

Grassroots



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FARM LABOR WAGE BOARD

Hearings Set to Review Overtime Threshold

By Steve Ammerman sammerman@nyfb.org

The Farm Labor Wage Board will hold three hearings this month in its effort to review the 60-overtime threshold for farmworkers and whether conditions are appropriate to lower it.

The New York State Department of Labor announced the dates of Jan. 4 at 3:30 p.m. and Jan. 18 and 20 at 5 p.m. on Dec. 15. That date was the recommended deadline for a decision made by the wage board last year on New Year's Eve.

The DOL has set up a link on its website for farmers, farmworkers and others to register to testify at one of the three hearings. New York Farm Bureau and its agricultural partners are encouraging members to sign up and share their stories about what a lower threshold will means to them.

New York Farm Bureau is active in the Grow NY Farms coalition campaign advocating that the threshold should remain at 60. The coalition released a statement following the announcement.

"Over the past few months, it's become clear that New York's agriculture community — both

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NYFB Delegates Meet In-Person for State Annual Meeting

By Steve Ammerman sammerman@nyfb.org

New York Farm Bureau delegates set the course for 2022 at the 65th State Annual Meeting held Dec. 7 in Albany. More than 100 delegates representing 52 county Farm Bureaus from across the state gathered for the day-long meeting to vote on public policy positions as well as to hand out awards and elect board members. This year's in-person meeting with COVID safety protocols in place allowed members to gather together to network and exchange ideas following last year's virtual meeting.

State Annual Meeting is the culmination of the strong grassroots process where farmer members create, discuss, and determine the policy positions that New York Farm Bureau advocates for at the state and federal levels.

"Little did we know how simply holding State Annual Meeting was something to be taken for granted in years past. We are here to make progress and find common ground on the issues that impact our farms. I hope each of you can go back home and remember how special

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COMMODITY REPORT: LIVESTOCK

Burly Brothers Land and Cattle Company is located in Attica, NY where the family-owned farm has been raising cattle for more than 15 years. They sell farm-raised Black Angus beef, but with the increased lack of meat processing availability, they decided to build their own USDA-inspected meat processing facility. Along with processing, the Burly Brothers Country Butchery will soon include a store where consumers can purchase beef products and other farm items. The Commodity Report begins on page 13.

NYFB Sets Priority Issues for 2022

Topics Will Be Discussed with State Officials by Members, Staff

By Jeff Williams jwilliams@nyfb.org

The New York Farm Bureau State Board of Directors finalized the organization's slate of priority issues for the new year at their December 2021 meeting. The criteria used for priority issue selection are that the issue must have a broad-based agricultural impact, be of significant interest to county Farm Bureaus, and impact farmers' ability to conduct business, make a profit, or affect quality of rural living. Also, the issue should attract member interest in anticipation of drawing their active participation and have a reasonable chance of being resolved.

These priority issues will be major topics of discussion with legisla tors, legislative staff, the Governor's office, and state agencies in 2022 by NYFB members and Public Policy staff.

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New CDL Training Program for Young Adults Becomes Law in NY State.

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Oeser Joins NYFB Team

Ashley Oeser has recently joined the New York Farm Bureau as Legislative Counsel, although not yet admitted to practice law. Ashley grew up on a small dairy farm in Sprakers, N.Y. While in high school, her family sold the farm due to economic pressures facing the dairy industry. The sale of her family farm propelled Ashley to protect farmers and the greater agriculture industry.



Ashley Oeser

While in school, Ashley was involved with various agriculture organizations and activities such as the Junior DAIRY LEADER program, 4-H, dairy cattle shows, and the Montgomery County Dairy Princess Promotion Team. After high school, she majored at SUNY Cobleskill in Agriculture Business Management, where she graduated in 2017 with her Bachelor of Science degree.

During her time there, she interned at the NYS Assembly where it was at that point she decided to pursue agricultural policy. After completing her undergraduate degree, she decided that to understand laws and policy, it was imperative to attend law school. Fast forward to May of 2020, when she graduated from Albany Law School with her Juris Doctor degree.

While in her second year at law school, she interned with the New York Farm Bureau and learned that her passion for agriculture can intertwine with her background in the law. When the opportunity arose for Legislative Counsel at the NYFB, she knew this position would be the perfect fit.

Ashley said, "I am incredibly grateful for this new opportunity. It's not every day people get to do what they love. It was my dream of advocating for farmers that pushed me through law school. I never wanted another farmer to have to go through the anguish that comes with losing a farm. Luckily, I have met so many incredible people along my journey who have mentored me and supported my life mission to protect farms and the agriculture industry. Now I get to work every day with an incredible team that works fiercely to protect and amplify the voices of our farmers."

"Ashley brings a tremendous amount of experience, energy and passion to this position. Her experience working in the Assembly, along with her previous legal internship with New York Farm Bureau make her a valuable asset for the Public Policy Division. She has hit the ground running and we are extremely happy to have her as part of our team," said Jeff Williams, Director of Public Policy.

Staff reports

NYSBGA Appoints Bittner as **Interim Director**

Jim Bittner has been appointed Interim Executive Director of the New York State Horticulture Society and the New York State Berry Growers Association.

Founded in 1988, the New York State Berry Growers Association is a nonprofit educational association for ber-



Jim Bittner

ry growers, from large wholesale family farms to independent farm stands and small pick-your-own operations, across New York State. The NYSBGA promotes the growing and marketing of berries through the exchange of valuable information, including scientific research and production techniques.

Bittner brings an understanding of the needs of the fruit industry and the needs of these organizations. His home farm, Bittner-Singer Orchards, in Appleton NY

consists of 400 acres of fruit including apples, peaches, cherries, plums and apricots. His two sons, Kevin and David are involved in the farm operation.

In the past, Bittner served on the Board of the Horticulture Society including being its chairperson. In that role, he was active in the Council of Agricultural Organizations and the Farm Viability Institute Board. He has been very active with NYFB at many different levels over the years. All of these organizations are geared toward keeping agriculture as an economic engine for the New York State economy.



We Three Calves

NYFB State Director Paul Fouts had a miracle at his dairy farm in Cortland the week before Christmas. "Usually cows have one calf per pregnancy. Twins are not uncommon. Four percent of the births we had last year were twins. Triplets are rare. Of the thousands of calves I have seen born, I have only seen four sets of triplets. Last night we had a set of triplets born -- all boys. Calves and mom are all doing fine," Paul said. According to some reports, the occurrence of a triple calf birth is one in 100,000.



Evergreen Beauty

Details of a fir tree from Akron Acres in Akron, NY. Andy and Marilyn Kelkenberg operate the farm, best known for agritourism, along with their four children.

Pandemic Offers Lessons for Member Engagement

The events that unfolded over the last two years have brought about extraordinary change for organizations in nearly every industry. Farm Bureau had to adapt quickly and assess old ways of doing things and determine the best path forward, while keeping up with evolving member expectations. The lessons that Farm Bureau and other associations learned in crisis will hopefully guide our next steps.

These lessons will be explored in a new webinar on Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. that will uncover tangible tips for member engagement at the county and state Farm Bureau levels. It will be presented by Elise Stoddard Cruce, Managing Director, Leadership Development for American Farm Bureau Federation. All county Farm Bureau leaders and members are invited to attend this Zoom session on engaging your members in your county Farm Bureau events and activities.

Please go to the events page on nyfb.org to register or watch for links in your weekly NYFB E-News alert.

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Commodity Report: USDA Announces Grants to Help Meat Processing Sector Expand Access Page 13



The Silo had been in continuous operation since 1973.

Beloved, Iconic Chenango County Restaurant Destroyed in Four-Alarm Blaze on Nov. 28

By Lindsay Wickham Iwickham@nyfb.org

An iconic institution in Chenango County Farm Bureau lore is no more. The Silo Restaurant, a mainstay in Greene and aptly named for use by an agricultural organization, burned to the ground early Sunday morning, Nov. 28 in a four-alarm fire. The cause is still under investigation.

The Silo was legendary not only in Chenango County, but also much of Broome, Otsego and other surrounding counties and its many visitors from all over the state and country. Its beloved status showed during the initial call. Fourteen fire companies from four counties responded to the blaze. During the fire, the Greene Fire Department posted to Facebook saying crews were trying to save "a huge part of the community".

For Chenango County Farm Bureau, The Silo was the longtime home of not only their annual meeting every October, but their annual Ag Day Celebration in March and other events.

Many District 5 county Farm Bureau leaders, State Board Directors, county and state FFA leaders, elected officials at the county, state and national level, and many other dignitaries have dined at The Silo along-side Farm Bureau members.

Owner Gary Kurz and his family owned and ran the restaurant for nearly five decades. Gary has been a long-time Farm Bureau member

and supporter and always bent over backwards to play host and make sure everyone was well taken care of. He always found time to mingle with the crowd and greet the many familiar faces. Gary was looking at selling (a closing was being scheduled) and retiring, but now has decisions to make. As he was quoted "...this is not the way I wanted to retire."

Chenango County Farm Bureau President Bradd Vickers was still visibly shaken several weeks after the fire. Outside of the ease of working with Gary and The Silo staff on several events each year, he had developed a close personal relationship with Gary and everyone there.

Annual meetings and other events come and go, no matter where they are held. But, a personal and business relationship like that between Chenango County Farm Bureau and The Silo has to be totally recreated somewhere else. Restaurants also come and go, but to have this icon in your backyard for 50 years is a rarity and also a treasure.

Thankfully, the Chenango County Farm Bureau Board and their significant others were able to meet their one last time for their annual meeting in October. Unfortunately, it did not include members due to COVID concerns and protocols.

God bless Gary, his family and the Silo staff and thank you for the many great years of camaraderie, service, and professionalism.



SPECIAL

NY farmers invited to participate in statewide Vision 2050 plan through survey

The Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE), the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management at Cornell University, the Cornell Small Farms Program, faculty from Columbia University, Hartwick College, and SUNY Cobleskill have launched a statewide farmer survey asking what farmers want to see for the future of New York State's food system by 2050.

The survey represents the second phase of CADE's data collection process, built on the results of 17 focus groups which were conducted between March and October, 2021 in partnership with Cornell University, SUNY Cobleskill, and other researchers.

Structured as roundtable discussions, the focus groups brought together a total of 90 stakeholders from all sectors of the food system.

This project follows a similar course chartered by Food Solutions New England, who released a 2060 Food Vision document produced by six partner states in 2014.

Jeff Williams, the Director of Public Policy of the New York Farm Bureau stated, "New York residents depend upon a safe, affordable and local food supply.

Investment is needed to ensure that the necessary on-farm research is conducted, livestock health is protected, and markets are established to foster a beneficial economy for farms and provide food access to consumers across the state."

Farmers can give input on these issues and many more by taking 15 minutes to complete the survey identifying their food system priorities at **cadefarms.org/vision-2050.**

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NYFB Safety Group 486 **Annual Meeting Notice**

Register today for the NYFB Safety Group 486 Annual Meeting via Zoom (using the QR code to the right)

Thursday, January 20, 2022 at noon



The New York Farm Bureau Safety Group 486 will hold its Annual Meeting via Zoom on January 20, 2022 at noon.

NYFB licensed insurance staff and representatives of the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF) will be on hand to present information and answer questions.

There will be a review of the financial performance of the Safety Group including a report on rates and the 2020 dividend. Elections for expiring Executive Committee members will also be held. Policyholders must register to participate. Once registered, you will receive an email with the meeting link. Don't forget to add it to your calendar!

To use the QR code, simply take a picture of the above code with your mobile device and the registration page will appear.



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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2022 is off to a Fast Start for New York Farm Bureau

New York Farm Bureau is gearing up for the start of the new year. Right out of the gate, we will have a lot on our agenda between advocacy work, the national American Farm Bureau convention, and a series of farm labor wage board hearings, all within the first few weeks.

AFBF will kick things off in Atlanta, GA beginning the weekend after the NYS Ag. Society Forum in Syracuse. NYFB members were successful in getting about a dozen national public policies through the AFBF Resolutions Committee. These were policies that started at the county Farm Bureau level and were approved at our State Annual Meeting last month in Albany. Some of those include support for the modernizing and aligning of the Standards of Identity of pure Maple Syrup for U.S. and Canada, being in favor of the inclusion of a block grant program that would allow food banks and food access networks to directly purchase specialty crops from farmers, and supporting an exemption from the federal Jones Act Maritime Law Workers Comp require-



David Fisher NYFB President

"Let's all commit to being ready, focused and doing the work needed to get to a better place."

ments for aquaculture businesses engaged in the production and harvesting of agricultural prod-

Once AFBF wraps up, the NYFB State Board will set our national priorities. This follows up on our list of state public policy priorities that will lead the way in Albany. Our priorities must have broad agricultural interest, affect a farm's ability to be profitable

or impact rural living, and be of great interest to county farm Bureaus. You can read the full list in this edition of Grassroots, but they include advocating for a refundable investment tax credit as well as the doubling of the Agricultural Workforce Retention Tax Credit. Solar has been another major issue across the state. A NYFB priority will be to support the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and the current and future land needs of agriculture in the state. Whenever possible, prime soils and actively farmed lands should be avoided in favor of previously disturbed or fallow lands and rooftop development for distributed generation. We will also support investment in new meat, vegetable, fruit and seafood processing facilities in New York and work for allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates. These issues reflect the diverse needs of our members.

Of course, the wage board hear-

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THE ZIPLINE

Lots in Store at the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention

This time of year, Santa's workshop has nothing on the American Farm Bureau offices as we gear up for the 2022 American Farm Bureau Convention. Our staff is making their lists and checking them twice to ensure our annual convention is a meaningful and memorable experience for all. And I hope you all are making your plans to join us in Atlanta. With just a few weeks till we are there, we have lots of presents in store for you.

As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the next, we will be joined by entertaining motivational keynote and speakers. On Sunday, Jim "Murph" Murphy, founder and chairman of Afterburner, will deliver an inspiring keynote address. As a former Air Force pilot, he is stranger to challenge and perseverance under pressure. I cannot wait for him to share from his experience in the military and business world as he helps us keep our eyes on the target.



Zippy Duvall AFBF President

Then Monday, we will take a lighthearted turn with comedian Jeff Allen. You may have seen him on "America's Got Talent," "Huckabee," Netflix, Amazon Prime, Pure Flix, Warner Bros., Comedy Central, VH1, Showtime, TBN, CBN, Family Net and numerous other television networks, and he can be heard regularly on SiriusXM's comedy channels, as well as on Pandora and Spotify.

This will be a time for us to gather in fellowship and lift one another

We will also continue to offer a

wide variety of workshops to help you boost your advocacy in the new year. You might have a hard time narrowing down your choices from the 20 workshops, which will seek to answer your tax questions, provide the latest on carbon markets, provide an outlook for 2022, explore ways to increase membership, and help you better tell your farm's sustainability story—just to name a few. You will get the chance to hear from leaders in Farm Bureau and across the industry as well as policy experts and trainers from our own AFBF staff.

Most of all, this will be a time for us to gather in fellowship and lift one another up. I invite you to join us Monday night, Jan. 10, as we celebrate the Farm Bureau team at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame. Doors open at 7 p.m., and we have some fun treats planned, including a personalized tour through the Hall of Fame and opportunities

GUEST OPINIONS

Writing Your Secure Pork Supply Plan

By now you have probably heard the news that African Swine Fever (ASF) has been detected in the Western Hemisphere on the island of Hispaniola. With Puerto Rico, a nearby US territory, the United States is on high alert.

If the disease were to be detected in Puerto Rico, the US, or any other territory, swine movement would be halted for at least 72 hours. This has the potential to hit the swine industry with a loss in the billions of dollars.

This swine virus is highly contagious and kills most pigs that get it. There is no risk whatsoever to humans or any other species. The virus can survive in contaminated manure, equipment, clothing, feed, as well as pork products. Control is depopulation of infected

herds. With diligence and stepped-up border protections in place, the hope is the U.S. won't be impacted. It is wise to be prepared. This winter

It is wise to be prepared. This winter would be a great time to assess your farm's biosecurity plan. It is your responsibility to do the best you can to keep your farm safe.

To keep your swine business operating in case of an outbreak in the U.S., farms with secure pork supply plans will be given priority for continuity of business permits. This will ensure your pigs are able to be transported, even to slaughter.

A place to start would be with an aerial map of your farm. Think about who



Nancy Frazier
Cornell
Cooperative
Extension

has access to the farm – deliveries of feed, fuel, seed, or other items. The goal – on swine or any livestock farm – is to keep visitors away from housing and barn entry points. Post signs to limit access to your property and designate where deliveries are made. Keep a log of visitors to the farm.

Animals purchased or brought back to the farm should be quarantined for a period of 21-30 days.

Quarantined animals need to be far enough away from the home group that they can't touch noses, share water, or feed, or contact manure. In all in-all out settings, make sure the area is cleaned, disinfected and dry before new animals are moved in. Ask for health records for newly purchased animals.

Wear clean clothes and clean boots when leaving the farm. Your animals may be healthy, but you may take manure to another farm or store and someone else may take it home with them. Their animals may be susceptible. If you have visitors to your opera-



Quarantined animals need to be far enough away from the home group that they can't touch noses, share water, or feed, or contact manure.

tion, disposable boots or boot wash should be utilized. Make sure manure and mud are removed prior to disinfecting since many products are neutralized by organic matter.

Watch out for wildlife and pests. Wild birds can carry and transmit diseases to other livestock species by contaminating feed. Flies can also carry infectious diseases so do your best to keep populations at a minimum. Keep rodent populations under control. Keep a gravel strip around the perimeter of barns and buildings to deter them; they won't want to risk being caught

by predators.

More information will be forthcoming this winter.

Cornell Cooperative Extension will be working with NYSDAM and the New York Pork Producers to provide help with plans.

In the meantime, check out the resources at https://www.securepork.org.

If you would like additional information, contact me at 585-315-7746 or nig3@cornell.edu. Have a safe and healthy new year!

NY Beef Producer's Association Gear Up for Conference

The NY Beef Producers' Association celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2022. Our statewide organization is made up of beef producers, adult and youth, committed to safe, wholesome, and nutritious beef supplied to consumers.

We emphasize on raising healthy animals and protecting the environment for future generations. We are dedicated to working together for the improvement of the beef industry.

As a member you receive our bimonthly magazine, educational events and field days, free classifieds, and a wealth of information and exchange of ideas with fellow beef producers. Over the year we have a presence at NY Farm Show, WNY Farm Show, Empire Farm Days, and State Fair. We also organize and host educational and social events including



Amanda Dackowsky Executive Secretary, NYBPA

If interested in joining NYBPA please go to the website at www.nybpa.org.

NYBPA will be returning to the Syracuse area for their annual conference themed, "75 Years of Building Quality Alliances." The conference will be Jan. 2-22.

Both NYBPA members and nonmembers are welcome to attend. On Jan. 21, keynote speaker Brandi Buzzard, sponsored by Trowbridge Angus, will be presenting on "Ag Advocacy."

Brandi is a Kansas cowgirl, rancher, and spokeswoman for agriculture. Prime rib dinner starts at 6 p.m. After the keynote speaker NYBPA will have their annual meeting. Social hour with friends and fun will follow. On Jan. 22, the conference kicks off with the trade show at 8 a.m. Grund from U.S. CattleTrace, Dr. Jerry Rusch from MultiMin, Scott Rusche from Seedway, Dr. Lowell Midla from Merck, Brian Addix from Powder River, and Nicole Rodriguez, RD, and Jean O'Toole with the NY Beef Council speaking on beef production practices and beef quality assurance. Saturday's dinner is at 6 p.m. with keynote speaker Josh White, executive director of Producer Education at NCBA.

Josh will speak on the importance of beef quality assurance for the producer and the consumer. Other weekend events include a silent and live auction, proceeds going to the scholarship fund, photo contest, junior beef association meeting and activities, breed association meetings, awards, BQA producer drawing, and a multi-vendor trade show.

The conference takes place at the Ramada by Wyndham, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool. Registration deadline is Jan. 5. Reduced rate hotel reservations can be made under the NY Beef Producers' Association.

To find more information on hotel reservations, conference schedule, and registration form, please go the website at www.nybpa.org.

ZIPLINE

From Page 4

to view the NCAA College Football Championship Game. You can get your tickets now or at the registration desk in Atlanta, but you won't want to miss this great event. As excited as I am to gather with you all in person, I know some of you may not be able to make the trip this year. We are pleased to provide a robust lineup of virtual events as well, and I hope you will tune in. You can still register to join us virtually to follow along with the general sessions, enjoy many of

our workshops live or on-demand, watch the exciting Final Four round of the YF&R Discussion Meet, and pick your favorite team in the Ag Innovation Challenge.

For many of us, the American Farm Bureau Convention is a time to get refreshed and recharged, and after the challenges of the last couple years, we need this time together. Whether in Atlanta or virtually from home, I hope you will join us as we focus on the people, purpose and possibilities of Farm Bureau. Until then, have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

State Announces Milestone in Construction of Bronx-based, \$40M Regional Food Hub

NYSDAM

On Dec. 10, New York State announced the "topping off" ceremony of the New York State Regional Food Hub in the Hunts Point neighborhood of the Bronx, where the final beam of the 60,000 square foot, \$40 million cold-storage facility was put in place. The New York State Regional Food Hub is a joint state and city project that, when complete, will strengthen the local food economy, support New York farmers, and improve access to healthy and affordable foods for low-income communities. Empire State Development supported the Hub with an investment of \$15 million through the New York City Regional Economic Development Council in Round VI.

The New York State Regional Food Hub is an awesome example of all that can be accomplished when we all work together, and I want to thank all the partners involved in bringing the Food Hub to this point. I was pleased to be at the ground breaking ceremony this past spring and am happy to be back here in the Bronx now, several months later, to celebrate this incredible project with the final beam placement. The Food Hub will be a game changer for our farmers bringing product to market and to our families who will have greater access to quality New York grown fruits and vegetables."

Lieutenant Governor Brian Benjamin said, "The New York State Regional Food Hub is a first-of-itskind project that will support New York's farmers by bringing fresh fruits and vegetables to markets in New York City to ensure increased access to food for our underserved communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how invaluable our New York producers and the local food supply are and investing in this state-of-the-art facility will strength-



The project has received funding from a number of partners, including \$15 million from Empire State Development, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, New York City Council, U.S. Economic Development Administration, Bank of America, and others.

en our food system now and for the future."

Lieutenant Governor Brian Benjamin joined the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Empire State Development, GrowNYC, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi, and Councilman Rafael Salamanca, Jr. today to tour the progress of the new food hub and celebrate the placement of the final beam, signaling a major step toward the completion of the project. Gov. Hochul visited the site for the official start of construction and ground breaking in March 2021. The project is expected to be completed in early summer 2022.

The Hub, which is a result of the NYS-NYC Regional Food Hubs Task Force, will dramatically expand GrowNYC's wholesale distribution capacity, making fresh, local foods accessible to underserved New Yorkers through wholesale buyers, including institutions and restaurants, and through

innovative partnerships with nonprofit organiza-

The facility will also mean the creation of new jobs while supporting New York State farmers by providing expanded capacity and access, particularly for small-and mid-sized farms, to New York City's wholesale marketplace. The processing facility will also assist Upstate producers and processors in targeting institutional and private sector procurement opportunities.

The Hub is anticipated to increase GrowNYC's wholesale distribution from 5.4 million pounds of fresh produce in 2020 to an estimated 20 million pounds and help GrowNYC respond to the growing need of emergency food assistance. The number of families who were food insecure in New York City grew from 1.4 million residents to approximately 2 million during the height of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

USDA Distributes \$1.5B to School Meal Program

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilthe Biden-Harris Administration is providing up to \$1.5 billion to states and school districts to help school meal program operators deal with the challenges of supply chain disruptions brought on by the pandemic.

With funding made available through USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, USDA will

provide \$1 billion for schools to sack recently announced that purchase food for their meal programs and another \$300 million for states to purchase foods to be distributed to schools.

> An additional \$200 million will be used for cooperative agreements to purchase local foods for schools with a focus on buying from historically underserved producers.

> > **USDA**

FISHER

From Page 4

ings kick off January 4, with two more scheduled for January 18 and 20. As a member of the wage board, I cannot stress enough about the importance of registering to testify. It is imperative that the farming community show up to demand that the overtime threshold remain at 60 hours for our farms, farmworkers, and food supply. Please watch for emails from NYFB on how to register or go to the New York State Department of Labor's website and search for farm labor wage board hearings. You will find the link there. Also, do not forget to send an e-lobby message to the Governor on this issue through www.growny farms.com or simply call her office, even if you sent a letter. Her number is 518-474-8390. We cannot let up with the finish line potentially a few weeks away.

This is a lot on our plates with the year just getting underway. We are still dealing with the pandemic, inflationary pressure, and supply issues. All of this is why membership in New York Farm Bureau is as important as ever. You know you have a group watching out for you as you work hard on your farms.

I look forward to sharing progress through the year with you, and I wish you the very best in 2022.



Contact us to apply!

jmfsf@bassett.org www.nycamh.org 800.343.7527



Bassett Healthcare Network New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health

Ag Zoning Laws Versus Ag Districts—What's the Difference?

By Ashley Oeser aoeser@nyfb.org

Agricultural zoning laws and Agricultural Districts can provide great protections to farmers. However, the differences between the two classifications can be a nuanced issue. Your land may qualify for an agricultural district, an agricultural zoned area, both an agricultural district and agricultural zoned area, or neither of the two. On a broad scale, agricultural zoning laws are issued at a local level, whereas agricultural districts are regulated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYS-DAM).

Agricultural zoned areas allow certain farming practices and/or agricultural uses to be permitted in a local municipality. Local municipalities retain great power through a doctrine known as "home-rule". This doctrine, created under Article IX of the N.Y.S. Constitution gives powers to local governments to adopt ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, and to also fix, levy and collect fees. In a city, town or village, this power includes the ability to adopt zoning regulations. Often, agricultural zoning require-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the 30-day enrollment period for your county, please visit:

https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-1

For more information on agricultural districts, please visit:

https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-2

ments within a municipality may include road setback requirements, separation distances between wells and manure sources, lot sizes, and/or site plan requirements, to name a few. It is recommended to check with your town to learn the zoning laws that apply to your land as every town is different.

Agricultural Districts, however, are governed at a state level, through the Department of Agriculture and Markets, under the Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AA. Being in an agricultural district, farmers are afforded protections from restrictive farming laws, nuisance lawsuits, and eminent domain. Being in an agricultural district also qualifies you to receive an agricultural assessment, reducing your property tax bills for land in agricultural production. The purpose of this law

is to protect against unreasonably restrictive regulations on farmers. For example, the "Right to Farm" clause helps protect farmers from nuisance claims, such as a lawsuit against a farmer for an odor emanating while spreading manure. So long as spreading manure qualifies as a "sound agricultural practice" by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, and does not threaten public health or safety, the farmer has a valid defense in the lawsuit.

To be an agricultural district, the agricultural land must be recommended by the county farmland protection board, approved by the county legislature, and then certified by the Commissioner of Agriculture & Markets. To apply to be in an agricultural district, you must submit your proposal during the open enrollment period, a period of 30 days, for your county. Districts are reviewed every eight years. To begin the process, you can discuss your situation with your county government or cooperative extension.

Some added benefits of being in an agricultural district include the ability to qualify for an agricultural assessment. An agricultural assessment reduces your property tax bills for agricultural land. Although your land does not have to be in an agricultural district to receive an agricultural assessment, your land must meet certain requirements. Those requirements include your land consisting of seven or more acres that were used in the previous two years to produce crops, livestock, or livestock products. Additionally, the gross sales of agricultural products must average \$10,000 or more for the previous two years. However, if you own less than seven acres, you may still be able to qualify for an agricultural assessment if your gross sales equal \$50,000 or more. You may find more information on this at https://www.tax.nv.gov.

In sum, your land can qualify either as an agricultural district classification, an agricultural zoned area, both an agricultural district and agricultural zoned classification, or neither. Being in one classification does not automatically imply you qualify for a different classification. It is also recommended that members reach out to their local government to learn more about the agricultural assessment program.

The information contained in this article is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be, nor should it be considered, a substitute for legal advice rendered by a competent attorney. If you have any questions about the application of the issues raised in this article to your particular situation, seek the advice of a competent attorney.

New CDL Training Program for Young Adults Becomes Law

By Ashley Oeser aoeser@nyfb.org

On Nov. 15, 2021, the governor signed into law a Class A CDL Young Adult Training Program, which will allow young adult drivers between the ages of 18-20 years old to enroll. It is important to note that the CDL training program discussed in the November *Grassroots* edition is a federal level program. This program, however, is different as it is for New York State.

Prior to the passage of this legislation, young adults identified between the ages of 18-20 years old could only obtain a Class B CDL license and could only drive within New York State limits. Furthermore, they could not apply for a Class A CDL license until they were 21 years of age. However, the American Trucking Association found that a shortage of truck drivers existed, and several legislators are hopeful that this new legislation will curb the driver shortage.

In this bill that was signed by the governor, young adults can now apply for a Class A CDL, so long as the individual submits proof of completion of the Class A CDL Young Adult training program and has at least 300 hours of behind-the-wheel training with an experienced driver.

An experienced driver is defined as someone who is not less than 21 years old, holds a Class A CDL without infractions against their license, has not been involved with an accident within one year, and has at least one year of experience driving a commercial motor vehicle. Additionally, there will be restrictions on the Class A CDL obtained through the CDL Young Adult Training Program. Drivers between 18-20 years old will still only be able to drive in New York State, also known as a "intrastate only" restriction. This training program has not yet been created by the Commissioner of Transportation. This law becomes effective 180 days after it being signed into law.

The distinguishing feature between a Class A and Class B CDL license is the type of vehicle one can operate. A Class A CDL allows a driver to operate a combination vehicle, such as a tractor trailer or truck-trailer. The vehicle for a Class A CDL will have a gross combination weight rating ("GCWR") of more than 26,000 pounds, provided that the gross vehicle weight rating ("GVWR") of the GCWR of vehicles being towed is more than







Compliance

Corner

By Lisa Ovitt lovitt@nyfb.org

Water Regulations and Farming Practices

Water regulations, both state and federal, impact farmers as they conduct normal farming practices. In addition, there are instances where permits are required.

Background

The 1972 amendments to the Clean Water Act established federal jurisdiction over "navigable waters," defined in the Act as the "waters of the United States" also referred to as WOTUS. Many Clean Water Act programs apply only to "waters of the United States." The Clean Water Act provides discretion for EPA and the U.S. Department of the Army to define "waters of the United States" in regulations.

"Waters of the United States" is a threshold term in the Clean Water Act and establishes the scope of federal jurisdiction under the Act. Clean Water Act programs, including Water Quality Standards, TMDLs, and sections 311, 402, and 404 address "navigable waters," defined in the statute as "the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas."

The Clean Water Act does not define "waters of the United States"; rather, it provides discretion for EPA and the U.S. Department of the Army to define "waters of the United States" in regulations. Since the 1970s, EPA and the Department of the Army have defined "waters of the United States" by regulation. In the mid-1980s, both agencies promulgated a definition of "waters of the United States."

On Nov. 18, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army announced a proposed rule revising the definition of "waters of the United States." The agencies propose to put back into place the pre-2015 definition of "waters of the United States," updated to reflect

FOR MORE INFORMATION

More information about federal water regulations may be found at https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-3

New York's general water quality and standards may be found at https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-4

Future information about WOTUS can be found at https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-5

decisions. This reversal of a rule may seem familiar as there have been three different attempts to define WOTUS under the Obama, Trump, and Biden Administration. The recently released rule is the first step by the current Administration to rewrite the definition. Farm Bureau opposes the reversal of the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule which provides a clear definition of WOTUS. As EPA and the Army Corp work through the current proposed rule comment period, Farm Bureau will submit feedback to the agencies and encourages farmers to stay engaged to ensure that a clear water rule is written.

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) prohibits the discharge of pollutants from a point source into waters of the United States (WOTUS) without a permit. Those permits take one of two forms: (1) section 402 permits for traditional point source discharges (e.g., industrial effluent discharged through pipes); and (2) section 404 permits governing the placement of dredged or fill material into regulated waters (i.e., converting wetlands to dry land).

Agriculture enjoys statutory permitting exemptions for certain activities, but those permitting exemptions are frequently used to downplay agriculture's interest in the ongoing debate about the scope of consideration of Supreme Court CWA jurisdiction and the meaning of

the critical term "waters of the United States." The reality is that agriculture is subject to CWA permitting and some everyday farming activities carry the risk of federal enforcement absent permit coverage. The following outlines a few of the key concepts to illustrate this point.

Federal Regulations

- Referred to as "national pollutant discharge elimination system" (NPDES) permits.
- The addition of any pollutant into WOTUS from a point source is prohibited absent a section 402 permit issued by EPA or a delegated state program.
- "Pollutant" is broadly defined and includes, for example, dredged spoil, chemical waste, rock, sand, and "agricultural waste" discharged into water. 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6).
- "Point source" is broadly defined and includes "any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance" like a pipe, ditch, channel, and animal feeding "concentrated operation." 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14).

CAFOs have been further defined by regulation at 40 C.F.R. § 122.23 to include certain large farms based on the number of animal units or smaller farms that are determined to be a "significant contributor of pollutants" to WOTUS.

Point sources expressly don't include "agricultural stormwater discharges and return flows from irrigated agriculture."

• "Discharges composed entirely of return flows from irrigated agriculture" are expressly exempt from the NPDES permit requirement. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(1)(1).

This adds to the exclusion of "return flows from irrigated agriculture" in the point source definition mentioned above.

potentially requiring permit coverage include spraying of pesticides, insecticides, or fungicides from a mechanical applicator; application of commercial fertilizer or manure from a mechanical spreader; and nutrient and manure management activities at CAFOs.

Agriculture is therefore directly impacted by the ongoing debate regarding the meaning of "waters of the United States" and the scope of federal jurisdiction under the CWA, particularly for certain activities performed in or near isolated ponds and wetlands, some ditches, ephemeral drainages, and grassed waterways.

New York State Regulations

In New York State, water regulations go above and beyond the federal regulations. For example, New York regulates ground water as a water of the state, whereas the federal government does not regulate ground water. New York also goes above the federal requirements for CAFO permits as part of the state's NPDES permit program. More information may be found at https://www.dec. ny.gov/permits/6285.html

Farmers should do their due diligence before beginning certain practices especially any practices that are in waters to avoid any possible state or federal regulations.

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CDL

From Page 7

vehicles being towed is more than 10,000 pounds.

A Class B CDL allows a driver to operate a single vehicle, such as a heavy single unit truck or bus. The vehicle for a Class B CDL will have a GVWR of more than 26,000 pounds. Additionally, this license may tow vehicles with a GVWR of 10,000 pounds or less, or may tow a vehicle of more than 10,000 pounds providing the GCWR is not more than 26,000 pounds.

New York Farm Bureau will keep its members updated as more information becomes available.

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Young Farmers Ranchers

By Patti Dugan pdugan@nyfb.org

Kohler Re-elected YF&R Chair

Christina Kohler from Onondaga County was re-elected to be the NYFB State Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Chair during the 2021 Virtual NYFB State Young Farmers & Ranchers Business Session.

As chair of the NYFB Young Farmers Ranchers State Committee, Christina will also serve on the NYFB State Board of Directors.

Christina & her husband Aaron (AJ) live in Onondaga County. For the past eight years, she has been the Egg Processing Manager at Hudson Egg Farms, LLC. Christina is the fourth generation on the family farm.

Christina has been active on the local level serving on the Onondaga County Farm Bureau Board of Directors as the Promotion & Education chair. She began her involvement on the State YF&R Committee as an at-large member in 2017. Christina has been an active member in the Articulate Ventures Network and the Syracuse Onondaga Food Systems Alliance. Congratulations to Christina as she continues in this leadership position!

The following young farmers were appointed to serve on the State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee: District 1 - Nick Bauman, Erie County **District 3** - Tom Coene, Wayne County; District 5 - Jordan and Phylicia Fleming, Chenango County, District 7 - April Gokey, Frank-



County and Quade Kirk, County. The

Christina Kohler

committee members will join: District 2 - Lyman

lin County; District 11 - Rose Andrews,

Long Island and at-

large Member: Sar-

ah Teed, Schuyler

Columbia

and Chelsey Rudgers, Wyoming County; **District 4** - Emily Brennan, Steuben County; District 6 - Neil and Elizabeth Collins, Oneida County; and District 10 - John Kelder, Ulster County.

Currently there are vacancies for District 8 (Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington), District 9 (Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan) and one at-large positions.

Young farmers (18-35 years old) interested in learning more about serving on this committee should contact the State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee at yfr@nyfb.

The NYFB State Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee is excited to have this group of dedicated agriculturalists to carry out programs and activities for young farmers across NY State this coming year.



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COLLEGIATE CHAPTER CHRONICLE

Cornell:

The Cornell Chapter is looking forward to the spring semester so the group can reconnect with student members and involve them in chapter meetings and activities.

Cobleskill:

As the semester winds to an end, we can look back at all we have accomplished. Our most recent event was an Ag Trivia night. This brought various majors from across campus together to test their knowledge of various industries. We also held an Officer election, as the president of the club will be graduating at the end of the semester. I am proud to announce that our new President will be Harrison VanDeWalle. He has been a part of this group since he has started at Cobleskill, and he is a great addition to the team. Then Jessie Howe has stepped into the role of Vice President, from her current position as Secretary. Jillian Finch has then stepped up to the plate as the Secretary after being the newest addition to our club. I am excited to see what the upcoming semester will hold for the SUNY Cobleskill PAS/ Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter.

Kaiden Galusha, Past Chapter President

Morrisville:

The SUNY Morrisville Collegiate FFA/Farm Bureau chapter celebrates the passage of a resolution that they wrote and worked with several counties across the state to pass. On Dec. 7 at the 65th State Annual Meeting in Albany, the students' resolution number 15, passed as follows:

We support pouring rights contracts at public schools and public institutions of higher education that offer opportunities for small family-owned businesses to sell milk and milk-based products, offer more variety of non-sugar sweetened beverages, and maintains affordability, convenience, power of choice for students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

Chapter President, Brennan Dailey, will meet with Sen. Rachel May and John Wagner, NYFB Director of County Farm Bureau Relations and Development, on Dec. 14 to further explore Pouring Rights Legislation.

Congratulations to the Morrisville Chapter for their involvement in the Farm Bureau policy development process!

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 Farm Finance: Preparing for Commercial Credit

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NOTE: When Registering, Select "New York FB members please click here" when asked who should be billed for your registration and hotel costs. You will be billed by NYFB after the conference.

For More information: yfr@nyfb.org or Patti Dugan at 800-342-4143



Promotion & Education

By Patti Dugan pdugan@nyfb.org

Krisher-Meehan re-elected as P&E Chair

During the 2021 Virtual NYFB Promotion & Education Business Session, the Promotion & Education delegates from across New York State re-elected Darleen Krisher-Meehan from Allegany County to be the Promotion & Education (P&E) Chair. As chair of the NYFB Promotion & Education



Darleen Krisher-Meehan

State Committee, Darleen will also serve on the NYFB State Board of Directors.

Darleen Krisher-Meehan and her husband, Joe reside Allegany County. Darleen was raised on a 200-cow dairy farm in Steuben

County. Darleen and Joe started raising cash crops in 2001 and in 2003 they started an ag retail store to market their products. Before becoming the NYFB State Promotion & Education Chair in 2020, she was active on the local level where she served as an Allegany County Board of Director in 2014 and 2015 and as County President 2016 - 2021. Darleen serves as the NYFB representative on the Ag in the Classroom Advisory Board. She is a LEAD NY Class 15 graduate. Congratulations to Darleen!

The following New York Farm Bureau members were appointed to serve on the State Promotion & Education Committee: **District 2** – Jeanette Miller, Niagara County; **District 4** – Nikole Watts, Chemung County; **District 6** – Karen K. Howard, Oneida County; and **District 10** – Courtney Roberts, Columbia County.

The committee members will join: **District 1** – Kathleen Rossette, Cattaraugus County; **District 3** – Jami Willard, Seneca County; District 5 – Jessica Currie, Cortland County; **District 7** – Patti Fisher, St. Lawrence County; and **District 11** – Laurie McBride, Long Island.

Currently, there are vacancies for **District 8** (Albany, Fulton, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Washington), District 9 (Delaware, Greene, Otsego, Schoharie, Sullivan) and three At-Large position. Members interested in learning more about serving on this committee should contact the State Promotion & Education Committee at proed@nyfb.org.

The NYFB State Promotion & Education Committee is looking forward to offering programs across NY State this coming year.



Karin Bump on a virtual congressional visit with George Iverson, ag staffer with Representative Claudia Tenney.

Empowered for Action through AFBF Women's Communication Boot Camp

By Karin Bump, Ph.D., PAS

Founder and Executive Director: National Association of Equine Affiliated Academics

Wow, what an experience! That's how I felt as I left Washington, D.C. in November after an intense four days with 12 other women representing a wide spread of backgrounds, ages, experiences, states, and commodities. From start to finish the wealth of knowledge, hands on experience, and support was intense and overwhelming.

I am far from a newbie to professional development, J and I am always eager to learn and grow. Still, what I had expected, and what I gained, were light-years apart.

Starting with pre-boot camp work, the class was given four areas of focus to develop a three-minute power pitch on a topic of personal interest and passion: sustainability regulatory reform, infrastructure and tax reform.

Throughout the experience, the class grew stronger together offering ideas, support and a lot of 'you've got this' feedback. The second day focused on a full set of communication experiences using the AFBF resource areas at their

headquarters. This included media training in print, radio, and TV, all in AFBF training studios where responses were recorded, taped, reviewed, analyzed and discussed for continued improvement.

Between media training sessions, small group and individual social media training was also covered with a host of ideas and techniques delivered in a way that would allow for immediate implementation. Individual virtual congressional visits were weaved in through prearranged visits, setup with the help of state Farm Bureau staff. The Congressional visits were a time to highlight our individual power pitch topics and cover selected state topics as time allowed. The final morning included delivery of our honed presentations for recording and feedback along with parting thoughts, award ceremony, and rounds of thanks, appreciation, and best wishes to new friends and colleagues.

I focused on horses in the context of sustainability. I've provided an outtake below and am thrilled to say that quite a few classmates from other states were swayed by this and asked if I could be available for future conversation. I also learned from participating AFBF staff that

I was the first one to bring up the topic of equine.

New York truly has untapped potential with equine. I'm eager to continue the work of telling the story of New York equine – who we are, what we do, and all that we can

Outake:

As a passionate member of the horse industry and Farm Bureau, I am dedicated to ensuring the stability of both. I know first-hand the importance of Farm Bureau to the sustainability of the horse industryand the value of horses to the sustainability of agriculture. Similar to other commodities, horse owners are concerned about land access, manure management, taxes, and public influence on what we can and can't do with our animals. We need to include horses in our commodity groups and policies for three key reasons: untapped potential; presence of a moveable middle; membership growth.

First is untapped potential – horse are livestock -- three million horses, seven million people, \$102 billion industry. That translates to

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big numbers for coalition building, collaboration and advocacy. Next, is a moveable middle. Horse owners often come from a non- agriculture background.

That was true for me. Horse owners' views on many of our critical ag topics could just as easily be captured by animal rights groups as agriculture advocacy groups like Farm Bureau. We need them to be part of us. Finally, membership growth. Consider what it would mean to truly tap into the seven million people that are part of the U.S. horse industry. They just need to be invited and welcomed.

I urge you to intentionally include the horse industry in the target audience for Farm Bureau membership. Doing so ensures the sustainability and the ability to endure for both. My challenge to each of you is to embrace the horse industry as a legitimate farm animal commodity group. Invite horse folks to participate, hold a horse industry listening session, start/more fully support a horse commodity group. It's time to stop seeing horses as hay burners and start seeing them as sustainability boosters for agriculture.

Many thanks and sincere appreciation to New York Farm Bureau for providing me with a scholarship to provide partial offset to the costs of attending. I also want to thank Jeff Williams, Renee St. Jacques, Patti Dugan, and Lauren Williams for their support with application and preparing for the congressional visits.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

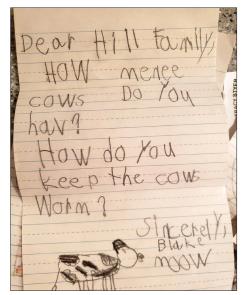
The American Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee, in partnership with AFBF staff, hosts and provides training for the **Women's Communications** Boot Camp. This is the 15th year of the program, which has 223 graduates and is open to all women involved in Farm Bureau. An application process is used to select the participants. The spring 2022 Boot Camp will be held March 22-25 and the fall Boot Camp will be held in November 2022. The application period for Spring 2022 Women's **Communications Boot Camp** is now open and will close at noon on Monday, Jan. 17. Applications will only be accepted electronically using the online application. Applicants will be notified of their application status by email on or before Feb.1, 2022. Selected applicants must remit a \$300 registration fee to offset materials, equipment, and group meal costs. For more information, visit the Women's **Communications Boot Camp** page on the AFBF website: www.fb.org.

Promotion and Education Award Winner 2021 Announced

At the 2021 virtual New York Farm Bureau State Promotion & Education Program's Annual Business Meeting, the winner of the Outstanding Promotion & Education Project Award was announced. This award recognizes a county Farm Bureau's effort, program creativity and achievement for their dedication that goes above and beyond. The winner receives a check for \$200 plus an excellence pin for each of the program committee members. The excellence pin was established in 1997 to recognize those who have worked diligently to promote and educate about agriculture.

After consideration, the 2021 NYFB Promotion and Education Outstanding Project Award was presented to Cattaraugus County's Ag Literacy Week Project. Since they couldn't visit schools inperson, Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau provided the classrooms with a video of 4-H club members reading the book, "Tales of the Dairy Godmother, Chuck's Ice Cream Wish"; a virtual tour of local dairy farm and invited each classroom to write a letter to the farm and ask questions. Katie Hill, Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Chair and Abigail Luzier, 4-H Educator from Cattaraugus Cornell County's Cooperative Extension worked together to make this project a success. This project reached 954 kids and teachers. Congratulations!

Chemung County's entry "Maggie the Real Milk Cow" was noted by the judges for special recognition. Chemung County's Maggie the Real Milk Cow project involved purchasing a hands-on model of



Students wrote letters to the Hill Family after the virtual farm tour presented by Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau.



CCFB/SPECI

a dairy cow to use to educate the community on the dairy industry. Chemung County worked with other community organizations and farms to secure the funds to purchase Maggie. Chemung County Farm Bureau will receive a certificate of recognition. All of the entries were amazing programs, which made for a very difficult decision.

Scholarship Applications Available for High School Seniors Planning an Ag Future

If you are a high school senior planning to prepare for a future that "connects" in some way with ag, be sure to check out the NYFB Ag Youth Scholarship sponsored by the New York Farm Bureau Promotion & Education Program.

Applicant Guidelines

- 2022 graduating high school seniors who will continue their education to prepare for a career in some way connected to the diverse agricultural industry. This includes advancing their education through college or pursuing advanced training in the skilled trades.
- Live or work on a farm or be involved with agriculture via any avenue.
- Family Farm Bureau membership or Student Farm Bureau membership is required You can join as a student member by visiting www.nyfb.org/membership

Process and Procedure

• The application and information is available at the NYFB website, https://www.nyfb.org/programs/

promotion-education/scholarship

- Students are required to complete an application which is on the Reviewr on-line platform.
- Completed application packets must be submitted by 5 p.m. on March 1, 2022.
- A district level competition will be held. Scoring will determine the county winners as well as the district winner. If applications do not meet the criteria to be a district winner, no district award will be given. The judging event may necessitate a personal interview and essay presentation or may be based solely upon the application and attachments. The judging will take place prior to April 20, 2022. Each district winner will receive \$250 plus a memento of their selection.
- The State winner selection will be made from district winners, based solely on the submitted applications; there will be no personal interviews.
- A \$3000 and \$2000 Scholarship will be awarded.

For More Information: www.nyfb. org , proed@nyfb.org, 1-800-342-4143



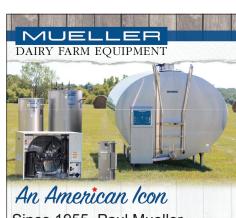
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What is the NYFB Workers' Comp Safety Group 486 and how does it work?

Workers' Compensation Safety Groups in New York are generally industry-specific, pooled-risk programs underwritten by the New York State Insurance Fund (NYSIF). Rates for each class of business in New York State are determined by the New York Compensation Insurance Ratings Board (NYCIRB). Individual businesses will have their rate adjusted based on their specific loss experience. In the case of safety groups, the overall performance of the group is also assessed and, depending on that annual performance, dividends are issued to qualified policyholders the following year.

Although dividends are not guaranteed, safety groups with strong financial performance can often

reduce the net cost of workers' compensation costs to policyholders

The New York Farm Bureau Safety Group 486 was formed in 1967 and is one of New York's largest safety groups with approximately 2,400 policies.

Policyholders must be a member of NY Farm Bureau to participate. We are able to write over 20 agricultural class codes and can write other secondary class codes for agricultural businesses. Our program has had strong financial performance and we currently offer a 25% upfront discount and our dividend has averaged over 40% for the past five years.

We have six licensed staff to help our member-policyholders with all



aspects of their policy needs from quotes and applications to audits, payroll reporting, safety training, and filing and managing claims.

This year, the New York Farm Bureau Safety Group 486 Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, Jan. 20 via Zoom. Our staff and the safety Group 486 Executive Committee will be joined by representatives of the New York State Insurance Fund

to present information and answer questions to policy holders.

Please see the notice on page 3 for the link to register.

All of us at Safety Group 486 wish your family and staff a safe and happy New Year.

Member Benefits www.nyfb.org

\$1.2M in Grants Will Help Fund NY's Specialty Crop Industry

NYSDAM recently announced that more than \$1.2 million in funding will support seven advanced research, education, and marketing projects to help specialty crop farms across New York State grow and remain competitive. The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets secured the grant through the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant program.

New York's specialty crops include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, maple syrup, and honey, and are among the state's most valuable agricultural products. Since the USDA began the program in 2006, New York State has been awarded \$16.3 million for 155 specialty crop projects across the state.

The Specialty Crop Block Grant program is administered through the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, in coordination with the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI). NYFVI recommended \$480,000 be provided to Cornell University for five grower research and education projects that will focus on:

- monitoring the occurrence and spread of streptomycin resistance and refinement of alternative management programs for fire blight;
- improving management of sour rot disease and its important insect vectors in New York wine grapes;
- incorporating iopesticides into vegetable disease management.
- implementing energy efficient lighting control to increase the profitability of New York State commercial greenhouses; and
- facilitating the strength of New York's regional hazelnut and chestnut industries through the identification of improved genetic materials and best management practices.

Cornell University was also awarded \$460,000 for research on identifying alternatives to neonicotinoids and chlorpyrifos for controlling insect pests in New York's specialty crops.





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January 2022 Grassroots Page 13

Commodity Report: Livestock





SPECIAL/ SHANE DUTI

Shane Dutil of D&D Meats and Jeezum Crow Beef Jerkey in his family's meat processing and smokehouse facility in West Chazy, NY.

USDA Announces Grants to Help Meat Processing Sector Expand Access

Four Processors in New York Receive Funds

By Lauren Williams Iwilliams@nyfb.org

n Nov. 11, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced the investment of \$32 million in grants awarded to 167 meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities to support expanded capacity, efficiency, and help transition facilities to USDA-inspection. A long-standing issue, the COVID-19 pandemic exasperated the need for additional meat processing capacity in states across the country, New York included. The Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grant (MPIRG) program aims to increase access for USDA inspected facilities that farmers can access to get slaughter and process meat.

Through the grant, meat and poultry processing businesses can cover the costs for improvements such as expanding existing facilities, modernizing processing equipment and meeting packaging, labeling, and food safety requirements needed to achieve a Federal Grant of Inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act or the Poultry Products Inspection Act.

Four meat processors in New York State were fortunate enough to receive grants from USDA to help expand, improve, and transition their facilities to USDA inspection. One awardee was D&D Meats, a veteran-owned



D&D Meats, a meat processing facility, retail store, and smokehouse, has been in business for over 40 years.

business located in West Chazy, Clinton County. Owned by Adrien, Sharon Dutil, and their son, Shane Dutil, the Dutil's have been in the meat industry for almost 40 years. In addition to D&D Meats, which features a retail store, the meat processing side is known as Jeezum Crow Smokehouse. D&D Meats employs seven staff members to operate the custom-exempt meat processing facility as well as an additional four employees on the retail side.

"In 2017, we built a state-of-the-art processing facility, and we currently process pigs, beef, lamb, sheep, and goat, and wild game," said Shane. "We currently process five beef and 10 pigs weekly, depending on the time of

the year," he added.

Through the grant program, D&D Meats will be able to transition to a new USDA inspection license which will not only increase sales options at their retail store but also could offer USDA slaughter and/or meat processing services to the local agriculture industry which is in need of such facilities.

"The grant will allow us to be more efficient and increase capacity by allowing us to purchase equipment and reallocate employee's time to different aspects of the processing plant," said Dutil. "The grant will help us reduce labor so they can focus on other aspects of the business to allow us to process more and more efficient. By becoming USDA inspected, we also feel that there would be a constant yearly flow and more stable for us as a business."

Even with the grant, Dutil will still need to additionally invest his own funds to ensure all components of the facility are able to come together. Due to delays in receiving the necessary equipment and getting the proper paperwork in place, it may take one to two years before the facility is officially USDA-certified.

When asked what some of the challenges are that meat processing facilities encounter, Shane said there are not a lot of funds

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

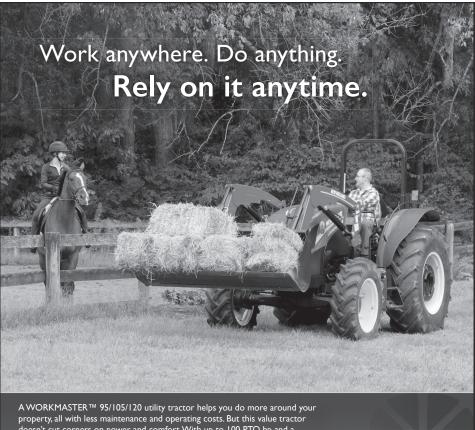
Love of Animals Leads to New Business Opportunity on Grand Island



ACK HILLS FARM

Above: A herd of sheep from Back Hills Farms prepares to graze around a commercial solar installation. Below: Their handiwork.





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By Tim Bigham

tbigham@nyfb.org

"It started when I was thirteen", says Nick Bauman in describing the start of his passion for agriculture. "I wanted to make money. I wanted to have a business." Nick started by selling chicken eggs to his teachers and has raised all kinds of animals since. His father, Dennis Bauman, has been involved in agriculture since the early '80s, even working on estancias in Argentina for a few years. But he reached a whole new level of excitement for farming in recent years.

"Nick's passion reignited my passion", he exclaimed. "It's a wonderful working relationship", Dennis says of working with his son. Together Dennis and Nick own Back Hills Farm Corporation and graze sheep on commercial solar installations.

All of the land used to support Back Hills Farm is leased. The primary site, a 51-acre parcel near their home on Grand Island, is where they house their 65 sheep for the winter and grow a large portion of the hay they feed their sheep in the winter months. The Baumans also grow horse hay on parcels they lease for additional income and have an egg and poultry operation.

The Baumans began considering the possibility of grazing solar farms as a business about four years ago. They settled on sheep because goats climb, rub, chew and otherwise pose risks to solar facilities. In selecting the breed, they considered hair sheep since there isn't a lot of availability for shearing locally and they sought a highly parasite resistant breed. They settled on the Saint Croix breed.

Though there is a small herd in southwestern Pennsylvania they ended up getting their stock from a breeder in Washington state. They purchased registered animals so that they would know the lineage and be able to breed good stock.

The summer of 2021 was the first time they actually put animals out on solar farms. They grazed a total of four installations.

"The solar companies contract with us to maintain the total property", Nick informs me, "so we supplement grazing with physical mowing where needed". Though they primarily run their farm between the two of them, they couldn't operate as efficiently if they didn't have some local help, especially during haying season. In particular, one neighbor, Heather, has been quite a blessing and keeps a good eye on the animals for them.

The whole enterprise hasn't been

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"We can't meet demand right now. The possibility is endless".

Nick Bauman

Back Hills Farms Owner

without its challenges. The Baumans have run up against zoning regulations that prohibit the use of sheep in certain places.

Their town is presently working on the law to permit solar grazing and they are appreciative of all the support they've received. Part of that support is due to the fact that they sought the town's permission rather than their forgiveness. That old axiom isn't always true!

Another big hurdle to grazing sheep, as any livestock farmer knows, is the presence of well-meaning citizens in the areas of their operations who don't understand agriculture. Dennis relays this account, "When we placed animals on solar farms in Grand Island, a woman who is antisolar started complaining about animal abuse and started a social media campaign against us. The SPCA came out twice and said the operation was very impressive."

Livestock farmers will also undoubtedly identify with the challenge the Bauman's face of moving their animals via trailer. Nick has devised a Pavlovian device for the trough that signals food is on hand when they need to move animals. He hasn't tested it yet but indicates that sheep are very motivated by food.

The Baumans hope to continue growing their operation and have a plan in place to do so.

"We can't meet demand right now. The possibility is endless", indicates Nick. They would like to own land to stabilize their operation but that's an expensive proposition. Yet, the potential for losing a parcel in one fell swoop is always looming on the horizon when they don't own.

Nick didn't have to think long when asked what the most enjoyable part of farming is to him. "I love being around animals. I could sit around and watch the sheep graze all day long". Dennis agrees and adds that he enjoys providing a high quality product to his customers, even the landowners he rents from. "We're improving the soil health and bringing the quality up".

As more solar installations are erected, keep an eye out for Bauman sheep grazing under panels where you live.



D&D Meats produces a wide variety of meat products to sell at their retail store as well as processing meat for local farmers and consumers.

FUNDS

From Page 13

currently available to assist facilities and those that are require matching funds which can be hard for processors to come up with.

"The margins can be tight for those operating meat processing facilities, and it can be difficult when a grant requires 50 percent match. This was the first grant that did not require match," said Shane. "In addition, it can be hard to find butchers and a knowledgeable workforce to work in the business."

When asked what policy makers should know about providing support for meat processing in New York State, Dutil responded, "There needs to be grant and funding opportunities to help folks."

"To get in this business it cost major money. There aren't huge profits in meat processing facilities unfortunately because the overhead is too much. So many businesses like us grow little by little and then might hit a wall because we can't afford the next step where funding is needed," said Shane.

D&D Meats looks forward to serving the processing needs in the North Country and beyond.

New York Farm Bureau has policy supporting funds to help assist meat processing funds expand their operations as well as creating new processing opportunities in the state.

The other three meat processors to receive funds are Van Galder Family Farms (Alpine, NY); Hitching Post Meats (Canisteo, NY); and Church



Employees at D&D Meats process an animal at the meat processing facility. D&D Meats received a grant from USDA to upgrade the facility to be more efficient and modernize equipment.

Communities NY Inc. (Rifton, NY).

The MPIRG is a new program authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, and is jointly administered by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The program was part of USDA's comprehensive funding package to help small and very small processing facilities weather the pandemic, compete in the marketplace, and get the support they need to reach more customers.

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State Annual Meeting Reunites NYFB Leaders, Delegates

Dec. 7, 2021 · The Desmond Hotel in Albany





Duane Martin of Kortright, NY is the newly-elected State Board Member for District 9.



Lavern Warriner of Andover, NY is the newly-elected State Board Member for District 1.









NYFB CEO Liz Dribusch addresses the delegates, leaders and staff after the awards luncheon.



Distinguished Service to Agriculture Awards



Former NYFB CEO Jeff Kirby of Saratoga County was recognized with the 2020 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. He was a member of the New York Farm Bureau staff for more than 34 years.



Jon Greenwood, a dairy farmer from St. Lawrence County and longtime agricultural advocate received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for 2021.



2022 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

(In Order Of Importance)

- 1) Attend a PSA Grower Training Course
- 2) Devote more time to fishing
- 3) Eat more produce

The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) provides food safety training to fruit and vegetable growers and others interested in learning about produce safety and the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

The <u>PSA Grower Training Course</u> satisfies the FSMA Produce Safety Rule training requirement which states "At least one supervisor or responsible party for your farm must have successfully completed food safety training at least equivalent to that received under standardized curriculum recognized as adequate by the Food and Drug Administration."

Scheduling and Registration for the next PSA Grower Training Courses:

<u>In-person course</u> is a traditional classroom style course with instructors, typically presented in a single 7-8 hour training day.

<u>Online delivery course</u> is a three-week course that can be completed at your own pace. The online course is expected to take 15-30 hours for successful completion.

<u>Remote delivery course</u> is a course led in real time by instructors delivered with video conferencing software, such as Zoom or Webex.

Further details on PSA Grower Training Courses are available at the PSA website: https://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/training

For more information, visit the New York State Department and Agriculture and Markets website at:

https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/FS/general/fsma.html

Or contact the Produce Safety Unit at (518) 457-3846.

Farmers Struggle with Skyrocketing Fertilizer Prices

AFBF Market Intel

Among farmers and ranchers, very few topics are being discussed as much as the skyrocketing cost of fertilizer and increasing concerns regarding availability. Given that fertilizer costs account for approximately 15% of total cash costs in the U.S., fertilizer prices are the number one issue on farmers' minds as they begin to set up purchases for the 2022 growing season. Unfortunately, the fertilizer sticker price farmers in some areas are reporting is up more than 300% and delivery times are anyone's best guess. We've seen this before, in 2008. During the 12 months ending in April 2008, nitrogen prices increased 32%, phosphate prices increased 93% and potash prices increased 100%. Prices remained there through 2009, then dropped, ultimately returning to pre-2007 levels by the end of 2009. That price surge was associated with strong domestic and global demand, low fertilizer inventories and the inability of the U.S. fertilizer industry to adjust production levels. This time around, those same factors are at play, along with several others that add an extra layer of uncertainty.

Price Increase for all Nutrients

All major nutrients used in the production of primary row crops in the U.S., nitrogen (in the forms of anhydrous ammonia, urea, or liquid

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For the full AFBF Market Intel report, including graphs, go to https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-6

nitrogen), phosphorus (diammonium phosphate – DAP and monoammonium phosphate – MAP) and potassium (potash), have experienced varying degrees of upward price pressure. Compared to September 2020 prices, ammonia has increased over 210%, liquid nitrogen has increased over 159%, urea is up 155%, and MAP has increased 125%, while DAP is up over 100% and potash has risen above 134%.

Looking at the average price of each nutrient since September

2008, as collected in the Illinois cost of production dataset, anhydrous ammonia is up 118% above its average of \$656 per metric ton; urea is up 101% from its \$453 per metric ton average; liquid nitrogen is up 84% from its \$305 per metric ton average; DAP is up 50% from its \$550 per metric ton average; MAP is up 61% from its \$555 per metric ton average; and potash is up 61% from its \$485 per metric ton average.

Fertilizer is a global commodity and can be influenced by multiple market factors beyond the control of U.S. producers. Similar to globally traded commodities, 44% of all fertilizer materials are exported to a different country. This factor has an outsized impact on fertilizer prices because fertilizer production is not only influenced by what is occurring where it is produced or the cost of production in that country, but also affected by the numerous other countries demanding fertilizer products and the transportation rates to get the fertilizer to its final destination.

Increased Global Demand

Two-thirds of global fertilizer demand is driven primarily by six crops. Globally, corn represents about 16% of the farm-use fertilizer demand, with wheat a close second, representing about 15% of global farm-use fertilizer demand. Rice represents about 14% of global farm-use fertilizer demand, followed by vegetables at 9%, fruits at 7% and soybeans at 5%.

As a large producer of corn, soybeans and wheat, the U.S. is a large consumer of fertilizer. However, with increased technology and innovation for on-farm products, the use of fertilizer in the U.S. has decreased, despite increased planted acres of these crops. At peak use, during the 1980/81 fiscal year, the U.S. used 23.7 million nutrient tons but has pulled back due to the adoption of precision fertilizer application, as shown by the most recent data available - 2015/16 - when U.S. nutrient use was reported at 22.1 million nutrient tons. Corn represents about 49% of the share of U.S. nutrient use, while wheat accounts for about 11% and soybeans account for 10%. Cumulatively, those three crops account for about 70% of U.S. fertilizer consumption.

Though the U.S. has lowered its overall consumption of global nutrient use, other countries have increased fertilizer use. Back in the 1960s, the U.S. accounted for 25% of global nutrient use. Today, the U.S. only accounts for about 10% of global use, with U.S. farmers representing only 2% of that share.

The U.S. is the third-largest producer of fertilizer globally, however, it still requires the importation of all three nutrients, especially nitrogen and potash, to fully meet demand. This means that U.S. fertilizer dealers and U.S. producers are required to pay the price defined by the global market for fertilizer and fertilizer materials, plus transportation.



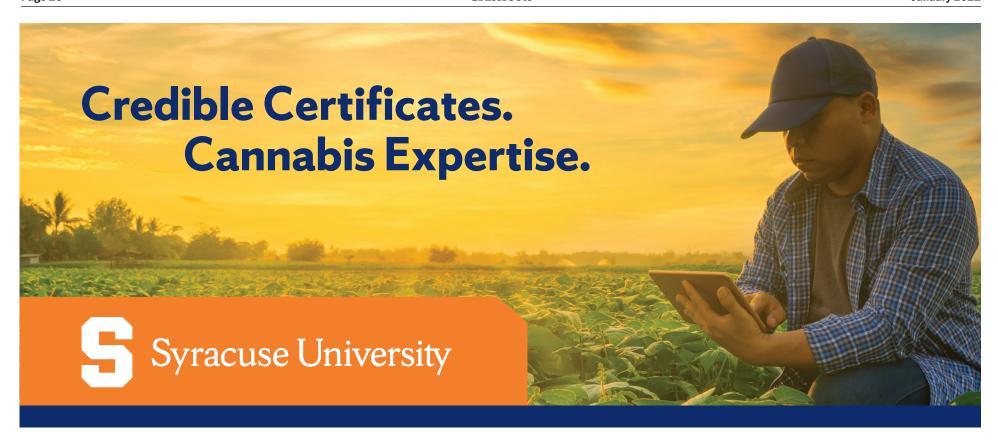
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Social Security and Medicare Strategies for Farmers

The following information is provided by Nationwide*, the #1 farm and ranch insurer in the U.S.*

Retirement isn't often part of the long-term plan for farmers. But it's still important to think about your long-term financial future. And a few retirement benefits are key components of that future.

That includes Social Security and Medicare. Incorporating these benefits into your long-term plans can help firm up your (and your farm's) financial footing today and down the road.

"Farmers need a trusted advisor to help them understand how decisions around Social Security and Medicare will impact their finances," said Nationwide Advanced Consulting Group Director George Schein. "Farmers need expertise to help transition their farms to the next generation. And they need to create a source of retirement income."

Know the impacts of your Social Security choices

Social Security retirement benefits are available starting at age 62. But taking your benefit as soon as possible leads to reduced monthly payments. For that reason, many choose to delay until full retirement age or age 70 (when benefits stop growing).



Delaying benefits as long as you can is a good rule of thumb. But that's not always best for farmers.

"Some farmers may not expect to live into their 80s. Those farmers are more likely to choose the reduced payments that begin before their full retirement age," Schein said. "Some farmers may also start Social Security benefits early because they plan to rely on the steady source of income it provides to cover the costs of Medicare premiums, which generally start at age 65."

It's a good idea to talk to a financial professional as early as your 40s or 50s to ensure you qualify for benefits. You need at least ten years of taxable income to be eligible.

"A downside of today's tax laws for farmers is that some may offset their farm's annual income entirely and miss out on Social Security altogether," Schein said. "By addressing this while there's still time, a farmer can make the most of this important benefit."

Learn more about Social Security disability for farmers from Nationwide's Land As Your Legacy® team or get connected to a financial professional who can provide even more personalized guidance.

Plan for Medicare coverage

Most U.S. citizens become eligible for Medicare at age 65 if they're either qualified to collect Social Security benefits, a U.S. citizen or if they've been a permanent resident for at least five years. With a few limitations, the federal program covers a portion of many common medical expenses like:

- Inpatient care
- Outpatient care
- Skilled nursing care
- Hospice care
- Durable medical equipment (like a walker or wheelchair)
- Preventative benefits like annual checkups and screenings

But there are also exclusions, namely:

- Prescription drugs
- Dental
- Vision
- Hearing care

Plan ahead to help better afford Medicare's gaps

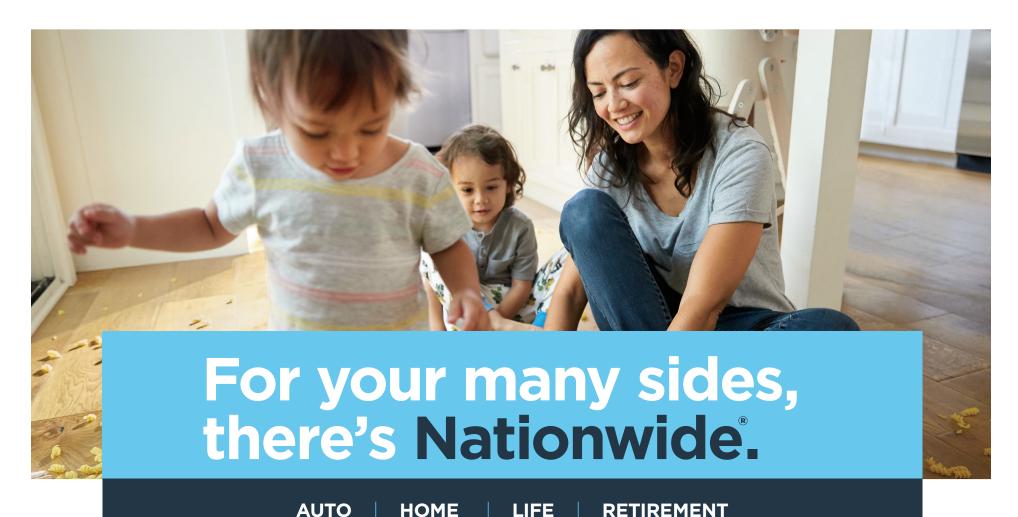
Additional coverage is available from private insurers and should be considered by those 65 and older. The annual open enrollment win-

dow is the key time for these decisions. It begins in mid-October and runs through early December.

"Planning for current and future medical care and how to pay for it is even more critical for farmers because of the physical nature of their work and a lack of quality health care in many rural areas," Schein said.

Nationwide's Land As Your Legacy team can help further make sense of both Medicare and Social Security for farmers. Get connected to a financial specialist who can help protect your farm, family and future by visiting Nationwide.com/YourLand.

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WAGE BOARD

From Page 1

farmworkers and farmers — support keeping the farm labor overtime threshold at 60 hours. As we've said, workers want more hours so they can earn more, farmers cannot shoulder the burden of increased labor costs and lowering the overtime threshold would irreparably harm our state's food supply and agricultural diversity. Those facts are indisputable, and we'll continue to make our voices heard at the public hearings scheduled in January," said Grow NY Farms.

The announcement follows a flurry of activity on the issue. Earlier in December, members of the coalition, including NYFB Vice President Eric Ooms, delivered more than 200 letters to Gov. Hochul's office in Albany. The letters, primarily from farmworkers who are concerned a lower threshold will lead to capped hours and a lower income, came from across the state and counter the narrative that farmworkers want a 40hour workweek.

"Today, our ask is simple and the consequences are clear. Governor Hochul must hear the calls from the agriculture community and New York State must uphold the overtime threshold for the industry. We are telling you bluntly — our farms will not be able to withstand a further reduction to the overtime threshold and our workers will leave," said Brian Reeves of Reeves Farms, an Onondaga County Farm Bureau member and president of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association.

As some agricultural work is seasonal, many farmworkers still seek to work as many hours as possible when the work is available. A further reduction of the overtime threshold will reduce their already limited opportunity to work. Moreover, any reduction threatens farmers' ability to afford workers during the peak season and consequently the ability to operate these farms at all. The workers who want more hours will simply go to other states, like Michigan, Ohio or Pennsylvania, where they can work more and earn more.

"I recently joined with a number of my Majority colleagues in sending a letter to Governor Hochul regarding maintaining the overtime threshold at 60 hours. Our many farm tours have revealed a perilous set of conditions facing New York agriculture; conditions that were made infinitely worse by the pandemic. Listening to farmers and farmworkers alike, it's clear that all parts of the food supply chain are stressed and underpaid. Systemic change is needed to stabilize and strengthen the entire industry, rather than what I fear will amount to a devastating blow," said Assemblymember Donna Lupardo, Chair of the Assembly Agriculture Committee who supported the effort.

A number of other lawmakers threw their support behind the group including Assemblymembers Woerner, Jones, Tague, Barret, and Buttenschon. Senators Hinchey, Borrello, Stec and O'Mara among others have also been vocal in stressing how



Brian Reeves, Onondaga County Farm Bureau member and President of the NYS Vegetable Growers Association, hands more than 200 letters from farmworkers and farmers to a representative of Gov. Kathy Hochul. The group of farmers represented the Grow NY Farms coalition on Dec. 1 during a press event at the Capitol in Albany asking for the overtime threshold to stay at 60.

the labor mandate would impact agriculture.

Cornell's Dyson School and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences also released an independent report commissioned by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets that looked into the potential impacts of a lower overtime threshold.

Critical findings from the report on the potential effects of 40-hour overtime threshold are:

- Two-thirds of Dairy farms interviewed indicated they would move out of milk production, direct future dairy investment to other states, invest outside of dairy, or exit agriculture entirely.
- · Half of fruits and vegetable farms interviewed indicated they would shrink enterprises or exit the indus-
- Seventy-two percent of guest workers indicated that they would be less likely to do their current job if hours were capped at 40 per week
- Seventy percent of guest workers indicated that they would consider going to another state without capped hours if hours were limited in New York.

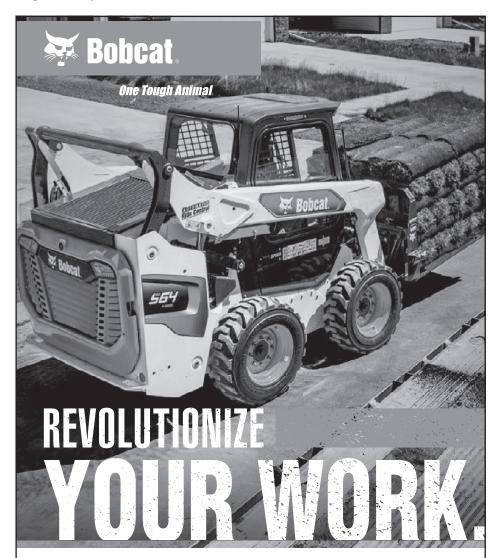
In addition, the report authored by Christopher Wolf, Rich Stup and Jason Karszes highlighted off the farm impacts as well saying, "Community impacts are also a consideration as farm consolidation will increase in

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response to the new regulations. The loss of farm numbers affects employment and spending in the local economy in rural areas. Further affecting local labor markets is the move to adopt labor-saving technology or less labor-intensive enterprises."

The Cornell University report findings are in line with findings from the recent Farm Credit East report forecasting insurmountable economic challenges for farms if the overtime threshold is lowered to 40 hours. According to Farm Credit East, the potential increased labor costs combined with past and scheduled increases in the minimum wage would impact the financial viability of many farms by significantly increasing costs, reducing net farm income and cash flow. Key findings estimate mandatory overtime pay at the 40hour threshold for agricultural employees in New York State would result in increased agricultural labor costs of approximately \$264 million per year, an increase of 42%.

Grow NY Farms said following the Cornell report's release, "The facts are undeniable. Those in favor of lowering the threshold are not listening to a majority of farmworkers, as this report has spoken directly with the men and women working side by side with us on our farms. Governor Hochul, we know you have New York's best interests at heart. Please continue to prioritize our food system and support New York's farmers and farmworkers. The 60-hour overtime threshold cannot be lowered"



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PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

Some of the delegate-approved public policy positions added for 2022 include:

General:

- We support continued funding for the John May Safety Fund program on an annual basis.
- We support a one-time appropriation of \$16 million, in the New York State Budget to build a new sheep and new horse barn at the New York State Fair.
- We support New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets developing and implementing a statewide regional USDA slaughter facilities plan to ensure small scale processing to serve small farmers in the state and facilitate local food accessibility.
- We recommend increasing funding to create, upgrade and expand custom exempt and/or USDA processing facilities.
- We support the expansion of the Farm School Tax Credit to non-farmland owners, who rent their respective property to any and all types of active agriculture production as an incentive to keep their land active in agriculture.
- We support the reduction of the income threshold for the agricultural assessment be reduced to \$5,000 regardless of acreage.
- We support that EBT cards should be able to be used at farm markets/stands, as well as farmers markets.
- We support state funding to assist farmers in the purchase of EBT/SNAP terminals for use at farmers markets.
- We support a state program to assist farmers in the harvesting and transportation of excess produce that is to be donated to food banks or food pantries.
- We support funding for the Farmland for a New Generation New York program.
- We support the creation of a statewide agricultural disaster National Issues: relief fund for the protection and recovery of agricultural properties destroyed by extreme weather events.
- We support pouring rights contracts at public schools and public institutions of higher education that offer opportunities for small family-owned businesses to sell milk and milk-based products, offer more variety of non-sugar sweetened beverages, and maintains affordability, convenience and power of choice for students, staff, faculty and visitors.
- We support funding to help conserve farmland without overreaching requirements that could potentially affect a farm's ability to stay viable into the future.

Farm Labor:

- We support efforts to sunset the use of the New York State Department of Labor Farm Laborers Wage Board.
- We oppose the New York State Department of Labor Farm Laborers Wage Board lowering the overtime threshold for agricultural labor from the current 60-hour threshold.
- If the overtime threshold of 60 hours is lowered, then workers should be allowed to work on the optional day of rest without required overtime.
- We support workforce development initiatives to recruit and train individuals for employment in meat processing facilities in New York.
- We support the development of cost sharing opportunities with funds such as the Community Housing Block Grant fund to add additional and/or improve current agricultural labor housing to allow for better COVID virus con-

Farm Beverages:

- We support parity between beer, wine, cider and distilled spirits in regard to the New York Production Tax Credit.
- We support allowing wineries, craft beverage producers, onand off-premises license holders the ability to deliver direct to consumers. Deliveries shall be made in a vehicle permitted by the State Liquor Authority (e.g. a third-party delivery service) or a vehicle owned and operated or hired and operated by the licensee or its employee. A copy of the permit or license must be present in the vehicle.

- We support comprehensive legislation to de-schedule marijuana and THC at the federal level and let the states regulate.
- We support the modernizing and aligning of the Standards of Identity of pure Maple Syrup for U.S. and Canada.
- We support the inclusion of a block grant program that would allow food banks and food access networks to directly purchase specialty crops from farmers.
- We support a 2 percent yearly increase per member above the allowable 5 million pounds under the dairy margin coverage program in the next Farm Bill.

SAM

From Page 1

this is," said New York Farm Bureau David Fisher in his address to delegates. "New York Farm Bureau is truly one of the most respected organizations. We earned that respect because

NYFB CEO Elizabeth Dribusch gave her annual report as well. She highlighted the work of the Board's strategic plan, including working with county Farm Bureaus to provide them with better data and programming to support their needs and membership growth. She also stressed how NYFB is working with its agricultural partners and giving staff the tools they need to provide stronger member services.

"New York Farm Bureau is on a journey to continued success. We have a thoughtful plan, and we have an incredible team of hardworking leaders, volunteers, industry partners, and staff to continue the journey. We must keep the faith in our team to overcome the inevitable hurdles - big and smallalong the way," said Dribusch.

During the awards luncheon, former NYFB CEO Jeff Kirby of Saratoga County was recognized with the 2020 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. He was a member of the New York Farm Bureau staff team for more than 34 years, starting in 1984. He first served Farm Bureau as the General Counsel for the organization for almost 14 years, and served as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for more than 20 years. Throughout his career, Kirby¬ was devoted to advancing the NYFB mission, and enjoyed working closely with the NYFB Board and all of the Departments within NYFB to achieve the organization's goals. He retired from NYFB in May 2020

Jon Greenwood, a dairy farmer from St. Lawrence County and longtime agricultural advocate received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award for 2021. He has been deeply involved in New York Farm Bureau, beginning with Young Farmers. He was NYFB State Vice President and served on the St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau Board for years and recently stepped down as the longtime county President. Greenwood has also been a County Legislator, member of the IDA board and numerous other local boards throughout the vears. Jon was Northeast Dairy Producers Association. (NEDPA) Chairman and a founding member. He is also Co-Chair for the Northern New York Agricultural Development Program (NNYADP).

Ed Gates of Schuyler County Farm Bureau received the James Quinn Award for his outstanding membership work.

In addition, delegates elected two new district representatives to the State Board of Directors.

Newly elected members are Lavern Warriner of Andover, NY for District 1. He owns Elm Valley Farm, an Angus cow-calf finishing operation for freezer beef. He is also an area sales manager for Premier Select Sires. Duane Martin from Kortright, NY will represent District 9. His family has Tyler/Vale Farm raising crops and heifers. Board members reelected are Kim Skellie from Newark, NY in District 3, Dan Palladino of Pompey, NY, District 5, Tony LaPierre from Chazy, NY, District 7, and Bob Nolan of Patchouge, NY for District 11. Christina Kohler will continue as the Young Farmers and Ranchers Chair and Darleen Krisher-Meehan remains chair of the Promotion and Education Commit-



Training Topic

Next Steps - members will hear from FB leaders who have advanced their leadership to higher levels

Media training - member will learn how to prepare for and better engage media personnel

Finance training - members will learn how to better handle county FB finances including tax and 990 forms, review/audit procedures, bonding and insurance, investment and investment policies, etc

Training Dates

Tuesday: January 25, 7pm Wednesday: January 26, noon

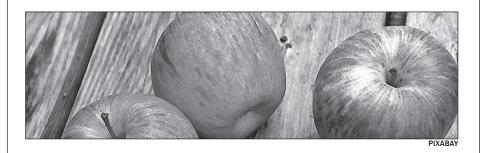
Tuesday: February 22, 7pm Wednesday: February 23, noon

Thursday: February 24, 7pm Friday: February 25 noon

Please watch for a NYFB News Update, via email, the week prior to each session for registration information. (If you do not receive updates, please call 800-342-4143 to provide your email)

Contact Todd Heyn (theyn@nyfb.org) or Tim Bigham (tbigham@nyfb.org) with questions regarding training.

News Briefs



FDA Announces Agricultural Water Rule for Produce

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a proposed rule as part of the Food Safety Modernization Act Rule (FSMA) on agricultural water used on produce. It proposes to require farms to conduct comprehensive assessments that would help them identify and mitigate hazards in water used to grow produce. This is the latest step in the agency's implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and it proposes to replace some of the existing requirements for agricultural water in the Produce Safety Rule (PSR).

Key provisions in the proposed rule include: A requirement for farms to manage their agricultural water quality based on the results of a comprehensive systems assessment ("agricultural water assessment") that is adaptable to the wide variety of water sources and uses and future scientific advancements. An annual assessment by farms of their pre-harvest agricultural water to identify any conditions likely to introduce hazards into, or onto, covered produce or food contact surfaces. Based on these assessments, farms would then determine whether corrective or mitigation measures are reasonably necessary to reduce the potential for contamination. The assessment would include an evaluation of the farm's water system, agricultural water use practices, crop characteristics, environmental conditions and other relevant factors, such as the results of any testing conducted to inform the assessment. A requirement that farms implement expedited mitigation measures for hazards related to certain activities associated with adjacent and nearby lands, to protect the quality of the water used on produce. This is being included following several recent outbreak investigations on produce that revealed potential routes of contamination including activities and conditions, such as animal grazing and the presence of livestock and wildlife on land adjacent to, or near, produce farms or their water sources. The removal of certain testing requirements for pre-harvest agricultural water and replacing them with the agricultural water assessments identified

Recognizing that the current agricultural water compliance dates for covered produce other than sprouts under the PSR are set to begin in January 2022, the agency intends to exercise enforcement discretion for those agricultural water requirements while pursuing another proposed rule to extend the compliance dates for all the agricultural water requirements in the PSR for such covered produce. NYFB is currently reviewing the proposed rule and will plan to submit comments to FDA. Impacted producers are encouraged to review the proposed rule and send feedback to Lauren Williams (lwilliams@nyfb.org). A copy of the proposed rule can be found on the Federal Register under Docket No. FDA-2021-N-0471 and comments are due by April 5, 2022.

New York 2022 AEWR to be \$15.66 per hour

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently published the results of the Farm Labor Survey (FLS), which is the basis for the 2022 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR). According to the FLS, the annual national average gross wage rate for field and livestock workers, which is the figure used for the AEWR, was \$15.56 in 2021, up 94 cents, or 6.4%, from \$14.62 in 2020. What impacts farmers are the regional annual average gross wage rates for field and livestock workers, which serve as the basis for the AEWR. Based on the FLS numbers, the 2022 AEWR for New York will be \$15.66 per hour which is an increase of 4.5% over 2021's AEWR of \$14.99, an increase of \$0.67.

USDA Opens 2022 Sign-up for Dairy Margin Coverage

The USDA has opened signup for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program and expanded the program to allow dairy producers to better protect their operations by enrolling supplemental production. This signup period runs from Dec. 13, 2021, to Feb. 18, 2022.

Supplemental DMC will provide \$580 million to better help smalland mid-sized dairy operations that have increased production over the years but were not able to enroll the additional production. Now, they will be able to retroactively receive payments for that supplemental production. Additionally, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) updated how feed costs are calculated. To learn more or to participate in DMC or DIPP, producers should contact their local USDA Service Center. For more information regarding the DMC program, visit https://www.fsa.usda. gov/programs-and-services/dairymargin-coverage-program/index.

RMA Publishes Proposed Changes to the Apple Crop Insurance Policy

The USDA announced publication of a proposed rule to amend the Apple Crop Provisions. The proposed changes are based on stakeholder feedback and recommended changes from a contracted study on the apple crop insurance program. Following feedback from the proposed rule, USDA's Risk Management Agency

(RMA) will publish a final rule that is expected to be effective for the 2023 crop year.

Interested parties can submit comments via the Federal Register, and a copy of the rule can be found at https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-7

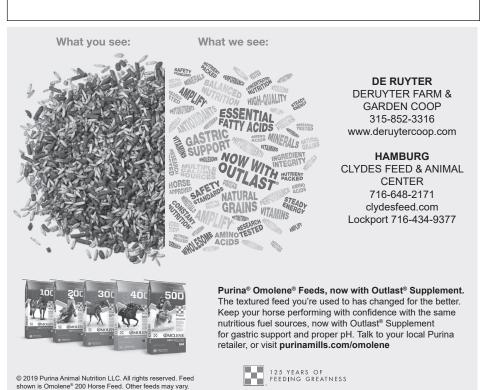
USDA Launches Loan Guarantee Program to Create More Market Opportunities

The USDA recently announced it is deploying \$100 million under the new Food Supply Chain Guaranteed Loan Program to make available nearly \$1 billion in loan guarantees, which will back private investment in processing and food supply infrastructure. The guarantee loans will help eligible entities expand meat and poultry processing capacity and finance other food supply chain infrastructure. Lenders may provide the loans to eligible cooperatives, corporations, for profits, nonprofits, Tribal communities, public bodies and people in rural and urban areas.

Funding may be used to: start-up or expand food supply chain activities such as aggregating, processing, manufacturing, storing, transporting, wholesaling or distributing food; address supply chain bottlenecks; increase capacity and help create a more resilient, diverse and secure U.S. food supply chain. USDA is accepting electronic applications from lenders through the Food Supply Chain Online Application System until funds are expended. To access the online application system, lenders must submit a request to rdfoodsupplychainloans@usda.gov. For more information, visit www. rd.usda.gov/foodsupplychainloans.

USDA Provides Additional Pandemic Assistance to Hog Producers

The USDA) announced a new program to assist hog producers who sold hogs through a negotiated sale during the period in which these producers faced the greatest reduction in market prices due to the CO-VID-19 pandemic. The Spot Market Hog Pandemic Program (SMHPP) is part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative and addresses gaps in previous assistance for hog producers. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will accept applications till Feb. 25, 2022.









House Passes Pair of Livestock Marketing Bills

On Dec. 8, the House passed a pair of livestock bills supported by Farm Bureau. One of the bills would extend Livestock Mandatory Reporting, while the other would create a contract library for the beef cattle industry, similar to the pork industry catalog. Livestock Mandatory Reporting was extended through mid-February in the most recently passed continuing resolution, but the measure passed this week in the House would extend LMR through the end of the 2022 fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30, 2022.

The other livestock measure, the Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021 (H.R. 5609), would create a library for cattle contracts within USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service. The bill would require packers to report terms of alternative marketing agreements between packers and producers, equipping ranchers with additional market data needed to make informed marketing and business decisions. The USDA library would provide producers with key details on cattle contracts, including the type and duration.

Congress Keeps the Lights On and Government Funded

In early December, Congress passed H.R. 6119, the Further Extending Government Act, to extend funding for the federal government through Feb.18, 2022. Without passage, the federal government would have shut down on December 3.

On Dec. 15, Congress passed S.J. Res. 33, legislation to raise the debt

limit by \$2.5 trillion to \$31.4 trillion. The debt limit is the maximum amount of debt that the Department of the Treasury can issue to the public or to other federal agencies. The amount is set by law and has been increased multiple times over the years to finance the government's operations. The raise is expected to carry the U.S. into 2023.

Gearing Up for the 2023 Farm Bill

House Agriculture Committee Chairman David Scott has indicated that he plans to start holding 2023 Farm Bill hearings in January 2022. New York Farm Bureau will be engaged with members of Congress on any needed changes in the next Farm

House Passes Ocean Shipping Reform Act

The House of Representatives voted 364 to 60 to pass H.R. 4996, the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which Farm Bureau supports. The bill would address ongoing congestion and related logistical obstacles which threaten U.S. farmers' ability to meet much-welcome increases in foreign demand for products. Accessibility to export containers has been further limited by record shipping costs and harmful surcharges. The "Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021" would: Establish reciprocal trade to promote U.S. exports as part of the Federal Maritime Commission's (FMC) mission. Require ocean carriers to adhere to minimum service standards that meet the public interest, reflecting best practices in

New York Farm Bureau

Farmer's Guide

To Truck & Farm Implement aws & Regulations

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the global shipping industry. Require ocean carriers or marine terminal operators to certify that any late fees—known in maritime parlance as "detention and demurrage" charges—comply with federal regulations or face penalties. Shift burden of proof regarding the reasonableness of "detention or demurrage" charges from the invoiced party to the ocean carrier or marine terminal operator. Prohibit ocean carriers from declining opportunities for U.S. exports unreasonably, as determined by the FMC in new required rulemaking.

Proposed Rule Regarding AEWR Methodology

The Department of Labor has published a proposed rule concerning the methodology used to calculate the adverse effect wage rate for H-2A workers. The comment period for this proposed rule closes on January 31, 2022. The proposed rule will use the "gross average hourly wage rate for field and livestock workers (combined) as reported by the Farm Labor Survey" for the following categories of H-2A workers:

45-2041 – Graders and Sorters, Agricultural Products

45-2091 – Agricultural Equipment Operators

45-2092 – Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery and Greenhouse

45-2093 – Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals

53-7064 – Packers and Packagers, Hand

45-2099 – Agricultural Workers, All Other

For these categories, wage calculation will continue to follow the methodology that has been in place since 2010. For all other occupations, which could include truck drivers, farm supervisors and managers, and construction workers, wages will be derived from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics Survey. Under the proposed rule, these

other occupation categories could see large increases in wage rates and as an example in New York, the AEWR rate for an Agricultural Supervisor would be \$31.98 per hour. The AEWR for Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers would be \$26.58 per hour. New York Farm Bureau staff is currently reviewing the proposed rule and will submit comments to DOL. H-2A employers are encouraged to review the proposed rule and submit comments to DOL as well. A copy of the proposed rule can be found at https://tinyurl.com/nyfb-8.

Regulatory Update: EPA and Army Corps Propose "Step One" WOTUS Rule

The EPA and Army Corps have proposed a WOTUS rulemaking that would repeal the Trump Administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) and replace it with an updated version of the pre-2015 regulations. Farm Bureau is disappointed with this action because it will greatly expand the federal government's jurisdictional authority over private lands. Farm Bureau is supportive of the NWPR because it provides the clarity and predictability that the regulated community has long called for.

The agencies have decided to move back to troubling regulations that are fraught with problems, which would require farmers to obtain more Clean Water Act permits. The agencies have expressed that they will follow this rulemaking with a "step 2" rule that will provide a new WOTUS definition.

New York Farm Bureau staff are currently reviewing the "step 1" rule-making and will provide comments to EPA and the Army Corps regarding the proposed changes. The comment period on the proposed rule closes on Feb. 7, 2022, and a copy of the proposed rule can be found here: https://www.epa.gov/wotus/revising-definition-waters-united-states.

New York Farm Bureau's Farmer's Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations, 5th Ed.

New York Farm Bureau®'s publication Farmer's Guide to Truck & Farm Implement Laws & Regulations, 5th Ed., commonly known as the "Truck Book," is a

resource tool prepared to assist farmers in understanding the myriad state and federal transportation laws and guidelines that affect their farm business. Additions to the fifth edition of our most popular guide are contained within text boxes and labeled "5th Edition Update" for ease of reference. There's new info on CDLs, farm plates, ATVs, Infrastructure Friendly Vehicle (IFV)

requirements, lights and reflectors, and many more things important to our members.

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ISSUES

From Page 1

The priority issues are:

- Double the Agricultural Workforce Retention Tax Credit.
- · Establish a refundable investment tax credit for agriculture.
- · Support critical funding for current agricultural animal health (such as the Avian Disease Program), promotion, research, and environmental programs in the final FY 22/23 state budget, including a \$500 million Environmental Protection Fund.
- Support legislation that adjusts New York's unemployment insurance employer contribution rate, which would allow New York to replenish the UI trust fund without overburdening businesses with high UI tax bills as they recover from the pandemic.
- Support legislation allowing direct to consumer shipping for all New York-produced farm beverages, including beer, cider, and distillates.
- Support farmers in their efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change through funding of critical programs

in the Environmental Protection Fund and legislative programs that support on-farm renewable energy.

- Support the development of solar energy that balances private property rights and the current and future land needs of agriculture in the state. Whenever possible, prime soils and actively farmed lands should be avoided in favor of previously disturbed or fallow lands and rooftop development for distributed genera-
- Support investment in new meat, vegetable, fruit and seafood processing facilities in New York
- Oppose legislation that prohibits the use of agricultural pesticides.
- Oppose Extended Producer Responsibility legislation that doesn't require consumer responsibility for packaging they receive.
- Ensure a common-sense resolution to DEC's water withdrawal regulatory actions for farms.
- Pursue legislation that would require utilities to maintain a minimum height of 20 feet for power lines and 18 feet for other lines over farm fields upon request of landowner or farmer who is leasing the land.

Bill Aims to Help NY's Agricultural Community Fight Lyme Disease

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey (SD- (CDC), some 476,000 Americans 46) and Assemblymember Didi Barrett (AD-106) have announced that their bill to educate farmers and farmworkers about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses has been signed into law by Gov. Kathy Hochul. The bill (S.4089/A.6888), which passed unanimously in both houses of the State Legislature earlier this year, directs the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to implement public awareness campaign focused on New York's agricultural community with an emphasis on helping farmers and farmworkers learn how to prevent, identify, and treat a tick-borne illness.

According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year. Scientists have reported a nearly 300 percent increase in U.S. counties classified as having a high incidence of Lyme disease, and New York has emerged as a hotspot with the third-highest number of confirmed cases in the country.

"Information is critical when it cSen. Michelle Hinchey represents the 46th Senate District, which includes Greene and Montgomery Counties and parts of Albany, Schenectady, and Ulster Counties.

Assemblymember Didi Barrett represents the 106th Assembly District, which includes parts of **Dutchess and Columbia Counties.**

-The Office of Sen. Michelle Hinchey



Classified Ads are Free for NYFB Members

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HAY FOR SALE. Tubed round bales of oatlage and 3rd cutting alfalfa mix balayage; 1st & 2nd cutting Savanah-Sorghum balayage and round dry bales under cover. 518-753-4387 or 518-466-1457

RYE STRAW. 3000 small square bales. \$5/bale. donaldmarkoff@yahoo.com or 607-775-2057

HAY FOR SALE. Low carb teff horse hay. 518-461-3779

HAY FOR SALE. 4x4 round bales, dry hay and wrapped. Grass to Alfalfa, variety of stuff. Servicing Delaware and Broome Counties. Delivery available at an extra cost. 607-727-6320

HAY FOR SALE. PREMIUM Quality hay. Orange county. I focus on QUALITY not quantity. Small squares. \$5 1st cutting, \$6 2nd & 3rd cutting at farm. 845-496-4907

HAY FOR SALE. 4x5 mixed grass silage bales. 1st cutting, 1200lbs \$30; 2nd cutting, 1600lbs \$40 and 3rd cutting \$2000lbs \$50. Payment prior to loading. Schaghticoke, NY 518-796-2344

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cutting 4x5 round bales \$45/bale. Good quality. Roscoe, NY area. 607-498-5812 leave message.

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cut mixed grass, good quality. \$3.50/bale. Orange County. 845-496-3897

HAY FOR SALE. 2nd cutting hay, excellent quality square bales. 45 pounds. Delany Farms. Syracuse, NY 315-469-1668 DelaneyFarms.com.

HAY FOR SALE. Mixed grasses, small square bales. 48# average. \$4/bale. Boston, NY 716-997-3133

HAY FOR SALE. Small square bales \$3/ bale. Southern Herkimer County 315-866-3348

PREMIUM QUALITY Feed grade wheat straw available year-round. Consistent quality and delivery available straight from producer. Volume discounts. Well priced delivered cost. Calebredriverforage@gmail.com Call/text 204-712-6509

HAY FOR SALE. Certified Organic Square Bales of hay \$12 per bale. Free delivery within 10 miles of Snow Hill Farm located in North Salem, NY 914-669-0999

STRAW FOR SALE. Nice straw bales \$3/ bale. Seneca County. 607-279-4262

WANTED. Round bales 4x5 stored inside, horse quality. 1st and 2nd cut delivered to Bethany, CT. Wanted: Big square bales 3x3 and 3x4 delivered to Hamden, CT. Please NO Canary Grass! Call Dick at 203-393-0875 or 475-355-1947

HAY FOR SALE. Organic hay 4x4 round bales 101 1st cutting; 38 2nd cutting. Wrapped. Also 62 non-organic wrapped round bales. Oneida County. 315-240-1640

HAY FOR SALE. 2nd cutting small squares. \$4/bale. Delaware County 607-538-1009

HAY FOR SALE. Balayage. North Branch,

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HAY FOR SALE. 1st cutting, mixed grass, big squares, stored inside. Can deliver. 716-913-6313

HAY FOR SALE. Certified Organic 4x4 round bales, dry hay, 1st cutting. \$35/each. 607-745-4667

HAY FOR SALE. 1st cut, 4x4 round bales. \$40/bale. Plattsburgh, NY Delivery available. 518-561-3555

RYE STRAW grown on ORGANIC fields in Sterling, NY. Small Squares. 215-234-0421

HAY FOR SALE. 4x4.2 round bales. 1st cut 15 minimum \$35/bale, 2nd cut 15 minimum \$40/bale. Plattsburgh, NY Delivery available. 518-578-0135

HAY FOR SALE. Premium soybean & alfalfa balage for winter food plots. Our soybeans have gone to 5 other states. Conrad Cooks Wildlife Buffet. Potsdam, NY 315-265-6788

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BAUER IRRIGATION REEL, 4-inch hose/1200ft \$6000. 631-987-5961

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JD 5055E TRACTOR In new condition. Full 5E cab with 520M Std. Farm Loader 2018 model with 16.4hrs on machine. \$44,000; 2018 Frontier RC 2084 Lift type Rotary Cutter, new condition. \$3,100. 919-796-1959 Cooperstown,

JD 3975 CHOPPER. 7' hay 2RC KP Hyd. Tongue. Electric controls Intelliguard knives 50% Shed Kept. 518-578-6162

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JD 3010 DIESEL W3020 kit. New rubber with 4B mounted plow. Chemung County 607-739-7486

JD ANTIQUE "L". Great condition. 845-986-5814

TWO JD HAY Wagon frames on wheels without wooden floors or sides. \$300. 315-246-3900

JD 24T KICK-BALER for square bales. Works well – very good working condition. Baler has always been stored inside. Operators and Parts Manuals included. Stonge.gary@gmail. com or 518-928-7559

STEEL WHEELS. JD 1 bottom sidehill hitch \$250; JD 1 bottom trail wheel \$250; JD 2 bottom, Syracuse moldboards \$500; 3 JD 2 bottom parts plows \$200. ALL for \$1,000 OBO.

24T JOHN DEERE kick-baler for square bales. Works well – very good working condition. Baler has always been stored inside. Operators and Parts Manuals included. Stonge.gary@gmail. com or 518-928-7559

JD 2520 TRACTOR with Quick hitch loader, snowblower, soft cab, 4x4, Hydro, Turf tires, 1260 hours. \$12,500 CASH Brockport, NY 585-362-7039

ALLIS CHALMERS

1947 ALLIS CHALMERS Model C with 2 bottom plow, cultivator and owners' manual. Ex. Cond. \$2200; JD Model 290 2-row corn planter. Needs new tin for fertilizer hoppers. Owners' manual included \$700. 315-655-2816

2 - ALLIS CHALMERS G Tractors, very good condition, pictures available \$3000 each; Cultivators for Farmall A & C tractors. 845-532-4929

AC TWIN WHEEL 7' sickle bar mower, 3pt hitch, 710.0 IH 6' cut horse drawn mower with dolly wheel. 585-703-8243

MASSEY FERGUSON

1990-91 MASSEY 1035. Many new parts, has front bucket and rear backhoe. Runs very well. 4 - wheel drive, \$12,000. 518-733-9332

MF 261, 2WD, 53HP LOADER w/ independent hydraulic pump and reservoir; bucket and forks; tire chains. Starts and runs well. PTO clutch and hours meter not working. \$14,000 Madison. 315-882-2458 **BUCKET FOR A 1954 FERGUSON** Tractor T 30 for sale. \$50. Big Flats, NY. 607-739-7512

FERGUSON T020. Good Condition \$3,000. Troy, NY 518-279-3241

MASSEY HARRIS PONY rebuilt engine. New paint/tires/decals. Parade ready \$3500. 607-329-3669 leave message

MOLINE

1960 MOLINE 705G restored, new tires \$6,000; 1 Super 88 Oliver, all restored, new tires \$5,000. 845-726-4180

NEW HOLLAND

NH TR85 ROTARY COMBINE, 2700 hours, CAT 3208 engine, 2WD, 18' grain head; Fox 3000 Forage Chopper with hay head and 2 row corn head. Electric knife sharpener. Both machines in excellent condition and always stored inside. 585-658-4601

FP230 NH CHOPPER with both heads. Great shape. 27p hay head, 824 corn head 2 row. Metal alert and hydraulic tongue. Champlain, NY 518-298-3564

NH 311 BAILER With JD 40 Kicker. New: Knotter Cams, Pickup Cam, Drive Shaft, Kicker Pam, Spring and electric tilt. Joy stick control. Always inside. \$5500. 315-759-8987

FORD

FORD MODEL NAA 1954 Restored \$3,900; Massey Fergueson 135 4-cylinders gas w/ front mounted Buckeye 3pt hitch \$3,800; Allis Chalmers G w/hydraulic & side pto, 4 speed transmission \$2,900. WINCO 18,000 watt generator. 914-804-4195

CASE

LIQUIDATING: 1958 CASE 300 Tractor with loader, needs work with plow, loader and tire chains; Case Model D "parts," 2012 mini-baler. Email rolinsmith@yahoo.com or kro. smith1969 @ gmail.com. 315-868-7605. Se habla espanol.

IH 544, IH 856, IH 786, for sale; 06-86 series parts. 518-677-2854 Cambridge, NY

CASE IH 600 silage blower, stored inside, good shape; 10ft Ag. Bagger, needs gearbox and rotor; Hesston 7170 with 3-row corn & hay head. Wyoming County. 585-689-9208

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER Farmall Super A. 12-volt conversion, good paint, runs great, snow plough, tire chains, belly mount mower all included. All work as they should. \$3200 OBO 716-603-5264

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LOADER FOR SALE. Great Ben 440 Quick Tach Loader used very little \$2500; Grinn Hay Fluffer \$150; Honda VLX600 Shadow Motorcycle (woman owned) \$3200. 518-756-2070

CAT 953 LOADER, good condition, 3 in 1 bucket. Exc. Tracks and undercarriage \$24,000 obo; CAT 926M-2017. SIN

LTEO4397, CAT C-7.1 diesel engine, powershift transmission, 2.7yd bucket, hydraulic coupler, heated mirrors, Heat & Ac Exc. 708hrs. \$160,000. call 914-949-4100 gedneyfarmsnursery@gmail.com

DL3000 KELLEY Loader (good condition) Universal with control valve and 4 hydraulic lines for hookup. Must be able to transport from Athens, NY \$2,300. Call/text 518-573-1216

KOMATSU WHEEL LOADER engine completely rebuilt by Komatsu Dealer, 125hr on new engine. Includes bucket, hvy duty forks, 8' snow bucket \$24,000; KOMATSU Forklift. Exc cond. 9520 lbs. machine weight, 6000 lift capacity. Sliding forks. \$14,500; CAT Dozer with wide tracks. D3 in good condition \$23,000. Call Jack 716-481-9530

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GENERAL EQUIPMENT

JD 148 LOADER w/ 84" Bucket and Control Valves w/Heavy Duty Supporting Superstructure Fits 20-30-40 Series – Excellent - \$3950;6' 3-pt Snowblower – Very Good - \$1250; Ford HD 3- pt Posthole digger – 12" Auger – Very Good - \$750. Call 585-735-5598

JD 4030 FARM TRACTOR – good back tires, needs some paint \$12,000; Allis Chalmers 170 farm tractor with Allis-Chalmers 175 motor \$4,000 (price firm); Weaverline Electric Feed Cart with one year old apron feed chain and sprockets (holds roughly five hundred pounds of feed) \$1500 with charger or \$1,000 without charger. 607-538-9029

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EQUIPMENT LIQUIDATION of onion farm. Prattsburgh, NY Complete list at www. sassyonions.com/all-items/ or call 607-664-7787

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WHITE OLIVER BACKHOE 478-17 enclosed cab, 345 Ford Tractor diesel front loader, 2-wheel drive, attachments.

Suffolk County. Don between 5-8PM 631-831-5548 or donsgarage@ optonline.net.

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obo. (607) 659-4720 leave message.

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IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT – 3,380 ft, 4-inch aluminum irrigation pipe, 90 degree elbows and T-fittings, 48 sprinklers, 237 Chrysler Ind. Engine irrigation pump, Kifco-Caprari PTO irrigation pump. Martinpltfm@cs.com

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NURSERY CONTAINERS Plastic 1-gal, 3,000 avail - \$.15/ea; Plastic 2-gal 3,000 avail - \$.25/ea; Fabric 5-gal 300 avail - \$1.00/ea; Fabric 7-gal 50 avail - \$1.25/ea. Emmerichtreefarm@gmail. com.

LANDSCAPE ROCKS - MISC PAVERS.
Landscape rocks, fieldstone, flagstone, mis pavers. Will sell for 50% off cost;
WIRE FENCING - 8' PAGE Approx.
1,000ft, used only one year. \$1.00/ft; POLYHOUSE BOW PIPE Already bent to build approx. 18' wide polyhouses.
Enough to build approx. 100' of houses and 3' spacing. Heavy duty 1"x24' galvanized. \$25/each. Jack 716-481-9530

IRRIGATION – Drip tape, heavy wall tubing, plastic mulch, filters, pumps. Injectors, fittings, sprinklers, design. Empire Drip Supply. 4544 Route 104, Williamson, NY 14589. empiredripsupply.com 315-812-1871

HOSES & FITTINGS: Hydraulics, Water, Air, Fuel, Fertilizer, Chemicals, Oil. Belts: Timing, Power Transmission, Conveying, V-Belts. Conveyor Belt Lacing & Skirting. Upson Maybach: Batavia, 585-343-6211, upsonmaybach.com

SHEEP & GOAT FENCING, Rolled wire, round pens, gates, cattle/sheep/goat handling equipment. ALL IN STOCK! Good prices! good people! RidgeView Agriculture. 6414 Town Hill Road in Conewango Valley. 716-640-1330

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HONEY: light basswood, clover, knapweed mix in 60ld. Pail \$185 heated or raw. Beeswax \$6/lb. Four frame mite resistant spring nucs \$125. johnstonsbees@hotmail.com.

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KREHER FAMILY FARMS Clarence, NY location is seeking a Farm Manager to manage our egg production area. Animal husbandry and management experience required. Dairy experience is welcome! Apply online at www. krehereggs.com or call HR Manager (Nicole) at 716-759-6802

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CANTICLE FARM, a Community Supported Agriculture Farm in Allegany, NY seeking experienced full-time Executive Director/President. Send letter/ resume to office@canticlefarm.org, attn: Shauna Kessler, subject: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT APPLICATION. Full description at http://canticlefarm.org/employment.html.

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