

PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

This year Onondaga County Farm Bureau’s Board of Directors held their monthly meetings at various farms representing the diverse agricultural production and membership in Onondaga County. The following resolutions were proposed throughout the year and during the August policy development meeting at Bailiwick Café in Elbridge. These will be discussed and voted upon at our County Annual Meeting:

Craft Beverage:

1. A comprehensive hop breeding program needs to be developed and financially supported, modeled like past apple and grape programs. This is important to ensure New York farm breweries can meet NYS grown ingredient requirements for popular beer styles.
2. We support reasonable regulations as part of DEC Part 360 Regulations that will not over burden craft beverage businesses.
3. In order to qualify as grown in New York, grains for the craft brewing industry must also be processed (i.e. malting, etc.) in New York State.

General Economic Development:

4. Agricultural economic development programs need to provide for more capital equipment funding and provide zero or low interest loans in combination with grants to help more opportunities surpass the prohibitive matching cash/reimbursement hurdles.
5. New York State economic development planners should prioritize the following processing initiatives:
 - ◆ Regional food hubs for processing of fruits and vegetables to allow easier use by restaurants and institutions (i.e. fruit processing facility for fruit purees and peeling and cutting of fruits and vegetables).
 - ◆ USDA butcher facilities. Central New York area has a significant need.
 - ◆ Animal rendering facilities
6. New York State should provide easier and cheaper access for upstate farmers into downstate markets to enhance consumption of locally grown products. New York producers should be provided advantages to facilitate commerce in our large cities (toll credits, thruway credits, etc.)

Labor (Dairy, Vegetable/Fruit, Greenhouses):

7. The Commissioner of Agriculture should be a member of the New York State Labor Review Board, and the board should not reassess the details of the act until after a full year post-implementation.
8. The definition of family in the Farm Labor Bill should be expanded to include nieces, nephews, cousins, uncles, aunts, grandparents, etc.
9. The Agricultural Workforce Retention Tax Credit should be doubled, and the applicable years should be expanded.
10. A refundable investment tax credit should be developed for farmers.
11. The housing allowances for employees need to be updated to better reflect current values.
12. The farmworker housing revolving loan fund needs to be increased.
13. Guest workers should be exempt from disability and family leave.

Equestrian:

14. The New York State Fair has undergone significant investments in infrastructure; however, the agriculture facilities are in need of significant repair. As the new Expo Center is not being used for equestrian events as originally planned, the Coliseum is in need of the following immediate improvements to continue to host successful horse shows:
 - ◆ Exhibitor bathrooms are outdated and in need of repair.
 - ◆ Horse stall barns should have mats in every stall as is customary at any horse facility. The bare concrete floor is bad for the horses.
 - ◆ Lighting in the Coliseum arena needs to be improved for the safety of the horses and the riders and the quality of the show.
 - ◆ Temporary horse stalls should be considered in order to better utilize the new Expo Center for its intended usage.
 - ◆ In general, more investment should be made into the agriculture buildings to keep up with all the other non-agriculture improvements being made.

Maple Industry:

15. Municipalities should be provided education materials regarding reverse osmosis permeate and the fact that it is simply water and not a hazard to contamination. Maple facilities should be allowed to dispose of their concentrate in a simple manner as long as it is not creating a noticeable environmental impact.

General:

16. Farm UTVs should be allowed over the road under the same rules and regulations as four-wheelers. These have commonly replaced four-wheelers on farms, provide added safety to the driver and more utility to the farm.

FARM BUREAU TO HAVE BOOTH AT LAFAYETTE APPLE FESTIVAL

For the 13th year Onondaga County Farm Bureau plans to fill its booth with a colorful display of local agricultural products at the LaFayette Apple Festival. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We will be selling locally grown and produced items such as vegetables, eggs, milk, maple syrup, honey, chrysanthemums, gourds and pumpkins. Area farmers have graciously agreed to donate some of their products to aid our fundraising efforts. We will use this opportunity to educate festival-goers about local agricultural products, which they get to take home with them. We will also have kiddie pools filled with dried corn or soybeans for kids to play in. It’s just like a sandbox and kids have so much fun that they don’t want to leave. The Onondaga County Dairy Princess and her Ambassadors will be joining us in the booth. They will be promoting the dairy industry and handing out stickers and coloring books. They will also have games for kids to play.

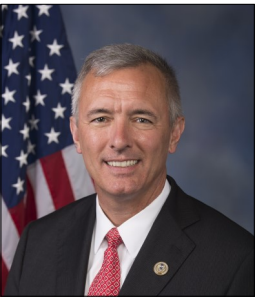


Festival admission is \$6 per person. Parking is free. The booth will be located near the admission gate in the Tully Farms Road parking lot. To avoid traffic delays, take Route 81 to the Tully exit. Go west on Route 80, then turn right on Tully Farms Road. Parking will be on the right. The festival hours are: Saturday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please come see the Onondaga County Farm Bureau booth, as well as shop at the 500 crafters, ride the midway, enjoy live music and take home a fresh apple pie!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: In order to make the booth a success, we NEED your help. Your job as a volunteer is selling products, keeping the tables filled with products, refilling ice to keep the milk cold, making sure the booth is clean, and promoting agriculture to the general public. Can you please help us for at least a few hours? Please contact Tricia Bana at (315) 391-4290.

A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHN KATKO



As the federal representative for Onondaga, Cayuga, Oswego, and Wayne counties in Washington, I remain focused on supporting our region’s agriculture economy. Policies that recently went into effect – such as the new Dairy Margin Coverage program included in the 2018 Farm Bill -- and legislation I have cosponsored like the Family Farmer Relief Act will improve financial situations for many Central New York farms. Additionally, Congress must focus on finalizing new international trade agreements once it returns for the fall legislative session. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on my recent actions to stand up for Central New York agriculture.

Regional dairy farmers have experienced unfavorable market conditions in recent years. These conditions exposed serious flaws in the Margin Protection Program for Dairy (MPP-Dairy), which failed to provide adequate coverage for dairy producers and was not reflective of their operating costs or needs. It was crucial the MPP-Dairy was replaced to reflect the current state of American dairy farming and I strongly advocated for such changes in the most recent Farm Bill. This legislation introduced the new Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program, establishing lower premiums and improving coverage levels for dairy farmers. Approximately 10,000 American dairy farms have already signed up for the new DMC program, providing farmers access to much-needed

economic support. Enrollment into the DMC program is now open and I encourage Central New York dairy producers to take advantage of this beneficial program. Next, I cosponsored legislation that makes it easier for family farms in our community to restructure debts in Chapter 12 bankruptcy. The Family Farmer Relief Act of 2019 raises the debt limit to participate in Chapter 12 bankruptcy to \$10 million. Prior to enactment of this legislation, asset values under Chapter 12 bankruptcy rules for family farms were not reflective of the financial situations of modern family farms. Updating this debt limit will establish modern financial flexibility. This bipartisan legislation had widespread support when it passed both chambers of Congress earlier this summer. The President is expected to sign the bill into law.

Lastly, our country is currently negotiating the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to create a more level playing field for America’s farmers. Trade deals like the USMCA must be approved by Congress and it is imperative Congressional lawmakers finalize the USMCA in a timely, bipartisan manner. When Congress returns from the August district work period, I intend to work with the Administration and Congressional leadership in reviewing the final agreement.

I look forward to continuing to work in Congress to further grow and support the farming industry in our region and across the country. Our region’s strong agriculture economy is among my top priorities in Congress and I am honored to represent you in Washington.

ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
ANNUAL MEETING
set for TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22
FIND ALL THE DETAILS INSIDE!

159 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12205



Onondaga County
Farm Bureau News

REMEMBER TO E-LOBBY!

Now more than ever it's important to show your support for agriculture with the e-lobbying efforts of New York Farm Bureau. To participate in the e-lobby action items that NYFB is working on, go to www.nyfb.org and click on the

E-Lobby—Take Action! icon. Choose your passion and show elected officials you support New York agriculture!



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

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Onondaga County Farm Bureau News September 2019



To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

FREE TO ATTEND
WITH MEMBERSHIP

All are cordially invited to attend

ONONDAGA COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCT. 22

at the

Heritage Hill Brewhouse & Kitchen

3149 Sweet Road, Pompey

6 p.m. - "A Taste of Onondaga County"

7 p.m. - Business Meeting and Policy Resolution

Enjoy food and beverages produced by Onondaga County Farm Bureau members during "A Taste of Onondaga County." Enjoy a buffet of local meats, vegetables, eggs, maple and dairy products. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic drink samplings will also be available. The business meeting and policy resolution voting will begin at approximately 7 p.m., followed by our auction to benefit youth scholarships. We hope this event can introduce members to each other and offer business networking opportunities as well as a time for connecting with friends and neighbors. The dinner meeting is free of charge to Farm Bureau members.

Would you like to provide food or drink for "A Taste of Onondaga County"? Showcase your business and share your product. Sales of products are not allowed at this event. Contact Tricia Bana at 315-391-4290.

We hope to see you there!

RSVP by Oct. 15:

Contact the CNY Regional Farm Bureau Office at 315-252-1367 or jwilliamson@nyfb.org

ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING
AUCTION