

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



We are at the beginning of policy development season after just ending the most disappointing legislative session in my years of Farm Bureau involvement. I would like to reflect on the session that just ended for a few minutes.

Those who worked on brainstorming strategy and lobbying against the **Fair Practices for Farm Workers Act** put in a ton of time, energy and emotion and deserve appreciation for that. New York Farm Bureau, NEDPA, New York Vegetable Growers and Northeast Ag and Feed Alliance worked together to speak with one voice better than ever before. Despite the efforts, we lost the battle. What could we or should we have done differently to change the result, if anything, given the political landscape in Albany?

Hindsight is always 20/20 and we learn more from failures than successes. Everyone in Farm Bureau, at all levels, must be open to questions, criticisms and suggestions to make us stronger. Members had varying levels of involvement and, therefore, varying levels of knowledge of the strategy and efforts taken. If anyone has questions, criticisms or suggestions, please give me a call or email and I will either answer or pass along what you have to say. I hope we can learn from this defeat to make us better prepared for next year's challenges.

Now it's time to move on to a new policy development season. You will see a shorter survey than previous years. The hope is there is more grassroots development of policy versus just weighing in on the provided survey. Our policy development meetings in late September have typically been poorly attended, which has led to more lengthy discussion/debate at the County Annual Meeting. This in turn has led to poorer attendance at our most important meeting of the year. More information will be coming on the Kitchen Meetings that will hopefully entice more members to attend. We also have a committee working to increase the "good food and fun" factor at the annual meeting.

Lastly, you will see membership renewals in the mail in late September with, yes, an increase in cost. As you have probably read and heard, membership is increasing for the first time in 13 years to \$99 when paid by Nov. 1, following a comprehensive evaluation process a year ago. It is still a good bargain with discounts at many participating businesses and it gives you a voice. Despite this year's loss on the labor bill, we need to keep fighting the fight and your membership and involvement matters.

Thanks,

Kim Skellie

President

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 ONTARIO COUNTY FUN ON THE FARM

SEPT. 21, 2019

11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

Held at J. Minns Farms and Sons
3379 Seneca Castle Road, Seneca Castle



Bringing **AGRICULTURE**
and the **COMMUNITY** together!

2019 Promotion & Education Summit

THE POWER OF MAKING CONNECTIONS

NOV. 2-3, 2019

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, SYRACUSE, NY

- Explore resources and ideas to engage those around us.
- Share tools to connect with consumers who are eager to learn about food and farming.

Workshops on:

- Social Media
- Consumer Engagement
- GMOs
- Telling Your Story
- Tools and Resources

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Bremmer

from Ag Inspirations in Wisconsin

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:
800-342-4143 * NYFB.ORG/EVENTS

NEW YORK FARM BUREAU POLICY DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION FORUM 2020

This forum explores several emerging issues relevant to agriculture in New York and the U.S. Please review these topics and bring this to your county Farm Bureau policy development meeting and County Annual Meeting this summer and fall as a jumping off point for discussion in your county. These issues are only suggestions and unique ideas generated from your county should be an important part of your consideration. These questions are also available on www.nyfb.org and in the July issue of Grassroots.

STATE POLICY TOPICS

- Should eligibility for the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program be based on if the applicant has produced an agricultural product for no more than ten consecutive years or if the applicant has applied to the program within two of years of college graduation?
- Should semi-trailers (over the road tractors) be able to register as agricultural vehicles?
- Do you support incentives for the expansion of renewable natural gas in New York Renewable fuels standard?
- Should hops be required to be processed in New York State in order to be under the label “New York State Beer” with the same current 60% threshold that grown hops have?
- Should an individual property owner be able to receive a personal income tax credit when costs are incurred for tree removal or tree treatment as recommended by a certified arborist or forester due to damage caused by the emerald ash borer to a tree on their primary or secondary residence or rental property?
- Should the Department of Agriculture and Markets offer cost-share to help livestock producers offset the cost of implementing electronic livestock identification?
- Further questions to consider: If they do provide cost-share funding, what level of cost-share should be provided to producers (50%, higher or lower)? Should funding also be made available to help offset the cost of electronic readers to help farmers and livestock auctions quickly identify animals? Should all types of electronic identification be able to be utilized (low frequency vs. high frequency)? Should certain animals be exempt from electronic identification, including those going directly to slaughter?

NATIONAL POLICY TOPICS

- Should milk vouchers be offered through the Milk Donation Program?
- Should Farm Bureau establish policy on PFAS/ PFOA and if so, what should that policy address in regard to contamination and possible impacts to the agriculture industry?

FARMLAND PROTECTION WORKSHOP SERIES FOR FARMLAND OWNERS

The Ontario County Agricultural Enhancement Board is partnering with the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the Genesee Land Trust in sponsoring a series for four workshops for farmland owners on agricultural conservation easements and the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant programs (sometimes referred to as purchase of development rights).

The series is intended to provide more in-depth information for farmland owners who are interested in knowing how these farmland protection tools could fit into their short and long-term farm business planning and land protection goals.

There is no charge for the sessions. Registration is required.

For more information contact:

Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner
Ontario County Planning Dept.
585-396-4416
maria.rudzinski@co.ontario.ny.us

Workshop Location : Ontario County Safety Training Facility 2914 County Rd. 48 Canandaigua, NY 14424	
All sessions are on Tuesday	Topic
Dec. 9, 2019	Overview of Agricultural Conservation Easements as a Farmland Protection Option for Landowners
Dec. 16, 2019	Business Organization, Transition Planning and Legacy Considerations for Farmland Owners
Jan. 6, 2020	Developing a Land Plan for an Agricultural Conservation Easement. Appraisals: Determining the value of farmland and agricultural conservation easements.
Jan. 13, 2020	In Depth Look at the NYS DAM Agricultural Conservation Easement and the State Farmland Protection Grant Process

ONTARIO COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR

FRIDAY, OCT. 11
AT KING'S CATERING, CANANDAIGUA
FIND ALL THE DETAILS INSIDE!



159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Ontario County
Farm Bureau News



Serving our members Since 1967

Workers' Compensation Safety Group 486

Take a look at what NYFB Safety Group 486 has to offer.

- **16.1% Average Decrease** in 2019 rates for Safety Group 486 policyholder
- **Over 35%** Three-year average Decrease in rates
- **32%** five-year **Dividend Average**
- **25%** Maximum Safety Group **Upfront Discount**
- **Low 8.5% Group Managers' Fee**
- **Licensed NYFB staff** services account and acts as liaison with NYSIF

Call or email wcinfo@nyfb.org for a quote.

NYFB.ORG 800-342-4143

STARTED BY FARMERS FOR FARMERS

* Percentage is based on dividends paid 2013 through 2017. Dividends are not guaranteed. Continued membership in NYFB is required to participate in Safety Group 486. Eligibility for insurance is subject to the New York State Insurance Fund underwriting requirements. NYFB and its subsidiaries have no authority to bind coverage for any member.

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The Member

Ontario County Farm Bureau News

September 2019



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

ONTARIO COUNTY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, Oct. 11

KING'S CATERING

4031-NY5, CANANDAIGUA, NY

6:30 Milk Punch 7 p.m. Dinner

Dinner: \$20 per person with cash bar

Ice Cream Sundaes Available

Please join us for an evening of quality discussion, decision making and fun as Ontario County Farm Bureau hosts its annual meeting. We will be introducing a **NEW MEETING FORMAT** with table discussion among members during dinner led by a table host. The hope is to shorten lengthy discussion during the actual meeting.



GUEST SPEAKER
Eileen Jensen
New York Animal Ag Coalition

RSVP by Sept. 25 at:
315-252-1367 or
jwilliamson@nyfb.org

**BRING A GUEST
FOR EXTRA
DOOR PRIZE TICKETS**

**DOOR
PRIZES**

**TRIVIA
BASKETS**