

New York Farm Bureau  
P.O. Box 5330  
Albany, NY 12205



Broome County  
Farm Bureau News

# Broome County Farm Bureau News

Fall 2019





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Carol De Young .....	607-221-6629
State Board Director, Paul Fouts.....	607-423-6045
NYFB Field Staff, Lindsay Wickham.....	607-227-2547
Broome County Farm Bureau Office .....	607-722-4586

Join us for an evening of  
*good food, good company and agricultural updates*

**Broome County Farm Bureau  
Annual Meeting**

**Friday, October 18**

**Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Agriculture Education Center (the old Cutler House)  
840 Upper Front Street, Binghamton, NY**

**Cost: \$5.00 ♦ 7 p.m. Dinner**

**Guest Speaker: Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo**

**We will be:**

- ♦ Awarding scholarships
- ♦ Electing officers
- ♦ Reviewing and voting on resolutions

**Call Judi for reservations by Oct. 14  
607-692-3479**



President’s Report



A year ago, all the rain turned our corn maze and apple orchard into a mud pit. Customers were slipping and cars were getting stuck. It was a tough year and my mood was gloomy. I was in a rut and farming seemed more like a job than a passion.

Over the winter my wife and I had a heart-to-heart talk and agreed that the farm was run too conservatively. We needed to manage out of our comfort zone and spice things up a bit.

Business-wise the strawberries and cherries were plowed under and new agritainment activities were added to the operation. Personally, during the winter, I changed things up and got a gym membership. Doing yoga and running around the gym like a crazy man did me wonders. I lost thirty pounds and feel much younger.

A year ago I was down, today I am sky high. Certainly, the better weather this year has had a positive effect on me, but just as important is the spicing up of our business and personal lives. Too often things are done on the farm and in our lives because that’s the way they have always been done. Life is more exciting now because I am doing the unexpected. If I can do it, you can too!

“Farmer” Dave Johnson  
President

2020 Broome County Farm Bureau Proposed Policy Resolutions

STATE

- 1. BCFB recommends that eligibility for the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program be expanded to allow applicants to have produced an agricultural product, as defined by Agriculture and Markets Law, for no more than ten years, as well as offering the prior qualifications.
- 2. BCFB recommends that semi-trailers used in farming (over the road tractors) be able to register as agricultural vehicles.
- 3. BCFB recommends support for incentives for the expansion of renewable natural gas in New York Renewable fuels standard.
- 4. BCFB recommends that the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets offer 50% cost-share to help livestock producers offset the cost of implementing electronic livestock identification for both ear tags and tag readers. No animals should be exempt from the requirement.
- 5. BCFB recommends that the Historic Barn Preservation Program be reinstated.
- 6. BCFB recommends support for state funding to create new and enhance existing agriculture education programs in an effort to reach the goals established in the “Reinventing Agriculture Education for the Year 2020” report from the National Council for Agriculture Education.
- 7. BCFB recommends support for the development and funding of an agriculture education teacher certification pathway by Empire State College with support from SUNY Cobleskill.
- 8. BCFB supports New York State allowing New York State brewers to use in-state grown ingredients that were processed out-of-state in New York State Beer.

NATIONAL

- 1. BCFB recommends that milk vouchers be offered through the Milk Donation Program.

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**“To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture”**  
As a member of New York Farm Bureau, your voice is valued.

**Member Login**

[eLobby - Take Action!](#) [Events](#) [Become a Member!](#)

**How to E-Lobby—It’s fast and easy:**

- Go to [www.nyfb.org](http://www.nyfb.org) and click on the green “eLobby-Take Action!” button on the left side of the page under the banner photos, or by clicking the green “Take Action! Advocacy” button.
- Find the letter you want to send and click “Take Action.”
- The action alert description will appear followed by the recipients and the letter text. Type in your name and address and press “Send Message” at the bottom of the page.
- Your letter is sent directly to lawmakers and you are helping to impact farm public policy! Encourage your friends to E-Lobby by typing in their e-mail addresses.

**Take Action!**  
**Advocacy**

*If you have any problems using the E-Lobby feature, call the NYFB office at 1-800-342-4143.*

**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
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- Low **8.5% Group Managers’ Fee**
- **Licensed NYFB staff** services account and acts as liaison with NYSIF

*Call or email [winfo@nyfb.org](mailto:winfo@nyfb.org) for a quote.*

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**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.

**Policy Development**  
*by Lindsay Wickham, Sr. Field Advisor*

It is policy development time once again for Farm Bureau and its members. This is, by far, the most important thing Farm Bureau does every year. Such ideas as agricultural districts, sales tax exemptions, agricultural assessments, and farmers school tax credit were all brought forward by members at the county level during this period in years past. Look at the dividends these ideas have paid for our farmers over the years, once we had those ideas and then lobbied to get them enacted.

It is critical that Farm Bureau members actively take part in the policy development process at the County Annual Meeting in October. Don’t be the member that complains about Farm Bureau’s stance on an issue if you weren’t part of the process. Farm Bureau is a powerful organization because of its policy development process, as it truly represents members’ thoughts and positions. Farm Bureau can’t react to something it doesn’t know about, so attend your annual meeting and be a part of the solution!

**USDA Updates - Sign-up Reminders**

- ◆ Market Facilitation Program (MFP) sign-up goes until Dec. 6, 2019.
- ◆ Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) for 2020 begins on Oct. 7, 2019 and goes through Dec. 13, 2019.
- ◆ Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage (ARC/PLC) Program election and enrollment for program year 2019 began on Sept. 3, 2019 and will continue to March 15, 2020. Enrollment for program year 2020, following a valid election being performed on the farm for 2019, will begin Oct. 7, 2019 and will continue to June 30, 2020.

**Pay your Farm Bureau dues  
By Nov. 1 and save \$11.**  
**1-800-342-4143 or NYFB.org**