

2020 Legislative Priorities

The complete list can be viewed at: <https://www.nyfb.org/advocacy/legislative-affairs/priority-issues>

- ◆ Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health, promotion, research and environmental programs in the final FY 20/21 state budget.
- ◆ Obtain financial offsets and amendments to the recently enacted farm labor statute in the final 2020-2021 State Budget.
- ◆ Ensure fair and equitable farm labor wage board hearings that are located in farming regions across the state. We support providing the wage board with adequate time and resources to ensure that sufficient farm data is available to know the full effects of the law prior to a wage board decision.
- ◆ Ensure staff funding for critical positions at the Department of Agriculture and Markets.
- ◆ Oppose efforts to establish a prevailing wage for publicly funded projects, including agricultural cost share programs through the Environmental Protection Fund.

Craft Beverage Meeting

Washington County Farm Bureau Board of Directors had deep discussions earlier this year on how to engage different emerging segments of the agricultural industry in Washington County. In response to this discussion, on Wed., Jan. 29, WCFB hosted it's first craft beverage meeting. Thank you to member Jim Hume at Battle Hill Brewing in Fort Ann for graciously hosting us. Approximately 20 craft beverage producers and growers in the county attended the event. Chris Ericson, President of the New York State Brewers Association and owner of Lake Placid Brewing and Big Slide Brewing in Lake Placid, came down to give an update about the brewing industry and legislative updates related to the craft beverage industry. Afterward, the evening centered around discussion of the craft beverage industry and how Farm Bureau can work with growers and producers to better the industry as a whole. A follow-up meeting will be planned for later this summer ahead of the policy development process.



National ROPS Rebate Program

The National ROPS Rebate Program offers farmers approximately 70% in rebates for rollover protection installed on unprotected tractors.

- ◆ Enroll in the Program by calling 1-877-767-7748 or visiting www.ROPSr4u.org.
- ◆ Our team will provide you with sourcing information and cost estimates for eligible ROPS kits.
- ◆ When you're ready to purchase, contact us for pre-approval, which is good for 10 days.
- ◆ You order the ROPS kit and contact us by phone with final pricing information and hiping/installation estimates.
- ◆ You send us proof of purchase and installation. A W-9 form is also required in some states.
- ◆ We'll send you a rebate check for up to 70% of the cost of your kit and installation



Funds Available

The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) is offering financial assistance to farm operations for repairs and upgrades that help make for a safer workplace.

The cost-matching program is designed to address the unique needs of small and medium-sized farm operations without the complexities often attached to many agricultural grants. **Contact NYCAMH at 800.343.7527 or email jmfsf@bassett.org**

Washington County Farm Bureau Member Spotlight- Dick McGuire

By Quade Kirk, Young Farmer Chair

Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Farm Bureau legend Mr. Dick McGuire at his home on Scotch Hill Road in Cambridge. I was hoping he would share some of his endless knowledge of Farm Bureau with me and the history of how he became involved with Farm Bureau and the agriculture industry in general. I also wanted to give fellow county Farm Bureau members an update on what he was up to these days.

How did you get into farming?

Dick grew up on his family's farm in the location where he currently lives on Scotch Hill Road in the town of Jackson. When the farm originated it consisted of 10 cows and 60 acres. He got married in 1946 and over the next three decades added acreage and cows to reach a point of 115 purebred Holsteins and 600 acres.

How did you first get involved with Farm Bureau and what positions have you held?

I learned from Dick that in 1955 Farm Bureau broke off from the Extension Service and formed its own private organization. However, the membership dues to be part of the Farm Bureau rose to \$20 compared to the \$5 it previously was when it was merged with Extension. That caused membership to decrease from 85,000 in 1955 to 5,000 in 1956 after the separation. This is important because in 1956, while showing cows at the Greenwich Fair, Dick was approached by David Baine to come to a meeting about this new "\$20 organization". At that time there were only 50-60 members in Washington County and by the end of that year, Dick was on the board. In 1957 he became Vice President and in 1958

when he was elected President of Washington County Farm Bureau there were 150 members. That was also the year of the first county annual meeting where 300 people showed up to the gymnasium of the Salem Central School.

One part of Dick's tenure that I found very interesting was in the early days of Washington County Farm Bureau were the "Kitchen Konferences" that the Farm Bureau would host. They would pick a township to have a meeting in and have a farmer host the meeting in his kitchen and invite all neighboring farmers to come over and learn about what was going on in the world of Farm Bureau. This was a great way to be able to reach out and connect to farmers in a pre-digital age.

In 1961, he was elected to the state board and eventually became president in 1970. He held the title of state president until 1984. In that time, state membership grew from 12,500 to 23,500 members. During his tenure as state president, he was a member of the executive committee, representing the northeastern states at the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Positions held at Farm Bureau: WCFB board member—1956 WCFB Vice President—1957 WCFB President—1958-1960 State Board—1961-1970 State President—1970-1984 AFBF Executive Committee—1972-1984

What are some of your most memorable Farm Bureau experiences?

One of the advantages of being on the Executive Committee was being able to meet farmers from different areas of the country. It also allowed Dick to meet with the president every year from 1972-1984. Dick says that he remembers personally getting phone calls from the offices of President Ford and President Reagan to help with

clarification on agriculture policy.

Another fond memory Dick has was being contacted by the Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz, to start a farmers exchange program with the Soviet Union. This gave Dick the opportunity to spend two weeks in the Soviet Union learning about their agriculture. Dick says he also has fond memories of traveling to Canada, Mexico and Japan on trade missions. One of his favorite memories is receiving the Outstanding Service to Agriculture Award in 1985.

What are you up to these days

At the ripe young age of 97, Dick is still very active around his farm. However, these days instead of housing cattle and hay, his barns serve as museums of the past. On his property, he has 12 buildings that are full of antiques that house everything from farm equipment (of course) to household appliances to a room full of artwork portraying how people looked and dressed in previous eras. Dick also has recently been interviewed and is being featured in Morrisville State College Magazine as being the oldest living alumnus.

It was my pleasure to get to know such a storied man that lives right here in our backyard! We are lucky to have a man like Dick McGuire, who has spent his life working for the farmers of Washington County as well as the farmers all across this nation. I would encourage everyone to stop by and visit Dick and his museums if given the opportunity. There is one last piece of advice from Dick that I should share with you that makes me grateful to be involved in such a true democratic, grassroots organization. When I asked Dick to summarize what Farm Bureau was all about, he responded "All Farm Bureau is is a vehicle of getting farmers involved with democracy".



P.O Box 5330
Albany, NY 12205



Washington County
Farm Bureau News

Any Concerns? Please reach out to us.

You can always reach out to any of the board members at any time to express your concerns. If there is an issue we need to be addressing, let us know. Members are also welcome to attend our monthly board meetings held the second Monday of each month at the Regional Office in Salem. Meeting times are 7 p.m. in December-March and 7:30 p.m. April–November. If you plan on attending, please contact the Eastern Regional Office first either by email eny@nyfb.org or phone 1-866-995-7300 to be sure there is a meeting.

Washington County Farm Bureau
Board of Directors
Need to dial 518 first.

Patricia Lockwood, President.....275-6054

Brian Ziehm, Vice President859-4741

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NYFB Eastern Regional Office..... 866-995-7300

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Washington County
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To Serve And Strengthen Agriculture

President’s Report:

The Washington County Farm Bureau (WCFB) board has had a busy past couple of months. Our County Annual Meeting was held on Oct. 23 at the 1925 Barn in Hudson Falls. We had a good turn out and a similar format of discussion during the business portion of the meeting as we had last year. We welcomed new board member, Brittany Novick, officially electing her to the board during the meeting. Brittany gives us more representation from the northern part of the county, living in the Granville area. October’s annual meeting was the last for long-time board member, Mary Menard. Mary served as vice president and secretary for the past few years and was actively involved in our membership drives. She had to step down from her board duties due to other commitments. Her presence on the board and insight into local issues will be missed. Filling her shoes as vice president is Brian Ziehm. Tricia Stewart has stepped up to take on the role of secretary.

The District 8 resolutions meeting was held on Nov. 18 in preparation for the NYFB State Annual Meeting held Dec. 2-3 in Binghamton. Several members from the board (Betty Getty, Carie Telgen, Quade Kirk, Brian Ziehm, Tricia Lockwood) attended the State Annual Meeting representing your opinions on several key issues. Hot topics this year included the hemp and craft beverage industries. To round out the month of December, Quade Kirk organized a Tri-County Young Farmer ugly sweater event on Dec. 18 at Highlander Brewing. Thanks to everyone who came out and showed your support.

To kick off 2020, the board organized a craft beverage meeting in January with the goal of getting a better understanding of the issues currently facing the industry and what possible solutions WCFB can offer. See the related article for more details. The board plans to host a similar meeting for the hemp industry in March. A quickly changing and new industry for Washington County, the board wants to know what our local hemp producers would like to see from WCFB. This section of the State Annual Meeting had a lot of discussion, with several new resolutions passed, responding to the rapid growth and interest in this product. Stay tuned for more information if you are interested in attending our upcoming meeting.

May all of our members have a healthy and prosperous 2020.

Tricia Lockwood
President

Progressive Agricultural Safety Day®

Living in a rural setting has special hazards associated with it including access to outdoor equipment, recreational vehicles, and waterways. To help children recognize these hazards, and promote safety the Washington County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a Progressive Agriculture Safety Day®.

Washington County Board of Directors will hold the first ever *Progressive Agricultural Safety Day®* on **Wednesday, May 6, 2020** at the Hartford Central School. The goal of this Safety Day is to help prevent tragic deaths and disabling injuries on farms and rural settings through safety education targeted at children.

This Safety Day focuses on students in grades 4-6 who live in the county who may or may not live on or visit farms. Several qualified instructors will be on hand to present information and give demonstrations on various safety topics, including:

Animal Safety

ATV Safety

Farm Machinery Safety

First Aid

Water Safety

Food Safety

The children will participate in interactive activities that reinforce the importance of taking responsibility for their own safety, respecting parents’ rules and sharing tips with their family and friends.

Each child will take home a “goody” bag, T-shirt and, ultimately, a new safety attitude.

If you would like to donate or support the upcoming Progressive Agricultural Safety Day® contact Betty Getty at 518-281-0146 or bhgetty@gmail.com for additional information.