

Saratoga County Farm Bureau News August 2019



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

President's Message:



Hello folks! I last wrote to you about the happenings with Saratoga County Farm Bureau in February of this year. Since then, county Farm Bureau has been very busy with county and state events. I have also been very busy with these events and planting crops as it was a very wet spring.

Hopefully, all of you have been able to get planting and first cutting hay done. Now, I will get you updated on everything county Farm Bureau has been doing over the past few months.

In February, we confirmed who was going to the NYFB Legislative Reception and Lobby Days in March. I would like to thank the Saratoga County dairy promotion team and its leaders, Sherrie Hanehan, Colleen Luke and Heather Swatling, for representing us at the Legislative Reception, as well as Mike Schwerd and Amy Larmon for representing us at Lobby Days. I would also like to thank Mike Schwerd for organizing our efforts for these events. Thank you to John Arnold for attending the Saratoga Planning Conference as well as attending a county board of supervisors meeting to present our county resolutions and thanking them for supporting us.

On March 2, we hosted the Rural Urban Dinner at Panza's Restaurant which was very well attended and featured Jim Myer from CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program speaking on Viticulture. We also held our annual fundraising event at the dinner for the Food Bank of Northeastern NY. The raffle contained gift certificates and

2020 Policy Development Meeting

Tuesday, August 13

7:30 p.m.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension
80 West High Street, Ballston Spa**

Do you have any ideas or thoughts on policy? If so, please let a board member know or come to the next meeting to get your voice heard. Below are the first three 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 to county policy development committee.

2. Your county considers your idea.

- ☐ County policy development committee considers 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 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.



baskets from local restaurants and businesses. This year we raised \$312 for the Food Bank of Northeastern NY. Many thanks to all those who attended and helped raise this money. We also had Agricultural Literacy Week in March and would like to thank all of you who took time out of your busy lives to read to the students. Saratoga County Farm Bureau also co-sponsored a NYSDOT Truck Clinic with CCE Saratoga at Saratoga Sod. Many thanks to Steve and Laurie Griffen and Mike Schwerd for hosting this event in their farm shop.

During our April board meeting we discussed the Farm Labor Bill and the Saratoga County Farm Bureau scholarship. I would like to congratulate Ethan Northrop for winning the scholarship this year. Ethan will be attending SUNY Cobleskill in the fall. The board decided not to have a May meeting so we could tend to our farms.

(cont'd on back)

President's Message (cont'd)

In June, we had a board meeting and discussed Sundae on the Farm, the new fair display and the Town of Ballston. Unfortunately, Clear Echo Farm had to cancel Sundae on the Farm this year due to the abnormally wet spring. The new fair display arrived and we are very proud of it. The courts ruled against the Town of Ballston and there will be no waterline extensions. However, there might be an appeal coming in the future.

July's board meeting consisted of discussing the county fair and policy development. We were all set for the fair with the new display and new location in the Townley Building. Hopefully, you had a chance to stop by and visit with us and try your hand with the kiosk. We also wanted you to know that policy development begins in August and concludes in October at our annual meeting. Again, if you have any ideas on policies, please let us know or come to the next meeting on Aug. 13 to get your voice heard.



159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205

I would like to thank all of you for being members of this great organization. We did not reach our membership goal this year and hope that we can regain those lost members next year. The strength of Farm Bureau is our members. We worked hard this year and gained some legislative victories, but not all battles have been won. We still have work to do with the Farm Labor Bill and would like to have your help in doing so. New York Farm Bureau depends on its members to have a strong voice in Albany and Washington, D.C. If you know of someone who isn't a member and should be, please sign them up.

Until the next time, stay strong and farm on!

Jamie Pettis III
President

Saratoga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors *Dial 518 first.*

Jamie Pettis, President.....	695-4725
Mike Schwerd, Vice President	699-3173
Amy Larmon, Secretary.....	755-3781
Jeremy Knight, Treasurer	399-6503
John Arnold, Membership Chair.....	743-8473
Bud South	882-1571
Joe Battaglia	664-9070
Kristie Beals.....	N/A
Kim Trombly, NYFB Field Advisor	935-8569
Dean Casey, NYFB State Director.....	796-4874
NYFB Regional Office.....	866-995-7300



2019 Saratoga County Fair display