



COVID-19 Designated as an Airborne Infectious Disease Under NYS HERO Act

On Sept. 6, 2021, Gov. Kathy Hochul designated COVID-19 as an airborne infectious disease under the HERO Act, requiring all employers to implement workplace safety plans.

The purpose of the HERO Act is to protect employees against workplace exposure during airborne infectious disease outbreaks. Under this new law, the New York Department of Labor has worked with the New York State Department of Health, to develop a new Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Standard, a

Model Airborne Infectious Disease Exposure Prevention Plan and industry-specific model plans for the prevention of airborne infectious disease, including an agriculture specific plan.

Employers have a choice between adopting the applicable policy template policy and plan provided by NYSDOL or they may establish an alternative plan that meets or exceeds the standard’s minimum requirements. Visit [dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act](https://dol.ny.gov/ny-hero-act) for

industry-specific plans and additional resources.

Also, a reminder to agricultural employers in New York State from NYS DOL: COVID19 Paid Leave benefits are still in effect. COVID19 Paid Leave benefits do not have an expiration date. Employers may not make workers use existing sick leave or other leave accruals, in lieu of providing COVID leave benefits. Employers must provide these quarantine benefits regardless of vaccination status.

New York Farm Bureau  
159 Wolf Road, Suite 300  
Albany, NY 12205



Rensselaer County Farm Bureau

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

Tim Marbot, President	281-3432
Michael Swartz, VP	331-0830
Diane Salazar, Secretary	766-0065
Ken Johnson, Treasurer	339-9402
Paul Molesky, Jr.	487-1769
Nicole Childrose	605-4880
Scott VanNederyn	504-259-0947
Matthew Trzcinski, YFR Co-Chair	441-7917
Meagan Swartz, Pro-Ed Chair	331-0830
Renee Ciardi, NYFB Field Advisor	461-8659
Dean Casey, NYFB Director	796-4874
Eastern Regional Office	431-5650

Reminder  
New York Farm Bureau dues  
Pay your dues by  
Nov. 30 and save \$11.



Rensselaer  
County  
Farm Bureau

September 2021



County Annual Meeting  
Monday, October 11  
7 p.m.  
The Hill  
133 Scott Ave, Castleton  
\$15. payable at the door.  
Cash bar available.

RSVP to the regional office by Oct. 5  
1-518-431-5650 or [eny@nyfb.org](mailto:eny@nyfb.org)

Members are encouraged to bring resolutions to the floor that night. If you have a proposed resolution that you would like to present at the meeting, please have it written beforehand.

2022 New Proposed Resolutions

We support rural broadband-Rural Communications

We support labor committee recommendation that states: “Overtime threshold of 60 hr. is lowered, then workers should be required to work on the 7th day without required overtime”.

Farm Day Out Event



Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County organized a “Farm Day Out” hosted by Windy Hill Orchard in Castleton. Rensselaer County Farm Bureau board of Director Mike Swarts and his wife Meagan, Promotion and Education chair of Rensselaer County Farm Bureau passed out Farm Bureau memorabilia at the day-long event full of displays from local Ag businesses & organizations, activities, and a self-guided farm tour to help educate the public on different aspects of the world of agriculture.