



Tompkins County
Farm Bureau News

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!

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Tompkins County Farm Bureau News

October 2019



President's Report

Greetings,

This is the time of year when Tompkins County Farm Bureau (TCFB) works on its policies and resolutions to take to the State Annual

Meeting. If passed, they will be included in the NYFB Policy Book or go on to AFBF to support funding or take a position on legislation or regulations at the state and federal government levels.

TCFB had a fun policy barbecue at Myers Park and most were on their best behavior.

TCFB's last newsletter moaned about the weather and we will see delayed harvest this fall—more of same and we can take it.

Locally, TCFB has been working with Ulysses farmers to moderate the town's new land use ordinance. We are working with others to make sure new solar installations don't cover prime land unless the owner wants them.

The buildout for rural broadband is noble, but installation has caused many issues.

Non-code compliant wire heights and aluminum trash in fields have been reported and are being fixed.

TCFB was successful in securing New York State budget funding this year for research and promotion as well as continued funding for a Cornell farm labor specialist and important nutrient management practices.

Legislatively, there are several bills that passed both houses of the legislature including: the creation of the New York agricultural investment task force and the ability for the commissioners of the New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation and Agriculture to promulgate the rules and regulations for

the reuse of tires for silage storage, and creation of a new state framework in light of the 2018 Farm Bill for cultivation and production of hemp, all of which are awaiting action by the governor.

TCFB will have a great dinner, camaraderie and a little fun at the upcoming County Annual Meeting.

Lin Davidson
President

**Tompkins County Farm Bureau
Annual Meeting**

**Friday, Oct. 25
Dryden VFW
2272 Dryden Rd., Dryden, NY**

**6 p.m. Social with Dairy Princess
6:30 p.m. Dinner**

**Cost: \$15 members and family
\$20 non-members**

**Guest Speaker
Jamie Baker of Swayolakan Farms
will talk about growing hemp for CBD**

**RSVP by Oct. 21 to:
Debbie Teeter at 607-280-1495 or
dlteeter58@gmail.com**

Tompkins County Farm Bureau Partners with Food Bank to Provide Milk to Food Pantries in the County

Tompkins County Farm Bureau (TCFB) is pleased to announce the kick-off of the New York Farm Bureau 10-gallon challenge, to provide milk for distribution to people in need through Tompkins County food pantries.

TCFB has started the program with a generous \$1,000 donation to the Food Bank of the Southern Tier (FBST). Just a \$20 donation can buy 10 or more half gallons of nutritious milk for pantry clients each month. Any amount is welcome.

By initiating the program for Tompkins County, TCFB hopes the challenge will not only supply milk for those in need, but spur area county Farm Bureaus to also take up the challenge.

TCFB President Lin Davidson adds, "This program is intended to make milk available to all, get more people drinking milk again as it is healthy and nutritious, and show support for our local dairy farmers."

Donations may be made directly to the FBST at <https://fbst.everydayhero.com/us/topkins-farm-bureau-milk-challenge>, or by calling 607-796-6061 and mentioning that it is for the TCFB 10-gallon Milk Challenge and if you want to designate a particular pantry. You also can donate directly on their web page, www.foodbankst.org, click on "Donate" and specify Farm Bureau Milk Challenge. Donations can also be made directly to your local food pantry, again mentioning the program.



Pictured from left: Shanté Tranchant (FBST Programs and Partnerships Coordinator), Lin Davidson (TCFB President), Randi Quackenbush (STFB Director of Community Impact), Art Berkey (TCFB Vice-president), Lindsay Wickham (NYFB Senior Field Advisor)

Tompkins County Farm Bureau 2019 Summer Picnic

Tompkins County Farm Bureau members enjoying their time at the annual picnic held on Aug.21 at Myers Park in Lansing, NY



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