

Proposed 2021 Policies

Essex County Farm Bureau is recommending the following policy proposals for 2021. Additional policy can be brought to the County Annual Meeting. While not required, please email Field Advisor Kim Trombly (ktrombly@nyfb.org), with your policy proposal prior to the meeting.

State

Agricultural Issues/Department of Agriculture and Markets

- We support New York State establishing a low-interest revolving loan fund for capital improvement on farms.

Economic Issues/ Energy/Renewable Energy

- We support increased educational resources for towns and other municipalities to aid them in developing solar and other renewable energy regulations.
- We encourage dual agricultural use solar.

National

Section 4/ USDA: Programs and Services/ 455- Agricultural Reports

- We support USDA having better price collection and price series information on specialty crops. This could be accomplished by adding prices to monthly agricultural data collection.

Section 4/ USDA: Programs and Services/ 464- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- We believe farmers should be given assistance to help facilitate online SNAP.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The Essex County Farm Bureau Board of Directors is recommending the following changes to our county Farm Bureau bylaws. The proposed changes will improve communication within the board of directors, both during and in between meetings.

Article III: Board of Directors

Section 4. Notice of Meetings. Notice of meetings of the board shall be deemed to be duly given if notice thereof has been either mailed or sent electronically to each director, at the email address they have supplied for such purpose, prior to such meeting. Directors may waive such notice either before or after such meeting. Such waiver can be written or electronic.

Section 5. Electronic Participation. The board, any committee of the board, and any committee of the corporation may participate in the meeting by means of conference, telephone, electronic video screen, or similar communications equipment allowing persons participating in the meeting to hear each other at the same time, and participate without limitation in all matters before the board. Participation in the meeting by such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting.

Section 6. Action without Meeting. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the board, any committee of the board, or any committee of the corporation may be taken without a meeting if all persons entitled to vote at such meeting consent thereto. Such consent may be written or electronic, and such consent is filed with the minutes documenting such action.

Sections will be renumbered accordingly.

Adirondack Food Policy Council



Farmers and food systems advocates are creating a food policy council for the Adirondack region. A working group made up of local organizations, farmers and businesses is currently discussing structure, organization and focus of the group, and we want your input.

In general, food policy councils function as a food system planning venue and "department of food". They bring together members from government, academia, agriculture, food banks, restaurants, retailers and faith communities. They focus on health, planning, economic development, education, agriculture and social services. They conduct local food system assessments and they serve as the voice of the community related to food.

We look forward to working closely with Farm Bureau members on issues of alignment. If you would like to learn more, or get involved, please contact Racey Henderson, Essex County Farm Bureau board member, at 518 572 7377 or [raceyhenderson.consulting@gmail.com](mailto:raceyhenderson.consulting@gmail.com)



Pastured poultry at Reber Rock Farm-board member Racey Henderson



*Serving our members Since 1967*

**Workers’ Compensation Safety Group 486**

Take a look at what NYFB Safety Group 486 has to offer.

- **16.3% Average Decrease** in 2019 rates for Safety Group 486 policyholder
- Cumulative rate decrease of **over 51%** in the past four years.
- **36%** five-year **Dividend Average**
- **25%** Maximum Safety Group **Upfront Discount**
- Low **8.5%** Group **Managers’ Fee**
- **Licensed NYFB staff** services account and acts as liaison with NYSIF

*Call or email [wcinfo@nyfb.org](mailto:wcinfo@nyfb.org) for a quote.*

**NYFB.ORG      800-342-4143**

**STARTED BY FARMERS FOR FARMERS**

\* Percentage is based on dividends paid 2014 through 2018. Dividends are not guaranteed. Continued membership in NYFB is required to participate in Safety Group 486. Eligibility for insurance is subject to the New York State Insurance Fund underwriting requirements. NYFB and its subsidiaries have no authority to bind coverage for any member.



New York Farm Bureau  
159 Wolf Rd.  
Albany, NY 12205



Essex County  
Farm Bureau News



Check out our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/EssexCountyFarmBureau/](https://www.facebook.com/EssexCountyFarmBureau/)

**Essex County Farm Bureau  
Board of Directors  
Don't forget to dial 518 first.**

Jeffrey Leavitt, President ..... 891-6666  
Steven Googin, VP/YFR Chair ..... 645-2697  
Jori Wekin, Treasurer.....N/A  
Racey Hendersen, Secretary ..... 341-9655  
Anne Lincoln ..... 963-4168  
Lee Garvey ..... 963-7511  
Dillion Kiepetar ..... 265-8520  
Linda Gilliland, Pro-Ed Chair..... 963-7447  
Tony LaPierre, NYFB Director ..... 572-7182  
Kim Trombly, NYFB Field Advisor.... 935-8569  
ENYFB Regional Office ..... 866-995-7300



Beef cows in the pasture at board member Anne Lincoln's Woods 'N River Farm.

Essex County  
Farm Bureau News  
September 2020



**County Annual Meeting Notice**

**Thursday, October 1  
6 p.m.  
Whallonsburg Grange - Outdoor Tent  
1610 NY-22, Essex, NY**

**Dinner by Papa Dukes BBQ  
Cost: \$5 - payable at the door.  
RSVP to Linda Gilliland at 518-963-7447 or [benweverfarm@aol.com](mailto:benweverfarm@aol.com)**

*Please join Essex County Farm Bureau for our 2020 Annual Meeting. We will have our business meeting first and welcome our members to stay for dinner or take their dinner to go. Essex County Farm Bureau will follow all state and national guidelines regarding COVID-19.*

**President's Message:**



Howdy!  
2020—this has been a memorable and challenging year, and as of the time I write this we STILL have 25% of it to go! I continue to be impressed by the collective resourcefulness that I have seen amongst our farming community. Livestock are still being fed, crops are still being tended, and harvest will begin soon. As we move into the policy development and county annual meeting season, I encourage our farming community to come together even more to help make our county stronger than ever. If nothing else, this year has shown us what truly matters. Farm on farmers, farm on!

Agriculturally yours,

*Jeff Leavitt*  
President

Look inside at this year's proposed policies. ➡

**Americorps/Vista Program**

My name is Ronnie Cunningham and I am a volunteer with the Americorps/Vista program in Essex County, NY. Americorps/Vista was signed into law by President Johnson in the 60's and is like the Peace Corp only domestic here in the United States. We are tasked with the opportunity to help decrease poverty in the USA by helping out in our own communities.

For the next year I will be volunteering at the Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension in Lewis, NY working with senior citizens. I want to help introduce them to our local food systems, help them understand what sustainable agriculture is, and gain insight to where their food comes from. Additionally, to show them how buying from local farms is a healthy choice for themselves, farmers, and the local economy. I will also be calibrating with local social service agencies and other organizations to provide a resource for SNAP, WIC, and Farm Market Coupons recipients. Please let me know if you have any ideas or suggestions to help with this project. Please contact me at 518-546-7227 or 3369 or [jrcunningham77@yahoo.com](mailto:jrcunningham77@yahoo.com)