

# Saratoga County Farm Bureau News September 2019



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

## President's Message:



Hello Everyone! Hopefully this newsletter finds you all well and getting ready for fall harvest. Saratoga County Farm Bureau didn't have as busy a summer this year. With the growing season the way it was, we opted not to have our annual summer picnic and we didn't have a Sundae on the Farm or Twilight Tour. We did have our new display at the Saratoga County Fair along

with the kiosk. I thought there was a lot more traffic looking at the exhibit in our new location in the Townley Building across from the Dairy Promotion booth. I would like to thank Sue and Ted Beebe for all their help with the Farm Bureau display at the fair. In August, we had our board meeting and started our policy development process. In September, we had our regularly-scheduled board meeting and finished our policy development process. September's meeting was quite long because we developed several new policies, reaffirmed some old ones and discarded some policies that have already made it into the handbook and the state government has made into laws. These policies will be reviewed, discussed and voted on at our annual meeting.

This brings me right into our next topic. Our annual meeting will be held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office on Saturday, Oct. 26, at 6:30 pm. We will have a wonderful buffet dinner of ziti, meatballs, salad and rolls prepared for us by my friends at Front Street Deli. The Dairy Promotion team will also be there with milk punch. We will vote on the policies that are presented that night and any new ones that we may have missed and are brought to the floor. Please be sure to mark your calendars and come join us for this wonderful meeting. This is where our Albany staff gets their ideas to help our beloved industry move forward. It is extremely important that we get our voices heard, and Farm Bureau is the best way to do this! With that being said, please renew your membership and have a safe harvest season this fall. I'll be looking forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,

*Jamie Pettis III, President*

## County Annual Meeting

**Saturday, Oct. 26**

**Saratoga Cornell Cooperative Extension  
50 W High Street, Ballston Spa**

**6:30 p.m. Social ♦ 7 p.m. Buffet Dinner**

**Cost: \$10 per person, payable at the door.**

**RSVP by Oct. 18 to:**

**1-866-995-7300 or [eny@nyfb.org](mailto:eny@nyfb.org)**

***See the 2020 proposed resolutions  
on the back of this newsletter.***



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## New 2020 Proposed Resolutions

### State

#### *Agricultural Issues/ Food Safety*

We believe the Department of Agriculture and Markets should offer a 50% cost share to producers to offset the cost of implementing electronic livestock identification.

#### *Commodity Issues/ Farm-Based Beverages*

We do not believe hops or other components of beer should be required to be processed in New York to be eligible to be labeled "New York State Beer."

### *Commodity Issues*

We oppose the sale of any apple in New York as a fresh market apple that is older than one calendar year.

#### *Economic Issues/ Energy/ Renewable Energy*

We support expanding the incentives for the expansion of renewable natural gas in New York Renewable Fuels Standing.

#### *Economic Issues/ Taxes/ Income Taxes*

We support a refundable 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.

We support tax credits and other mechanisms that incentivize the sale or lease of agricultural land or assets to beginning farmers.

#### *General Issues/ Post-Secondary Agricultural Education*

We support expanding eligibility for the New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Program for college student loans for applicants who have produced an agricultural product for no more than 10 years.



159 Wolf Road  
Albany, NY 12205

#### *General Issues/ Adult and Continuing Education*

We support expanded agricultural workforce development opportunities, including on-farm internships and apprenticeship programs, providing much-needed and in-demand training for young and beginning farmers as

#### **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 Director	796-4874
NYFB Regional Office	866-995-7300

they work towards owning and operating their own land, while providing skilled labor for established farm businesses.

#### *General Issues/ Land Use Planning*

We support a restriction in the NYS Building Codes that would prohibit new housing construction within a farmer's Application Exclusion Zone (100 feet) that crosses over onto any adjacent properties where setbacks are not applicable, present, or inadequate.

### **National**

#### *Section 1/ Miscellaneous/ 159– Nutrition*

We support milk vouchers through the Milk Donation Program.

#### *Section 3/ Food: Protection, Quality & Safety/ 340 Food Quality and Safety*

We support an exemption from electronic livestock identification for animals shipped directly from farmers to slaughter.