

Livingston County Farm Bureau News

March 2020



President's Message

Every winter seems like it is going to last forever, but by the time March hits, farmers are starting to feel the excitement of Spring coming around the corner. Before we truly gear up to be back in the fields, we want to take a moment to look back on everything that has been accomplished during the winter months.



Eight board members attended our State Annual Meeting in December. We helped host another successful Young Farmers and Ranchers Night Out on February 29th and three county members attended Lobby Days in Albany during the first week of March. Many members have signed up to read for Ag. Literacy Week in March and we are helping to highlight local products at this year's Farmer Neighbor Event hosted by The Chamber of Commerce on March 20th. We are looking forward to these and some other exciting events that are already planned for the coming year. We are excited to continually have such a high level of involvement from members throughout the county.

Before we know it, the busy season will be here in full swing. So remember that it's important to take a few moments for yourself to recharge and rest. 2019 was an incredibly challenging year, from weather, to prices and even legislation. Farm stress adds up and it can take a large toll on everything including mental and physical health. Affiliated with Cornell University and funded partially through the Department of Ag. and Markets, NY FarmNet is completely free and confidential. They provide an array of services including help with estate or retirement planning, financial farm analysis, or personal and family well-being assistance. Don't hesitate to call 1-800-547-3276 or visit nyfarmnet.org for more information. Remember that every successful operation requires you to be healthy first!

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable spring!

Best,

Leslie Hamilton

Livingston County Farm Bureau Board of Directors

Leslie Hamilton, President.....	737-2208
Liam Coyne, Vice President	519-9235
Meghan Rodwell, Treasurer.....	703-2149
Emilie Mulligan.....	414-8934
Michael Howlett.....	739-7065
Joel Stevens.....	613-6478
Kent Williams.....	717-327-8095
Kaylene Lyons	301-648-8390
Doug Comstock	509-2578
Tim Northrop	315-523-2516
Kevin Herrington.....	770-3975
John Moore.....	370-2398
Clayton Phelps, Co YF&R Chair....	519-2563
Dan Stein, Co YF&R Chair.....	944-5710
Jeremy Kingston, Co YF&R Chair.....	519-1610
Claire Mulligan, Co YF&R Chair.....	202-2151
Brad Macauley, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	704-1506
Kim Sanford, Co Pro Ed Chair.....	739-5925

Amanda Krenning-Muoio, Field Advisor.....	749-9508
Livingston Co Farm Bureau.....	1-877-383-7663
Pat McCormick, District 2 Director.....	716-984-0085



FARMNET

1-800-547-3276 | www.nyfarmnet.org

Join us to celebrate LeFeber Farms as the 2020 Farm of the Year
at the Farmer Neighbor Event on March 20th!

Register Today!
Livingston County
Farmer Neighbor Dinner
FRIDAY
MARCH 20, 2020
WILLOW CREEK VENUE
Locally Grown. Locally Sourced
Know Your Farmer | Know Your Food




Held each spring, this annual event attracts nearly 400 people gathering to celebrate agriculture - Livingston County's #1 industry. In addition to the celebration, the Livingston County Farm Bureau and the Chamber present the Farm of the Year Award.

This year's event will feature more of a farm to table flare with the inclusion of local meats, cheeses, veggies and dairy products deliciously prepared and served up by Partyman Catering. Your sponsorship of this event will help to bring farmers together with their non-farming neighbors and educators to learn more about the economic engine of agriculture that drives our local economy. Please note that we have changed the sponsorship structure this year and will not include the sponsor expo display space. Tickets can be purchased online, at the Chamber or by phone.

**NY FARM BUREAU
CELEBRATES
NATIONAL AG MONTH**

March is Ag Month



Lobby Days 2020: This year we had three Livingston County members attend Lobby Days in Albany. Local products such as Nunda Mustard, local bar sausage and Craig's Creamery cheese were all shared with legislators at the Taste of New York reception.

Highlighted Member: Rob Noble of Noblehurst Farms in Linwood NY

At Noblehurst Farms Rob is a part of the team that takes care of the cropping and maintenance side of the farm. "We provide the feed, take care of the manure and maintain the facilities." Rob's first exposure to Farm Bureau was back in the early 80's when Ray Walton asked Andrew Smith and Rob to attend lobby days. "I didn't really know what we were getting into but we had fun. It wasn't until early 2000 that I joined the board for a couple of terms." Since then Rob has offered to help Livingston County Farm Bureau in various ways over the years. He generously agreed to attend Lobby Days in Albany in both 2019 and 2020. We would like to thank Rob for his continued support over the years and his dedication to Livingston County Agriculture.

What is your favorite part of Livingston County Agriculture?

My favorite part of Livingston county agriculture is the people I work with on a daily basis as well as the many businesses that provide the equipment, parts and service in our area. We are blessed with some of the most talented people in the industry.

Advice for young people looking to get involved in agriculture?

My advice for young people getting started in agriculture would be to first look at 4-H and Cooperative Extension. They have many programs targeted towards getting young people off on the right foot. They could also contact farms in their area to see if they have a need for help or if the farms have any ideas to get involved locally. Quite often events like the Empire Farm days and the New York Farm show would be a good place to see what's out there.

What would you be doing if you weren't involved in agriculture?

If I wasn't involved in agriculture I would at least be doing something outside and close to home. It's important to me to be able to spend regular time with family. Maybe construction or something involving machinery.

What makes it all worthwhile?

Satisfaction for me comes from being able to get things accomplished during the day working with the team. Whether its planting or harvesting crops, fixing equipment, or applying manure, working together makes my day.



Rob pictured with his wife Terri

Young Farmer District Event at BW's on Feb. 29th

The annual District 2 Young Farmer Rancher Night Out was held at BW's on Saturday February 29th. The event attracts over 100 young people in agriculture from across the state. This year's entertainment was the band Tink Bennett & Tailor Made! The evening is always a great way for young people in agriculture to connect with others throughout our region.



Livingston County Farm Bureau
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Livingston County
Farm Bureau News



**Livingston County Board Members at the State Annual Meeting in
December 2019.**

**(L to R): Brad Macauley, Michael Howlett, Dan Stein, Claire Mulligan,
Leslie Hamilton, Emilie Mulligan, Jeremy Kingston and Liam Coyne.**

State Annual Meeting

This year we had eight board members attend the State Annual Meeting in Binghamton December 2nd-4th. The group voted on policies for the upcoming year, and were able to attend various meetings and workshops. It was fabulous to have such a great turn out of members who are so involved! For the first time, the Young Farmers and Ranchers state board also held a Corn Hole Tournament where the proceeds were donated to the Harvest For All campaign. Jeremy Kingston and Liam Coyne took second place overall! Second to Genesee County members Christian Yunker and John King, a victory overall for western New York with donations toward a great cause!