we faced in Albany. In the end, the act that passed includes a 60-hour overtime threshold and collective bargaining with an anti-strike clause. This middle ground is much better than at the start and Farm Bureau had an important role achieving these compromises.

There are still many concerns with this bill, especially the wage board that will start next year to consider lowering the threshold below 60 hours. We will basically have to repeat this year’s efforts again next year to keep this from happening.

I also wanted to let you know that Farm Bureau members voted at the State Annual Meeting last December to increase the membership dues this year. The dues will now be \$99 if you pay before Nov. 1 and \$110 if you pay after that time. It has been 12 years since a dues rate increase and the time had come for this change.

We need to continue to stand together with all of agriculture to support one another.

Dick Kimball
President

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Dick Kimball, President 508-965-6400
Evan Schiedel, Vice President..... 716-223-0030

Jim Joy.....716-672-7313
Chad Fredd.....716-499-1315
Dan Steward.....716-499-2946
Glen Moss Jr..... 716-640-7517
Kaitlyn Whalen.....716-499-9262
Roberta Park.....716-237-0544

Evan Schiedel, YF&R Chair.....716-223-0030
Ginny Carlberg, Pro Ed Chair..... 716-483-2621

Tim Bigham, Field Advisor 716-474-6585

Chautauqua Co Farm Bureau..... 877-383-7663
NYFB Office..... 1-800-342-4143

Policy Development Ideas Wanted

As a Farm Bureau member you have extraordinary influence, the voice to be heard, the ability to govern and the capacity to impact agriculture. Your influence comes from the grassroots policy development process and support found at Chautauqua County Farm Bureau, New York Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau Federation. You benefit from the policy that starts with you!

If you have an idea about how to improve agriculture, please let a county Farm Bureau board member know so we can help your idea become Farm Bureau policy.

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors is considering a by-laws amendment.

The by-laws currently require 10 directors and the board would like to reduce that number.

If you would like to provide the board with feedback on this idea, please contact a county Farm Bureau board member.



Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this event, please contact
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County at 716-664-9502

Young Farmers and Ranchers 18 - 35 years old

Chautauqua County Farm Bureau would like all Young Farmers and Ranchers in the county to consider the open District 1 position on the State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. Any Farm Bureau member between the ages of 18 and 35 is eligible to serve on the committee. The term is for two years. District 1 is comprised of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Erie counties.

Please see the excerpt below from Katie Hill who, along with Darin Hill, are the departing District 1 representatives to the committee. This will give you a good idea of what the position entails.

“For the past four years, Darin and I have served as the District 1 representatives for the New York Farm Bureau’s Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee. It has been challenging as well as rewarding, but the most we will take away from it is all the friendships we have made along the way.

Most young farmers when approached for this position say, “I don’t have the time”. That was a huge concern of ours when joining, as we have kids and a dairy farm, but as we started our first year, we learned everyone on the committee has the same issues. As we went to the meetings and got to know more people, we learned that If you can’t make it to a meeting that is a distance away, it’s not the end of the world. These people understand that. There is typically a face-to-face meeting in January, then the Young Farmers & Ranchers Leadership Conference in February or March, a summer meeting in a different district each year, and the State Annual Meeting in December. Believe me, we have not made it to all of these each year. We have been to each one, but not all in the same year. It is too much time to be away from your family and farm. There are conference calls throughout the year as well, and we have been on most of them because they are easy and it’s important to let the committee know you are involved and have an opinion. Keep in mind that when and if you go to all these face-to-face meetings, you are reimbursed for your travel and lodging expenses as well as your food, so you’re not out any money, just time. For us, we saw it as an opportunity to get away for a minute from our busy lives and see other people that have the same interest as us and share some of the same struggles. Don’t let the meeting times scare you, make it to what you can and be involved in other ways.

Please consider being a part of this great committee. You can do it as an individual or a couple. If you have any questions, please don’t ever hesitate to call or email me. Our term is up at State Annual Meeting in December and we hope that someone from our district will fill the next two-year term.”

Katie Hill
716-801-0796 or katie_voelker@live.com

You can also contact Tim Bigham, NYFB Field Advisor, at 716-474-6585 if you are interested in the position.

Ag Trivia Night at Noble Winery

In March a group of over 40 participants gathered at Noble Winery in Westfield to compete in teams in an agricultural trivia contest. The first annual Chautauqua County Ag Trivia Night was sponsored by Chautauqua County Farm Bureau and was modeled after a similar event hosted by Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau. Ten teams of four competed to answer trivia questions related to agriculture, some of which were very difficult or obscure but true! The first place team was: Jim Joy, Rosie Joy, Richard Kimball and Joan Kimball. The second place team was: Scott Stoll, Katelyn Walley-Stoll, Darin Hill and Katie Hill.

The event was intended to be a light-hearted and fun event for hardworking farmers, but it also benefitted a very important cause. The \$300 in proceeds from the silent auction was donated to Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 2019 Visit the Farm Day fund. This event invites the public to tour a working dairy farm. This year’s Visit the Farm Day will be held in Conewango Valley at Frontier Brook Farm owned by the Moss family on Sat., Sept. 14.

The event would not have been possible without the generous support of the following area organizations and businesses: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County, Farm Credit East, Nationwide: Cynthia Woltz Insurance Agency, Tops Markets of Falconer, NE Fruit Growers Association, Steward Maple and the Steward Family, Seedway (Brian and Mary Jantzi), Larry Romance & Son, NOCO (Bob Stewart), Welch’s Grape, NAPA of Westfield, LaPorte Farm Equipment, LandPro Equipment and Java Farm Supply.



First place winners: Dick and Joan Kimball and Jim and Rosie Joy. Also pictured are Dan Steward, host of the event, and Ginny Carlberg, event organizer.



Second place winners: Darin and Katie Hill, Katelyn Walley-Stoll and Scott Stoll, and Dan Steward.

Thank you to **Larry Rater** and **Fred Croscut**
for their continued efforts above and
beyond the call of duty with our
membership efforts



Calendar of Events

- Aug. 13: Farmer Neighbor Dinner at Grandview in Ellington
Speaker: Cathy Young
- Aug. 20: Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board Meeting
- Sept. 14: Visit The Farm Day
Frontier Brook Farm
Conewango Valley
- Sept. 17: Chautauqua County Farm Bureau Board Meeting