

# Albany County Farm Bureau News September 2019



## **SAVE THE DATE** **County Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, Oct. 9**

**5 p.m. Social Hour ♦ 6 p.m. Dinner**

**Dinner catered by:  
Freese's Catering Services  
Pond Hill Pavilion  
20 Brownrigg Rd., Feura Bush, NY**

**Speakers will be from the  
Lyme Disease Network**

**\$20 per person or \$15 with a  
paid 2020 membership.\***

***\*Please bring your dues statement  
for proof of payment***

**Members are encouraged to bring a dessert.**



## **How Does Your Idea Become A Farm Bureau Policy?**

If you have any ideas or thoughts on policy, please let a board member know or come to the next meeting to have your voice heard. Below are the first steps in policy development.

### **1. You have an idea about how to improve agriculture.**

- ☐ Tell your county president or board member.
- ☐ Talk with fellow members at a county meeting.
- ☐ Submit idea to county policy development committee.

### **2. Your county considers your idea.**

- ☐ County policy development committee considers your idea and makes a recommendation.
- ☐ Provide background information to the committee to help them make an informed recommendation.

### **3. Follow up the idea by attending your County Annual Meeting to support your idea.**

- ☐ County approves your policy resolution at the County Annual Meeting in the fall.
- ☐ Local resolutions become county Farm Bureau policy and state and national recommendations are submitted to the NYFB Resolutions Committee.



*Photos from this year's pig roast at Gade Farm. Pictured above serving food are Albany County Farm Bureau board members Ed Kleinke, Mike Waldenmeir and Jim Gade, who owns the farm.*



## Take Action on the Proposed NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code

Every five years, the Department of State reviews and proposes changes to the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code as adopted from the International Building Code (Uniform Code). In the current Uniform Code, agricultural buildings are exempt from the construction provisions of the building code, fire code and existing building code. The proposed changes would change the wording in the definition of an agricultural building which would result in fewer agricultural buildings being exempt from these codes. Farm buildings where products are processed, treated or packaged (whether the employees are working there or not) would have to comply with the building and fire code. Also, buildings that are open to the public (not just used by the public) would have to comply with the codes.

Currently, agricultural buildings are not exempt from the property maintenance code which leads to farmers being cited for property maintenance issues that are not safety related.

Write to the Department of State today to express your concerns with these proposed changes to the Uniform Code and the non-safety provisions of the property maintenance code.

**To see the proposed changes and to submit comments, go to [www.nyfb.org/engagements](http://www.nyfb.org/engagements).**

**Public comments will be accepted until Sept. 10, 2019.**



159 Wolf Road

Albany, NY 12205

### Albany County Farm Bureau Board of Directors *Dial 1-518 first.*

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Ed Kleinke III, President .....           | 466-5770     |
| Michael Waldenmaier .....                 | 439-4049     |
| Deb Norris, Secretary & ProEd Chair ..... | 895-2814     |
| Nancy Neff, Treasurer .....               | 478-7855     |
| Gerard Boone .....                        | 797-3021     |
| Mike Zakens, Sr. ....                     | 767-2988     |
| Ed Engel .....                            | 874-1350     |
| James Gade .....                          | 365-6273     |
| John Mead .....                           | 439-2506     |
| Thomas Newell .....                       | 475-7858     |
| Colleen Stanton .....                     | 768-2344     |
| Mike Zakens, YF&R .....                   | 461-3779     |
| Renee Ciardi, Field Advisor .....         | 461-8659     |
| Dean Casey, NYFB Director .....           | 796-4874     |
| NYFB Eastern Regional Office .....        | 866-995-7300 |

### Trade is Important to Farmers, Support USMCA

On Nov. 30, 2018, the U.S., Mexico and Canada reached an agreement to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The USMCA not only locks in market opportunities previously developed with our North American neighbors, but also builds on those trade relationships in several key areas. Trade plays a vital role in New York State's agricultural economy with New York farmers exporting \$2.6 billion in agriculture and related products in 2017. Forty-eight percent of New York's agricultural exports go to Canada and Mexico. USMCA also eliminates Canada's Class 6 and 7 milk pricing scheme, which shut dairy farmers and processors out of markets. The U.S. Congress must now consider the agreement for approval. **Send a letter to your member of Congress today asking them to support USMCA by going to [www.nyfb.org/engagements](http://www.nyfb.org/engagements).**