

## FARM BUREAU MEMBERS ADVOCATE FOR 2019 PRIORITIES

Farmers from across the state traveled to Albany in March for New York Farm Bureau's annual Lobby Days. Yates County members were there to advocate on behalf of all members as they met with elected officials and "adopted" legislators that represent districts far removed from farm communities. These meetings continue to prove to be an invaluable way to spend time building relationships with decision makers who don't deal with issues of rural New York on a daily basis. Providing a farmer's perspective can make a profound difference when it comes time to vote on legislation that impacts agriculture. During Lobby Days, NYFB also hosts its popular Taste of New York Reception which is widely attended by state officials of all political parties and affiliations. With over 75 booths from county Farm Bureaus featuring New York-grown and produced products, members visit with policy and decision makers from across the state.

We are always looking for additional members to join us at Lobby Days, but if you're unable to travel to Albany or Washington, D.C., check out the New York Farm Bureau website at [NYFB.org](http://NYFB.org) for some

easy ways to contact your legislators to ensure they know your thoughts and opinions about issues that are or might impact your farm or business in the future. Coming together with a collective voice can and does truly make a difference and it's more critical today than ever before. Reach out today and make your voice heard because your voice matters.



*Pictured l-r: Paul Enos, Commissioner of Agriculture Richard Ball, Larry Lewis, Ed Pinneo, Matt Lewis and Assemblyman Phil Palmesano gather at Albany Lobby Days to celebrate New York agriculture and discuss public policies.*

## USDA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE VISITS THE FINGER LAKES

Farm Bureau leaders in the Finger Lakes were fortunate to host and attend a visit with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue when he visited New York and stopped at Ravines Wine Cellars in Geneva. He was accompanied on his visit by Congressman Tom Reed as they visited with many Farm Bureau leaders, local farmers and industry representatives. During the meeting the group discussed trade, immigration, the Farm Bill rollout as well as getting whole milk back into local school districts. We are fortunate to have leaders in the Finger Lakes region that were willing to take time out of their busy spring schedules to visit with the Secretary and Congressman to ensure that the voice of farmers is not lost in Albany or Washington, D.C.



*Pictured l-r: U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Ontario County Farm Bureau President Kim Skellie, Yates County Farm Bureau President Larry Lewis and Seneca County Farm Bureau President Anne Marie Heinzman visit at a recent gathering to discuss issues facing New York agriculture.*

## UPCOMING INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR!

NWNY Dairy, Livestock and Field team will be partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County to offer a **sexual harassment prevention training** webinar on July 29. This webinar has speakers located throughout New York State with the Yates County CCE office offered as a viewing sight. The Yates County CCE office is located at 417 Liberty Street, Suite 1024, Penn Yan, NY. A light lunch will be provided. Farmers will be able to ask real-time questions and engage with other farmers. The training is adapted to farms and will satisfy the New York State sexual harassment prevention training requirements. The cost will be \$10 per person, which includes lunch, and will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Space is limited and preregistration is required. Contact Libby Eiholzer for more information at 607-793-4847 or [geg24@cornell.edu](mailto:geg24@cornell.edu).

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR NEW YORK FARMS

On June 12, nearly 300 farmers and farmworkers came together in Albany to rally side by side to find common ground on the proposed farm labor bill. It was a powerful day for New York agriculture as farmers and farmworkers stood together to have their voices heard. NYFB President David Fisher spoke along with bipartisan support from both the Senate and Assembly. Also joining them at the podium were three farmworkers from three different farms in New York State. With powerful messages of wanting to work and wanting to work together, they spoke their views as a crowd intently listened and cheered them on. As written today, the farm labor bill will hurt farms, make it even more difficult to farm in this state and will limit earning potential and job opportunities for workers who want to work. The overall theme of the day was working together for legislation that will lift up farmworkers and farms alike. As NYFB President David Fisher said, "let's work together on a bill that will Grow NY Farms."

*Pictured: Yates County Farm Bureau members Dan Wickham and Eileen Jensen join nearly 300 farmers and farmworkers from across the state in Albany to rally for collaboration on the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices bill.*



## YATES COUNTY FAIR

Yates County Farm Bureau is a proud sponsor of the 2019 Yates County Fair. The fair will be celebrating its 180<sup>th</sup> year at the county fairgrounds located in Penn Yan on July 9 – 13, 2019. For more information and schedule of events, go to [www.yatescountyfair.org](http://www.yatescountyfair.org).

## REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY!

With a new year comes new NYFB e-lobbying efforts. To participate in the e-lobby action items that NYFB is working on, go to **NYFB.org** and click on the E-Lobby—Take Action! icon. Choose your passion and show elected officials you support New York agriculture!

### Please Veto the Ban on Chlorpyrifos

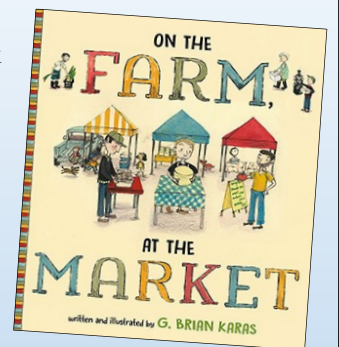
Legislation has been passed by both the Senate and the Assembly that would ban the use of Chlorpyrifos in the state. Farms across New York depend on this product to protect their crops from pests and, in many cases, there is no alternative for use. We need your help to voice concerns about this legislation. Please write to the Governor and urge him to veto this bill!

### Tell the Legislature Not to Criminalize Farmers

Act now to tell the Legislature not to pass S. 2724-B (Krueger) that would criminalize certain actions taken by farmers and veterinarians in relation to the care of downed animals. No animal, whether healthy or sick, should be mistreated or handled inappropriately; however, this legislation could cause harm to the animals it is seeking to help by potentially delaying euthanasia.

## AGRICULTURAL LITERACY BUILDS THE NEXT GENERATION

In March we celebrated Agricultural Literacy Week as we helped the next generation understand where their food comes from and the farmers who work hard to grow the food on their table. Volunteers visited second grade classrooms to read an agricultural themed book and conduct a hands-on activity helping the students fully understand the agriculture industry. The 2019 book, "On the Farm, At the Market" by G. Brian Karas, focused on the depth and diversity that New York agriculture encompasses in each region of the state. In Yates County, classrooms participated in Agricultural Literacy Week from the Penn Yan & Dundee school districts with the Penn Yan FFA Chapter assisting at the Penn Yan Elementary School. The book that was read was sponsored by the Yates County Farm Bureau and was donated to the school library at the conclusion of Agricultural Literacy Week.





159 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY



Yates County  
Farm Bureau

YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



*Congratulations to Connor Fingar, who was selected as the Yates County Farm Bureau scholarship winner. Connor was awarded a \$500 scholarship and will be attending University of Albany in the fall.*

YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Larry Lewis, President.....          | 315-531-1906 |
| Dave Pendleton, Vice President ..... | 585-478-5936 |
| Peter Martini, Secretary .....       | 315-382-2419 |
| Eileen Farnan, Treasurer .....       | 315-727-9114 |
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| Sayre Fulkerson .....                | 607-227-3237 |
| Paul Enos .....                      | 315-536-9591 |
| George Disbrow .....                 | 315-536-8548 |
| Eileen Jensen, YF&R Chair.....       | 315-719-2795 |
| Lindsay Wickham, Field Advisor.....  | 607-227-2547 |
| CNYFB Regional Office.....           | 315-252-1367 |
| NYFB Office .....                    | 800-342-4143 |

Yates County board meetings are usually held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in Penn Yan.

# Yates County Farm Bureau News

July 2019



**President's Report**

As I write this note, it's raining...again. It seems that Mother Nature has gotten the best of us this spring as there continues to be more rain than sunshine lately. Farmers, like you and me, are working long and hard and sometimes continuous hours into the night to get crops planted and hay mowed so we can put this rainy spring behind us. Despite the weather, which is ultimately out of our control, there are some great things happening in Yates County and in New York State to celebrate agriculture. As Farm Bureau leaders, we are taking every opportunity we can to stand up for you and the industry that is your livelihood. We want our voices to be heard and are trying hard to ensure they are throughout the state. We can all argue that the challenges outweigh the opportunities, and some days they might, but at the end of the day we all must celebrate agriculture, stand up for the policies we develop, and continue to build the next generation of advocates. If you are interested in joining us on the Yates County Board of Directors or know someone who is interested in becoming a Farm Bureau member, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the Yates County Farm Bureau board members to discuss opportunities for you and your farm.

Larry Lewis  
President

A photograph of two bright yellow sunflowers in a white ceramic vase. The vase is on a white surface against a light blue wooden background.

**YATES COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019**  
ANTHONY ROAD WINERY  
1020 ANTHONY ROAD, PENN YAN  
**6 P.M.**

County Farm Bureau will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks and dinnerware. Everyone attending is asked to bring a food item according to the first letter of their last name:

**A-M:** Bring a side dish/chips  
**N-Z:** Bring a dessert

**RSVP by Fri., Aug. 16**  
Contact Jill at 315-252-1367 or [jwilliamson@nyfb.org](mailto:jwilliamson@nyfb.org)

**No cost to Farm Bureau members.  
\$5 for non-members.**